



WINTER 2006~7

IT'S FINALLY BEGUN !

by Clarence Moriwaki, Chairman, Memorial Committee

After years of dreaming, planning and permitting, heavy equipment dug into the ground at the former Eagledale ferry landing, beginning the first phase of construction for the memorial project on April 1, exactly 64 years to the day when the Bainbridge Island Nikkei were forced to construct a new way of life as they arrived at the Manzanar internment camp.

This first of four major phases of construction includes lovely curved pathways, richly stained wooden boardwalks that meander over wetlands and through thick woods, a new access road, 24 new parking spaces, a new wetland, a 20x20-foot pavilion and entry/exit gates, and the foundation for the future story wall and walk.

The breathtaking pavilion and gates were designed, precision-built and hand-crafted by 30 members of the non-profit Timber Framers Guild, led by master timber framer John Buday of

Paper Products, Pizza Factory, Rite Aid, Safeway, San Carlos, Sawan Thai, Shima, Target, Teriyaki Town, That's A Some Pizza, The Harbour Public House, Town and Country, Transnation Title, Treehouse Café, Walt's Market and Westside Pizza.

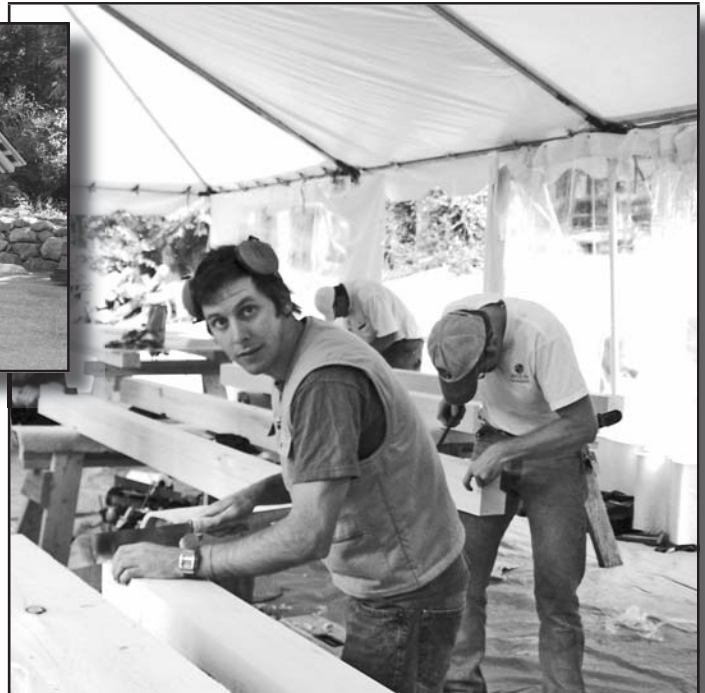
We sincerely thank all of the families throughout our community, who demonstrated the time-honored tradition of Bainbridge warmth and hospitality by sharing their homes with the visiting timber framers, and our deepest gratitude



Cascade Crest Designs in Lakebay. During the last two weeks of September, these master carpenters from around the nation and Canada descended on Bainbridge Island and demonstrated their old-world craftsmanship, building the structures of Alaskan Yellow Cedar with great care and attention to detail. We are forever grateful for their labors and we cherish our new friends.

Their visit would not have been possible without the generosity of numerous islanders who opened their hearts and homes to provide free accommodations and food to support their two-week visit.

Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to the following businesses and organizations for their donations of meals and support (in alphabetical order): Ace Hardware, Albertsons, American Legion Colin Hyde Post #172, Bainbridge Bakers, B.I. Cycle Shop, Bainbridge Island Vineyards and Winery, Bainbridge Thai Cuisine, Blackbird Bakery, Casa Rojas, Clearwater Casino, Costco, Doc's Marina Grill, Gandhi, Island Country Inn, Michael Graham Appraisal,



goes to all of the volunteers organized by Linda Lemon and her team whose hard work made all of logistics seem easy.

Construction of Phase 2, the 272-foot story wall and walk, could begin as soon as next year. More than \$2.5 million is needed to complete Phase 3, which includes a 5,000 square-foot interpretive center, meeting room and restroom; and Phase 4, a 150-foot departure pier at the end of the story wall walk. We are anticipating that some funding will come from the U. S. Congress (see page 3); also, the Memorial Committee was invited and has applied for a grant from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation that is seeking \$1 million, or 20% of the total cost of the project.

