



FALL 2010

A Year of Changes and Progress

By Sallie Maron, President, Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial

There have been many changes and much progress at the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial in the last few months. The first major change occurred in March when Clarence Moriwaki, our board president, resigned to take a job as the CEO of the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Washington. While we miss his leadership, we're delighted that the many skills and talents he brought to the Memorial are now drawing a salary at JCCCW!

To honor the March 30th anniversary of this year, the BIJAEM Board decided to host an "Open Wall" and invite everyone who had donated or helped with the Memorial project. This "thank-you" event was an opportunity to showcase the newly completed Memorial Wall. There were no speakers or formal program as in past years, rather it was a quiet time to contemplate the serenity and beauty of the Wall in its freshly landscaped setting. We were especially grateful to the Bloedel Reserve, Bainbridge Gardens, and many volunteers for their help with the landscaping. The cherry trees were in bloom and Jan Buday crafted more than 200 colorful cranes for participants to hang on special hooks that grace the Wall.

The temporary interpretive panels were installed in the pavilion, IslandWood and local businesses donated refreshments, and the community spirit was tangible.

grant proposal while still BIJAEM president, and the announcement came in a timely fashion a few days before we hosted a BIJAEM/BIJAC party at the Historical Museum to honor Clarence's superb work for the Memorial. We also celebrated the winning grant with a special ceremony at the site on June 1, featuring U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell and U.S. Representative Jay Inslee, who have been tremendously helpful in our work on the Memorial.

Artist Selection

As many of you know, the design team EDX/ Turner was hired to develop the interpretive materials for the Memorial Wall. Our work with them has been inspiring and exciting. After a public meeting in April, and a number of smaller meetings with the BIJAEM interpretive committee, the concepts for the Wall began to take shape, and then took an unexpected



Good news arrived in May with the announcement that BIJAEM had been awarded a Japanese American Confinement Site Grant for \$182,725, to complete the fabrication and installation of the interpretive materials for the Wall. Clarence Moriwaki wrote the winning

turn. The decision was made to use real photos as "wayside" signs leading to the Wall and to commission an artist to create evocative materials for the Wall itself. Members of the interpretive committee, led by Cindy Harrison, (Concluded on page 2)

MEMORIAL *(from page 1)*

visited artist studios and listened to presentations, then unanimously selected Steve Gardner as the artist whose work and approach most resonated with the group. Final design work should be finished by the end of the year and we expect that the artwork will be fabricated and installed by March 30, 2011.

Changes at the Memorial Site

As for other changes at the site, we've had an irrigation system installed for the plantings. We've also added bike racks (designed and donated by Islander Steve Neff), a bus shelter (built by Alex Lemon for his Eagle Scout project) and graded the upper parking lot for closer and easier access by car. After supervising all these improvements, John Buday, our talented project manager, is now in the process of building a fence and gate to define the pedestrian area in the newly graded parking lot.

Partners

All through these changes, we've continued to work with our stakeholder partners, the National Park Service, the City of Bainbridge Island, the BI Metropolitan Park District, and the Bainbridge Historical Museum to define roles and responsibilities. One of our partners, the National Park Service, made a visit on September 16, when Wendy Janssen, Superintendent for Minidoka National Historic Site, and Mary Mallen, an interpretive planner from Harpers Ferry Center in West Virginia, came for a full day of meetings and presentations. Mary will be leading the long-range interpretive plan for the Minidoka National Historic Site. She toured the Memorial and provided an overview of the long-range interpretive planning process. After this "scoping trip," she'll return in December for a "planning" session, and again in the spring to make recommendations. Wendy and representatives from the other stakeholder groups met to discuss the placement of a National Park Service sign at the entrance to the Memorial site. It was a good visit and we look forward to working with NPS.

On the local scene, the Bainbridge Historical Museum has graciously agreed to keep a list of docents to assist visitors who desire a guided tour of the Memorial site. The Bainbridge Metropolitan Park District continues to help with maintaining the irrigation system and other maintenance chores, while the City has installed signs to formalize some parking zones. We're grateful for the generous support we've received from BIJAC and all our partners and friends.

And, on a final tech note, we have board member Wayne Roth to thank for our new Facebook page. Check it out and become a friend!

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Visitor Shelter at Memorial Bus Platform

By Alex Lemon

After 5 long years of planning, fundraising and building, the Visitor Shelter is complete. I'd like to thank all those people who bought Boy Scout Popcorn over the years from me and See's candy bars last year. Without your help, this project wouldn't have even left the ground!

