



# The Scoop

## Executive Notes by Cathy Inamasu

Happy Year of the Ox! This New Year holds much hope and promise, but also many challenges ahead for all of us. For over 33 years, NLF has been fortunate to draw its strength from the collaborative work and contributions of its families, alumni, staff, board and supporters. With this as its foundation, we know NLF will continue to persevere and meet its goals to best serve children, families and the community.

We were thrilled to have been able to honor the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our historic 1830 Sutter Street facility with several events throughout the 2008 year, culminating with our “Sushi Social” in November. The renovation work has also been progressing. We have been able to do some of the interior woodwork and wall restoration of the building in the lobby and front conference room. In addition, architectural plans are currently being drawn up to restore and renovate the Noh Theater stage, with the actual work to be conducted during the preschool’s winter break in 2009.

We are also happy to report that our children’s

programs are thriving and in high demand. We are now in the second year of the Preschool For All program, funded by First 5 San Francisco, at our two preschool sites, and the After School Program is the recipient of an Asian Pacific Fund health grant for this current school year.

We are grateful for all the support we continue to receive, and invite you to tour our programs and facilities if you haven’t come by lately. Just call us at 922-8898 to schedule a visit...we’d love to see you!



Sutter preschoolers, filled with joy and excitement, went caroling in the Japan Trade Center before Christmas .

## 1830 Sutter’s 75th Anniversary Honorees by Joyce Oishi

With the community’s help, Nihonmachi Little Friends (NLF) was introduced to ten people who had personal memories of the early days of the 1830 Sutter Street building. To commemorate the building’s 75th anniversary last year, these individuals agreed to be interviewed so that their memories could be shared. Beautiful story boards featuring their recollections were displayed at the NLF’s Sushi Social held on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008, and book versions were created to share with the children at the NLF pre-school and after-school programs.

The ten individuals who were honored at the Sushi Social for sharing their 1830 Sutter Street building stories included: Hatturo ‘Hats’ Aizawa, Haru Baba, Joan Ishihara, Masako Amemiya MacFarlane, Fusae Mitoma (née Inoue), Michi Oka Onuma (story taken from an article by Joyce Nishioka, “A Matter of Trust: Japantown Leaders File Suit to Preserve Community Landmark”, *Asian Week*, July 8, 1999, Vol.20, No.45); Tomi Sasaki, Martha Suzuki (née Nozawa), Tomoye Takahashi (née Nozawa) and Alba Witkin.

Through the stories of the honorees, 1830 Sutter’s unique place in history rings very clear. Honorees brought forward memories of fundraising to help pay for the building at a time when the property had to be held in trust by the San Francisco YWCA because the *Issei* were not allowed to own property under the Alien Land Laws. There was great pleasure in descriptions of events at 1830 Sutter before World War II, including the

classes in cooking and sewing, distinguished speakers including Helen Keller and also some very fond memories of dances and haunted Halloween events. After World War II, the American Friends Service Committee used offices in the building to petition for the release of Japanese American students from internment camps and into colleges in the Midwest and East.

With such a distinguished past, NLF is honored to steward 1830 Sutter into its future, serving young people and other community groups. NLF joins Ms. Tomoye Takahashi in applauding the ‘great ideals and big ambitions’ that inspired the Japanese YWCA, and joins Ms. Alba Witkin in her view that ‘one has to be proud that 1830 Sutter has served so many people, so well, and for so long.’



Celebrating at NLF’s “Sushi Social” on Nov. 20, 2008 are (standing from left): Co-emcees Mutsuko and Jeff Adachi, ED Cathy Inamasu, CBF Queen Alicia Kagawa, Keynote speaker Dr. Gary Kono, Honoree Martha Suzuki, Honoree Hats Aizawa, & NLF Board Chair Adrienne Shiozaki Woo; and (seated from left): Honorees Tomoye Takahashi, Haru Baba & Masako MacFarlane.

