



**Nihonmachi**  
LITTLE FRIENDS

Japanese Bilingual & Multicultural Childcare

# The Scoop

## Executive Notes by Cathy Inamasu

It was an honor to have been selected as one of KQED's "Local Heroes" during Asian Pacific Heritage Month, and a total surprise to me! My heartfelt thanks go to the parents, staff and board members for taking the time to nominate me for this esteemed award, and to everyone for their congratulatory gestures. I hope some of you caught the video clip featuring NLF on KQED which aired during the month of May.

You might have heard by now, that NLF is searching for a new home for our Bush Street preschool site (see article on pg. 2). And of course, our primary choice is to find a site within, or close to Japantown. Please keep us in mind if you hear of anything. At the same time, we will continue to work on negotiating a longer stay at our present site.

We are starting the summer off with a special event at Yoshi's Jazz Club in SF on June 12<sup>th</sup> celebrating

the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our 1830 Sutter Street building (see article on the capital campaign). We hope you will be able to join us.

Wishing you and your family a fun and safe summer!



Family members of Yona Abiko pose in front of the 1830 Sutter Street "history walk" plaque of the former Japanese YWCA, during NLF's Open House in February.

## Interview with Reverend Lloyd Wake by Mari Matsumoto



Photo courtesy of JK Yamamoto

Nihonmachi Little Friends is very fortunate that Reverend Lloyd Wake, in his capacity as a leader of the *Soko Bukai*, (an organization of Japanese Christian churches in San Francisco), has been such a

prominent supporter of NLF's capital campaign as well as the *Soko Bukai's* earlier efforts to ensure that ownership of the 1830 Sutter Building remains in community hands.

Lloyd was born and raised in the central valley town of Reedley, California, the fifth of seven children. After his graduation from high school in 1939, he went to work on the family farm where his family raised grapes and figs, and later switched to raising plums and peaches.

After World War II broke out, Lloyd was sent with his family to Poston III internment camp along the Colorado River in the Arizona Desert where he spent almost one year. During that time he became friends with a couple of young Christian pastors who had been sent from Poston I to minister to the internees in Poston III. Due to their influence Lloyd left camp to attend Asbury College in Wilmore, (near Lexington), Kentucky where he began his studies to become an ordained Christian minister. Because he attended year round, Lloyd completed his studies at Asbury in three years, and entered the

Theological Seminary there in the fall of 1946. One summer while attending Asbury, a former classmate studying at the seminary in Chicago invited Lloyd to speak to a group of former internees, including his future wife Marion. After they got married in Los Angeles in 1948, Lloyd transferred to the Graduate Theological Union at UC Berkeley where he completed his seminary education in 1950.

After spending two years as a "shadow pastor" at Berkeley Methodist United Church, Lloyd was appointed pastor of Pine United Methodist Church in San Francisco in July of 1950. Lloyd served seventeen years at Pine while he and Marion raised their family of two boys and two girls. In 1967, he moved to Glide United Methodist Church where he had the title of "Minister of Community Life", to both Glide and the larger community. While at Glide, Lloyd also served as chair of the San Francisco United Methodist Mission, (SFUMM), at 2012 Pine Street, in which capacity he was instrumental in arranging for its agreement to let United Japanese Community Services, (UJCS), comprised of Kimochi, JCYC, and Japanese Community Services, (JCS), use the building rent free. After Kimochi moved into its own space and JCS disbanded, JCYC remained at reduced rent, and eventually the SFUMM helped it purchase the building.

In addition to JCYC, Lloyd's involvement in the community has included being a long time member of the Golden Gate Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens' League, (JAACL), and serving on the board of the Asian Law Caucus including, four years as its chair.

## Interview with Reverend Lloyd Wake (continued from page 1)

After retiring from the ministry, Lloyd attended a Soko Bukai meeting about the community's efforts to save the 1830 Sutter building and volunteered to be the "point person" since he "knew that active ministers were too busy to take on the job." Lloyd's leadership of the Soko Bukai during this crucial time was instrumental in bringing about the successful outcome that resulted in NLF being able to purchase the building as a permanent site for its Sutter Site preschool program. Lloyd has continued to be a staunch supporter of NLF throughout its capital campaign to purchase and make necessary renovations to the 1830 Sutter building, and we have appreciated and benefited from Lloyd's active "retirement" ever since!

### NLF Bush Site Program looking for a new home

NLF requests the community's help in searching for a new program site for one of its preschool programs. "It's like having a perfect diamond with no place to set it. In this case, the diamond is Nihonmachi Little Friends, an exceptional community-based childcare program. The setting is our site of 31 years at 2031 Bush Street where the lease will end in the fall of 2009," announced NLF Board member, Joyce Oishi. Kinmon Gakuen, (NLF's landlord), has stated its desire to use the space, including the stage, for performing arts groups.

The hunt for a new site for the 48 Bush Site preschoolers is underway, and NLF is asking others who may know of a suitable space to assist in its search. The program needs approximately 3,500 sq. ft. of indoor space with access to an outdoor area of 1,800 sq. ft. Ideally, NLF would like to find a site close to Japantown to keep its strong ties to the community. Parents whose children are enrolled in this non-profit program are drawn to NLF for its unique Japanese language and cultural programs in addition to its multicultural curriculum. Other parents have a deep affinity with Japantown having, themselves, grown up playing basketball or attending church or shopping in the neighborhood and appreciating the convenience of Japantown's many services in its central location. All parents, past and present, agree that the outstanding education and care provided by Nihonmachi Little Friends greatly eases the challenge of raising children in San Francisco and that it is an example of how committed staff and the support of the community can yield remarkable results.

