



THE MEMORIAL, PHASE ONE

by Clarence Moriwaki, Chairman, Memorial Committee

The dream of building the *Nidoto Nai Yoni* – Let It Not Happen Again memorial to honor and remember the first Japanese Americans sent to concentration camps in World War II may soon be coming true. Construction of the first phase of the long-awaited memorial is expected to begin this spring.

Design Workshops

By late January, 2006, the memorial committee and the City of Bainbridge Island plan to advertise bids for the first phase of construction that will include ground clearing and the building of roads, parking, pathways and the story wall. If the bids from contractors come in within the first phase budget and a capable firm is awarded the construction contract, building the first phase of the memorial could begin in March or April and be completed by late fall.

After a series of design workshops this fall led by architect Johnpaul Jones with the memorial committee and the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community (BIJAC), the 276 foot-



long story wall is currently envisioned to be an artful combination of a strong stone base and wood wall topped by a simple wooden shingled roof. The 276-foot length will symbolize the 276 Japanese Americans that lived on Bainbridge Island at the outset of World War II, and it will tell the historical story of the establishment and contributions of the Japanese American community to Bainbridge Island, with a clearly

(continued on back page)

WE HAVE THE NAMES

Enclosed in this issue is a list of the names of the 276 Japanese Americans evacuated to the camps from Bainbridge Island. Please take a moment to look through the list and help us confirm the data and fill in the blanks. Thanks!

JAPANESE GARDEN HONORED

It's a garden for all seasons, but particularly beautiful when dusted with winter snow. And that's not just our opinion about the extensive Japanese garden at Bainbridge Island's own Bloedel Reserve, but also that of specialists polled by *The Roth Journal of Japanese Gardening* (www.rothteien.com) who voted it fifth on a list of 25 outstanding Japanese gardens in America. Congratulations to the Reserve! If you haven't visited the Reserve, check out their website at www.bloedelreserve.org.



VOICES OF THE PAST AND PRESENT

Last October, the Grand Hall at IslandWood was the venue for the Nidoto Nai Yoni Conference, co-sponsored by BIJAC and Densho. Karen Matsumoto, a key figure in organizing the event and the daughter of one of the participants, sends us her report on the proceedings.

Executive Order 9066 was signed by President Roosevelt in 1941. Shortly thereafter 276 residents of Bainbridge Island, many of them American citizens, were forced to leave their homes and were sent to concentration camps. There they spent almost four years behind barbed wire, watched over by other Americans armed with machineguns to make sure none of them escaped. On October 19, 2005, 63 years later, an afternoon conference co-sponsored by BIJAC and Densho: The Japanese American Legacy Project was held at IslandWood, an outdoor education facility on Bainbridge Island.



Tom Ikeda

This conference provided the first comprehensive opportunity for some of those who had been in the camps, their families and friends, and concerned members of the Bainbridge community to explore some of the complex issues surrounding the forced evacuation and internment and its lasting effects on the lives of those who suffered from it. It also provided a forum where it was possible to look closely at the recent history of social justice and civil rights in the U. S., in the context of stories told by individual internees. From the broadest perspective, this afternoon allowed people to ask the difficult questions about what patriotism in America means today.

Tall Tales, But True

The first session, "Childhood Memories of Bainbridge Island and the Internment Experience" featured a mix of panelists, including some who had been imprisoned at very young ages, and their non-Japanese friends who related stories about their experiences and life-long friendships. The panelists included Lilly Kodama, Hisa Matsudaira, John "Bud" Hawk (Medal of Honor recipient), Hal Champeness, and Gerald Nakata. The session was moderated by Frank Kitamoto, who was imprisoned with his family at the age of two and a half.

The second session, "The Nisei Military Experience," was a conversation between conference moderator Tom Ikeda (director of Densho) and three Nisei veterans who enlisted in the U. S. Army from the camps. Lifelong Bainbridge Island residents Art Koura and Tats Moritani represented the 442nd (all Japanese) Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service, respectively. Roy Matsumoto, of Bainbridge and San Juan Islands, spoke



Roy Matsumoto

of his experiences in the camps in Arkansas and as part of what was considered a near-suicide mission in Burma with Merrill's Marauders. This session highlighted the deeper meaning of what it means to be a true patriot: these men served their country by offering their lives in its defense while their loved ones were held in concentration camps behind barbed wire.

