

SPRING 2009

## BUILDING THE WALL, TELLING THE STORY

By Clarence Moriwaki, president, Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial

At 11:03 a.m. on Monday, March 30, 2009, the oldest surviving Bainbridge Island Japanese American, 98-year-old Fumiko Hayashida, joyfully stood in the cab of a construction backhoe as it broke ground for the long-awaited "Story Wall" for the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial (BIJAM).

It was an unforgettable ending to the 67th Anniversary ceremony, commemorating the historic moment when Hayashida and 226 fellow Bainbridge Islanders began to board a ferry at the Eagledale ferry landing at 11:03 a.m. on Monday, March 30, 1942, becoming the first Japanese Americans exiled to concentration camps in WWII.

Phase 2, the 272-foot long "Story Wall"—one foot for every Japanese American who lived on Bainbridge Island at the start of WWII—is the heart of the memorial project, telling a unique American story of immigration, establishment, their forced removal and return to their island home.

is still needed to design, produce and install interpretive materials for the wall.

Still to come and yet unfunded are Phase 3, which includes a timber-framed, environmentally designed interpretive center and meeting room complex (\$5.7 million), and Phase 4, a 150-foot "departure pier" representing the 150 Japanese Americans who returned to Bainbridge Island after the war (\$900,000).

### Stirring 67th Anniversary Ceremony

About 150 people, the Bainbridge Island Review and all of the major Seattle print and electronic media braved the unseasonably chilly weather



Designed by award-winning architect and fellow islander Johnpaul Jones and BIJAM Project Manager John Buday of Cascade Crest Designs, the gently curving wall of granite, basalt and cedar is being built on Taylor Road where the Bainbridge Islanders were escorted by armed U.S. Army soldiers to the ferry landing.

The nearly \$500,000 project was awarded to Drury Construction (who generously provided Fumiko Hayashida's backhoe) and it is expected to be built by this summer. However, \$300,000

to witness an inspirational commemorative program filled with heartfelt comments, humor and memories.

I was honored to serve as emcee, and I began by noting that our success—and indeed the very concept of a memorial—may never have happened without partnerships, highlighted by our first speaker Kent Chadwick, president of the Bainbridge Island North Kitsap Interfaith Council.

*(Continued next page)*

## BUILDING THE WALL (from page 1)

Chadwick spoke of how proud the Interfaith Council was to be the first group to approach the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community a decade ago to propose the idea to honor and remember the first of 120,000 Japanese Americans to be forcibly removed and exiled in WWII, and he emphasized how the IFC continues to be a proud partner with BIJAM.

The vital partnership with the City of Bainbridge Island was well represented by Mayor Darlene Kordonowy, who highlighted the other important partnerships with local, state and federal governments by recognizing the various elected officials and their representatives present at the ceremony.

Kordonowy read a statement from Congressman Jay Insee (D-Bainbridge Island), the prime sponsor who made the memorial America's newest National Historic Site. He shared his congratulations saying that "this is a wonderful opportunity to create something positive out of a very dark moment in our nation's history. We must never forget the injustice that was perpetrated by the United States against its own people."

Representing the Bainbridge Island City Council was Councilmember Barry Peters, who read a letter from Washington State Senator Phil Rockefeller (D-Bainbridge Island), offering a cautionary observation that "the history of the Japanese American internment should teach us that in times of crisis, our country is not above the temptation to trade liberty for a sense of safety."

Mary Woodward, author of the well-reviewed "In Defense of Our Neighbors: The Walt and Milly Woodward Story," reflected on the courage of her late parents as publisher/editors of the *Bainbridge Review* during WWII.

Woodward said that her parents' steadfast belief in the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights compelled them to consistently speak out against the exclusion of Japanese Americans as a fundamental violation of basic civil liberties, and that their editorial leadership helped create a supportive atmosphere that made Japanese Americans feel welcome to return to Bainbridge Island.

### Friendship and Memories

Friendships were equally—if not more—important to the uniquely welcoming nature of Bainbridge Island, warmly demonstrated by Earl Hanson and Hal Champeness, speaking on behalf of their lifelong friend, Jerry Nakata who passed away in 2007.

This was the third time Hanson and Champeness stood in for Nakata at a memorial ceremony. At two previous events Jerry Nakata—the first president of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community—was in ill health and on both occasions he asked his two friends to speak on his behalf.

"It takes two of us to take the place of one Jerry Nakata," Hanson quipped about his fellow 1941 Bainbridge High School classmate.