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It's All Adding Up

Hundreds of generous contributions from individuals and organizations are making a significant dent in the roughly \$2.5 million challenge remaining to fund the Bainbridge Island WWII Nikkei Internment and Exclusion Memorial. Our sincere gratitude goes to all of those whose names are shown here. If you have made a donation and you are not on our list, please accept our apologies—and be sure to let us know how to fix it!



Molly Aasten & Anna Prentice
Arthur & Aiko Abe
Seiichi & Yoko Adachi
Ron & Susan Allen
Jacques & Doris Alloin
Bess Alpaugh
Constance Englund Anderson
Jerry & Barbara Anderson
Sue and John Anderson
Lew & Lois Andrus
Kimberly Anicker
Taeko Anzai
Sumikatsu & Chinh Arima
Aaron Arkin
Mildred Arnot
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Amy Aspell
Elizabeth Bamber & Clay Wilson
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Linda Hayes & Tom Moench
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Klass Hesselink
Joseph & Deborah Hickey-Tiernan
Yujo Higa
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Kaz & Masue Ishimitsu
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Yuriko Kojima
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Forest & Marilyn Monkman
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Gerald Jr. & Yuka Nakata
Gerald Nakata
Yoshi Nakata
Peter & Joy Namtvedt Best
Steven Jarosak & Margaret Nevinsky
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Kay Nishi
Chizuko Nishimori & Family
Janice Nishimori
Steve & Joyce Nishimura
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Fred & Emi Ohno
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Pamela A. Okano
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Michiko Olson
Tim & Laura O'Mara
Craig & Sheila Omoto
Nobuo Omoto
Taketo & Nobie Omoto
Yukiko Omoto
Albert & Natalie Kayo Ong
Michael Orr
Lucy Ostrander & Don Sellers
Deborah & Donald Otto
Leslie Parker
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Wendy Reid
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Kimi, John & Dean Sakai
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John & Randi Wilson
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Marie Eileen Worthington
Richard Yamamoto & Alan Omuro
Mary Yoshida
James & Amy Yoshihara
Yukio & Yae Yoshihara
Nobuo Yutani
[As of press time, December 2006]

Can You Add, Too?

The finish line is in sight, but we're not quite there. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation, or add to what you've already contributed, please make your check out to:

Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial Committee

and mail it to us at
***P.O. Box 10355,
Bainbridge Island,
WA 98110***
And thanks!

Fumiko Hayashida Testifies Before Congress

The U.S. House of Representatives invited Fumiko Hayashida to come to Washington D.C. on September 28 and testify on behalf of H.R. 5817—The Bainbridge Island Japanese American Monument Act of 2006—that if passed would make the *Nidoto Nai Yoni* memorial a satellite unit of the Minidoka National Internment Monument.

Mrs. Hayashida, as many of our readers know, is the mother pictured holding her daughter Natalie in the iconic photograph taken at the Eagledale ferry dock on March 30, 1942, waiting to be transported to the Manzanar relocation center.

Traveling at her own expense, Mrs. Hayashida was introduced at the hearing by the bill's co-sponsor, Congressman Jay Inslee (D-Bainbridge Island). As the oldest living survivor of the first Japanese Americans who were forcibly removed during World War II, the humble 95 year-old Hayashida captivated the hearing room as she gave her heartfelt testimony.



Introducing Mrs. Hayashida, Inslee said “this is a story that needs to resonate throughout the decades. We have to ensure the power of fear never overcomes the promise of liberty.”

As of this writing the outcome of the bill remains uncertain, but since it is a Bush Administration recommendation to become a satellite unit of the National Parks Service, as well as being co-sponsored by Congressman Mike Simpson (R-Idaho), the passage appears likely.

Memorial Wall Update

We are continuing to confirm data on all Bainbridge Island residents of Japanese descent during World War II. Thanks to your responses to the request for information in the last BIJAC News, we have been able to fill in many of the blanks in our master list. There still are, however, families for which we'd like to have additional information. These include those with the names Arota, Furukawa, Hirakawa, Kuji, Taniguchi, and Tsuye.

If you have further information, documents or photos you wish to share with us, or have a contact for one of the families named above, please contact us.