Information on sites that NLF might consider can be shared with Cathy Inamasu, Executive Director, at (415) 922-8898 or [nlfchildcare@yahoo.com](mailto:nlfchildcare@yahoo.com).



Bush Site preschoolers in monkey & banana costumes for the March dance performance



Sutter Site preschoolers enjoy a tortoise during a visit from the Zoomobile in April.



Bush Site parent, Nancy Ohnuma, helped serve lunch for a Staff Appreciation event in May, while the teachers enjoyed a lunch out.

### KQED & Union Bank of California Select Asian Pacific Heritage 2008 Local Heroes

*Cathy Inamasu Honored as One of Five Outstanding Local Heroes*

Cathy Inamasu is the executive director of Nihonmachi Little Friends (NLF), a nonprofit, Japanese, bilingual and multicultural childcare organization providing families with quality, affordable childcare services in San Francisco's Japantown. Inamasu began volunteering at NLF when it opened in 1975. The following year, she joined the organization's teaching staff and, in 1987, she became the organization's executive director. Under her leadership, NLF has received numerous awards and has flourished as a respected community institution, serving more than 200 children annually through two preschool sites and an after school program.

As an advocate for social justice, Inamasu has worked to preserve the historical integrity of one of NLF's preschool sites at 1830 Sutter Street in San Francisco, and has participated in the movement to secure reparations for Japanese Americans unjustly incarcerated during World War II. Her community-minded efforts have also involved her support of Wage Plus, a group formed to enhance wages for those working in early childhood education, and of Preschool for All, a state program committed to quality preschool education for all four-year-old children statewide.

Inamasu actively participates in the Asian Pacific Islander Family Resource Network, a consortium of organizations that provide support for families in the Asian Pacific Islander communities, and is involved in the Japantown Better Neighborhood Planning Committee to improve the Japantown area and ensure its viability for future generations.

# Capital Campaign Update: More Progress Made, Less Than \$400,000 To Go

by Tracie Brown and Makiko Kambayashi

Since the last issue of *Scoop*, the Capital Campaign has made substantial strides toward its \$2.2 million goal. First, to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of 1830 Sutter Street and the completion of its exterior renovations, NLF hosted an Open House on February 17, 2008. Attendees were treated to tours of the building, including its major exterior and interior upgrades, as well as a light lunch and lively conversation. The new exterior upgrades include the renovation of the cracked stucco, roof repair, and a brand new paint job, while the interior upgrades include seismic retrofitting, the installation of an ADA-compliant bathroom, and the replacement of operable windows. The Open House event was made even more special when Jack Hirose – already a major contributor – made the surprise announcement that he would be donating an additional \$25,000 to help NLF meet its campaign goal. Many thanks, Jack!

In addition to individual gifts from donors such as Mr. Hirose, NLF has continued to receive recognition and support from various charitable foundations to which it has applied. First, NLF received \$10,000 grants from both the Crescent Porter Hale Foundation and the Stanley S.

Langendorf Foundation. We also received approval to redirect an earlier Herbst Foundation grant from installing an elevator to refurbishing the *Noh* theater and stage in the auditorium. Most recently, we received a \$40,000 grant from the Ishiyama Foundation for general renovations. Much of that grant will likely be going toward acquiring roof tiles to match the existing roof – not an inexpensive proposition! We hope that the roof repair will be completed by June.

Speaking of June, NLF will be following the Open House with another event to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 1830 Sutter Street. On Thursday, June 12, 2008, NLF will host a reception at Yoshi's Jazz Club and Japanese Restaurant, at 1330 Fillmore Street in San Francisco's Fillmore District. The evening will start with light refreshments from 6-8 pm, followed by what will be a very memorable performance by Keiko Matsui, one of jazz's premier composer/keybordists. Space is limited, so please contact NLF to reserve your ticket (\$75/person) today. We hope to see you there.

Finally, don't forget that there is still room available on the beautiful *Issei*

Women's Legacy Donor Wall that graces the main entryway of 1830 Sutter Street. Names will be added by NLF's November anniversary event for new donors starting at \$5,000 level and those who increase their donor level.

Please contact NLF at (415) 922-8898 or [nlfchildcare@yahoo.com](mailto:nlfchildcare@yahoo.com) if you can help NLF raise the final \$400,000 toward its Capital Campaign goal.



Feb. 2008 Open House at 1830 Sutter Street building

## 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.
- \* Escript is an easy way to have a portion of your shopping go directly to NLF. Just go to [Escript.com](http://Escript.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: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Fax: 415-922-0135

Email: NLFChildcare@yahoo.com



NLF After School Program students visit radio station, KUSF, at the University of S.F., in preparation for their March 2008 dance performance which was set in a radio station.

### SAVE THE DATES:

*Thurs., June 12th, Evening at  
Yoshii's*

*Sat., Sept. 27th, 11am-  
2pm, "NLF Family Picnic" at  
Julius Kahn Park*

## Wish List

Scratch paper and envelopes for the  
children's art area

Desktop copier



Bush and Sutter preschoolers marched in the annual  
Cherry Blossom Festival in April.