Hanson recalled coming down to the ferry terminal on March 30, 1942 to see Nakata, only to be turned away by armed U.S. Army soldiers. "I just wanted to say goodbye to my friend," Hanson said.

As the war was winding down, Hanson was serving in the U.S. Army Air Force and recalled riding in a bus through Moses Lake. "Out of my window were two of the Koba boys," Hanson said. "The Koba family had relocated there during the war, and I was leaning out the window and we were hanging onto each other for a few minutes until the bus driver said 'close the window, we're leaving.'"

After Hanson said goodbye, a fellow soldier at the front of the bus made a derogatory racial remark about the Kobas.

"I stood up and said they are good kids. They were born in Bainbridge Island," Hanson said. "I went to school with them and

they are as American as anyone on this bus. And I sat down. The person who said that stuff didn't have the guts enough to come back and apologize, but it was complete silence in the bus until we got to Seattle. And I have never seen those Koba boys since."

Wearing a sharp black beret to ward off the chill, Hal Champeness chose to read a poem that echoed his deep feelings on that fateful morning. Written by fellow Bainbridge High School student Jeanna Clinton Richie, it was entitled the "Saddest Day of My Life" and read in part:

*School was dismissed that "ordinary day"  
So we could all go say "please come back, we pray"*

*With rifles and fixed bayonets, soldiers lined the ferry dock  
Tears running down their faces and all of us in shock*

*We said goodbye, with a great deal of worry  
Everyone cried and apologized and said "we're so sorry"*



After Champeness spoke, the names of each of the 272 Japanese Americans who lived on Bainbridge Island were read aloud by Amy Nakata and Misako Guidry. Every name will be honored and placed on the Phase 2 "Story Wall."

Once the last name was read, a brief moment of silence followed, then Bainbridge Island singer/songwriter Emily Groff closed the ceremony on a memorable note, playing her guitar and singing a haunting version of "Don't Fence Me In."

The crowd and the media then gathered at the spot where construction of Phase 2 will begin, and watched Fumiko Hayashida climb a short platform and step into the cab of the construction excavator.

With the burly operator holding Fumiko's small hands, the cab began to turn as the large arm extended over an adjacent mound of dirt. The crowd cheered as the shovel dug into the mound and pulled up and deposited a scoop of dark earth.

The cab pivoted back to its starting point, and I heard Fumiko say, "That was fun. Let's do it again."

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# ❀ FAMILY HISTORIES ❀

## **A STRONG, QUIET WOMAN**

Because of the 1906 earthquake and great fire in San Francisco, California, my mother, Shigeko Nishinaka Kitamoto was born in Seattle, Washington. Her father had immigrated to San Francisco, California to make his fortune and return to Japan a man of wealth. In 1906 he sent for his 18-year-old bride to be. The ship transporting her was diverted to Seattle as San Francisco was in ruins. My grandfather found his way to Seattle to meet his future wife. There they both found work in a restaurant. Before a year passed by Shigeko was born.

When Shigeko was just a few months old, she was sent back to her uncle's family in Japan with two bachelors supplied with a bolt of flannel for diapers and a case of canned milk. Grandfather's thinking was that if grandmother could keep working their fortunes would grow faster. But in rapid succession four other daughters and a son were born; Fujio in Bellevue, Nobuko, Fumiko, Midori, and Takeo in Bainbridge Island, WA.

My mother was raised in Japan by her uncle and aunt until she was 11 years old. She told me that she was spoiled and pampered as her father regularly sent money from America for her care. She received high marks in school and would be taunted as teacher's pet, especially as her uncle was the school's principal. In spite of this she loved school. When her family visited Japan, she returned with them to Bainbridge Island and began school as a fifth grader. She did not return to school after the 6th grade. She was the oldest and she was needed to help on the farm.

My mother and her sisters, all beautiful women, were much sought after by eligible men and "go betweens." My mother chose my father, a "foreigner" in her parent's eyes, as he was not from Seattle or Bainbridge Island but a handsome Japanese man from California. He knew nothing of farming and worked for Friedlander's Jewelry as a traveling salesman. They spent their first married years in Seattle, eventually moving to Bainbridge Island buying her father's farm. My grandparents moved permanently back to Wakayama, taking as part of their "wealth" the proceeds from the sale. I was born in 1934 on this same farm (and live here now), followed every two years by Frances, Frank, and Jane.