Personal Perspectives

The final session was a moving panel discussion, "Lessons from History and the Impact of Civil Liberties on Americans Today." Frank Kitamoto, President of BIJAC, spoke from a personal perspective about the impact of the internment experience on the Japanese community and its implications for personal civil liberties. Speaker Ibrahim Al-Husseini of the Arab American Community Coalition of Seattle spoke about the direct parallels in the lives of Arab Americans and Muslims after September 11, 2001,



Art Koura

many of whom have been imprisoned or deported without due process, based on nothing more than their appearance or religion. Al-Husseini made the point that the "War on Terror" and the so-called Patriot Act have perpetuated racial profiling and paved the way to the loss of basic civil rights for particular groups suspected of having something in common with "the enemy." Speaker Ron Sims, King County Executive, eloquently tied together the various strands of



Ibrahim Al-Husseini & Ron Sims

meaning generated from the conference and warned about the danger of continuing on a path of fear, suspicion, and racism. Sims urged the conference participants and the country to come together to think critically about history, prejudice, and civil liberties and to rethink our attitudes about how we want to shape our society based on civil rights for all and a more mature vision of patriotism.

More than 160 people attended the free conference, and a video is being created that will be available on DVD to the public after the new year. Contact BIJAC for more information.

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Bainbridge Island Teachers Hear Expert Multicultural Education In Action

by Cathy Jones-Smith, Co-Chair, Multicultural Advisory Council

Integrating Multicultural Education into K-12 Curriculum was the focus of a recent educational workshop offered to Bainbridge Island School District teachers, administrators and staff members. On Saturday, October 22nd, thirty educators gathered at Bainbridge High School to hear author and educator, Dr. Geneva Gay. A University of Washington Professor in Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Gay is a nationally recognized leader in the fields of multicultural education, African-American culture, and curriculum theory.

Dr. Gay is a contributor to many books and journals in the above-mentioned fields of study and has also published two books on multicultural education, *At the Essence of Learning: Multicultural Education* (1994), and *Culturally Responsive Teaching: Theory, Research, and Practice* (2000). She is a 1994 recipient of the Ann Baker Award, honoring her outstanding leadership, scholarship, and service to women.

Three-Hour Workshop

Educators attending the three-hour workshop were inspired and motivated by Dr. Gay's passion for multicultural education and depth and breadth of knowledge. She discussed various definitions of multicultural education, differences between multicultural education and global education, and how instructional programs can be structured to accommodate different students. Perhaps of greatest benefit to teachers were Dr. Gay's straight-forward and innovative strategies for implementing multicultural education into each and every classroom.

While teaching multicultural education can feel like an enormous and daunting undertaking, Dr. Gay advised teachers to simply start with the students in their classrooms and the curriculum at hand, to look for ways to include everyone, and to expand outward from there. Robin Hruska, art teacher and Multicultural Lead Teacher at Blakely Elementary, found the following example helpful: if a teacher has three students from different cultures, focus on those three cultures plus one additional culture. The cultural comparisons promote changes in students' understanding and help them develop awareness of cultural differences.

Activists for Change

Alice Mendoza, Multicultural Lead Teacher Coordinator and 3rd grade teacher at Wilkes Elementary, came away from the workshop with plans to move beyond teaching just the status quo in lessons such as the American Civil Rights Movement. Instead of focusing on Rosa Park's refusal to give up her seat on the bus, or Martin Luther King, Jr's "*I Have a Dream*" speech, Alice plans to use different points of entry to engage her students. Exploring the lives of these leaders and what cultural influences informed their thinking and shaped their lives when they were young may be a more effective way for students to learn how they too can grow up to become activists for change.