## *“Sushi Social” Event and Capital Campaign Update by Tracie Brown*

NLF marked its 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary and commemoration of the 75th anniversary of its historic 1830 Sutter building, with the annual “Sushi Social” at the Sutter site on November 20, 2008. It was a wonderful evening where new and long-time supporters were able to visit with each other and see the most recent renovations to the building. We were particularly honored by the attendance of the Honorable Yasumasa Nagamine, Consul General of Japan and Mrs. Nagamine, and two representatives from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which gave NLF a grant of \$62,000 in 2007.

Copious and delectable sushi was provided by everyone’s favorite sushi chef, Masanobu Sato of Rika Sushi on Bush Street. Mr. Sato also received a surprise tribute and gift from the children of NLF, who presented him with a beautiful portrait they had created in his honor.

NLF alum parents, Jeff and Mutsuko Adachi, acted as the highly entertaining co-emcees for the event. There was special recognition of individuals who contributed to two beautiful storyboards designed by NDD Creative – collective personal memories and recollections when the building was founded and operated as the Japanese YWCA. NLF alumna and reigning Cherry Blossom Queen Alicia Isono Kagawa spoke about her connection to NLF and the larger Japantown community. Attendees were also treated to a video in which KQED bestowed on Executive Director Cathy Inamasu the well-deserved honor of “Local Hero.” Dr. Gary Kono gave the keynote address, in which he related the history of the building, including the tireless and inspiring efforts by the *Issei* women of the Japanese YWCA to secure a place of their own, despite the Alien Land Laws of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century which prohibited them from owning the Sutter Street property in their own names.

The sushi social was made possible, in part, by a \$5,000 grant from Union Bank, which has long been a supporter of NLF, and another \$5,000 grant from the Ishiyama Foundation. In addition, numerous individual supporters contributed in connection with the event, helping to add to the success of the evening. We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our volunteers who donated their time and energy to this very special event.

At this point, we are proud to report that NLF has raised 87% of its ambitious \$2.2 million capital campaign goal. The remaining balance is approximately \$280,000. While we are grateful for the support and generosity of our community, our work is not yet done. We are almost at the finish line and we can get there with your support, which means more than ever in these difficult economic times. Please contact NLF at 922-8898 or [nlfchildcare@yahoo.com](mailto:nlfchildcare@yahoo.com) to demonstrate your support of NLF and its capital campaign efforts today!



Assisting Chef Sato are his hard working sushi making crew (from left): Alvin Kwong, Sadaharu Ozeki, William Cavalari, Masanobu Sato, Bush Site teacher Makiko Romero, Sutter Site teacher Tomiko Oshiro and Kouichi Endo.

### *NLF Can Profit from Your Remodeling Projects through City Cabinetmakers*

If you are planning to renovate any room in your home or office, please consider this special offer! NLF parent, Daphina Marshall, has arranged for her workplace, **City Cabinetmakers, Inc.**, to donate 10% of all proceeds from the sale of cabinetry sold to NLF families and supporters, to NLF’s Capital Campaign! You can go online to view their beautiful cabinetry at [www.citycabinetmakers.com](http://www.citycabinetmakers.com).

Daphina, in her letter regarding this fundraising opportunity writes, “...On a more personal note I have been blessed to have Nihonmachi Little Friends be there for two of my children. After attending NLF, I have found that my sons are loving, emotionally enriched, and academically prepared youth, and this would not have been possible without the care NLF’s staff and volunteers have provided. It is imperative that other children and community members have access to these invaluable resources. As a longtime NLF parent, I pledge to do everything I can to see them reach their goal. City Cabinetmakers, Inc. is also pledging its support of NLF, and together we can do all we can to help NLF’s Capital Campaign Fund reach its final goal.”

### *Amazon.com Shopping Benefits NLF!*

If you are planning to shop on-line at Amazon.com, please use this link, [www.nlfchildcare.org/eshop.html](http://www.nlfchildcare.org/eshop.html), so NLF can receive a percentage of the sales. There are no additional fees. Please bookmark this link and spread the word by emailing it to your friends and family...and happy shopping!!!

