On April 1, 2011 the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Washington (JCCCW) held its third annual Tomodachi (Friends) Luncheon fundraiser and silent auction at the Seattle Westin Hotel. Over 300 supporters and community members turned out to show their support for JCCCW. Thanks to the generosity of sponsors including Nintendo of America, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Boeing, Furuta Lee Foundation, Jeff and Sachie Nitta, Union Bank, Woodburn Company and the Mitsubishi Corporation, $45,000 was raised.

The major earthquake and tsunami which struck the Tohoku region of Japan has left thousands homeless and without food and clean drinking water. In response to this crisis, JCCCW has partnered with other Seattle area Japanese American and Japan related cultural, educational, and civic organizations to create SeattleJapanRelief.org. This website was set up to direct the incredible generosity of our community to charities directly involved in the relief effort. If you are interested in contributing to the relief effort in Japan, please visit SeattleJapanRelief.org.

Kodomo no Hi: May 15!

Mark your calendars! This year Kodomo no Hi will be on May 15 from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the Cultural Center. Last year’s inaugural Kodomo no Hi special event attracted over 1,000 people from throughout the greater Seattle area and was featured in the Seattle Times. Thanks to the generosity of community partner Hyogo Business and Cultural Center, event sponsors Tateuchi Foundation and Cascade Kendo Kai and event donors JACL Pacific Northwest Regional Office, Lake Washington JACL, Puyallup Valley JACL, Karen Yoshitomi, Kurt Tokita, Steve K. Nakamura DDS, InsideDown Design and Salon Divas, Kodomo no Hi 2011 will be even bigger. Join us for new games and activities, cultural performances and exhibitions and food provided by Pai’s Food Truck (free for kids 15 and under). Kodomo no Hi is a free, family friendly event appropriate for all ages so come join us on May 15 for a day of fun!
A Letter from Board President Lori Matsukawa: Gratitude

The devastation left by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami in Japan was horrific. I was extremely proud of the JCCCW staff and individuals in our community who responded quickly to raise money for relief efforts within days. Many groups and people stepped up—using their language, social media and political skills to create the SeattleJapanRelief.org website, a fundraiser at the Sounders game and organize a public bell ringing at Seattle Center to honor the dead and encourage the living. JCCCW Yoisho! volunteers raised funds at local stores and restaurants. The reaction from Consul General Kiyokazu Ota was one of amazed gratitude for the outpouring of concern from Governor Gregoire to young children writing messages with crayons. The Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Washington proved to be a gathering place during this dramatic event. The JCCCW provided that important link for those who wanted to express their concern through action. Thank you for your spirit and love.

Tomodachi Luncheon

Continued from page 1

will go directly toward programs and operations at the Cultural Center. The luncheon was hosted by KING5 TV weekend sports reporter Andrea Nakano and attendees were treated to a spirited performance by taiko players from Okinawa Kenjin Kai. In light of the major earthquake and tsunami which recently struck Japan, this year’s luncheon took on a special meaning as Consul General Kiyokazu Ota offered his thanks for the support shown for the people affected by the disaster and JCCCW Interim Director Kirsten Henning reflected on the importance of community during these trying times.

Nintendo of America was honored with the Tomodachi Award, given for its contribution toward furthering friendship and cultural exchange between the United States and Japan through gaming. President and COO Reggie Fils-Aime accepted the award on behalf of Nintendo and spoke about the company’s unique history in the Greater Seattle Area. Reggie reflected on a time when Nintendo was not welcome because of its status as a Japanese corporation and the progress that has been made toward cementing the special relationship currently shared between Japan and the Pacific Northwest.

Founding Family member Herb Tsuchiya concluded the luncheon with an impassioned speech asking the audience to support the JCCCW for the sake of future generations. JCCCW would like to thank the Tomodachi Planning Committee, event volunteers, donors and of course everyone who attended the event for their help in making this year’s Tomodachi Lunch the most successful ever!