Soon, the Memorial Committee and BIJAC will decide the formatting of this information on the story wall that will be a central feature on the site. When possible, a draft of the data for each family will be sent to a representative from that family to approve before the information is sent to the engravers.

Thank you for your support.

—Debra Grindeland, Names Committee Chair

Help Mary Get It Right!

A BIJAC standing committee of influential Islanders is securing funds to allow Mary Woodward-Pratt to write a book about our friends on the Island that supported and helped us before, during, and after WWII. Proceeds from the sale of the book will go to support the Memorial project and the Woodward fund. As Mary explains:

The book focuses on *The Bainbridge Review*, my parents, Milly and Walt Woodward, and their opposition to Executive Order 9066.

I also want to tell the stories of the many Islanders who helped those sent away, making Bainbridge Island unique in its response. Some of these stories are known, most of them are not.

I've got a great group from BIJAC helping me (Kay Nakao, Jerry Nakata, Lilly Kodama, Hisa Matsudaira, Frank Kitamoto), as well as other Islanders including Jerry Elfendahl, Wayne Jacobi, Jack Swanson, and Ralph Cheadle. I rely on them to help make sure I get it right!

Did someone help you or your family? Have you heard “family lore” about people who lent a hand? Do you know of people who took care of someone's dog, or wrote letters to ease the separation, or checked up on someone's house while they were gone? Have you heard of people who helped in other ways?

You can help a lot in telling the Island's story by sharing that kind of information with me. Or with one of my helpers.

This is a very important story—especially today. If we can show how individual Islanders helped their neighbors during WWII with many “small” kindnesses, maybe some will find the courage to help those in similar situations today.

Nidoto Nai Yoni. Let It Not Happen Again.

Mary Woodward

(206) 842-5715 / mwoodward220@yahoo.com

Oral History Project

The vision of BIJAC's oral history project is to create a permanent and very personal history of the Japanese American internment. This will ultimately comprise an archive of video and audio materials that includes interviews with Japanese Americans, Filipino Americans, and other members of the community who witnessed the sad and inspiring events of the 1940s on Bainbridge Island. These oral histories will be shown at the Japanese Internment Memorial, as well as be made available to historians, researchers, and other interested members of the public.

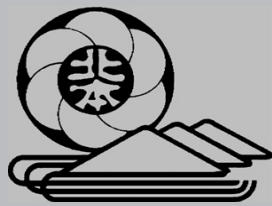
The project has made a spectacular start with approximately \$32,500 in funding from State and local sources. So far, we have received the following grants: \$7,500 from the Bainbridge Arts and Humanities Council (2005~6 and 2006~7), \$5,000 from Humanities Washington, \$2,500 from Bainbridge Island Community Endowment, and most recently \$15,000 for a grant project through the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). This generous support will make it possible to complete up to 30 additional interviews. The video and audio interviews are being recorded by the Bainbridge Island professional team of Lucy Ostrander and Don Sellers, award-winning documentary film-makers.

—Karen Matsumoto, Oral History Committee Chair

And. Remember, It's **YOUR** Story

BIJAC's oral history archives are growing rapidly, with dozens, even hundreds of hours of audio-only and audio/video interviews with our members and friends of our community. These valuable records need to be protected by copyright against unauthorized use. So, if you are asked to contribute *your* story, be sure not to sign any “model release” or similar agreement unless you are sure of how the material will be used, and by whom.

Word of Mouth from Frank Kitamoto



This past year started out with a bang (actually the sound of pounding) with about 1,000 people showing up for our annual Mochi Tsuki event at IslandWood. (See back page of this issue for the next event.) An article is to appear in the January, 2007 issue of *Sunset Magazine* about our event—look for it.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

- Our traveling photo exhibit “*Kodomo no Tame Ni—For the Sake of Our Children*” and/or our “*Nidoto Nai Yoni—Let It Not Happen Again*” Memorial model appeared at the Pacific NW Asian American Cultural Fair at Tacoma, the Ethnic Heritage Cultural Fair at the Port of Seattle, Browns Pt. Elementary School, Tacoma, the Cherry Blossom Festival and the Pacific Islander Fair at Seattle Center, and the Asian American Professional Meeting in Seattle. They are available for display.

- I am still giving a 45~60 minute slide presentation of the history of people of Japanese descent on Bainbridge Island for classrooms and civic groups.

