Executive Notes by Cathy Inamasu

Happy New Year! As we usher in the new decade with much hope, there is also a sense of accomplishment from this past year which we would like to share with you through this issue of The Scoop.

In reflecting upon the success of the organization over its years, NLF is truly fortunate to have a great team of dedicated staff members, who continue to amaze us with their creativity and warm hearts in working with the students and their families. One of these extraordinary individuals is Fen Xiao, who has worked with NLF for 25 years and recently retired at the end of December. Fen is the consummate teacher – providing children with what they need to continue to grow and develop to their potential, nurturing their hearts, minds and bodies; working well with others and being a wonderful role model to all; and always giving selflessly of herself. Although Fen-sensei will continue to substitute for us, we wish her all the best and thank her for all she has contributed to the growth of the children, parents, staff, and the organization! Fen-sensei, DŌMO ARIGATŌ GOZAIMASU!

May 2020, the Year of the Rat, be a joyful and healthy one!

Preschool Partnership with Exploratorium by Holly Dela Cruz

In spring of 2019, NLF’s preschool was honored to be invited to be part of the STEAM Starters Project: Changing children’s lives through science and art explorations, a collaboration with the Exploratorium’s Tinkering Studio and the California Department of Education. The project goal is to design, develop and test STEAM-rich learning experiences in early childhood classrooms.

Tinkering is an approach to teaching and learning. It is grounded in playful inquiry and connects art, science and technology. The big ideas come from the children. Because children are natural scientists, they are always seeking new discoveries. Our role as teachers, as advocates, in early childhood education classrooms is to guide and support them in their daily investigations by paying attention to and making the most of the critical moments of discovery.

The partnership includes 4 NLF teachers working with the Tinkering Studio team to plan how to integrate STEAM-starter activities into the classrooms; closely collaborating for a period of 4 months (May to August 2019) to develop new prototypes to be built and tested in the classrooms and debriefed after each session; and documenting observations of the children’s learning trajectories while engaged in activities.

“Knowledge emerges only through invention and re-invention, through the restless, impatient, continuing, hopeful inquiry human beings pursue in the world, with the world, and with each other.” – Paulo Freire

continued on page 2
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This exciting partnership will culminate with NLF staff contributing to the development and participation in a professional development workshop for the early childhood education field, in early spring of 2020.

**Preschool Partnership with Exploratorium** by Holly Dela Cruz (continued)

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**NLF’s Core Values in Action** by Yuji Uchida & Maya Yoshikawa

NLF’s staff revisited its educational philosophy and established the core values that were most important to what we want to instill in the students. During NLF’s 44th Anniversary celebration in November, we presented a power point to further illuminate these core values, some of which is shared here:

- **Omoiyari 思いやり** is a selfless behavior which means to be caring, considerate and compassionate towards others and their needs. At the school, we often observe children asking others “Are you okay?” or “Do you need a band aid?” when they see their friends are hurt or crying.

- **Nintai 忍耐** means perseverance. This is displayed when children patiently wait in line for a turn, or being persistent in their attempts to create what they imagined.

- **Kansha 感謝** means to be thankful, appreciative, sincere, caring and respectful. The easiest way to understand the meaning of Kansha is the phrase “Arigato” (thank you) and “Itadakimasu” (I accept this with deep appreciation). Kansha is encouraged throughout the day.

- **Souzousei 創造性** means to be creative. Our children today will live in a future where they have to be innovative pioneers. The children turned the wood blocks and sensory beam into a musical band, and scrap cups became a beautiful tower.

- **Gakumon 学問** means learning. Learning moments happen when a child raises a question, and with that curiosity, a journey of inquiry and investigation starts.

We continue each day to establish and live with our values. Taking this special journey with the children, it is our hope that they will carry on these values as the next generation of NLF alumni to be.
Nihonmachi Little Friends’ Legacy Donor Recognition

In 2012 Nihonmachi Little Friends began its capital campaign to create a new building that, along with the historic 1830 Sutter Issei Women’s Legacy building, would be a permanent home for its preschool programs. Inspired by the action of planting a seed that would one day grow to be a beautiful tree, the “Tané Maki” or Plant a Seed Campaign was begun. Reflecting qualities of strength, beauty, flexibility and steadfastness, the theme for recognition on the **Major Donor Board** is traditional Japanese trees.

**Levels of Giving**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Symbols</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$250,000+</td>
<td>Ginkgo ごINKO樹(いちょう)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,000+</td>
<td>Bamboo 竹(たけ)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50,000+</td>
<td>Maple 鉢(もみじ)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$25,000+</td>
<td>Pine 松(まつ)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$10,000+</td>
<td>Oak 杉(かしわ)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$5,000+</td>
<td>Cherry 桜(さくら)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Traditional songs that pass along culture and teach language are an integral part of the NLF experience. For our **Community Level Donor Song Board**, NLF will recognize donors in three categories represented by a few of our most well recognized children’s songs.