*For a complete list of event volunteers, in kind contributors and donors please see page 14.
donation to the American Red Cross, Peace Winds America or the YMCA.

At JCCCW we have been overwhelmed by the public outpouring of support and goodwill for the people of Tohoku. Our phones have been ringing non-stop at the Cultural Center with community members wanting to volunteer and help those currently in need. Since the disaster, JCCCW has been actively involved in efforts all throughout the Seattle area to raise money for relief and recovery in Japan. The following are just some of the fundraising events that JCCCW staff and Yoisho! Volunteers have actively participated in.

On March 15 JCCCW staff and Yoisho! volunteers in conjunction with SeattleJapanRelief, Seattle Sounders FC and the American Red Cross helped raise $22,000 towards relief and recovery efforts in Japan. Braving the rainy Seattle weather, volunteers stood outside Qwest Field collecting donations before the Sounders opening day match. Even Governor Christine Gregoire came out to show her support and raise money for a good cause. A big thank you to the thousands of Sounders and Galaxy fans who donated and expressed their empathy for the people of Japan.

JCCCW Yoisho! Volunteers were at both Seattle and Renton Uwajimaya locations on Friday March 17 taking donations for the American Red Cross and Peace Winds America. Between both locations over $17,000 was raised in just one day!

More than 400 members of the local Seattle community gathered at the Kobe Bell in Seattle Center on March 19 to remember the victims of the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami and lend their strength and support to those currently in need. There were short remarks from several community leaders and elected officials, including Consul General Kiyokazu Ota, Governor Christine Gregoire, Congressman Jim McDermott and Seattle Deputy Mayor Darrell Smith. Reverend Taijo Imanaka of the Seattle Koyasan Buddhist Temple led prayers for those who are struggling as a result of this crisis and for those whose loved ones have perished or are still missing. The public also had the opportunity to ring the bell and write their own messages of support for the Japanese people which were photographed and sent to Japan.

JCCCW would like to thank our Yoisho! volunteers, the American Red Cross, Peace Winds, YMCA, Seattle Sounders FC, Uwajimaya and all the participating organizations of SeattleJapanRelief.org for helping to raise money for the ongoing relief effort in Japan.
Meet our new Board members!

JCCCW is happy to welcome new JCCCW Board members: Rian Ebesugawa, Glenn Tsugawa and Kurt Tokita. Kurt is a former Board member and Rian and Glenn will be serving their first term on the board. All bring a variety of skills and unique talents to the board and share a passion for the Cultural Center’s mission to promote and share Japanese and Japanese American culture and heritage. Lori Matsukawa, Ina Tateuchi, Dee Goto, Tom Sasaki and Mike Forrester remain on the board.

Rian Ebesugawa

Rian Ebesugawa is a current Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the King County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office. A member of the Washington State Bar and an active volunteer with the Nisei Veterans Committee, Rian brings a unique combination of legal expertise and community work to the Board of Directors. Originally from Hawaii, Rian moved to the Seattle area after transferring to the University of Washington where he graduated with a degree in political science. He worked for Bon Marché (now Macy’s) in loss prevention before attending the University of Puget Sound School of Law where graduated with his JD. Rian then began working for the King County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office where he served as a prosecutor ever since.

“I have lived in Seattle for 30 years and, for too long, I have taken advantage of the opportunities that have come my way because of the sacrifices made by our fore parents. Being a member of the board will be a chance for me to repay a debt and to possibly make some small contribution of my own to our community.”

Glenn Tsugawa

Glenn Tsugawa is the current Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for the YMCA of greater Seattle. A native of Honolulu, Glenn is new to the Seattle area moving here from the 50th State four years ago. A graduate of the University of Hawaii’s College of Business Administration, Glenn is an experienced senior executive with over 14 years of local and national experience with the YMCA and served as the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for the YMCA of Honolulu before moving to Seattle. With his substantial non-profit financial management skills Glenn will fill a vital role on the Board of Directors as Treasurer.