- The symposium at IslandWood was successful and we have DVDs of the three main sections of it available for purchase. If you are interested in any of these materials, please call me at (206) 842-4774. The Bainbridge Island Historical Society still has available the video about our community, “After Silence,” which won the Cine Golden Eagle award. Call (206) 842-2773.

- The video taping of oral histories to be used in our Interpretive Center at the Memorial site is well underway. Thanks to Karen Matsumoto for securing grants to allow us to have Lucy Ostrander and Don Sellers as our cinematographers. If you would like to be included in the taping, please contact me or our hard-working interviewees—Debra Akita Grindeland (206) 780-0689 or Joyce Nishimura (206) 842-5951.

SUCCESSFUL EVENTS

- The Vancouver B.C. Touring Opera Company came to the Island to present “*Naomi’s Road*,” an original opera based on the book by Canadian author Joy Kogawa. Her brother, Father Timothy Nakayama, (the boy character was based on him) attended our event. He and the cast members answered questions from the audience. It made it a special night. Father Nakayama was the former rector at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in Seattle and officiated at my wedding to Sharon (Baba) in 1966.

- A forum on Civil Liberties and Constitutional Rights was held at the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls on July 7~9. The forum had outstanding presenters including Roger Daniels, Eric Mueller, David Nevin, David Adler, Peggy Nagae, Karen Yoshitomi and Larry Matsuda. I was honored to be asked to present these also.

- The Minidoka Pilgrimage was also outstanding. Many families are using it to have family reunions. Seeing young people present, as well as hearing the stories of those interned, made it a very special event. Next year’s symposium is scheduled for June 21~22 followed by the Pilgrimage on June 23~24. It would be fun if a group of Bainbridge Islanders went down together. Teachers can receive post-graduate credits through Boise State University or the College of Southern Idaho. So let’s encourage them to attend.

- Students from Takarazuka High School in Japan visited us in July. Thankfully, Hisa Matsudaira and Michiko Olson were on hand to help

with translation, but as it turned out, the students asked all their questions in English.

- The Bainbridge Island Women’s Club presented BIJAC with a beautiful hand-quilted wall hanging titled “Our Island Friends” to commemorate the 64th anniversary of us being forcibly removed from the island. The quilt is rich with symbolism—a gateway and representations of strawberries. We thank them for their thoughtfulness and the many labor-of-love hours they spent making us this gift.

- Local glass artist Steve Maslach has done a boat sculpture to place in the new Kitsap Co. Administration Building in Port Orchard. He has included glass castings of hands of people of Kitsap Co. Included are hands of Fumiko Hayashida and myself. What about us having Steve take molds of all the people we interview to cast in glass to make a sculpture for our Interpretive Center? That way, visitors could actually put their hands in these historical hands—it’s a thought.

MEMORIAL MILESTONES

- Leaders from six different faiths consecrated the Memorial site at a moving blessing ceremony on March 30th, the 64th anniversary of the Bainbridge Island Nikkei exclusion. Sharing their profound and inspirational blessings were Donna Mohr, president, North Kitsap/Bainbridge Island Interfaith Council; Rev. Brooks Andrews, Seattle Baptist Church; Gilberto Perez, Bainbridge Island Buddhist temple; Adnan Bakkar, The Islamic Center of Washington; Rabbi Mark Gickman, Kol Shalom congregation; Koichi Barrish, The Tsubaki Grand Shrine of America & Tsubaki Kannagara Jinja; and Jim Pratt, Suquamish tribal elder and great-great grandson of Chief Seattle.

- This has been a year where we have had too many of our older people pass away. It makes us want to accomplish our Memorial goals as quickly as possible. We thank the many families and individuals who have contributed to the Memorial in honor of the people who have left us.

- In May, we had the honor of hosting the President of the Marshall Islands and his entourage who specifically came to visit our “*Nidoto Nai Yoni*” Memorial site.

- Thanks go to John Buday and the Timber Framers Guild members from throughout the U.S. and Canada who constructed two gates and a pavilion at the Memorial site (please see front page), and to the volunteers and contributors who saw to it that the workers were well housed and fed. The new constructions are indeed beautiful.

- The timber framers said while they were working a Great Blue Heron flew into a nearby tree to watch them—and returned just as they were ready to drop the roof down on the pavilion. It has to be a good omen.