During the evacuation in 1942 my mother had the four of us (ages 7, 5, 3, and 9 months) to handle without my father. He had been arrested and taken away earlier because his rifle and a box of

dynamite were found in the barn. After our return to Bainbridge Mama continued as mother, housewife, and gardener, while my father commuted daily to Seattle.

When I graduated from Bainbridge High School I asked to go to college and my father said, "No, I still owe Mr. Friedlander money he loaned me to open my store. We need to save for Frank to go to college." My mother, who loved school and with only a 6th-grade education, did not want her daughter to miss any opportunity. She announced that she will find a way. Thus was born an extensive raspberry farm of 15 acres. She went to Grange meetings, Washington State extension seminars, read pamphlets and decided upon

raspberries because the season is after strawberries and pickers would be available. (She spoke, read, and wrote both Japanese and English.) Her's was the first such farm on Bainbridge. She put in an irrigation system which prolonged the season, another first. Her raspberries allowed my sisters and me to receive university degrees and eventually paid more than my father's business for Frank's dental schooling.

My children and I spent many summers helping my mother, cooking, picking berries, managing the packing shed, delivering berries to market, chauffeuring, weeding, etc. All of this was as important a part as any advanced education for me or my children. She applied for social security cards for my children when they began earning wages from her. By example she taught us to treat all with respect. The Native American workers and Filipinos called her "Mama Moto." When a woman from the worker's "camp" knocked on the door late one night, saying she was scared the drunken men fighting were going to kill each other, my mother got her jacket. My father said, "No, I better go." My mother stopped my dad, saying, "They will not hurt me, but if they see you they might get madder." We waited anxiously until she was safely home. One day mother came in from the field furious about a visitor. "That man makes me so mad. He treated me like a dumb woman, a dumb foreigner, and a dumb farmer!" If only he knew; she was anything but.

She lived to be 89 years old, long enough to see the Christmas trees she planted (to replace the raspberries) grow to be harvested, another first on Bainbridge Island.

—Lilly (Kitamoto) Kodama



## ❀ THE OKAZAKI FAMILY ❀

Tokuzo Okazaki, an immigrant from Kumamoto, Japan, had been successful running several hotels such as the Grand Union and N-P in Seattle during the boom years of WWI, but during the post-war recession, he lost everything. In 1922, a friend encouraged him to try tenant farming, which many Japanese immigrants were doing at the time, so with his wife, Masu and his four young sons, Seiji, George, Naoshi and Shiro they made the move to Bainbridge Island.

Their new life on the rural island was a drastic transition from the city life the older children were used to. "It was spring, and the ground was covered with caterpillars as we walked up the hill from the landing," George remembered.

The family leased a small farm across Madison Avenue from Dr. Shepard's house in Winslow, where they would have two more sons and raise strawberries. The six boys provided labor on the farm. When 14-year old, Seiji finally told five-year old Kete he had to start helping out and stop playing all day, Kete responded by sitting down in the field and bawling. Initially, tasks for the young kids included collecting eggs and keeping the stove going for their mother as she cooked soy beans or rice. As the boys got older, chores would include the backbreaking field work of plowing, tilling and digging that farming required.

Typical of the day, all the boys had nicknames. Seiji became "Brush"; George was called "Oak"; Naoshi got "Nibs"; Shiro somehow turned into "Ebe" or "Ebo"; William naturally was "Bill." The youngest never actually got a real name. He was known as Keto, Kato and now Kete but it was never determined what his mother meant it to be. Everyone figures that she realized it didn't matter at that point and gave up.

Over the years, they were able to buy an old plow horse and a Model-A truck. They added other leased property and raised their strawberries each year, plowing, planting, weeding and fertilizing, trying to harvest before the slugs, rabbits and birds beat them to it. Once, Nibs caught a deer feeding on the berries, got out his .22 rifle and "plinked" it between the eyes. Another time, the family was clearing land. "As we were pulling out a stump we found a bootleggers stash of moonshine. We gave that to one of the neighbors," Seiji recalled.

At harvest, each year, they would take their crop to the waterfront to sell the strawberries, which were frozen and shipped to Seattle to be canned. Occasionally, there was a second crop of strawberries late in the season but the conditions had to be just right. Those were picked and usually sold door-to-door to neighbors on the Island.

Playtime wasn't completely over though. Kete remembers the Island fondly. There was sledding down Johnson Hill when it snowed and pheasant hunting with their dog Babe in the vacant fields in the fall. Seiji and Nibs were baseball pitchers, Seiji being a southpaw in the Courier League. In high school, Seiji lettered for the Bainbridge High basketball team and a few years later, Kete was a starting guard for the 1940-41 Spartan team.