I must also give thanks to my friends, family and John Buday (most of all) for helping me build this shelter.

For those looking for more information on the project, BITV came by during the construction period for an interview, linked below. Again I thank any and all of you for your support for this project!

*View a video of the BITV interview at
<http://173.10.81.29/070910.mov>.*

Alex's part begins about 7.25 minutes from the beginning.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

January 2, 2011, Sun. 11:00~3:00

Mochi Tsuki, IslandWood,

- Pounding and rolling mochi the old-fashion way.
- Kokon Taiko Drummers
- Photo Exhibit, "Kodomo No Tame Ni"
- Videos
- Models of Exclusion Memorial
- BIJAC T-shirts
- Book, "In Defense of Our Neighbors"

(Community set up Fri. December 31.)

March 30, 2011, Wed.

Bainbridge Island Exclusion Anniversary (69th)

Ceremony at the BIJAC Exclusion Memorial Wall, Pritchard Park

April 1~3, Fri.~Sun.

Cherry Blossom Festival

Seattle Center

June 30~July 1, Thurs.~Fri.

Civil Liberties Symposium

Southern Idaho College
Twin Falls, Idaho

July 1~3, Fri.~Sun.

Minidoka Pilgrimage

Southern Idaho College
Bellevue College to Twin Falls, Idaho

- Dedication of reconstruction of Military Honor Roll

August 6, Sat. 11:00~6:00

Biannual BIJAC Reunion Picnic

Battle Point Park

*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.





2010 is going by quickly. Special thanks to all of you who worked so hard on the past year's Mochi Tsuki event. We had almost 1,000 people attend.

Also thanks to Ron Coglon and his son for helping put up our display at the Seattle Cherry Blossom Festival and Lilly Kodama for helping at the booth. Thanks go to Karen Matsumoto and John Dechardenes for helping put up the display at the Bellevue Matsuri and helping at the booth along with Lilly and Joe Kodama, Frances Ikegami and Frances Burrese.

Our Photo Exhibit "*Kodomo No Tame Ni*—For the Sake of the Children," the first 110 years of Americans of Japanese Descent on Bainbridge Island, 1883 to 1993, has been shown in schools and has traveled as far as Philadelphia, PA. and Kalamazoo, MI. and also in all Kitsap County Libraries. Thanks go to Rev. Brooks Andrews and Yosh Nakagawa for bringing the exhibit to Philadelphia and Renton, WA. for Baptist Church Conferences.

I was also able to go to Kalamazoo to give my PowerPoint presentation as that community took "Snow Falling on Cedars" as their reading book. I was also privileged to be invited to give my presentation at Edgerton Elementary, Puyallup; the Bainbridge Island Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs; Woodward School and Sakai School on the Island; Riverside High School, Auburn; Global Connections High School, Seattle; Kingston High School; Kitsap Mental Health, Bremerton; REI, Kent; Cherry Blossom Festival; Minidoka Pilgrimage, Twin Falls; REI, Kent; and the Northwest Asian American Dental Seminar Annual Dinner.

If anyone is interested in my PowerPoint presentations "Making a Difference," "Putting Human Back into Human Rights," "Lessons from the Past to Help Us Be in the Now" or our photo exhibit, they can contact me at fkitamoto@cleawire.net or call (206) 842-4772.

Clarence Moriwaki has left the chairmanship of the Memorial Committee to become the CEO of the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Washington. We owe him much gratitude for all he has accomplished for the Memorial. The chairperson for the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial (BIJAEM) is now Sallie Maron, who we indeed are fortunate to have working with us.

BIJAC sponsored a "Meet the Memorial Wall Artist and Design Team" luncheon at Eagle Harbor Church with box lunches from Shima's. About 50 of our Community attended and got to converse with Steve Gardner, the artist, and his family, and David Edquist, Steve Groves and Megan Martin of the design team. A short informal presentation was given for people to get a glimpse of what is going up on the Wall.

This Summer, Jim Corsetti, the principal at Sakai School and three school staff members went to Manzanar with BIJAC members through Jon Garfinkle's "Only What We Can Carry" project. Mike Florian, the Principal at Woodward School, attended the Minidoka Pilgrimage through a scholarship from the Seattle Nisei Vets. Two separate High Schools from Japan, Takarazuka Kita Senior High School and Komaba Gakuen from Tokyo, visited the Island. Thanks go to Noyuri Soderlund and Michiko Olson for helping with the visit.

Allyson Nakamoto and other staff members from the Japanese

American National Museum visited the Island to scout out the possibility of having Bainbridge as one of the destinations for "field trips" during a possible 2013 "All Camps Meeting" in the Seattle area.