“I believe that cultural competency opens the door to a more inclusive society and that a successful and integrated Japanese cultural and community center can serve as a catalyst for greater cross-cultural appreciation. I am interested in working to find common ground with others to preserve, perpetuate and share our cultural heritage.”

Continued on page 5
Kurt Tokita

Kurt Tokita is a long time supporter of the JCCCW who brings a familiarity of JCCCW’s history and policies to the Board of Directors. He firmly believes in the mission of the JCCCW and feels that the Cultural Center project is “essential to the community, city and region.” Kurt brings an extensive background in managing IT projects, facilities, sales, and events and is currently employed with Volt Services as the Sr. Systems Engineer-Onsite Services. Kurt’s family has a long established history in Seattle. His grandfather was a well-known local artist and his grandmother was a pioneering woman business owner having operated the historic Cadillac Hotel in Nihonmachi. The site of JCCCW is very important to Kurt as his family was one of 28 families to use the Japanese Language School buildings as transitional housing after resettling to the area after the Second World War.

Come Visit the NW Nikkei Museum’s *Itadakimasu!* Exhibit

Today Japanese food is everywhere in Seattle with kaiten sushi restaurants, teriyaki shops, or izakayas on almost every street corner. While we often take the availability of yakisoba, gyoza and ramen for granted, the current popularity of Japanese cuisine in the Pacific Northwest can be attributed to the contributions of early Japanese American restaurants. Many of these eateries were based in the Japanese American community, their influence extended much further as they fundamentally transformed the culinary landscape of the Greater Seattle area.

The NW Nikkei Museum exhibit *Itadakimasu!* is now showcasing the history of Pacific Northwest Japanese Restaurants and the impact that they have made on the culture and history of the greater Seattle area. Notable restaurants featured in the show will include Bush Garden, Maneki, Tenkatsu and many more so please come visit the NW Nikkei Museum and see this exciting new exhibit for yourself.

NW Nikkei Museum is dedicated to preserving the heritage and history of the Pacific Northwest’s Nikkei community. Run and operated by the community the NW Nikkei Museum gives the Japanese American community an opportunity to write and record its history in its own words to pass on to future generations. The NW Nikkei Museum is open Monday through Friday from 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM in the Cultural Center main office.

WANTED: Ganbaru Summer Interns

JCCCW is currently taking applications for its Ganbaru Internship Program and looking to fill a variety of positions at the Cultural Center during the summer. Depending on interests and skill set, Ganbaru Student Interns work closely with JCCCW staff in a variety of roles including program and event coordination and implementation, nonprofit management, volunteer coordination, communications, as well as general administrative duties and other tasks. During their internship with the JCCCW student interns gain valuable work experience and acquire meaningful skills that will help them in their future careers while simultaneously making an important contribution to the JCCCW. Potential interns should be able to commit at least 20 hours a week. If you or someone you know is interested in working with JCCCW in the following capacities or just generally interested in volunteering at the Cultural Center please contact the office at Admin@JCCCW.org or call (206) 568-7114.
Herb Tsuchiya, Community Renaissance Man and Philanthropist

Whenever Herb Tsuchiya is around you can bet that laughter and positive energy are sure to follow. “I enjoy helping out and I like to encourage people; it’s more fun that way. My God has blessed me with the gift of being able to make people laugh and smile so I use that gift to better the lives of others,” said Herb. As an actor, philanthropist, clergy member and retired pharmacist he has done just that. A long time Seattle native, Herb was born at Harborview Hospital and grew up in Seattle’s Central District Neighborhood. A Nisei and the youngest of seven children, he attended Franklin High School and later the University of Washington where he graduated with a degree in pharmacology. A renaissance man in every sense of the word, the breadth of Herb’s community work is truly astounding. He was one of the founding board members of Kin On Nursing Home, toured the nation performing in the JACL play Breaking the Silence on Japanese American Incarceration, was elected an Asian American Baptist Advocate for the Pacific Northwest’s American Baptist Churches and has done much, much more.