- For a related community event, our thanks go to Victoria Josslin and the Bainbridge Arts & Crafts organization for staging their “Intersections: Contemporary Work by Japanese American Artists” exhibition at the Gallery on Winslow Way. The show, held October 6 through 29, included 19 distinguished artists, curated by BIJAC member Michiko Olson, and was the talk of the town. They have generously shared some of their revenue with us, contributing it to the Memorial project.

SAKAI SCHOOL CIRICULUM

Mark February 7, 2007, a Wednesday, as the tentative day for our community to interact again on panels with the students at Sakai School in the “Leaving Our Island” project.

I know those who have participated previously have found it an enriching experience. If you’d like to take part, call the Sakai School at (206) 780-6300.

It’s a special opportunity for students to receive first-person accounts of the World War II incarceration experience and a chance for all of us to get together again and share.

LEAVING OUR ISLAND

By Frank "Kazu" Kitamoto

— Chapter Two —

In the previous chapter of Frank's memoir, we learned of his first-hand experience of departing Bainbridge Island and arriving at Manzanar in the California desert on April Fools Day, 1942. Here he describes what awaited the 227 men, women and children in his group, the first to arrive at the camp.

We have barbed wire all around us. Guard towers with machine guns are pointed in at us, not away from us "to protect us." Bainbridge Islanders are in Block 3. The blinding searchlights shine down at us at night, constantly playing back and forth across our windows. We sleep on canvas bags that are stuffed with straw. Each family is in a room 16 x 20 feet. A small oil furnace sits on the floor. The roar of the furnace scares me at night as I try to sleep. A bare lightbulb hangs from the ceiling, our only source of light. The wall between units is thin like shiplap and doesn't go all the way up to the ceiling. Knotholes are easy to push out and the 2 x 4-inch studs are exposed, no insulation or wallboards. We have black tar paper on the outside walls and roof. But the floorboards shrink in the hot desert sun and sand blows in from under the floor. I get up in the morning and see the outline of my body on the army cot, otherwise covered in sand. The cracks in the floor actually make it easier to clean up; you don't even need a dustpan. It's so windy that if you don't keep your lips together, your mouth will fill up with sand. It gets to be over 110° in the summer.

We go to the mess hall to eat. The canned food and fish smell bad, and make us sick. Soon, the lines for the latrines are longer than the line for the mess hall. Everyone has what's called the Manzanar Runs. (By the way, did you know diarrhea is hereditary? You'll find it in the jeans.)

An elderly Issei woman says to my mother, in Japanese, "They're going to kill us off. They're poisoning us. We're all going to die, one by one. We'll never leave this place." Mom says to her, "I don't think so. America isn't that way."

My sister Yuriko says, "What are we doing here?" Mom's finding it hard to find the right words to explain it to her. She says, "We're just here for a vacation." Yuriko says, "This is the worst vacation I've ever been on." Another little girl says to her mother, "Mommy, when are we going back to America?"

"Mom, I've got to go to the bathroom," I say. It's the middle of the night. Mom has to get clothes on me. We go outside. The toilet facilities are in a separate building, too. There is no running water in our units. All the toilets are in two long rows, back to back. There are no partitions. Some people are waiting 'til late at night to go to the bathroom. They aren't

comfortable with people seeing them sitting. One woman takes a cardboard box and puts it round her as she reads, sitting on the toilet.

I found a funny looking bug today. The adults got all excited. They put it in a jar and showed it to everybody. It was a scorpion.

Dad's back with us. He was released from Fort Missoula. The papers at the Archives said he was arrested for rifle and dynamite in his barn.

Some parents are afraid for their teenage sons. They're getting into fights with the kids from Los Angeles. The kids from L.A. are inner-city, and street smart. The kids from Bainbridge are country bumpkins. The kids from L.A. are dark skinned. Bainbridge are light.

The kids from Manzanar have an orphanage in Bainbridge. They call it "Children's Village." They closed orphanages and sent the children to concentration camps. The Catholic Sisters protested to no avail. A blue-eyed, blonde-haired boy who was already with foster parents was taken away from them and sent to Manzanar because he was 1/8th Japanese. That's right. Even if you have only 1/16th Japanese blood in your veins and live on the West Coast, you have to go to concentration camp.