Fumiko Hayashida has been busy attending the Port Townsend, Gig Harbor and Tacoma Film Festivals, where Lucy Ostrander is showing the film "The Woman Behind the Symbol" which she and her husband Don Sellers completed under BIJAC sponsorship. Fumiko will be celebrating her 100th birthday in January.

She is also the subject of one of two short documentary film projects that BIJAC has sponsored. In February, it was screened at a dinner in Olympia, honoring the National Endowment of the Humanities Chairman James Leach. The invitation was at the request of Humanities Washington which helped fund the project. Fumiko, Lucy, former BIJAC Vice-President Clarence Moriwaki and BIJAC Board of Trustees member and the film's Project Manager Karen Matsumoto were among the audience.

The film is both an historical and contemporary portrait of Fumiko and how the iconic 1942 photograph became the impetus for Fumiko to publicly lobby against the injustices of the past. Since February, the film has been shown at numerous locations and media outlets and has drawn critical praise. In March, the film premiered at Seattle's Museum of History and Industry and in May was broadcast on Public Television stations KCTS/Seattle and KYVE/ Yakima. In June, it was broadcast on Idaho Public Television and at the Minidoka Symposium in Twin Falls. In August, it was broadcast on Oregon Public Broadcasting and is scheduled to be shown on Spokane PBS later this year. This fall the film will screen at the Port Townsend, Tacoma, and Gig Harbor Film Festivals and the Northwest Film Forum in Seattle. Fumiko will attend several of these events. In addition, the film has been selected to be shown next April at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles.

We were moved when Lucy received this email from a middle school teacher in Boise: "My favorite part about watching the kids watching the video was seeing them realize that it was all real. They struggled with the concept of the internment camps at first, and asked me more than once if it had really happened. This opened their eyes to the reality even more, and many of them were surprised that they had unknowingly driven right by the ruins of the camp." Information about ordering the film can be found on our website.

BIJAC in association with Stourwater Pictures also sponsored the production of "Honor and Sacrifice: Nisei Patriots in the M.I.S." This 19-minute film tells the story of the Japanese American men who were incarcerated in concentration camps, enlisted in the U.S. military, and volunteered to become linguists in the Military Intelligence Service in the Pacific Theater of WWII.

The film focuses on the experience of Roy Matsumoto and his personal journey—from being born an American, raised in Japan, sent to Jerome, Arkansas concentration camp as a young man, to enlisting in the U.S. Army and becoming a hero in fighting the Japanese Army in Burma as part of the U.S. military unit known as Merrill's Marauders.

While the film was completed last year with a grant from Washington State's Civil Liberties Public Education Project and geared toward high school students, BIJAC and Stourwater Pictures are in the process of raising funds to re-edit and lengthen the film to a PBS half-hour (27 min). Over the summer BIJAC was awarded a \$6,200.00 grant from Humanities Washington and a \$1,000 donation from the Merrill's Marauders Association. Our goal is to raise \$40,000. In November, Roy's daughter Karen will be accompanying her father and mother to Washington, D.C. where Roy will be honored at a ceremony sponsored by the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation.

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Good Sports

It is April 9th, 2010 and just before 10 a.m. I am sitting on the pitcher's mound in the baseball diamond at the Manzanar Concentration Camp. It is windy and already hot under a clear sky. There is a guard tower nearby and the highway 200 yards over my left shoulder behind me... I can hear the cars on the highway when the wind isn't filling my ears, but that's a rare occasion. I've been sitting here only a few minutes, and I'm wiping the grains of sand from the journal page. There's grit between ink and paper. I know the wind gets stronger than this, as is though, it's incessant. After only 40 minutes walking around out here in this high desert, my ears started to ache in this wind. Like when I was a kid and ear aches were so common, my mother always made me cover my ears in the wind outside.

My eyes are also tearing in this wind, as they often do when I ride my bike back home on Bainbridge, with a breeze in my face. Today I'm wearing sunglasses (nice ones with polarized lenses and UV protection), sunscreen, lip balm, long sleeve shirt, and I'm well hydrated. Still, I don't want to attempt to last that long out here, another hour maybe, before I retreat to the un-windy visitor center. And I know... the winds get stronger than this! I don't want dust in my eyes, it would play havoc with my contact lenses.