A current Founding Family member of JCCCW, Herb has been a long time supporter of the Cultural Center. Herb’s involvement with the project started as a student of the Seattle Japanese Language School (JLS) now the premier program of JCCCW. “I was in class with all of the little kids. You see back then all the classes were grouped together by ability and not by age,” said Herb “So I was in the 4th grade for 14 years. All the teachers would ask me ‘Mr. Tsuchiya wouldn’t you like to move up a level?’ and I said ‘No I think I’ll just stay in the 4th grade’.” Herb began taking Japanese classes as a way of returning to his Japanese roots and getting more in touch with his cultural heritage. “After the Second World War a lot of the Nisei changed our names to become more American,” said Herb. “My given name is Minoru but I changed it to Herb to fit in. After I graduated from college, I realized that it was important for me to reconnect with who I truly was. Learning the language was one way for me to do that.”

Herb became a Founding Family member because of his relationship with his family and granddaughter. “I want my grandkids and their grandkids to be in touch with their roots and their culture. From knowledge comes understanding so by learning about Japanese and Japanese American culture I hope that in the future they will be able to understand me and my story. In that way the Cultural Center will be more than a resource for them to learn about the history, language and culture, it will be a way for them to know me and who I was long after I am gone,” said Herb.

As a Founding Family member Herb strongly believes in the Cultural Center’s mission of promoting and sharing Japanese and Japanese American culture and heritage. “But the JCCCW is more than just a resource for our community,” said Herb “It is an educational tool for all people, a way for others to come to understand the Japanese American experience. In order to build trust and friendship you have to first create understanding. By sharing who we are as a community with others we will all get along better and accomplish more together.”
Friends of JCCCW: Keith Yamaguchi

A long time friend of the Cultural Center, Keith Yamaguchi is one of the most committed members of the Seattle Area Japanese American Community and is very involved with both the Minidoka Pilgrimage Planning Committee and the Nisei Veterans Center.

In an effort to learn more about his family’s history, Keith recently participated in one of JCCCW’s popular Nikkei Genealogy Workshops. As a youth Keith did not have a strong relationship with his primarily Japanese speaking grandparents, however wanted to learn more about them after purchasing bricks in their names for NVC’s Memorial Wall. “My family just didn’t talk about those sorts of historical things”, said Keith “so when it came time for me to put down information on their bricks I realized that I didn’t have anything to write.” With the help of JCCCW’s Programming Director Bif Brigman, Keith was able to find out where in Japan his grandparents were from, when they immigrated to the United States, new information about his parents and much more. Additionally the workshop gave him the skills and know how to continue to research his family’s history on his own. “Now I have a Seattle Public Library Card for the first time since I was a kid. I didn’t realize that there were so many resources available for genealogy research.”

Keith now has a renewed interest in his family’s history and hopes to get his children and grandchildren more involved with their heritage. “My daughter recently got back from visiting Japan and I’m hoping that she will be able to do most of the legwork”, said Keith with a smile.

Upcoming Event: JCCCW’s All Things Japanese Sale

Please join us for JCCCW’s first All Things Japanese Sale on June 10 from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM and June 11 from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the Cultural Center. [JCCCW is always trying new things to better serve the community and this sale will be replacing the normal Community Rummage Sale in 2011.] The All Things Japanese Sale will feature a wide variety of Japanese items including dolls, furniture, fans, traditional dress, plush toys, jewelry, dishware, books and much, much more! There will be something for everyone with over one thousand antiques and collectibles on sale and prices starting at just $0.25.

A special sneak preview and reception will be held on June 9 from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM for collectors, enthusiast and community members. The nighttime sneak preview and reception will be $50 per person and give you the opportunity get first crack at the most coveted merchandise. Light appetizers and beverage will be provided.