### *Nichi Bei Times’ Tofu Dessert Competition & Festival*

Experience a unique tasting event while helping NLF, on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2-4:00pm, at the JCCCNC, 1840 Sutter Street. The Nichi Bei Times is accepting original and creative recipes for their first “Tofu Dessert Competition”, and has designated NLF as a benefactor! Finalists will serve their desserts for the judges on the event day. Tickets to the event will be \$10.00.

Deadline for entries is Sunday, March 8, 2009. At least 50% of the ingredients must be tofu. Send your recipes with your name, address, phone number and occupation to: Nichi Bei Times, Tofu Contest, 2211 Bush Street, S.F., 94115, or email to: [contest@nichibeitimes.com](mailto:contest@nichibeitimes.com) with subject “Tofu Contest”.

## *NLF's School-age Program Receive Health Education Grant*

The teachers and students at NLF's After School Program (ASP) are busy this school year working on creative ways to change and improve their eating and life style habits. In implementing their "Keeping Our Bodies Fit" project, made possible through support from the **Asian Pacific Fund**, each student has developed a personal goal they want to work toward. A large tree displayed on a bulletin board, contains each child's goal written on a cut-out apple, stating the healthy habit they hope to develop and maintain.

Cooking activities are regularly conducted at the ASP and, in keeping with the fitness project, the recipes have focused on healthy cooking projects. Nutritionist Dr. Jyu-Lin Chen and Assistant Veronica Ting from UCSF, met with the students at the beginning of the school year and discussed the essential nutrients required for growing bodies. The food pyramid is also referred to regularly, helping the students monitor what ingredients are being used in the recipes. Snack time foods, which always contain fresh fruits and whole grain crackers, have also been modified to include edamame, cheese, cut vege-

tables, and healthy dips, such as humus. Water is also always available to the students, in addition to light fruit juice.

Weekly organized physical activities have been incorporated into the regular schedule this year. Rotating throughout the year are yoga classes, recently taught by NLF parent Brion Charles (Forrest's dad); soccer classes taught by substitute teacher and soccer coach, Patty Kwiecinski and Bush Site preschool teacher, Norman Hokama; and dance/movement classes, currently being incorporated into our March 1<sup>st</sup> theater performance by ASP Head Teacher, Maya Yoshikawa, and choreographer, Corrine Nagata.

A culminating activity for the "Keeping Our Bodies Fit" project will be the production of a recipe/activity book. This book will include the recipes the students have cooked throughout the school year, photos of the children involved in the various organized physical and cooking activities, and writings by the students on their thoughts about their experiences and participation in this fitness project.



Yoga class at the After School Program with parent & instructor Brion Charles.



Bush site preschooler, Shylah, helps to pound fresh mochi with Kagami Kai members during NLF's Mochitsuki in December.

### **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.

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

**Capital Campaign:** Your contribution will go toward the building's much needed renovations. You can also pledge or contribute and have your name be a permanent part of the Issei Women's Legacy Donor Wall. **A second round of names to the donor wall will be added and/or moved to a higher level, before our November 2008 event at the building. Please consider being a part of this legacy.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount of donation:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount of Pledge:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to: **General Program Support** \_\_\_\_\_ **Capital Campaign** \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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



# Nihonmachi LITTLE FRIENDS™

Japanese Bilingual & Multicultural Childcare

## NIHONMACHI LITTLE FRIENDS

2031 Bush Street  
San Francisco, CA 94115

Phone: 415-922-8898

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Bush site preschoolers went to sing songs for the seniors at Kimochi Home in the costumes they made during group time.



Sutter preschoolers help to make kimbob (Korean sushi) for a special lunch to celebrate Korean culture week.

### Wish List

Scratch paper and envelopes for the children's art area

Auction items for March 1st fundraiser

### SAVE THE DATES:

*Sunday, March 1st*

*"Dowa no Omatsuri: A Festival of Children's Stories"*

*Palace of Fine Arts Theater*

*Silent Auction at 12:00 pm*

*Theater Performance at 1:30pm.*

*Sunday, March 22nd*

*Tofu Dessert Contest (NLF will be a beneficiary)*

*JCCNC (1840 Sutter Street)*

*2:00—4:00 pm*