Baseball is as American as you can get. I'm sitting on this defunct Manzanar field with layered wooden bases. I want to play baseball, I love baseball. My son has a game tonight... Bainbridge Island Little League, Rotary Field. I'm the manager, but I'll miss tonight's game. I'll play it in my head instead, just as I try to imagine a game here in 1943. I hope (I bet) there was laughter, and good sportsmanship, and good athletes,

both boys and girls. There's certainly plenty of room. The mountains are the grandstands (though Kay and Lilly say they never noticed the mountains when they were incarcerated) and the scoreboard is the guard tower. This game is fixed though. It's crooked, unjust, the players are really the "played." They are not the offenders, they have not broken the rules of the game. They are loyal to the game, they are Americans.

I love baseball. I hope my team plays well tonight, and that they have fun. I hope they are good sports. I will play the game in my head tonight, and it will always be in my heart.

—An excerpt from a journal by Jim Corsetti
Principal, Sakai Intermediate School



An Unforgettable Experience

I thank the Seattle Nissei Vets for providing a scholarship to allow me to participate in the Minidoka Pilgrimage as an educator in June this year. The experience was invaluable. I was not sure exactly what to expect when I began this journey. This past year we included a week-long celebration at our school of Walt and Milly Woodward, owners and editors of *The Bainbridge Review* in the 1940s, and the only publication on the West Coast who stood up against the incarceration of the Japanese Americans during the war.

I had been aware of the historical significance of these events on Bainbridge Island, but nothing could match the impact of hearing the stories first hand from those who lived them. On the bus ride over, I spoke with Massie Tomita who lived from age 14~17 at the Minidoka Concentration Camp. Hearing her story directly from her helped make this experience come to life for me.

I heard ma□

to imagine having your family given a few days to pack everything they could carry and be forcibly removed to faraway camps. The injustice and humiliation are too difficult to even imagine. As I toured the site at Minidoka, I could almost hear the children asking: "Why are we here, Daddy? Aren't we Americans? When can we go home?"

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Nakashima, Jeanne Wakatsuki and others. I was particularly touched by the poetry of Larry Matsuda whom I had spoken with on our bus ride. I also had the pleasure of meeting and speaking with Brooks Andrews whose father moved to Twin Falls during the incarceration to minister to his flock at Minidoka from the Seattle Japanese Baptist Church. It gave me hope to know that some Americans were against the incarceration and tried to help their friends in camp.

I was warmly welcomed into the experience by many of the attendees. The Omoto family and others reached out and included me in their dinner plans and d□

It was□

remembering and crying together and by standing together against future atrocities.

Thank you again for making it possible for me to attend the pilgrimage. I will never forget the experience.

—Mike Florian
Principal, Woodward Middle School

FAMILY HISTORIES

HAYASHIDA FAMILY

Tsunetaro and Ito Hayashida left their families in Hara-mura high in the hills above Hatsukaichi in Hiroshima for America in 1903. Leaving their three-year-old son, Ichiro, with an aunt, they went to Hawaii to work in the sugar plantations. A daughter, Matsuno, was born there in 1904. In 1905 they moved to Bellevue to join some Japanese farmers who leased and cleared land to plant strawberries. There their second son, Saburo, was born in May 1906 and a third son, Tsuneichi, followed in December 1909.

After their friends and neighbors the Nishinakas and the Chiharas moved to Bainbridge Island, they too followed them in 1910. They leased parcels of land in Winslow from A.C. Johnston, felling trees and blasting stumps and pulling them out with a horse and then burning the stumps. In January 1914 they called for Ichiro to rejoin the family. He was 15 years old. Three more sons were born, Masami (died at five months) in 1913, Toraichi in 1914 and Taneo in 1916.

Their lease being up in 1917, they signed a five-year indentured lease on another parcel of land in Winslow from F.L. Averill. Indentured leases were made with many of the immigrants and included in the lease was an agreement to clear the land of trees and stumps to have it ready for farming. Much of Bainbridge Island was cleared in this manner with the Issei signing on for five- to seven-year leases then moving on to another parcel of land. The Issei, not being American citizens, could not own land at that time.

They found acreage in Island Center for an indentured lease from C.O. Gelden in 1921. This lease was up in November 1925. Again the land had to be cleared by hand and horse. In the meantime in October of 1925 Saburo, an American citizen, had Albert E. Parker appointed as a guardian of a minor. When the lease was up the Hayashidas were then allowed to buy and own the land under Saburo's name. They worked hard clearing the land, putting in drainage ditches of cedar boxes and stones for their berry field. They moved into a house with cedar siding and roof, added an *ofuro* (Japanese bath), and a barn for the horse and hay. The mortgage was paid in full in 1931.