All of the proceeds raised by the All Things Japanese Sale will go toward supporting the mission of JCCCW to preserve, promote and share Japanese and Japanese American culture and heritage. From Tansu to Pokemon there will be great deals on everything so come down to the Cultural Center and see what treasures you can find! For more information about the All Things Japanese Sale or if you have any questions please contact the office at admin@jcccw.org or call (206) 568-7114.
Yuji’s Omusubi Brings People Together, Creates Community

When former Hyogo Business and Cultural Center (HBCC) Intern Yuji Sasagaki first arrived in the United States he looked forward to meeting and getting to know young Japanese Americans. However he soon discovered that there were few opportunities for Japanese national college students to interact with their Nikkei counterparts. Despite their obvious shared heritage, Japanese American and Japanese national youth rarely cross paths due in part to language and cultural barriers. “Being a Nisei, I’ve always felt that the Japanese community and the Japanese American community are somewhat distant and separated from each other,” said recent University of Washington graduate Lisa Akiyama. Determined to bring these two groups together, Yuji approached the JCCCW and HBCC about creating an event to facilitate international exchange and fellowship among Japanese national and Japanese American college students and young professionals. “The central mission of HBCC has always been kakehashi (bridge), and when Yuji came to work for us, he really embodied that mission,” said HBCC Programming Director Benjamin Erickson.

The inaugural Yuji’s Omusubi event, named after Yuji for his hard work and dedication to the program, was an instant success attracting over forty participants and uncovered a community need to bring Japanese nationals and Japanese Americans closer together. While Yuji returned to Japan in September of 2010, Yuji’s Omusubi has quickly become one of JCCCW and HBCC’s most popular programs bringing people together through cooking and eating Japanese and Japanese American dishes. These events give participants the opportunity to learn new recipes, create community and make new friends. Past Yuji’s Omusubi have included okonomiyaki, nabe and omusubi cooking classes and community feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. “Yuji’s Omusubi is a great way to meet new people around your age with similar interests in Japan and Japanese American culture,” said Lisa. “The events are fun - especially when there’s yummy food involved!” Yuji’s Omusubi events have become so popular that they routinely fill up weeks in advance and new events have been scheduled just to keep up with demand.

Both JCCCW and HBCC are happy with the early success of the program—signs that Yuji’s Omusubi is creating real connections and friendships between the two groups. “Yuji’s Omusubi events are a prime example of how people from both communities are coming together and developing understandings of both cultures,” said Lisa.

JCCCW and HBCC will collaborate to offer four
Yuji’s Omusubi
Continued from page 8
Yuji’s Omusubi events to Japanese nationals and Japanese Americans this year. With such a sustained commitment to the program it seems clear that the two communities will continue to grow closer and closer to one another. “Yuji’s Omusubi gives our office the opportunity to not only build bridges between Japanese American and Japanese youth, but also with the community we came to serve when we moved into the cultural center last year,” said Ben. “Our office is prioritizing Yuji’s Omusubi in the coming year, and we look forward to working together with JCCCW well into the future.”

Are you interested in attending a Yuji’s Omusubi event? The next Yuji’s Omusubi will be on May 21 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM at the Cultural Center and will feature a bento making class. Pre register now by visiting http://www.jcccw.org/Yujis-Omusubi-Registration.html, hurry space is limited!

- Yuji’s Omusubi 4.0
- Date: Saturday May 21
- Time: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
- Place: JCCCW (1414 S. Weller St. Seattle, WA)
- Cost: Free
- Registration: Register online at http://www.jcccw.org/Yujis-Omusubi-Registration.html

Find us on Facebook!
JCCCW recently launched a brand new Facebook page (www.facebook.com/JCCCW) and is kicking off its first ever Facebook drive to get the community more involved with the Cultural Center. Our current goal is to have more than 1,000 JCCCW fans as soon as possible and we need your help! Please help us spread the word about all of our different programs and events by “sharing” us with your friends. Our new page is bilingual too! Thank you for your support.
Sign up now for Seattle Japanese Language School’s Summer Program for Kids!