Don Nakata, who later became CEO of Town and Country Markets, is eight years old. He hears a loud commotion and sees a crowd of men standing outside. He squeezes his way through the crowd,

under armpits, between legs, until he can see what's going on. His eyes grow really big as he sees soldiers with rifles and a machine gun pointed at the crowd. He pushes his way to the back and starts running to tell his mother, Pauline, about what he saw. Clouds of teargas rise in the air and he hears the rat-tat-tat of a machine gun. Two men lie face down, bleeding into the desert sand. James Ito, 18, died instantly, shot at close range. There are bullet holes in his back. The other young man died of bullet wounds, also in the back, shortly afterwards. Nine other men are wounded.

A teacher, walking his dog outside the fence, says, "More of you would have been killed but that machine gun jammed."

Back in April, 1942, the Seattle group of Japanese and Japanese Americans was rounded up and incarcerated at the Puyallup Fairgrounds. They called it "Camp Harmony." The Pike Place Market looked abandoned; most of the vendors there were of Japanese descent. The internees were housed in horse stalls, in tents, and under the grandstands. They were confined there for four months, until September, 1942, when the Fair opened. Then they were loaded onto trains and transported to southeast Idaho—Hunt, Idaho—near Twin Falls. This was Minidoka, where most us from Manzanar joined them in February, 1943.

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Additional chapters of Frank's memoir will be published in future issues of BIJAC News, and on our website at www.bijac.org.

IMMIGRANTS from JAPAN

THE HARUI FAMILY

Japan, until the mid 1800s, was a country that practiced an isolationist philosophy. It was visited in the 1800s by Cmdr. Matthew Perry, who encouraged Japan to change the economic direction of the country, and a move to industrialization began shortly after Cmdr. Perry's frequent visits.

With the move to industrialization, the Japanese government taxed the farmers heavily for funding and the farmers could not afford to hire the young men who ordinarily worked the farms.

It was at this time that the young men began to hear about "America... the land of the future" and a mass exodus to the east began. Some of the men landed in Hawaii, Central and South America, but most landed on the shores of North America. Among them was Zenhichi Harui.

Zenhichi was one of five brothers who lived their early youth in Gifu, Japan. As well as being subject to tough economic times, Gifu was confronted with a huge typhoon in which they lost both mother and father. The five brothers were sent to foster homes. Zenhichi was fortunate as his foster mother tutored him for his education. Apparently he made or was forced to make a decision to go to America, as he arrived in San Francisco in 1906. Zenhichi was preceded to Bainbridge Island by his brother Zenmatsu. It is not known as to how, when and why. It is speculated that Port Blakely sawmill was hiring immigrant labor and both brothers found work there.

Many Japanese immigrants worked at the sawmill and resided in two villages at the mill. The community villages nurtured their needs and made it more interactive with all ethnic groups.

Zenhichi and Zenmatsu left the mill after a short work period and started a fruit and vegetable farm on New Brooklyn Road. They began selling fruit, vegetables and flowers with the principle crop being "Olympic" berries which were purportedly sold to the Olympic Hotel in Seattle. After a few years at New Brooklyn, in some undocumented way, they were able to procure 23 acres on Miller Road. Legend has it that they traded food for land, but no one is sure! Zenhichi and Zenmatsu started a partnership in 1913 and began the task of developing the "Bainbridge Gardens" project.

In 1924 Zenhichi married Shiki (Sugiyama) through an arranged marriage. Shiki came from Nagoya, Japan. Shiki arrived in the state

of Washington in April of 1924.

The development of Bainbridge Gardens continued on until 1941 with the travesty of Pearl Harbor. Executive Order 9066 decreed that all persons of Japanese ancestry be removed from the West Coast. The decree initially did not include some parts of the state of Washington that were east of the Cascade mountain range, so Zenhichi and five other families moved to Moses Lake, Washington to avoid internment. They were treated very poorly until they proved themselves to be good citizens. The families that moved to Moses Lake farmed there until they returned to Bainbridge Island in 1945 and 1946. Zenhichi and his family returned also to Bainbridge Island in 1946. The family's return was traumatic in that all the hard work done to develop Bainbridge Gardens was devastated, the beautiful plants were stolen or had died, the display gardens were ruined, the greenhouses had collapsed under the weight of snow. Bainbridge Gardens were basically devastated.

So from 1946 to 1972, Zenhichi attempted to rebuild Bainbridge Gardens. It was difficult for him as he was older and under-capitalized and his efforts were dimmed. Zenhichi passed away in 1974, Shiki preceded him in death in 1970.