Matsuno married Kaichi Kojima. They leased land in Eagledale in the area of the Port Blakely Cemetery. Satoye, Tatsuyoshi, and Takiko were born. They then moved near the Head of the Bay where Yuriko and Manabu were born. Manabu was born in 1933 and died as an infant. Matsuno passed away in 1933. After their lease was up in 1941 they moved to Port Madison near Suyematsu's farm and cleared more land and planted strawberries. Just as their first crop, a bumper crop year, was to be harvested, they were removed and evacuated from there to Manzanar then to Minidoka. They never came back to live but settled in Salt Lake City and in Seattle. Satoye and Floyd (Tsujimoto) had four children and three grandchildren. She passed away in 2005. Tats and Esther have a son and two grandchildren. Takiko and Mike

(Nakamura) have a daughter.

In the late 1920s or early 1930s Tsunetaro and Ito moved back to Hiroshima taking the two youngest boys, Toraichi and Taneo, with them. They built a huge farm house atop a mountain with a spectacular view overlooking rice paddies and the Inland Sea toward Miyajima. Ito died in 1947 and Tsunetaro in 1951. Toraichi married and raised six children and died in 1989. His oldest son still lives in that family home. Taneo returned to Bainbridge in 1940 and died here at the young age of 20.

In 1931 the Hayashidas leased a piece of property from Arnold Raber in Manzanita. They cleared that land hiring a bulldozer. It was the first time on Bainbridge for this to happen, so many people came to watch. It was still very hard work with stumps to burn, ditches to dig, rocks to move.

Ichiro and Nobuko Nishinaka were the first Nikkei couple from Bainbridge to be married. They were wed at the Japanese Buddhist church in Seattle in 1933. They lived in the cedar house in Island Center with Saburo and Snippy. Tomi was born in 1934, Hisa in 1936, and Yasuko in 1937. The Hayashida brothers with the help of the Japanese community and carpenters built a new house a few yards north of the existing one. It was completed in the summer of 1938 and they moved into it in the fall. Hiro was born there in October followed by Toyoko (Susan) in 1940. Dr. Shepard came to the houses to attend to each birth.

Saburo married Fumiko Nishinaka in 1939 and lived together in the new house with Ichiro's family and Snippy. Neal was born in 1939 and Natalie Kayo in 1941. The Hayashida brothers now had the largest strawberry farm on the Island.

The war against Japan broke out. Papa (Ichiro) was detained and taken to be imprisoned in Missoula, Montana. Two months later the rest of the household were taken to Eagledale Ferry dock to be detained in Manzanar. The house and farm were left in the hands of Filipino workers. The first Bainbridge Island baby, Leonard, was born in Manzanar to Saburo and Fumiko in 1942. Ichiro was released and joined the family in 1943 in Manzanar.

The group from Bainbridge petitioned the government to join the Pacific Northwest folks confined in Minidoka, Idaho.

The Nakatas, Nishimoris, and Takemotos opted to stay in Manzanar. Block 44 was added to accommodate the Bainbridge Islanders.

The Hayashidas moved back to Bainbridge in the summer of 1945. The Filipinos who stayed in the house took good care of it but found other work and left the fields as they were. The brothers found odd jobs and piece work to tide the family over. They tried strawberries in Burlington but were rained

(Concluded on page 8)



***Ito (Kodama) and
Tsunetaro Hayashida***

A lone heirloom apple tree stands in the parking strip next to the Sterling Savings Bank on the corner of Cave Avenue and Winslow Way East. This is the last survivor of the many apple trees that stood there for over 50 years. Many of these trees were grafted and grown by my grandfather Isosaburo Katayama. My favorite was one that produced three different varieties of apples. I think my grandfather was trying to develop new varieties of apples but one of his grafting experiments surprised him.

Isosaburo left his small village in Yamaguchi prefecture to make his way in America when he was 16 years old. He, like thousands of Japanese young men, left family and friends never to see them again. Another man from the same village, Reverend Suda, traveled with grandfather to Lahaina, Maui to work in the sugar cane fields.

In 1906 both came to Bainbridge. Others who immigrated from Yamaguchi to Bainbridge at this time were the Issei patriarchs from the Nakata, Nakao, Yamashita and Omoto families. Most of the other Issei who came to Bainbridge were from Hiroshima prefecture.