Everyone's Unique

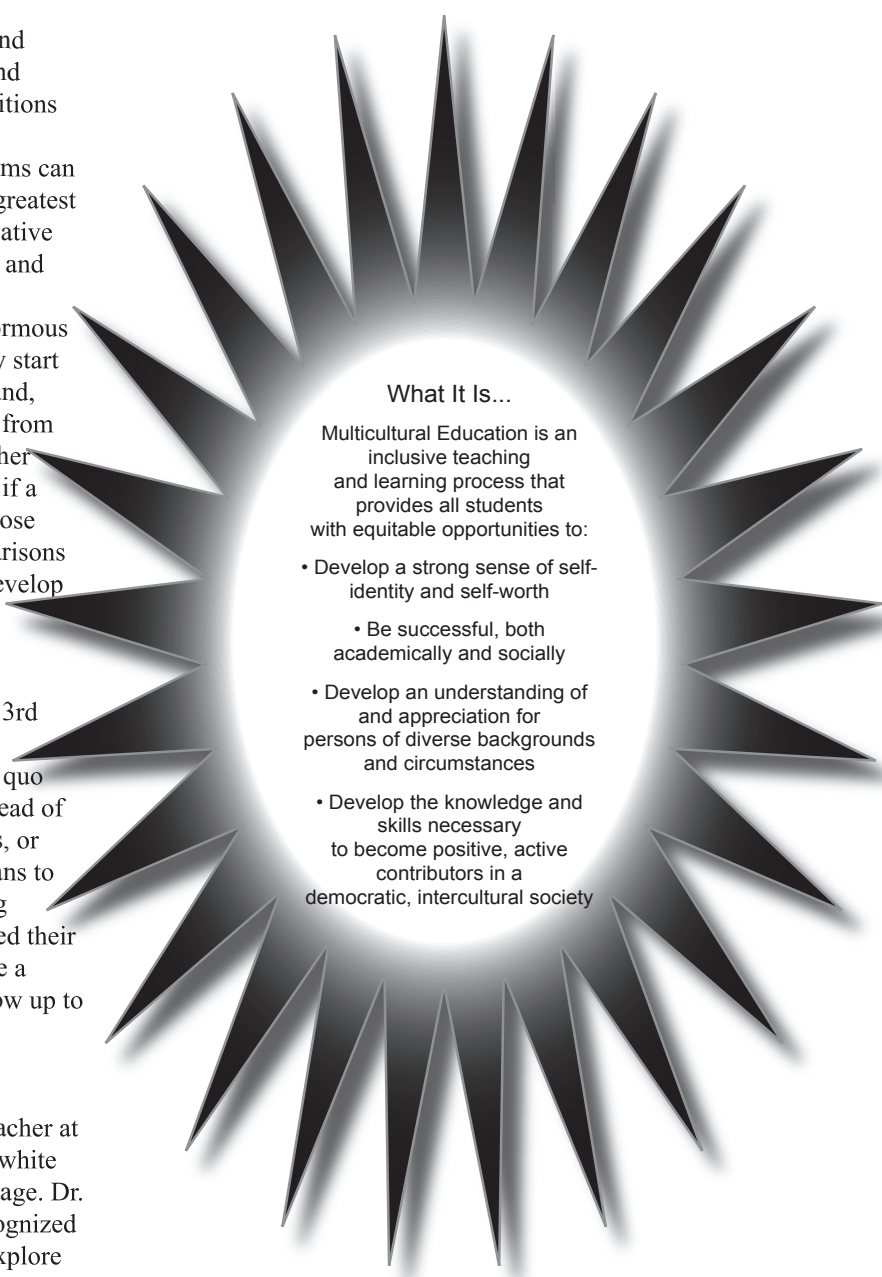
Rebecca Grue, a 1st grade teacher and Multicultural Lead Teacher at Wilkes Elementary, was struck by the importance of helping white students gain a sense of their own cultural identities and heritage. Dr. Gay reminded participants that every student needs to be recognized and celebrated for their uniqueness and then encouraged to explore the cultures from which they came. Students then begin to understand

that diversity includes everyone.

Participants enthusiastic about Dr. Gay's presentation have chosen to continue the conversation in a follow-up debriefing meeting and to put forth plans for future action. The meeting is planned for mid-January.

The Bainbridge Island Multicultural Advisory Council sponsored Dr. Geneva Gay's workshop. Funding came from proceeds raised by the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community with David Guterson at the Island's premier showing of "*Snow Falling on Cedars*." The allocation of these funds is for the specific purpose of providing Bainbridge Island School District educators access to educational programs and training opportunities that promote multicultural education.

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LEAVING OUR ISLAND

By Frank “Kazu” Kitamoto

— Chapter One —

December 7, 1941: Bombs fell on Pearl Harbor. Our president, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, lost little time declaring war on Imperial Japan.

Tuesday, March 24, 1942. Bainbridge Island was suddenly occupied by U. S. Army soldiers from New Jersey. They were carrying rifles with fixed bayonets. They talked funny, with a heavy accent that was hard to understand. Corporal Bushey, Pvt. Agostino, Pvt. Annigita were among them. The Army told us we had six days to get our affairs in order before we were “removed.”