In 1942, the family, along with the rest of the Bainbridge Nikkei, was interned to Manzanar. They eventually transferred to Minidoka, where Tokuzo died in 1943. Most of the family had already left Minidoka by the time the camps closed. Perhaps the family may have moved back to the Island had their father survived, but with their roots on Bainbridge destroyed, and family members relocating across the country, there was no compelling reason to return.

Many of the boys were in the service. Nibs was actually in the U.S. Army before war broke out. After Pearl Harbor, he was transferred to the 522 Field Artillery Battalion. Seiji and George served with the MIS as translators in occupied Japan, while Bill and Kete served in the 442. Bill was wounded in Italy and earned two

Purple Hearts and two Bronze Stars.

After the war, jobs and circumstances spread the brothers around to different parts of the country. Seiji settled in Chicago. He and his wife Mary (Tahara) raised three sons, losing the eldest to illness in 1998, but are blessed with twin granddaughters. Masu lived with them until her passing in 1965.

George married Yoshiko (Helen) Kurokawa and after living in Chicago, settled near Philadelphia and never touched a strawberry after leaving Bainbridge. George worked for the American Chick Sexing Association for over 45 years. He and his wife Helen passed away last year and are survived by a daughter and son and their families.

Nibs, his wife Rose and his family of two sons and two daughters, started out in Chicago and later moved to San Jose, where they are retired. The family has increased to six granddaughters, one grandson and one great grandson. He passes his time raising cymbidiums as a hobby.

Shiro and his wife Rose had been students at the UW but transferred to Washington State at the outbreak of WWII. They graduated, had a son and still live today in the house they built on the outskirts of Pullman.

Bill graduated with a B.S. and Ph.D in Bacteriology from Washington State University. Bill was widowed twice, raising a family in Michigan with his first wife Nancy. In the 1980s, he moved to Los Angeles where he met his second wife Toshi. He later moved to Denver where his son, daughter and their families, including two grandsons and a granddaughter, live. Bill passed away in 2007.

Kete was the only one to return to the Pacific Northwest. After the war, he graduated from Washington State and became a pharmacist. In the 1960s, he joined his wife's family business and managed two grocery stores in Seattle. He and his wife Terry have two sons, a daughter and two grandchildren, who all live in Seattle.

Today, the land where the Okazaki family once lived on and farmed for strawberries is occupied by Bainbridge Island City Hall.

—*Rob Okazaki*





## ❀THE AMATATSU FAMILY❀

As I reflect on my life during and after evacuation, I can say that I grew up suddenly. Everything in my life took a new and drastic turn. My dad was sent to camp as an enemy alien soon after World War II started. Later in March 1942, we were evacuated to some unknown destination by train with shades drawn, accompanied by one soldier per family to guard us.

On April first we arrived at a place called Manzanar, California; a hot and windy desert camp. My first thought was “this must be an April Fool’s joke!” We, the Bainbridge Island Japanese people, were the first families to experience camp life. As seniors we were to miss all the best part of our school life. The other hard part to face was that we had to leave Teddy, our miniature fox terrier. After we left Teddy wouldn’t eat at all and died three weeks later due to starvation and loneliness. Later on the people from California managed to bring their dogs and cats. How unfair!

I did not stay in camp too long (one year) as I left for Chicago in May 1943 from Minidoka, Idaho. The Bainbridge people had petitioned to the government to move to Minidoka where the rest of the Washington and Oregon people were interned (after the Manzanar riot).

I was determined to go away from camp life so as to further my education. Without funds, family or friend, this was indeed a difficult task. When I went to church the first Sunday of my arrival, I met a man (Hiller) who told me to go to the Traveler’s Aid for work. I did get the job at Traveler’s Aid, worked for my room and board at the home of Methodist Minister Rev. and his wife Laury, and attended night school.

Rather than talk about myself, I would like to take this time to tell about my parents; the hardship and discrimination they had gone through. They both had been a role model and great influence on my life.

My mother Taka (Aoki) Amatatsu was a mathematics teacher in Japan. She was the first Japanese language teacher on Bainbridge.

Before going to Bainbridge Island, both of my parents were enrolled in a conversational English class and a cooking class held at a Baptist Church in Seattle which later led to their baptism in the Christian faith. My mother instilled in me the love of God and the dependence upon Him.