Isosaburo rented land in Eagledale and sold his vegetables and berries to the general store in Yama, the Japanese settlement at Port Blakely. He didn't have motorized transportation and used a wheelbarrow to deliver his produce. He must have made more than one trip a day during harvest season. He later farmed land in Island Center and wheeled his produce from the end of Springridge Road to the town of Yama. He saved up and sent for his bride-to-be. He met Tome Ogata when she came to work for the Katayama family as a young girl. Grandmother arrived on Bainbridge in 1910 and worked long hours beside her husband.

Their firstborn Meiko (May) was born in 1914 followed by Yoshio, my dad, Toshiko, Masaharu, Yukiko, Mitsuo and Shiro. This growing family needed a larger house and the family moved to the site of the present Wing Point Golf Course somewhere in the 1920s.

We have family pictures of grandfather in a large greenhouse surrounded by huge chrysanthemum plants. Aunt Yuki remembers there were four large greenhouses full of flowers grown for the floral business in Seattle. She, her brothers and sisters were raised in the large house with a wraparound porch that overlooked the greenhouses. I wish we knew more about the time the Katayamas were in the greenhouse business. We don't know who built the greenhouses, or owned the land. We do know the Katayama family did not own either because of two laws, the 1921 Washington State Alien Land Act, stipulating that foreigners could not own land unless they could become citizens, and a previous law stipulating that (Issei) Japanese couldn't become citizens. So the new law was aimed at them.

Auntie Yuki remembers when her family lived at Wing Point they would go to Sunday School at the Eagle Harbor Congregational Church. Grandpa became a convert to Christianity while in Lahaina and I'm sure he and Grandma encouraged their kids to attend church for religious instruction and perhaps as a way to assimilate into the American culture. The Eagle Harbor Congregational Church has a long history of inclusion and I'm sure many other children of Japanese heritage attended their Sunday School.

The sites of the greenhouses and residence were razed to create the Wing Point Golf Course and the Katayama family moved to a small farm at the present Cave Avenue where they grew berries,

vegetables, apples and raised chickens. I think much of their produce was sold to the Nakata and Loverich families' grocery store which is now the Town and Country Supermarket. At one time the Katayama and Moritani families were among the Bainbridge Island families that grew Olympic berries, a cane berry similar to our present Marion berries. A lot of the Olympic berries were sold to the Frederick and Nelson Department store where they were processed into a delicious Olympic berry ice cream.

Japanese berry growers formed the Japanese Farmers Association to get fair prices for strawberries prized for their flavor. The association built a strawberry cannery on a dock at the end of Weaver Road. Canning their own strawberries enabled the farmers to get a better price. At the peak of the season upwards of 200 people, mostly women, canned the Bainbridge-grown berries and loaded them on Nels Christensen's boat right at the cannery for transport to Seattle.

The Matsukawas lived adjacent to the strawberry plant and grew berries. They traveled back and forth to Japan and various members of the Katayama family were caretakers of their house and land while the rest of the family continued farming on Cave Avenue.

In 1936 tragedy struck the family. Shiro, the youngest son, was in the habit of riding his bike to Lincoln School which was at the site of the present Winslow Greens. He frequently left early and rode his bike to the wharf at the cannery, turned around and rode his bike up Wyatt Way to school. Uncle Mits said that the family's German shepherd, who was extremely devoted to Shiro, howled all day long. Later that day the family got a call from a concerned classmate that Shiro hadn't been to school that day which was unusual. (Some of the Katayamas had perfect attendance at school grades 1 to 12). A search was launched and Uncle Mits found Shiro's lifeless body in the water at the end of the wharf. Somehow his dog sensed his death from a distance of one mile.

Masa, the second oldest son, was a member of the 1940 Bainbridge High championship football team. During one play he got hit hard in his kidney region. Later he had to have his kidney removed and did not recover from the surgery. He died in 1941. The family lost two sons within five years. They, like many of the Bainbridge Japanese families, lost young ones too early.

The forced removal of the Bainbridge Japanese uprooted many lives but all the Katayama family returned to the Bainbridge-Seattle area except Uncle Mits who married my mother's sister and settled in Los Angeles.

May, Yoshi, Toshi, and Mits lived well into their 80s. Aunt Yuki is 93 and still lives independently on Madrona Drive and enjoys working in her beautiful garden. Years ago Grandpa bought a large plot at the Port Blakely Cemetery. Isosaburo, Tome, May, Yoshi, Masa, Shiro and my mom are inurned there. In the future, others of us will join them.

Auntie Yuki is the last of the Nisei Katayamas. I've felt blessed to learn about our family from Yuki, Uncle Mits, my mother and other relatives and friends. My friend Beth Rahe painted a portrait of "Winslow's Last Orchard" which she, Terry Domico and others tried to save from the bulldozers. This painting has a special place in my heart because it reminds me daily of my grandparents, their hard work, and their devotion to the land and to their family. Several of us have beautiful *bunku* embroidery pictures that grandma created in Minidoka. One of the *bunku* has been displayed in the Japanese America History Museum in Los Angeles.