The “removal” applied to all persons of Japanese descent on Bainbridge, from 45 families with 276 men, women and children out of a total island population of about 3,500. There were only 227 of us who left that day; three families had already left, six men were serving in the U. S. military, some were away at college, several were “stuck” in Japan and 13 had been previously incarcerated. No person

who was the president of the Bainbridge High School class of 1942, remembers that her classmate, Earl Hanson, came to the ferry dock to see us off, but couldn’t reach his friends. Ritsuko and Yoshiko Terayama were able to clasp hands with one of the Erickson girls, before they were marched down the pier and onto the ferry. The Moji family was there, but their dog, King, had to be left behind with a neighbor. Later, they learn he stopped eating and died.

Walt Woodward remembered that many of the soldiers had tears in their eyes as they slung their rifles with fixed bayonets loosely over their shoulders and helped carry children and suitcases and an elderly Issei woman onto the *Kehlohken*. Others recall the actual departure—watching the Island growing smaller in the distance—and the arrival at the ferry terminal in Seattle where hundreds of eyes watched us from the overpass. Hiro Hayashida waved an American flag at the onlookers as we marched to the waiting train.

During the two-day trip, we were ordered to pull down the window blinds whenever we went through a town or city. Finally, the train stopped in Mojave, California. When we got off, some of us turned around to thank the “Jersey” soldiers for helping to pass the time by leading us in song.

We were loaded onto buses and driven into the hot desert in



of Japanese descent could come to the Island. None of us could leave. There was a curfew, keeping us at home from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m.

On March 30, the soldiers came in trucks to take us to the ferry dock in Eagledale. We can take only what we can carry. I, 2-1/2-year-old Yoshikazu, chose to carry my rubber John Deere tractor. My oldest sister, Yuriko, is seven. Hideko is five and the youngest, Chiseko, is only nine months. My mother, Shigeko, is 35.

My father, Yoshito, is 42. He isn’t with us.

On February 5th he was arrested by the FBI and, with no trial or hearing, was one of the 34 persons of Japanese descent from Bainbridge shipped off to the immigration center in Seattle, and one of 13 who were later sent to Fort Missoula, Montana.

I don’t remember that day. But I know what happened, thanks to the memories recalled in our oral-history project. Sada Omoto,

the Owen Valley near Death Valley. Kay Sakai Nakao looked out the window. In the distance, she saw a group of bleak-looking barrack buildings, heat waves shimmering off the roofs.

“I’m sure glad we’re not going there,” she said. Moments later, the bus turned right. “There” was Manzanar—the end of the journey for now.

The date was April 1, 1942. April Fools Day!

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Some of the material for Frank’s “Leaving Our Island” memoir was adapted from the introduction he wrote for the recent Nidoto Nai Yoni Conference at IslandWood. Additional chapters will be published in future issues of BIJAC News, and on our website at www.bijac.org.

OUR MINIDOKA PILGRIMAGE

A Buddhist blessing and a 21-gun salute were among the highlights of our latest journey to Idaho.

Clarence Moriawaki and I attended the 2005 Minidoka Pilgrimage. The model of our “Nidoto Nai Yoni” Memorial Wall, Dock and Interpretive Center building was transported on the bus to Idaho for pilgrimage participants to see.

The 12-hour bus ride left from Bellevue Community College early Friday morning. The frequent stops for breaks was appreciated by us older folks with weak kidneys. Snack food, bento lunches, videos on the Japanese American experience, sharing stories, singing songs, and telling funny stories all helped pass the time and helped those on the bus feel a special bond toward one another. A barbecue dinner was served at a park when we arrived in southeast Idaho, before we checked in to our motels in Twin Falls.

Saturday morning was a bus and walking tour of Minidoka, with the National Parks staff showing us the remnants of the concentration camp. We then went to the Idaho Farm Museum to see an actual barrack which had photo articles and artifacts of that period of time. Lunch was at a Chinese Buffet Restaurant back in Twin Falls where the choice of food was humongous and everyone probably ate more than they should have. The afternoon was spent at Southern Idaho College where Mako Nakagawa led a workshop for participants and time was spent “brainstorming” an “Issei Memorial” to be erected by the “Friends of Minidoka” on a nine-acre tract next to the Minidoka National Memorial.

The evening was a western barbecue cookout (with sushi), hosted by the Preston Family at their ranch, complete with music from a combo, speakers from the Japanese American and Caucasian Communities from the Minidoka locale. Pilgrimage attendees were able to interact with the local community and dignitaries.