Whenever I would get into trouble (being a tomboy and talkative) I would stand up for the “underdog” and believed in fairness which at times got me into hot water. Mom

Nibs Okazaki (far right) came to Minidoka on furlough from the 442 in 1943 to attend his father’s funeral. Left to right, back: Kete (442), Shiro, George (MIS), Seiji (MIS). Front: Rose (Married to Shiro), Bill (442), and Naoshi (Nibs - 442) Masu Okazaki’s husband died in Minidoka. Five of her six sons served in the military in WWII.



would reassure me that if it’s right with God, don’t worry about what people say.

My dad, Yoshiaki Amatatsu, was a gentle person, well read and available to the people on the Island who could not read or write well, and would help them write letters to their relatives in Japan. His father was a medical doctor, and being the oldest son, was destined to be a doctor as generations before. He attended the Kumamoto Medical School. While in med school he was drafted in the army during the Russo-Japanese War as a “medic.” After seeing so many of his friends die, he no longer wanted to pursue the medical field, and instead, being adventuresome, decided to go to American, the “land of milk and honey.”

Though his medical career was short-lived and he did not become a physician; the closest he got to a hospital was the Seattle General Hospital where he became a janitor. His best friends, the Sakumas, had started a strawberry farm on Bainbridge Island, and had become quite successful. They talked to my parents into doing the same. Both of my parents had never tilled the soil in their life—both coming from Samurai families—and this would be just unthinkable! Their tales of how they got started in farming are really hilarious! (It’s like my plotting in my little garden only on a large scale.) The Sakumas did very well having eight sons whereas the Amatatsus had four daughters!

During the strawberry season one of our young Indian girls got very sick, and her parents brought her to the house to see what could be done. There was one doctor on the Island, and although he was a Christian, there was an unwritten rule that Indians would not be treated like other human beings because of discrimination. If dad could get this girl to Seattle to see a Japanese doctor right away he would have done so only to find out that no boat was running then. Dad examined the crying girl and knew that she had acute appendicitis which had to be operated right away. He told us to heat the water for boiling, get the knife sharpened, and have sheets available for the operation that took place on our dining room table. My mother, sisters, and I all cried and that this is a “no, no” as he had no license to practice surgery. He informed us that at least this girl will have a 50-50 chance to live. If there was no operation she would suffer and die. We all pleaded with him not to do this operation because if she died, Dad will have to go to prison. He was determined to save this girl’s life and proceeded to operate. We all prayed that everything will turn out. God had truly watched over this situation and the operation was a success! In a week’s time she was out picking strawberries.

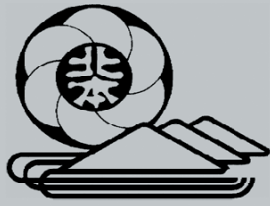
Dad was 87 years old when he last visited us in California (mom was in a convalescent home due to a stroke.) My parents had always traveled together, so this trip was even more difficult for him. Dad and I had a wonderful dialogue reminiscing when all of a sudden he burst out crying (the first time that he cried to my knowledge). He told me that he was a failure as he was not able to leave us monetary gifts. His brothers were all successful professional men, and Dad didn’t amount to much. I know it was the Holy Spirit that led me to say “you have been the most successful one because you and Mom gave us the most precious gift that anyone could ask for. The gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ.” We both cried, not of sadness but gladness!

As of this writing my husband (Hideo) and I have gone to Japan twice as “lay missionaries” teaching English as the avenue of bringing the gospel message to the people of Japan.

We have been grateful for those who did the same for our parents when they arrived in the United States by teaching them the new language (English), and bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to them.

—Dorothy (Amatatsu) Watanabe

## Word of Mouth from Frank Kitamoto



I am grateful to all our BIJAC members who have worked so hard to make our projects successful. I am also grateful to our Community Members at large who have consented to serve on the newly formed Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial (BIJAM) Board. They are all movers and shakers from our Island community. You can read about our projects and our BIJAM Board in other articles in this Newsletter and on our website, BIJAC.org.

- In September I gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Kitsap Co. Historical Society at their museum in Bremerton. That month we also exhibited our traveling photo exhibit “*Kodomo No Tame Ni—For the Sake of the Children*” and models of our Memorial “*Nidoto Nai Yoni—Let it Not Happen Again*” at the Bellevue Aki Matsuri. Trova Hefferan from the State Heritage Society interviewed some of us for a new exhibit they will be doing at a new building they are erecting in Olympia at the State Capitol grounds.