—Kathy (Katayama) Joyce



Isosaburo (front, 2nd right) and family ca. 1941

❀ SAKUMA FAMILY ❀

Takeo Sakuma emigrated to the U.S.A. from Kagoshima, Japan, initially in 1907. He returned to Japan to marry Nobu in 1914. Following their marriage, they returned to America and raised their family on Bainbridge Island, Washington from 1915 until they were evacuated to Manzanar, California in March 1942. The original Bainbridge Island Sakuma family consisted of ten children: Atsusa, Akira, Takashi, Shinobu (Dale), Tsukasa (Milton), Isagi (Isaac), Satoru, Shun, Lillian, and Lucy.

All second-generation Sakumas were born on the Island and all had many fond memories of their childhood years. Takashi states that “although we had to work hard on the farm pulling weeds, picking berries and other chores, we still had time to play. After work we would go to the old cannery dock and jump in the water for a swim. In the wintertime the water would freeze over and we would go skating. It was fun and I will never forget those happy family memories.”

Tsukasa (Milton) talks about his memories of the Japanese bath tub: “the brothers in pairs or infrequently in threes would enjoy these communal baths/waterfests. When the water would become unbearably sizzling we would draw straws (*Jan-Kem-Po*) and the reluctant loser stood naked and dripping wet and would have to dash out into the cold darkness and fetch a bucket or two of cold water.”

Satoru’s memories of Bainbridge Island childhood were reflected in the following: “Mom and Pop worked hard to provide for us and taught me many values that are still with me today. Little did they know that what they taught us about farming would be passed on to the fourth generation of Sakumas today.” Shun talks about his memory of Reverend Hirakawa: “I used to help him with his church newspaper and he did this all by hand. I would help him spread all the wet pages on the floor to dry. We would put all the pages together and staple them. I was rewarded for my help with a saltine cracker with jam on it.” Lillian had the following memory of growing up on Bainbridge: “We made snowmen, and we sledded down the hill. But the best part was filling a cup with snow and eating it with a topping of cream and sugar.”

Lucy had many memories of her youth on Bainbridge: “climbing trees in our orchard, particularly, the cherry trees. Making root beer. Making ice cream out of clean snow mixed with chocolate; a string was put in each cup and the cups were set outside our bedroom window so the contents could freeze.”

The Sakuma family on Bainbridge cleared the land and farmed as their sole source of income. They were truck farmers transporting their goods by ferry to Seattle for sale at the terminal markets and Pike Place Market. Their primary crop was strawberries, although the land at Bainbridge was not well suited for this crop. Because of their expertise in farming small fruit, they were approached by a Seattle processor, R.D. Bodle, to relocate to Skagit Valley to farm. In 1935, following graduation from high school, the eldest son, Atsusa, moved to Burlington, Washington, and started a strawberry farm. The family joined him each summer for harvest. Additionally, each year another brother joined the farm operation, following high school graduation. By the end of 1941, there were four brothers (Atsusa, Akira, Shinobu, and Isaac) living in Burlington, farming to support the remainder of the family who still lived on Bainbridge Island.

Following the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor all the Japanese Americans were evacuated from the West Coast. The Sakumas on Bainbridge were evacuated, first, to Manzanar, California. The

Sakumas in Burlington were evacuated to Tule Lake, California. Six of the eight brothers served in the U. S. Army, and following WWII they returned to their property in Burlington to farm. Strawberries remained their crop of choice and in 1948 they entered into the certified strawberry plant business.

The farm centered around the family and six of the eight brothers formed a partnership; Sakuma Brothers Farms. Strawberry production grew to 500 acres by 1970 and they became the largest strawberry farm in Skagit County. In 1961, they further expanded their land base to Shasta County, California, where they explored the expansion of the certified strawberry plant business.

Following six years of transition farming in California, the family started Norcal Nursery in Redding and Red Bluff, California. Over time, they moved the entire strawberry nursery business to California. Between 1967 and 1970, two brothers (Tsukasa and Shinobu) moved to California to run the nursery operations. Currently, Norcal farms 1,500 acres and maintains 500 acres of certified nursery stock annually. 1972 marked the introduction of raspberry production to the Washington farm. Blueberries followed in 1973, when four blueberry varieties were planted in a three-acre test plot. During the mid 1970s, a raspberry nursery was also added to the Washington farm.

