

Historical Commission approves art honoring Japanese American farmers

by Janice Yee

The Public Art in the Pike Place Market project cleared a major hurdle last month when the Pike Place Market Historical Commission approved the proposed artwork to be installed in the main arcade, at the Market entrance directly under the Farmers Market sign. This is a major victory, considering the Historical Commission approved guidelines discouraging memorials last year. The Historical Commission unanimously voted to approve our application, considering our project a public work of art and not a memorial. They also recognized the historical significance of the Japanese American farmers and agreed with us that this artwork would be a fitting and beautiful way to preserve the Market's history and promote the Market as a farmers' market. The way is now cleared for the fabrication and installation of seven porcelain enamel panels describing the historical contributions of the Japanese American farmers in the Market.

Nearly two years ago, we were notified that funds would be available through the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund for projects that educated the public about the internment. About that time, I was on a business trip in Los Angeles, and couldn't sleep. I was thinking about all the projects we could do so that the public would not forget about the internment.

I thought about my own family's story and my great grandfather and grandfather's farm in Bellevue and how they used to take the ferry across Lake Washington to sell their produce in the Pike Place Market. My mother remembered them counting all the coins they got from their day's work.

Back then, there were over 500 Japanese American farmers working in the market. Today, their contributions are but a distant memory.

Every year, nine million people from around the world visit the market. How unfortunate it is that the Japanese American farmers' significant contribution to the success of the market prior to World War II is not documented or represented in some way.

Seattle JACL, in partnership with the Pike Place Market Preservation and Development Authority, Lake Washington, Puyallup, and White River Chapters, Wing Luke Asian Museum and sev-

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"Song of Farmers"

One of five of Aki Sogabe's proposed panels for the Pike Place Market

eral interested individuals worked together to plan out how best to tell this untold story. Last fall, we conducted a call for artists and a review panel met to review 17 applications from across the Pacific Northwest. Aki Sogabe, a Bellevue artist who does dramatic and colorful paper cutting, was selected. Her artwork will consist of five panels depicting the farmers with two panels of text telling their story, all done in porcelain enamel. The five artwork panels are entitled: Songs of the Earth, Song of Farmers, Song of Joy, Song of Sorrow, and Song of Memories.

The project has been reasonably successful in generating the needed funds to make this project a reality. We have received funding from Civil Liberties Public Education Fund, Seattle Foundation, King County Special Projects, JACL Legacy Fund, Inouye Fund, and individual donors. However, an additional \$48,000 is needed to commission the artist and fabricate and install the artwork, which we hope to do this summer. For more information or to donate to this project, please call Janice Yee at 763-1986, Jill Beppu at 528-7488, or write your check to Seattle JACL, P.O. Box 18558, Seattle, WA 98118 and indicate Pike Place Market Art in

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President's Message: Funds needed for Market project

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the memo section of the check. All contributions are tax deductible.

Raffle prizes needed

The fund development committee will be holding a raffle this year with winners to be drawn at our annual installation banquet. Please contact Kazzie Katayama at 722-2266 if you would like to donate a prize for the raffle.

Films needed

We are looking for films on Zatoichi for Seattle Chapter Film Festival to be held on October 24, at the Nippon Kan. Films confirmed so far are: Beacon Hill Boys. If any of you are or know the Beacon Hill Boys, call Frank Kiuchi (one of the Beacon Hill Boys) at 322-9080.

"Gold Watch"/panel discussion discount offered to JACL members

Join the Wing Luke Asian Museum (WLAM) and the Northwest Asian American Theatre (NWAAT) for a performance of "Gold Watch," a play written by Momoko Iko and directed by Cyndie Mastel-Rokicki, and a panel discussion focusing on the Japanese American experience. "Gold Watch" explores the impact of Executive Order 9066 on a Japanese American farming family in Pasco, Washington, and focuses on the relationship between Masu, the stubborn and independent Issei father, and Tadao, his American born son.

This special May 31 program starts at 2 pm at the Theatre Off Jackson, 409 - 7th Avenue South in Seattle. The panel discussion immediately follows the play. Panelists are Chuck Kato, Robert Sato, Sam Shoji, and Harvey Watanabe. The panel discussion is co-sponsored by the Puyallup Valley, White River, and Seattle Chapters of the Japanese American Citizens League.

Use the coupon below for a \$2 discount on admission. For information, call Charlene Mano at WLAM, 623-5124.

**NORTHWEST
ASIAN
AMERICAN
THEATRE**

\$2 OFF ADMISSION
Coupon good for
Sunday, May 31

GOLD WATCH, a play by Momoko Iko, followed by a panel presentation by local Nisei. Presented by the Northwest Asian American Theatre and the Wing Luke Asian Museum. Bring this coupon to Box Office for \$2 off. Call NWAAT at 340-1049; reservations advised.

HELP CREATE A LIFE

Healthy Asian female, 21-31 yrs old, non-smoker, needed to donate eggs to infertile couple. \$1700 compensation. College students are encouraged to apply. For info, call Mary at 206-341-0517.

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It's scholarship banquet time!