- Our Mochi Tsuki Festival with the Seattle Kokon Taiko group performing was moved to January 18 due to heavy snow. It must have been a “release” from cabin fever because about 1,000 people showed up at IslandWood for the event. The newly designed BIJAC T-shirts sold well at the event. Also in January, Fumiko Hayashida was honored at the annual JACL banquet in Seattle. Her daughter Natalie Ong flew in from Texas and her son Neal and granddaughter Christine also attended. And I gave the PowerPoint presentation to Dr. Tetsuden Kashima’s class at the University of Washington and also to the Washington Reading group of south Seattle.

- In February, Wendy Jannsen, the new Minidoka National Parks Memorial Superintendent, came to Bainbridge Island. We had a luncheon reception for her at Bainbridge Thai Cuisine. Both BIJAC and BIJAM members attended to welcome her to Bainbridge. Our BIJAM Chairman and BIJAC Vice-chair, Clarence Moriwaki received a prestigious National award from the National Parks Conservancy for his work on our Memorial at the Eagledale site. A reception was held at IslandWood where he received the award. On February 27th I traveled to Riverside High School in Auburn and gave my PowerPoint presentation 4 times to a total of 10 classes.

- In March, Sakai School held their annual Forum Day. Members from BIJAC were divided up into panels to answer questions from the students. Mary Woodward earlier talked to the students about her book “In Defense of Our Neighbors: The Walt and Milly Woodward Story.” The book has many photos from our archives and is based on oral histories and interviews of our community members. Sakai School purchased 30 books to use for their students. If you can’t find it at your local book store, you can order it from BIJAC for \$25 and \$4 shipping.

- In April, the Bainbridge Celluloid Film Festival showed “Fumiko Hayashida: The Woman Behind the Symbol,” a film done by Lucy Ostrander and Don Sellers of Stourwater Productions. They are seeking funding to increase the length of the nine-minute film to 14

minutes. On April 18~20 our photo exhibit and memorial models were on display at the Cherry Blossom Festival at Seattle Center.

- Slated for May 30 is a train excursion for BIJAM and BIJAC members from Seattle to Portland to get ideas for our Memorial by visiting Bob Murase’s Nikkei Memorial and the Oregon Legacy Nikkei Museum. We will hold a group discussion on the train on what we would like to see at our Memorial Wall. On May 21, I will be giving my presentation at the Naval Hospital in Bremerton and also on the Bangor base.

- As more and more of our precious friends, the Nisei and older Sansei, pass away, it is very gratifying that we are finally breaking ground on the second phase of our Memorial, the 272-foot-long Memorial Walk and Wall. The story on the Wall will be told through pictures, quotes, Issei “sayings” and stories of the pioneer families of Japanese descent, of the pioneer families of other ethnic groups that supported us and the few who didn’t and of the U.S. soldiers who removed us with tears in their eyes. Although these are personal stories of Bainbridge Islanders, they are also the stories of all 120,000 Americans of Japanese descent, two thirds of them American citizens, who were forced to leave their homes with short notice. The close proximity to a large metropolitan area, Seattle, and easy access, will allow us to tell the story to many people throughout our nation and the world. Through education and emotional involvement we will stimulate people to visit other sites, including the remote-by-design concentration camp memorials. In these times it is important that we remind people that as members of the same race, the *human* race, we have the choice of not letting fear for self overrule our concerns for each other. Our message is that the name of our Memorial, “*Nidoto Nai Yoni—Let it Not Happen Again*,” applies to *all* people.

### Educational PowerPoint Presentation

Frank Kitamoto is available to do an educational PowerPoint slide presentation to classrooms, civic groups, or other organizations, on the Bainbridge Island experience of Americans of Japanese descent.

The title of his presentation is “White Washing Yellow Faces: Putting *Human* Back Into Human Rights. Lessons from the Past to Help Us Be Alive in the Present.”

Original photos from the pioneer days of the 1890s and of the first community to be removed to America’s concentration camps during WWII as well as collected oral histories are used.

Topics covered include the affect of the confinement on youth, its relevance to today, why people do what they do, and the positiveness of the multicultural society that makes our country so special.

