

News Release

South Seattle Community College

6000 16th Avenue, SW, Seattle, WA 98106-1499 • www.southseattle.edu • (206) 764-5300

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 6, 2008

Japanese American Day of Remembrance

Presented by South Seattle Community College and the Japanese American Citizens League of Seattle

South Seattle Community College

6000 16th Avenue SW

(206) 768-6455

Wednesday, February 20, 6-7:30 pm

Jerry Brockey Student Center, room A

6 pm Program Introduction

6:10 pm Sam Mitsui, Speaker

WWII Nisei Veteran, University of Washington graduate, Boeing Company retiree, and local family man, Sam Mitsui was imprisoned in Tule Lake Concentration Camp following the 1942 signing of Executive Order 9066. He later served in the Army Counter-Intelligence Corps and was sent into Tokyo with the Occupation Forces after the atom bomb was dropped.

6:30 pm Screening of “Going for Honor, Going for Broke”

This DVD chronicles the heroism of the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team, a segregated Army group primarily comprised of Japanese American soldiers. It became one of the most highly decorated military units in U.S. history.

6:45 pm Suma Kato Yagi, Poetry Reading

Kato Yagi’s freshman year in high school ended abruptly when her family was ordered to leave Seattle on May 2, 1942. They initially were incarcerated behind barbed wire on the Puyallup fairgrounds, and were later relocated to Camp Minidoka in Idaho.

Day of Remembrance commemorates the signing of Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on February 19, 1942, following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. It authorized the evacuation and incarceration of 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry living on the West Coast, most of whom were U.S. citizens or legal permanent resident aliens.

In Washington state, nearly 13,000 people of Japanese descent were ultimately sent to detention centers. Most Seattleites ended up at Camp Minidoka near Hunt, Idaho, while the majority of rural Western Washington evacuees were sent to Tule Lake in California.

The public is invited to remember and learn more about this period in our history through the words and experiences of these special guests. The event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be provided. Reservations are requested. Call 206 768-6455 or email janderson@sccd.ctc.edu.

###

Media inquiries:

Public Information Office, 206 768-6873 / coehler@sccd.ctc.edu