In 1988, one of Zenhichi's sons, Junkoh, who started a horticultural business in 1958, decided to rebuild Bainbridge Gardens. By the year 2003, Junkoh was successful in developing the beautiful surroundings that make the sight and sounds and fragrances of the property come out to protect a beautiful history and a wonderful legacy.

—Junkoh Harui

THE NAKAO FAMILY

The Nakao family history in the United States began in 1900 when Torazo and Kuma Nakao emigrated from Yamaguchi Prefecture in Japan. They came to America with the intent of earning enough money to buy back family properties that were being sold off due to debts, and as the oldest son, Torazo wanted to reclaim the property that was his rightful inheritance. In making the decision to come to America, Torazo and Kuma had to leave a son and daughter with relatives in Japan, and this made sense since their expectation was that they would eventually return to Japan. Their marriage had

been arranged in Japan by go-betweens. It was not an easy situation when Kuma married into the Nakao family because as daughter-in-law, she was expected to do all the work for the whole family. Due to these circumstances she was willing to go to the United States to get away from this obligation.

Torazo initially worked in a Tacoma laundry, then moved to Bainbridge Island in 1901. Torazo got a job at the Port Blakely lumber mill and worked there from 1901 until the mill closed in 1922. Among his many jobs at the mill, one earned him the name "Slab Harry." The Mosquito Fleet steam ferries would land at Port Blakely and Torazo had the responsibility of supervising a crew that loaded the ferries with slab lumber which was burned as fuel, giving rise to his nickname. Kuma would walk to Point White or the Country Club to do housecleaning, earning 50 cents a day.



Zenhichi & Shiki (Sugiyama) Harui

BRIEF HISTORIES OF ISSEI ISLANDERS

Torazo and Kuma eventually had six children while living in the Japanese town of Yama in Port Blakely. The children were Sadayo, Yonezo (Yoni), Sachiyo, Michiyo, Tomeyo, and Isami (Sam), born between 1904 and 1914. All of the children attended grade school in Port Blakely, but for high school, Yoni graduated from Broadway High School, and Sachiyo and Michiyo graduated from Franklin High School. For Yoni, it was easier to take the ferry to Seattle to attend school than it was to get to Winslow High School. Sachiyo and Michiyo lived with families in Seattle and worked as housekeepers in order to earn some money, and so attended Franklin High School. Sam attended the new Bainbridge High School, and his class was the first graduating class that went all four years to Bainbridge High.

After the mill closed the family began strawberry farming in 1924 by initially renting five acres of land on what is now Sportsmen's Club Road between High School Road and Finch Road. They rented all the land in the triangle where Bethany Lutheran Church stands today. Over time they bought 60 acres of their own land just west of Bainbridge High School and in 1941 built a farmhouse where Commodore Lane West is today. The family lived in the farmhouse less than one year before being interned during World War II. Like most Japanese living on the Island, they had to find someone to care-take their farm for the duration of the war.

The Nakao family was interned along with the other Japanese from Bainbridge Island at Manzanar, California. In 1943 they requested and were transferred to Camp Minidoka in Idaho where they spent the remainder of the war. In October, 1945 the family was released from camp and returned to Bainbridge Island.

After returning to the Island the Nakao family sold their farm to the caretaker and eventually bought land on Lovell Avenue where Sam lived with his wife Kazuko (Kay), their three children, and Sam's parents. By this time all of the six Nakao children had married and were living either in Washington or California. Traditionally, it is the responsibility of the oldest son to take care of the parents; however, it fell to Sam and Kay to look after his parents. Torazo and Kuma never went back to Japan but lived the rest of their days on Bainbridge, living with Sam and Kay. Torazo passed away in 1959 and Kuma died in 1962. In 1972 Sam and Kay visited Japan where, for the first time, Sam met his oldest brother, one of the two children originally left in Japan by his parents.

By 2006 all of the six children born in America had passed away.



Sam (Isami) Nakao

The last surviving child was Sam, who died in March, 2006. To this day Kay Nakao still lives in the family home on Lovell Avenue, and their youngest son Bill also lives on the Island, continuing over a century of the Nakao family being a part of the community on Bainbridge Island.

