



The Scoop

Executive Notes by Cathy Inamasu

Happy Year of the Tiger! We are looking forward to celebrating NLF's 35th anniversary this year with an unveiling of our newly renovated stage at our historic 1830 Sutter Street facility, along with other activities to mark this milestone achievement. Please look for announcements about these upcoming events slated for later in the year. We hope you can join in the festivities.

We are ecstatic to announce that we have reached our \$2.2 million capital campaign goal for our 1830 Sutter Street (former Japanese YWCA) facility! Thanks to all our donors, we will be able to complete the last renovation projects on the building over the next few years. Special thanks to our Capital Campaign coordinator, Makiko Kambayashi, for her great work with the Campaign. She will be continuing to work with us as our Development Coordinator, to help manage and raise additional funds for our 1830 Sutter Street "Preservation Fund" as well as for

the children's programs of NLF. We are also happy to report that we have finally successfully negotiated a new 5-year lease with Kinmon Gakuen for our Bush Street site preschool program! Thank you to everyone for your support and well wishes on this rather lengthy process.

On a sad note, one of our most generous supporters and friends, Mr. Jack Hirose, passed away on Christmas morning at the age of 86 (please see the article in this issue). Then on January 6th, Mrs. Uta Hirota, one of the last living members of the Japanese YWCA, died peacefully at her home at the age of 99. She along with Mrs. Michi Onuma and Mrs. Lily Abiko supported the return of the Japantown YWCA building to the Japanese American community. We are glad that she was able to see the building returned to the community through NLF, keeping the Issei women's legacy alive. Our deepest sympathies go to each of their families. Both Uta and Jack will be greatly missed.

Sushi Social & Capital Campaign Update by Makiko Kambayashi & Tracie Brown

NLF marked its 34th Anniversary on November 19, 2009, with a wonderful evening at the 1830 Sutter Street site. At an event attended by over a hundred supporters, NLF had a very special reason to celebrate: its ambitious \$2.2 million capital campaign goal was met! The campaign will remain open as NLF continues to seek preservation funds to maintain the building and to purchase furnishings and other equipment.

NLF launched its capital campaign in 2002 to fund the purchase and renovation of the historic 1830 Sutter Street building. Designed by renowned architect Julia Morgan, the building opened its doors in 1932 as the Japanese YWCA. In March of 2002, NLF became the owner of this historic building in the course of settling a community-supported lawsuit to save the building. NLF has undertaken the responsibility to protect and promote the historic legacy of the 1830 Sutter building and to fulfill the vision and spirit of its founders.

Rev. Gary Barbaree, former pastor at Pine United Methodist Church, gave the keynote address. Rev. Barbaree was among the community activists who filed a lawsuit on behalf of the *Soko Bukai*, a federation of Japanese American churches to prevent the sale of this Japantown landmark and to enforce a trust agreement protecting the 1830 Sutter Street building. Joyce Oishi, NLF Board and Capital Campaign Committee member, along with NLF alumni, presented beautiful framed plaques as awards of recognition to representatives of *Soko Bukai* for their pivotal role in helping NLF regain community ownership of 1830 Sutter. The honoree churches were Christ United Presbyterian Church, Pine

United Methodist Church, and Christ Episcopal Church (or *Sei Ko Kai*).

Long-time supporters of NLF, Mr. Hats Aizawa and Dr. Gary Kono were Honorary Co-chairs of the event. Susan Kobayashi, NLF alumni parent and Capital Campaign Committee member, served as the emcee for the festivities. She spoke eloquently of NLF's importance in raising her two children and NLF's impact on the larger Japanese American community. Participants were treated to an abundance of mouth-watering sushi prepared by Master Chef Izumi Miyazawa and his associates. We were also honored by the attendance of the Honorable Hideyuki Mitsuoka, Deputy Consul General of Japan.

The 34th Anniversary celebration event was made possible, in part, by a \$4,000 event sponsorship from Union Bank, a long-time supporter of NLF. Our special thanks also go to Hats Aizawa, who surprised us by announcing that one-third of his newly formed Aizawa Family Trust would go towards NLF, as one of the beneficiaries! Numerous individual supporters also contributed to the event, helping to add to the success of the evening. We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to NLF staff and volunteers who donated their time and energy to this special evening.



Guests toast the completion of the Capital Campaign.

Capital Campaign Update (continued)

Our work is not yet done. We are pleased to report that the renovation projects have made steady progress over the winter holidays. Construction of the children's bathroom is almost finished, thanks to Dii Lewis, an NLF alumni parent, who serves as a lead contractor of the project. Completion of the *Noh* Theater stage renovation is expected by this April. The renovation, by contractor Taisei Yoshitsugu (also an NLF alumni parent), includes restoration of the stage and installation of a new sound system and lighting. A fire alarm system will also be installed in the auditorium. The unveiling of the renovated *Noh* stage will be a special part of NLF's 35th Anniversary celebration this fall.

On behalf of the children, their families and our staff, we

thank you for your continued support and generosity. For more information on how you can participate in and support our Building Preservation Fund, visit NLF's website at www.nlfchildcare.org or call (415) 922-8898.



Distinguished guests, Rev. Merry Chan, Mr. Hats Aizawa, Rev. Gary Barbaree, Rev. Lloyd Wake, Mr. Greg Tanaka, Mrs. Alice Moriguchi and Dr. Gary Kono.

Tateuchi Foundation Gets NLF to its Goal

In helping to achieve NLF's \$2.2 million capital campaign goal, the Atsuhiko and Ina Goodwin Tateuchi Foundation recently made a generous grant in the amount of \$100,000. Based in Seattle, the Tateuchi Foundation seeks to promote and improve international understanding, knowledge and the quality of relations between Japan and the United States. In recognition of this support, NLF will name the auditorium, currently under renovation at the Sutter site, the Tateuchi Auditorium. A dedication ceremony is being planned at NLF's 35th Anniversary event in November 2010.