Sunday morning was check-out time from the motel and back to Minidoka to the rock garden site for closing ceremonies. Veterans on the pilgrimage and local veterans combined and gave a 21-gun salute. A Buddhist blessing ceremony was performed for the grounds. Neil King, Minidoka Park Superintendent and I made short presentations. The ceremony closed with attendees tying commemorative tags to a leafless tree with names of people they wished to be remembered or honored. The buses then returned to Twin Falls for a luncheon and a performance by Kim Ina of “Living Voices.” We then boarded the bus for the trip home, arriving at Bellevue CC at midnight. The 2006 Minidoka Pilgrimage will be held in mid July.

It's hard to explain the spiritual feeling one gets standing on the actual site where thousands of people were imprisoned. The hope is that many of you, internees, friends and families of internees will take the opportunity to participate in future pilgrimages. The interactions among former internees and those too young to have been imprisoned helps all of us to understand our roots ourselves and is both healing and exhilarating.



Entrance to Hunt Camp, 1943 • Wing Luke Asian Museum

*Word of Mouth
from
Frank Kitamoto*



NEXT SLIDE, PLEASE

Public response to the educational presentations Gerald Nakata and I have given continues to be strong. Essentially, they involve a slide presentation followed by a question and answer period on the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Experience and its relevance to civil liberties, the power of diversity in our country, the United States, and today's climate. The past years' venues have included on Bainbridge Island; Island School, Blakely School, Wilkes School, Sakai School, IslandWood Teacher's Conference, and the Kitsap County Youth Rally.

Hisa Matsudaira and I gave a series of presentations to Odyssey Multi-age students over a six-week period. Other venues included Gordon Elementary in Kingston, Bellevue Community College, The Bellevue CC Arts and Humanities faculty, Pacific Islanders Asian American Week at the Norm Dicks Center in Bremerton, South Whidbey School on Whidbey Island, and the Kitsap Human Rights Conference at Kiana Lodge.

Next spring, I'll be presenting in the Olympic College series and in August at the Asian American Professional's National Conference at the Rennasiance Hotel in Seattle.

Anyone interested in a 45 to 75-minute presentation with historical pictures including actual pictures of the forced removal from Bainbridge Island, based on oral histories, for schools or civic groups can contact me at (206) 842-4772 or 842-5094, by fax 842-5649 or by emailing derektaro@aol.com.

Walkin' Pun'kins!

Record-breaking crowds strolled historic Bainbridge Gardens for the 12th Annual Pumpkin Walk October 21st and October 22nd.

Junkoh and Chris Harui, owners of Bainbridge Gardens, host the event each year, and it has become one of Kitsap County's most popular Halloween traditions. Proceeds from the Walk benefit the programs of the Bainbridge Island Boys and Girls Club.

Every year, families carve pumpkins and bring them in to Bainbridge Gardens to be placed along the historic Nature Trail. This year, more than 300 jack o'lanterns glowed with candlelight along the trail. A hay maze, an inflatable bounce house, children's carnival games and live music provided lots of energy and entertainment to the nighttime Halloween festival for families.

“We love to see everyone having a good time,” Chris said. “The Pumpkin Walk is a great event for the whole family.” Junkoh added, “The Walk is truly a community event, and we'd like to thank all the volunteers and participants who gave their time and talent to make it a success again this year.”

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STRAWBERRY FIELDS

A Brief Summary of the Nakata Family Property

by Wayne Nakata

Like all family stories, this one really has no definite beginning, and of course no end. But I'll try to set down some of the basics here, and fill in the details as a part of a lecture series I'll be taking part in at the Bainbridge Island Historical Museum next summer.

First, the size of the Nakata family property: It began with 15 acres lying along Wyatt Way and Weaver Road. The place was originally developed by a man named Sakakichi Sumiyoshi, who was born in Japan in 1872. He acquired the land and began growing strawberries on it around 1909. His business prospered, and he built a large,

Nakao family whose son, who was of legal age and a citizen, kindly offered to sign the ownership papers.