—Bill Nakao



Fudge (Fujiko) Koba & Tad (Tadashi) Sakuma

THE SAKUMA FAMILY

Tad (Tadashi) Sakuma was born March 20, 1913 in Hatsukaichi, Hiroshima-ken, Japan. His parents left Japan for Seattle two years later and he, a male older cousin and a female younger cousin lived with his fraternal grandparents. His parents, Otokichi from Kusatsu, Japan and Setsuyo of Hatsukaichi, Japan returned to Japan with a younger brother Sat (Saturo) when Tad was seven years old.

In 1924 his parents, Tad and Sat, moved back to Seattle where his uncle, aunt and five cousins lived. They lived in an apartment on 12th Ave. and Jefferson. Tad attended Pacific International School and Broadway High School, graduating in 1931. His parents and Sat returned to Hiroshima later that year. Tad worked at various jobs in Seattle until January, 1941 when he went back to Japan to visit. He stayed only a few months and in May 1941 he and Sat returned to Seattle. Their father passed away shortly afterwards.

Tad found work as a chauffeur/handyman with Mr. John Herber, Pleasant Beach, Bainbridge Island. Mr. Herber was an international trade merchant. Tad lived in the Herber family house and was their chauffeur. Sat, a U.S.-born citizen joined the army and served with the 83rd Airborne Division. He received both the Bronze Star and a Purple Heart. Sat died in Los Angeles, California in 1959.

In 1942 he was introduced to Fudge (Fujiko) Koba by Mrs. Sakai. He accompanied the Koba family when they left for camp. After being taken by boat from Eagledale dock they were put on a train to Manzanar. Fudge and Tad married in 1942. David was born in 1943 and the family was relocated to Minidoka, ID. Tad, along with other married men helped the local farmers harvest sugar beets and potatoes. Gary was born in 1944.

In March, 1945, the Sakumas and the Kobas left camp for Moses Lake, WA. They were neighbors with the Shibayamas, the Sekos and the Haruis. The Koba brothers Robert, Harry and Fred sharecropped

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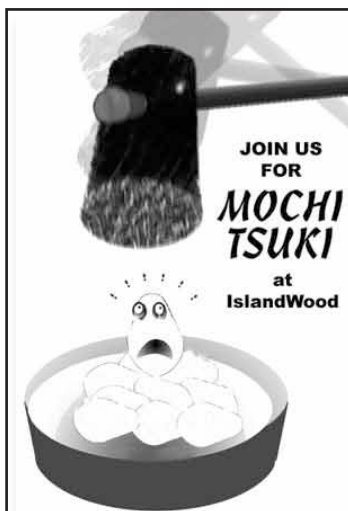
potatoes and onions. The old stone potato warehouse is still a local landmark there. Older brother Frank found a job at a local grocery store. John was still in high school. Tad worked at a nearby turkey farm. Fudge was not only a full-time mother and wife at this time, but since she had a driver's license she drove Mrs. Harui, Mrs. Shibayama and Mrs. Seko to Quincy and Moses Lake for their groceries.

When Fudge was barely a teenager, she helped negotiate for Mr. Shibayama and Mr. Seko with their various business dealings because she spoke English.

In 1947, Tad, Fudge, sons David and Gary and Fudge's father Kichijiro Koba moved back to Bainbridge Island. Shortly thereafter, Tad started a landscaping business. Dwight was born in 1952. When he was two, Fudge started working at Anderson's Grocery store until it closed in 1955. She then worked for the newly opened Town & Country Thriftway, owned by John and Mo Nakata and Ed Loverich.

Fudge was very active in the Children's Orthopedic Guild, a cub scout den mother, the Eagle Harbor Congregational Church, the Bainbridge Foundation and the Bargain Boutique. She retired from Town and Country Thriftway in 1977. Both Fudge and Tad were active in the Rhododendron Society. Tad retired in 1986. Fudge died in August, 2001, just before her 86th birthday. Tad still lives in Winslow and is 93 years old at this writing.

—Gary Sakuma



• **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, 6:00 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** has long been an Island "must attend" event. This season, it is slated for January 7, 2007, Sunday, 11:00 to 3:00 at IslandWood, 4450 Blakely Road N.E. Again this year, taiko drummers will be on hand to keep the rhythm going as the public is invited to pound the special steamed rice and make sweet-bean-filled mochi balls. Donations for take-away mochi will be gratefully accepted.

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 for further information.

BIJAC

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If you wish to make changes in the information 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.**