This summer JCCCW’s premier program, Seattle Japanese Language School, is offering a fun program for kids ages 6-18. Children will not only learn basic reading, writing and conversational Japanese language skills but also participate in a variety of Japanese cultural activities such as calligraphy, origami, dance, games, singing and much more! This summer program is for students who want an introduction to the Japanese language and the opportunity to learn more about the Japanese culture.

- Seattle Japanese Language School Summer Program
- Date: July 9 – August 27 meeting every Saturday
- Time: Class meets from 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM
- Cost: $120
- Registration: Closes on July 2, to register visit our website at http://www.jcccw.org/JLS-SummerProgram.html
- For more information: Contact Head of School Machiko Wada at machikow@jcccw.org

More Exciting Changes at JCCCW

This summer JCCCW will begin renovation on our historic Issei legacy buildings, the next step toward building a central community gathering place to promote and share Japanese and Japanese American culture and heritage. The design of the historic renovation will feature the transformation of the Dojo into a multipurpose room, remodel of the current conference rooms and kitchen space and other improvements that will increase the overall utility of the buildings. JCCCW has selected Marpac Construction as its general contractor for this Phase I of the capital project. The architectural team is Arai Jackson Ellison and Murakami with Suyama Peterson Deguchi. Hoshide Williams is serving as the historic architectural consultant. Construction will begin this summer.

WANTED: Items for the JCCCW’s All Things Japanese Sale

Want a unique way to contribute to the Cultural Center? JCCCW is currently accepting donations for its first ever All Things Japanese Sale! We are looking for furniture, dolls, masks, pottery, dishes, fans and other antique items as well as rice cookers, toys, plush characters, games and more (this year we will not be collecting general rummage sale items). The funds raised through the All Things Japanese Sale will go toward supporting the mission of JCCCW to promote and share Japanese and Japanese American culture and heritage. To make a donation bring your items to the JCCCW main office located at 511 16th Ave S. during business hours 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Monday through Friday. For a comprehensive list of items that we are currently accepting, please visit our website at http://www.jcccw.org/AllThingsJapaneseSale.html.
Upcoming Event: NW Nikkei Museum Photo Identification Drive

Join us for JCCCW’s Northwest Nikkei Museum’s photo identification drive! The NW Nikkei Museum has thousands of historic community photos in its possession from the early 20th century and is currently in the process of digitizing them. Unfortunately, in many cases we have no way of knowing who the people in the photograph are or where the photograph was taken. This is where you can help us! The photo identification drive will give you the opportunity to help the museum put names to faces on these old photographs and record our history for future generations. No contribution towards the preservation of our historical legacy is too small. This will be a great time for storytelling and sharing memories so why not bring your father or grandfather down on Fathers Day (June 19) and learn more about the history of the community from those who lived it? This is the NW Nikkei Museum’s first photo identification project, but it won’t be the last!

• NW Nikkei Museum Photo Identification Drive
• Date: June 13 - June 19
• Time: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
• For more information: Contact Program Director Bif Brigman at bif@jcccw.org
Thank you very much for your support in helping us build the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Washington. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity. In addition to these donors we have had hundreds of people give their time and effort to volunteer for our events and help support us with their in-kind donations. We would like to thank all of you who have worked with us to help preserve, promote and share Japanese and Japanese American culture and heritage.

**Founding Families**
($50,000 + )

**Anonymous**

**Arai**
Jerry and AC Arai
Corrine Toda

**Forrester**
Michael and Tsuchino Forrester

**Goto**
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**Hirai**
Tom and Sally Hirai
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Lisa Matsukawa Chinn and Family

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**Japanese Community Service of Seattle**

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