Eventually, my dad Masaaki, also known as John, who was born on Bainbridge on January 12, 1907, became the official owner when he turned 21. It was the beginning of a long and significant part of local history which included the double wedding ceremony of my parents, performed by Reverend Osgood of the Eagle Harbor congregational Church in 1933, and Dr. Shepard's delivery of my two older brothers, and me, in the original farmhouse on the property.



two-story farmhouse (see photo) which provided a place to can strawberries from his and other nearby farms. By 1917, the home cannery couldn't keep up with demand, and the berries were shipped to a Seattle cannery. By the early 1920s, a local cannery was built at the end of Weaver Road on Eagle Harbor, close to the farm, with easy shipping to Seattle.

Citizens Only

The name Nakata entered the picture in 1924 when my grandfather, Jitsuzo, acquired the property. He had been born in Agenosho in Japan's Yamaguchi Prefecture in 1875, and returned there to marry Shima Akimoto in 1906. In the 1920s he was running a laundry and barber business in Winslow. The chance to own the Sumiyoshi property was fortuitous, but since he was not, and by law could not be an American citizen, the deal had to go through others, namely the

With the Help of Some of Our Friends

Strawberry production continued there with the help of other islanders, including the Filipino Membrere family and others. At the outbreak of World War II and our incarceration at Manzanar, a Filipino friend cared for the property until the family's return. The family lived on the land, adding some five acres to the north in the 1950s, and building a new house in 1966. During this time, we were establishing a grocery business which, as many of you know, has become the Town and Country Market Corporation. That business, by the way, recently bought much of the original Nakata farmstead, and hope to maintain and preserve it as an interesting part of our Bainbridge Island history.

It may not be "strawberry fields forever," but it's a good start.

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SETTING THE TONE AT SAKAI

by Jo Vander Stoep, Principal

It is such a privilege to be the principal of Sonoji Sakai Intermediate School, the school named to honor Sonoji and Yoshiko Sakai and all Issei of Bainbridge Island. In my office, I keep a picture of Don Nakata, who was my mentor as we prepared to open this school in 1998-99. Don helped me understand the significance of our school name and the unique responsibility and privilege of our school community to honor and impart the history of Bainbridge Island Japanese Americans to our fifth and sixth grade students.



Since our school's first year, a member of the Sakai family has graciously agreed to speak at our traditional opening day ceremony. This year, Joe Yoshihara, grandson of Sonoji and Yoshiko Sakai (photo), set the tone for our school year. He reminded us all that effort and kindness toward others are the two critical attributes of success in school and life.

Our Sakai public art has a strong emphasis on the Sakai family and Bainbridge Island Japanese American history. Thanks to BIJAC and Junkoh Harui, Doug Tanaka, and Vicki McCabe, we have a lovely Japanese garden. M. J. Linford and Peg Chapman created a moving, beautiful historical tribute and artwork entitled "Remembering Executive Order 9066." Kay Nakao and Dean Sakai are founding and continuing members of our Art for Sakai committee.

Our World War II Bainbridge Island Japanese American history curriculum is richer each year. This will be the third year of implementation of our "Leaving Our Island" sixth grade curriculum unit, taught in February. Frank Kitamoto generously spends a day at Sakai, introducing the unit of study with his informative and interesting slide show. Forum Day is planned for Wednesday morning, February 8. We hope many current or past members of our community will join us to share family stories of "Leaving Our Island." Our sixth grade students will tour the Bainbridge's historical museum, library and Filipino Hall on February 16, and will learn about the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial.

This spring, our school is looking forward to hosting a performance of Vancouver Opera's production of "Naomi's Road" for all our students. While BIJAC sponsors the evening production, Sakai's PTO and school district multicultural funds will support the school-day performance.

Many thanks for your interest and support of Sonoji Sakai Intermediate School. I am so proud to share in honoring your history.

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Oral History Project Continues



Digital audio/video technology might not last into the next millennium, but it's a good bet it'll be around longer than most of us. Converting BIJAC's extensive archives to digital, and adding fresh oral-history interviews, is an on-going project. The most recent additions are Mac Davis' lengthy sessions with Gerald Nakata and Michi Noritake, bringing fascinating bits of their personal and family histories to light. DVD and CD discs with these and other BIJAC-related materials are available—see Dr. Frank Kitamoto for details.

Thanks for assistance in this effort go to Densho (www.densho.org), a non-profit organization located in Seattle that has given members of our Oral History committee some tips on collecting, editing and archiving the materials. If you'd like to participate—as an interviewee or an interviewer—please let us know.

A NIGHT AT THE OPERA

We are happy to announce the beginning of a new opera season on Bainbridge Island, sponsored by BIJAC.

How's that again?