Frank can be contacted at  
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or

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## 2009 Minidoka Pilgrimage

June 26~28, 2009

Sixty-seven years ago, during World War II, almost thirteen thousand people of Japanese ancestry, many of whom were American citizens, were forcibly removed from their homes in Washington, Oregon and Alaska, and sent to a desolate "internment camp" near Twin Falls, Idaho. To commemorate this event, former internees, their families, friends, and those interested in this historic event will make a pilgrimage from Seattle and Portland to the former Minidoka Internment Camp from June 26~28, 2009. The Seattle Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, the Nisei Veterans Committee, and the Friends of Minidoka invite all those who are interested to join us on our pilgrimage.

Minidoka served as an active concentration camp for over three years. Even today the site evokes a mixture of poignant memories and strong emotions, including feelings of denial, distrust, shame and joy. Those on the pilgrimage will revisit the site and reflect on memories shared in a supportive environment with family, friends and National Park Service officials. "Our purpose is to honor all those who were incarcerated and suffered disrupted lives due to the rampant racism of the times and to pledge anew that 'Never Again' will this be tolerated," said Gloria Shigeno, Co-Chair Minidoka Pilgrimage Planning Committee.

Today, most of the 33,000 acres that once were a part of Minidoka has been taken over by farms. Fortunately, in 2001, 73 acres along the North Side Canal and near the entrance to Minidoka was designated a National Monument. Participants will have the opportunity to visit the grounds of the National Monument twice during the weekend. First, guided tours of what remains of the "camp" will be provided. The following day, a memorial service will be held at the National Monument to honor internees.

*Throughout the pilgrimage to Minidoka in June this year, there will be ample opportunities to share memories and stories, and reflect on the impact and significance of the incarceration.*

In addition to the pilgrimage, The Friends of Minidoka will join with the Minidoka Internment National Monument Committee and the College of Southern Idaho to present an annual symposium on civil liberties. The 2009 event will take place June 25~26 at the College of Southern Idaho. More information can be found on the Friends of Minidoka website at [www.minidoka.org](http://www.minidoka.org).

Registration including transportation by bus from Seattle to Twin Falls, meals, and all related programming fees, has a cost of \$250. A special rate of \$200 is available for this entire package for seniors over age 75. Housing is additional. The cost for those who choose to meet the pilgrimage in Twin Falls is \$100; the special rate for seniors over age 75 for this option is \$85. Several area hotels have special Minidoka Pilgrimage rates that need to be arranged by May 15, 2009. Lodging costs are in addition to all pilgrimage packages.

**Registration is due by June 10, 2009**

To register or for more hotel and registration information, please contact Keith Yamaguchi at (206-767-0914) or [minidokapilgrimage@comcast.net](mailto:minidokapilgrimage@comcast.net) or go to the Minidoka Pilgrimage website: [minidokapilgrimage.org/](http://minidokapilgrimage.org/).

## New BIJAM Board of Directors

Late last year, the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial (BIJAM) was formed into a new private non-profit 501 (c) (3) corporation, whose mission includes fundraising, designing, promoting and, of course, the successful development of the memorial project.

We are fortunate that an outstanding team of talented and passionate leaders have stepped forward and volunteered to serve on the new BIJAM board of directors.

### OFFICERS

**President:** Clarence Moriawaki, former aide, Clinton Administration, Gov. Lowry, Congressman Jay Inslee and the Washington State Senate, vice president, Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community

**Vice-President:** Sallie Maron, chair, Friends of Pritchard Park, board member, Bainbridge Island Land Trust, Wyckoff Acquisition Task Force

**Secretary:** Ed Kushner, retired; former owner, Windermere Real Estate Bainbridge Island, founder and board member, Marge Williams Center

**Treasurer:** Eric Cederwall, accountant

**Recording Secretary:** Ela Esterberg

### BOARD MEMBERS

**Faith Chapel**, superintendent, Bainbridge Island Public School District • **Steve Davis**, retired; former senior vice-president, US Bank; past president, Bainbridge Community Foundation • **Dr. Fred Grimm**, D.D.S, retired orthodontist; former president, Bainbridge Island Park District and Bainbridge Island School Board • **Cindy Harrison**, retired; former branch manager, Bainbridge Island Public Library • **Ben Klasky**, executive director, IslandWood • **Dr. Frank Kitamoto**, dentist; Manzanar and Minidoka survivor, president, Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community, board member, Friends of Minidoka • **Lilly Kodama**, retired nurse; Manzanar and Minidoka survivor, board member, Bainbridge Island Historical Society and Museum • **Hisa Matsudaira**, retired educator; Manzanar and Minidoka survivor • **Kay Nakao**, retired, Town and Country Markets; Manzanar and Minidoka survivor • **Wayne Roth**, general manager, KUOW 94.9 FM • **Kassia Sing**, development director, Bainbridge Community Foundation • **Val Tollefson**, attorney; partner Danielson, Harrigan, Leyh and Tollefson; president, Bainbridge Island Land Trust • **Mary Woodward**, retired history teacher; author "In Defense of Our Neighbors: The Walt and Milly Woodward Story"

### HONORARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Former Washington State Governors **Dan Evans**, **Booth Gardner**, **Gary Locke**, **Mike Lowry**, **Al Rossellini** and **John Spellman** • Former Washington Secretary of State and Bainbridge Islander **Ralph Munro**.