It's that time of year again! Time to honor the young people of our community and remember our scholarship donors, Minoru Tamesa and Bunshiro Tazuma. All are welcome to a potluck honoring recipients of chapter scholarships. Please join us on Wednesday, May 27 at 6:00 p.m. at Blaine Memorial Methodist Church, at 3001 24th Ave S. Please note date change. For further information, contact Dave Yamaguchi, 206-721-1537.

- **The Minoru Tamesa Scholarship Fund** was established to benefit persons in need of financial assistance for college. While interned at Heart Mountain, Tamesa was ordered to report for the draft. He refused to do so, believing that as long as he was behind barbed wire, his first priority was to win freedom for himself and his people. For standing up for his constitutional rights, Tamesa was sentenced to three years in prison. Minoru Tamesa died at a young age. After his death, his father, Uhachi Tamesa, established the scholarship in memory of his son.

- **The Bunshiro Tazuma Scholarship Fund** was bequeathed by the Tazuma family. Tazuma immigrated to Seattle in 1910 and operated the Jackson Cafe. After the war, he rebuilt his life and managed the Tazuma Ten Cent Store until he retired in 1970. Throughout his life, Tazuma made significant contributions to the Japanese American community, including founding the Seattle Buddhist Church in 1942 just before evacuation. Tazuma was also recognized by the Japanese government for his dedication to community service.

The Seattle chapter thanks the Tamesa and Tazuma families for their generous contributions to the scholarship fund.

Board Notes

Chapter Board member Mark Fukeda has joined Nikkei Concerns as Director of Development. Mark is responsible for overseeing the organizational fund development program, including community gifts, corporate/foundation grants and planned giving. Mark was formerly at the SAFECO Corporation, overseeing that company's \$8.1 million Corporate Contributions program. Mark has been involved with Nikkei Concerns for the last two years in their Mi-Yo-kai volunteer group. Congratulations, Mark!

Bone marrow tissue sought by Nikkei

The friends and relations of Brent Kobata are reaching out to the Asian community for help in saving his life. Brent, the son of Gary and Connie Kobata, was diagnosed with leukemia a year ago and is currently receiving chemotherapy treatments.

Brent is seeking people of Japanese descent who may provide a potential match with his bone marrow tissue. Brent's search is extremely difficult because there aren't enough Nikkei in the marrow registry database, with Nikkei having the lowest percentage of donors among all nationalities/ethnicities.

The test for bone marrow type will not affect your health, and is an outpa-

See "Kobata" on page 4

Membership

Welcome new and renewing JACL members!

Vicki Asakura	Dean Koga***	Mary S. Osawa
Lorraine Bannai	Yoko Kusunose	Al Sugiyama
Coleen Hayami	Yuriko Kojima,	Kelly Joy Sugiyama
Mary Gruenewald	(transfer from Salt	Peggy Tanemura
Joy Nakanishi Huckle*	Lake City)	Ben T. Tsuboi
Miyoko Ike	Toru Matsuoka	Hideo Watanabe
Saji Kanazawa	Janet Nagamine*	Aki Woodward*
Mits & Kazzie	Barbara Nagaoka	Clyde & Kathryn
Katayama	Ruby T. Nakamura	Yamamoto
Shin Iwao Kikuchi*	William Nishimura	

*New members

**Thank you for your donation to the Pacific Citizen

***Upgrade from Booster to Regular

Boosters

Bradly Nakagawa	Rosie Y. Sugahara	Floyd Yamamoto
Yuki Nakamura	Kazue Tagami	Deni M. Yamauchi
Kazuko Shimizu	Kiyo Taki	

Thank You!!!

The Seattle Chapter JACL Newsletter is sponsored, in part, by generous donations from:

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Membership Categories

Individual	\$50
Couple	\$85
1000 Club/Century	\$70-\$140
Spouse	\$40
Lifetime	\$1,000-\$2,000
Student/Youth (up to 25 years of age)	\$20
Boosters (Seattle JACL only)	
Regular	\$20
Seniors	\$15

Questions should be directed to May Namba, 2324 NW 94th St., Seattle, WA 98117 (206-784-3824)

OPTIONAL: Choose one to credit for membership

Jeff's team
 Janice's team

Seattle Chapter JACL Membership application

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE (indicate whether day or eves/weekend): _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

Please return to:

May Namba, Membership chair
2324 NW 94th St., Seattle, WA 98117

Thank you for your support!

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

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tient procedure, requiring only a short time. Anyone interested should call the Puget Sound Blood Center's Bone Marrow Program at 292-1897 to see if you qualify.

The family and friends are also asking for help in offsetting the cost of Brent's medical bills. The financial burden on the Kobata family is devastating. Any amount will help and is appreciated.

A special emergency account has been set up for Brent. Please make your checks or money order out to Brent Kobata. Donations should be sent to: Brent Kobata, P.O. Box 3232, Seattle, Washington 98114.

—from the friends and relatives of Brent Kobata and family

The Seattle Chapter JAACL Newsletter

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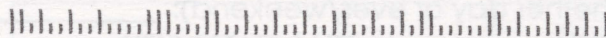
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