Well, it may be a short season, but one sure to prove exciting, entertaining and certainly unique.

The opera is a modern work, based on a popular 1986, "Naomi's Road," by Joy Kogawa, a children's version of her novel, "Obasan." The setting is Canada during World War II, specifically in an internment camp in the interior of British Columbia. The story involves the touching and dramatic experiences of nine-year-old Naomi and her Japanese Canadian family, sent to the camp from their home in Vancouver. There, Naomi and her older brother Stephen struggle with the harshness of war, racism, bullying and loss of family. They ultimately triumph over their fears, discovering the gifts that sustain them, such as music, words and love.

"Naomi's Road" is a sensitive, visually evocative production, filled with emotion, humor and soaring melodies. Throughout,

"War is what happens because people don't know we are all the same."

—from the libretto of *Naomi's Road*

the resilience of spirit offers hope for the future, and will lead audiences to discover the power of understanding and the beauty of compassion.

The opera was composed by Ramona Luengen with a libretto by Ann Hodges and is performed by members of the Vancouver Opera company. Two performances will be mounted on Bainbridge on Friday, May 12, 2006. The first will be in the afternoon for students at the Sakai school, with the support of Sakai Intermediate School PTSA and multicultural funds.

The public performance will be at the Woodward Middle School that evening at 7:30. Proceeds from that performance will benefit our "Nidoto Nai Yoni" memorial.

After the performance the cast will interact with the audience answering questions about opera, the story and the actors themselves. It will be a rare opportunity to see Canadian American actors of Asian descent, singing and acting in a moving production based on events similar to what occurred on Bainbridge Island.

MEMORIAL (continued from Page 1)

defined breakaway section of the wall that would highlight the time and stories about the camps.

The design of the story wall is being refined by Johnpaul Jones and his firm Jones and Jones, and the memorial committee and BIJAC will review and finalize their design work in January to be ready for the advertisement of construction bids. We welcome and would love to hear your input about the memorial story wall design at the BIJAC meeting on Wednesday, January 4, 6:00 pm at the Town and Country conference room and the memorial committee meeting on Thursday, January 19, 6:30 pm at Dr. Kitamoto's office, 1298 Grow Avenue.

Also in January, the U. S. Congress should receive the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial study from the Department of the Interior. We hope that the recommendation will be for the memorial site to become a satellite unit of the Minidoka National Internment Monument, and that Congress and the White House would approve this recommendation, which could allow staffing from the National Parks Service and funding to assist with interpretive materials.

To date, more than \$1 million has been raised for this first phase of construction, with more than \$3 million needed to complete additional phases including a pier, meeting room and interpretive center. Donations can be sent to Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial Committee, PO Box 10355, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

• **MONTHLY COMMUNITY MEETINGS** are held on the first Wednesday of each month, Town and Country conference room, west of T&C parking lot and across from (North) of the Post Office, second floor, 6:00 p.m. All are welcome.

• **NIDOTO NAI YONI MEMORIAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS** are held on the third Thursday of each month, Dr. Kitamoto's office, Grow Ave. and High School Road, 6:30.

• **ANNUAL MOCHI TSUKI CELEBRATION** is slated for Sunday, January 8, 2006 from 11 a.m. ~ 3 p.m. at IslandWood, located at 4450 Blakely Avenue NE.

The energetic performance of the acclaimed Seattle taiko drum group Kokon Taiko is expected to once again please the crowd, and on display will be the scale model of the proposed national Japanese American memorial "*Nidoto Nai Yoni* – Let It Not Happen Again" and the award-winning exhibit "*Kodomo no Tame ni* – For the Sake of the Children."

Staff and volunteers from IslandWood will offer tours of the award-winning school-in-the-woods. More than 700 people attended the last mochi tsuki event, and the next one looks to be just as successful. Participation is free, though donations are requested for take-away mochi. Volunteers are needed to provide mochi machines, make and serve tea, form mochi cakes and help setting up and cleaning up. Please contact Dr. Frank Kitamoto at 206 842-5094 or 206 842-4774.

BIJAC

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND
JAPANESE AMERICAN
COMMUNITY**

1298 Grow Avenue NW
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
Phone (206) 842-4772

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.bijac.org

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**We urge you all to attend our monthly meeting on the first Wednesday of the month.
Call or visit our website for time and location. There are no dues, the only obligation being an interest in Japanese
American history and heritage and a willingness to lend your support and interest to our ongoing projects.**