*To donate or for more information*

**BIJAM**

221 Winslow Way West

Suite 306

Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

[Clarence@bainbridge.net](mailto:Clarence@bainbridge.net) 206 855-9038



## BIJAC.ORG's NEW LOOK

Visit [www.bijac.org](http://www.bijac.org) to explore our new website designed by Jan Adams of J. Adams Designs. You will find information on the BIJAC events and projects, including the memorial, mochi tsuki, and our summer picnic. For those who are not on our mailing list or if you would like to review past news, our newsletters are available for download on the site.

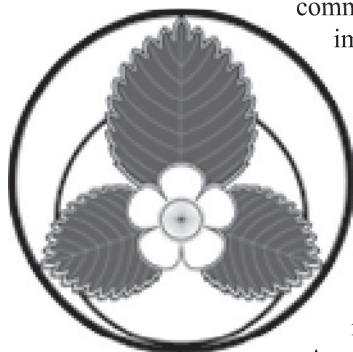
Most exciting is our history section complete with historic photos and film clips from our oral history project. Here the story of our

community from the first Japanese immigrants through WWII is told through photographs and first-hand accounts by Nisei and Sansei narrators.

We are always seeking more information, photos, and input to continue to expand and improve our website. Please contact Debra Grindeland at [info@bijac.org](mailto:info@bijac.org) if you would like to contribute.

A special thanks to the members of our website committee: John Buday, Mac Davis, Debra Grindeland, Frank Kitamoto, Hisa Matsudaira, Karen Matsumoto, Clarence Moriawaki, Joyce Nishimura, Lucy Ostrander, Gary Sakuma, Christine Susumi, and Mary Woodward who worked together to develop the website purpose, design, and content.

Future plans for the site include an education section with instructions for teachers and students to help guide them through the history section. We would also like to add portions of Issei interviews from our older oral history collection. ...



## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

• **PICNIC TIME AGAIN** You're invited to join in our *Semi-Annual Bainbridge Island Japanese American Reunion Picnic*. The potluck style event is slated for August 15, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Battle Point Park. Check our website at [bijac.org](http://bijac.org) for details and directions.

• **MOCHI TSUKI** will happen on Sunday, January 3, 2010 at IslandWood, 4450 Blakely N.E. from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Pound or roll mochi for good fortune, health, and prosperity as we celebrate the coming of the New Year. Mochi purchased by donation. Award winning photo exhibit "*Kodomo No Tame Ni* (For the Sake of the Children)" ; Bainbridge Is. WWII Nikkei Memorial, "*Nidoto Nai Yoni* (Let It Not Happen Again)" graphics and models; Nikkei videos; Taiko Drummers. Overflow parking at Blakely School.

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

• **NIDOTO NAI YONI MEMORIAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS** are held on the third Thursday of each month, Town and Country meeting room, west of T&C parking lot and across from (north of) the Post Office, second floor, 7 p.m. All are welcome.

*If you are interested in participating or helping in these activities, please call Dr. Kitamoto (206) 842-4772 or visit our website [www.bijac.org](http://www.bijac.org) for further information.*

# BIJAC

## BAINBRIDGE ISLAND JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY

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

### VISIT OUR WEBSITE

[www.bijac.org](http://www.bijac.org)

President: Dr. Frank Kitamoto  
Vice President: Clarence Moriawaki  
Treasurer: Debra Grindeland  
Secretary: Joyce Nishimura  
Trustees:  
Lilly Kodama  
Karen Matsumoto  
Hisa Matsudaira  
Kay Nakao  
Greg Noritake  
Gary Sakuma  
Keith Uyekawa



Editorial: Mac Davis • [www.mcedit.com](http://www.mcedit.com)

*If you wish to make changes in the address shown below, or to be removed from our mailing list, please let us know.*

**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.**