1977 was the first year a third generation (Sansei) Sakuma (Richard) returned to the farm on a full time basis. He would be joined by six others over the next 20 years; Ron, Steve, Bryan, John, Daniel, and Glenn. In 1984, the eldest of the six original second-generation brothers passed away, and two years later two others retired. Another brother retired in 1990, and subsequently passed away in 1998. Early in 1999, the last brother in California retired.

The year 2000 marked the end of the second generation reign; as the youngest of this generation retired on December 31st, at the age

of 75. 2004 marked another historical event as the first of the fourth generation (Ryan) was brought in as a corporate director. In addition, the first Sakuma female (Hebe) was recruited from our third generation to become a corporate director; the Board of Directors now number eight; seven are of the third generation and one is of the fourth generation. The third eldest of the original six second-generation brothers passed away in February 2005, at the age of 84 and we lost the fifth eldest in August 2005, at the age of 81.



Sakuma farm on Bainbridge ca. 1920

In 1986, the strategic decision was made to diversify the Washington operation from almost exclusive strawberry production to also include raspberries, blueberries and apples. Sakuma Brothers Farms currently maintains 1,000 production farm acres. In addition to the farm operations, in 1997 we added a small fruit processing operation. This operation has expanded greatly over the past 12 years. In 1999, total vertical integration was achieved by adding a sales department to market and sell the end product packed by the processing facility. The total vertical integration within the small fruit industry now includes plant propagation and small fruit research, commercial nursery operations and sales, commercial small fruit production, small fruit processing and sales of all processed and fresh market small fruit product.

The Sakuma family business has been built on the strength and generosity of the generations that have preceded us. Our corporate vision, “Honoring our past, growing our future,” defines our business path, built on the foundation of our family history.

—Steve Sakuma
3rd Generation Sakuma

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HAYASHIDA FAMILY (from page 5)

out and lost their crops. It was fortunate that they could grow or find food on Bainbridge. There was also an abundance of seafood that could be gathered or caught. They planted strawberries the following spring on the Manzanita site.

Judy Ann was born in 1947 in Seattle and was raised in the family home in Island Center. She now owns the house but is living in Shoreline, Washington.

Sub got a job at Boeing and moved his family to Seattle in 1949. Neal, Natalie and Leonard all finished their schooling in Seattle. Saburo died in 1987. Neal and Trudy have three children and two grand children who all live in Seattle. Natalie and Albert are living in Texas, parents of two and grandparents of three. Leonard was wounded in action in Vietnam and later moved back to Bainbridge where he was a school bus driver. He passed away in 2006.

Ichiro died in 1967 and Nobuko in 1990. Tomi married and came back to the Island to live in Westwood where they raised Greg and Sherri. Tomi and Hank (Egashira) now live in a house built on the east end of the Hayashida property in Island Center. Greg has four children and Sherri and Doug have two and are living on Bainbridge. Sherri has her own optometry practice here on the Island. Tomi worked several years for the Bainbridge Island School District in the print shop. After living in Seattle for a short time Hisa and Jim (Matsudaira) moved to Bainbridge and rented the Chihara house. Their three children were raised on the Chihara property until they became of school age. Jim and Hisa built a house off of New Brooklyn Road and live

there now. Hisa retired from the Bainbridge Island School District after being a P.E. Specialist for several years. They have five grandchildren. After marriage Yasuko moved to Seattle. She has five children and seven grandchildren. She lost her husband, Henry Mito, in 1994. She now lives in Kent.

Hiro and Loretta live on a piece of the property that was once the berry field in Manzanita. Hiro worked for several years in Seattle then retired from the Washington State ferry system. Loretta was a school teacher on Bainbridge before retirement. They have three children and five grandchildren. Susan (Toyoko) and Melvin (Fujita) live on Mercer Island. They have two children. Judy lives in Shoreline, south of Everett and works for the Shoreline school district.

Snippy continued to farm until his retirement in 1969. Snippy remained a bachelor and passed away in 1988.

The family remains close and gets

together two to three times a year. Many of the Hayashida cousins have come to visit

from Japan. How fortunate for us that Tsunetaro and Ito decided to come to Bainbridge to start a better life for their children. They would be surprised and pleased to see how much their descendents prospered and grown. I am very grateful for all the sacrifices and challenges they went through so we could enjoy this life.

—Hisa (Hayashida) Matsudaira



Hayashida children ca. 1950-1: Saburo, Ichiro, Tsuneichi "Snippy" and Judy.