Ina Goodwin Tateuchi and her late husband, Atsuhiko Tateuchi, both came from hard-working families and were taught to appreciate and respect education. Mrs. Tateuchi became familiar with NLF when she made a site visit to the Sutter site early in 2009. The Tateuchi's philanthropy supported a number of organizations in the Bay Area, including NLF, the San Francisco Asian Art Museum, and the Community School of Music and Arts, Mountain View. Mr. Tateuchi's professional career involved international marketing, business and outplacement services.

Mr. Jack Hirose (Feb. 10, 1923- Dec. 25, 2009)

NLF lost an amazing friend and supporter on Christmas morning when Jack Hirose peacefully passed away. Born and raised in San Francisco, Jack attended its public schools, graduating from Mission High in January 1941, and then studied engineering at Golden Gate College. He and his family were interned at Tanforan Assembly Center before being moved to the Topaz relocation camp in Utah. Drafted into the army out of Topaz, Jack was assigned to the Military Intelligence Service (MIS), as he knew a little Japanese from attending classes at Kinmon Gakuen. Returning from the war, he again enrolled at Golden Gate College and studied accounting and business administration. Jack became the first Japanese American accountant to obtain the CPA designation in April 1951.

At NLF's 30th anniversary celebration in the fall of 2005, Jack surprised everyone by pledging the remaining \$95,000 needed to retire NLF's mortgage. He continued to generously contribute to the campaign over the years, eventually giving

Alumni News

We are starting this new column in our newsletter to help stay connected to our NLF alums. If you would like to be included, please email us at: nlfchildcare@yahoo.com.

Matthew Drechsler (PreSchool class of '81), his wife and their two young children have relocated to Austin, Texas after living in Yokohama, Japan for several years.

Devon Nakajo (PS Class of '83) and his wife are the proud parents of their first child, a son, born this past fall! They are residing in Southern California.

Koji Yamaguchi (PS class of '80) and his wife are proud parents of 22 mo. old twins and a 5 mo. old, and are residing in the Bay Area.

Kenso Kagawa (PS class of '85) completed his Master of Science in counseling, specializing in Marriage and Family counseling, and is recently engaged and living in SF.

Ali Kagawa (PS class of '90) is teaching English at Casona Univesitaria in Ecuador with World Teach (affiliated with Harvard University) for one year.

Hisashi Imura (PS class of '83) is the Athletic Trainer for the San Jose State University football team.

Keiji Imura (PS class of '87) is working for US Bank in Seattle.

Aya Ino (PS class of '91) is the Program Associate at the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of No. California (JCCCNC).

Brandon Wang (PS class of '87) is in his first year of a 2-yr. MBA program at the University of Michigan.

Cori Wang (PS class of '92) recently graduated from Santa Clara University and is in her first year of a 3-yr. Master's program in Speech Pathology.

over \$125,000 to the building fund. In his usual modest way, he never wanted to be publicly acknowledged for his philanthropic efforts.

Jack is survived by his immediate family of his wife, Kiyō, son Don and daughter-in-law Christina. He is remembered fondly and is greatly missed.





Sutter site preschoolers enjoy the benefits of vegetables grown in their garden outside. The students help tend to the vegetables and other plants, and eat the fresh produce in their meals.



All ASP students participated in the Presidential Challenge Fitness Test at the end of September. They are working on their endurance, flexibility, and strength conditioning during this school year in anticipation of their retesting in the spring.



Your Support is Needed

General Program Support: Your contribution will go toward keeping our service fees affordable for our predominately low to moderate income families. There are many ways for you to support the work of NLF (check NLF's website for other ideas).

- * Designate your contributions through the United Way, and Combined Charities Federal Campaign, to go directly to NLF. NLF's code number is 3251.
- * Escript is an easy way to have a portion of your shopping go directly to NLF. Just go to Escript.com and follow the directions to register.

Building Preservation Fund: Your contribution will go toward the furnishings and long-term maintenance of our 1830 Sutter Street facility. You can also pledge or contribute and have your name be a permanent part of the Issei Women's Legacy Donor Wall.

Name: _____
 Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

Amount of donation: \$ _____ Amount of Pledge: \$ _____ to: General Program Support _____ Building Fund _____

I would like to have my name on the *Issei Women's Legacy Donor Wall* at the following level:

_____ \$5,000 (Koma/Top) _____ \$10,000 (Origami) _____ \$25,000 (Temari/Ball) _____ \$50,000 (Tako/Kite)
 _____ \$100,000 (Kokeshi/Japanese Doll)

Credit Card Donors:

Name as it appears on the card: _____
 Card number: _____ Amount: \$ _____ Card Expiration date: _____

Or donate online through our website at www.nlfchildcare.org

Please remit this form and contribution (checks payable to NLF) to: NLF, 2031 Bush Street, San Francisco, CA 94115 (415) 922-8898



Nihonmachi LITTLE FRIENDS™

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Bush preschoolers enjoy trick or treating during their annual Halloween parade through Japantown.



Master Chef Izumi Miyazawa (pictured on far right) and his associates prepared delicious sushi for NLF's 34th anniversary event in November.

“DOWA NO OMATSURI: A FESTIVAL OF CHILDREN'S STORIES”

Sunday, February 28th

*Palace of Fine Arts Theater
Silent Auction at 12:00 pm
Theater Performance at 1:30pm.*

For tickets, please call (415) 922-8898 or email
nlfchildcare@yahoo.com



Children from the Bush and Sutter preschools enjoyed ending Undoukai in October with the traditional tamaire game.