**Levels of Giving**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Songs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$3,500+</td>
<td>Koinobori Carp Streamers こいのぼり</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2,500+</td>
<td>Okina Taiko The Big Drum おおきなたいこ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,000+</td>
<td>Kaeru no Uta The Frog Song かえるのうた</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank You to Our Supporters

Along with our families of enrolled students, we would like to acknowledge the following individuals who generously contributed to NLF in 2019:

Grace Abiko
Melinda Candano
Elmer & Amybelle Capule
Howard Chabner
Ying Lung Chuang & Sean Ellsworth
Linda Cicero
Emil & Maggie De Guzman
Grant Din & Rosalyn Tonai
Robert & Arleene Drechsler
Rich Eijima & Tami Suzuki,
  in memory of Warren & June Eijima
Curtis & Lanessa Erickson
Mary Erickson-Ishisaki
Aldo & Mitsuko Espinoza
Gail Horita Gee
Mike Grisso, Kilroy Realty Corp.,
  in memory of Hatsuro & Amey Aizawa
Scott & Satoe Haile
Judy Hamaguchi
Tim Hamano & Jamie Totsubo
Charles Han & Susan Kobayashi
Robert Herrold
Peter Herzstein & Sharon Sasaki
Jeanie Hibino
Kenneth & Yoshiko Ho
Steven Holland & Tracie Brown
Kent & Deanna Iwamiya
Lance & Mindy Iwanaka
Wesley & Jenny Joe
Raymond Ju & Susan Fukuhara-Ju
Manny Kalontzakis & Bessie Mitskaris
Makiko Kambayashi
Masato & Alice Kawahatsu
Robert Kawano & Mary Eijima
Scott Kirkman
Shunsuke & Yukiko Kurakata
Lee Kusumoto
Dan Lee & Junko Tanaka
Dii Lewis & Joyce Oishi
Fey San Lodde
Ben Lopez & Ema Williams
Emma Louie
Jonathon & Janet Low
John & Shirley Lui
Don Mar
Maria Matsu
Robert & Diane Matsumura
Dale Minami & Ai Mori
Wendell Miura
James & Keiko Moore
Nelson & Bev Nagai
Kaz & Chizuko Naganuma
Alice Nakahata
Yasu ko Nakamura
Kay Nomura
Rose Oda
Akiyoshi & Kayo Oshima
Hide Oshima
John Ota & Mari Matsumoto
Miyo Ota
Kevin & Cori Pagano
Elise Phillips
Noelle Poole
Eugene Pulliam
Lisa Quan
Rosa Rankin
Miko Rose
Robert Rusky & Karen Kai
Robert & Alicia Sakai
Leigh Sata & Wendy Chin
Yuki Seiki
Tad & Christine Sekino
Terry Shelton & Lisa Wong
Ross Shimabukuro
George Shimizu
Lawrence Shore & Sandra Yuen
Doug Steedman & Kazumi Matsuyama
Kenji Taguma
Ken & Kiyomi Takeda
Neal Taniguchi & Emily Murase
Denise Teraoka
Lawrence Terry & Cynthia Tsuchimoto
Grant Tomioka
David Walton & Machiko Nakatani
Jay Wang
Jarred & Keiko Wilson
Eugene Wing & Lin Ishihara
Jimmy Wong & Jerrica Hau
Wendy Wong
Raymond Woo & Adrienne Shiozaki-Woo
Shang Ying Zhu
Wayne & Anna Yamaguchi
Daniel Yokomizo
Todd & Shirley Yoshida
Shellin Young

Over 420 participated in NLF’s annual 5K Run/Walk in October.
Photo credit: Takeshi Moro

Chef and owner Andy Tonozuka (center right) and his chefs from We Be Sushi served a variety of delicious sushi to our guests at the Sushi Social in November.
Photo credit: Kaz Lewis

UPS representative Kevin O’Brien and NLF alum parent, Scott Mamiya presented NLF with a check for $5,000.
Photo credit: Susie Kagami
The end of 2019 and the start of 2020, is the perfect occasion for us to reflect on and celebrate what we are thankful for.

**Tane Maki Garden.** Our Tane Maki (Plant a Seed) Garden project, the front garden of the preschool addition, is completed thanks to Charles Stewart, a landscape designer, who graciously donated his services. As a Japanese-inspired garden, it features traditional Japanese plants and flowers such as bamboo, maple, camellia, and hydrangea, along with hardscape elements such as boulders and roof tile borders, and adds a welcoming, soft touch to the contemporary building.

**1830 Sutter Restoration Projects.** With recently secured preservation funds through an American Express/National Trust for Historic Preservation grant and Crescent Porter Hale Foundation, we are in the process of embarking on much-needed exterior work on our historic building, including the repair and replacement of exterior windows, stucco repair, and painting of the building’s exterior.

**Tanabata Sake Tasting & Pairing.** We celebrated Tanabata with two intimate sittings of sake tasting and food pairing. Curated by Kenshin Sake, a San Francisco based online sake store, the afternoon offered our guests a relaxed, yet elegant opportunity to sample different regional styles of sake and to savor delicious small bites. We are hoping to invite Kenshin Sake back again this summer.

**1830 Sutter Documentary Film Project.** As a part of our ongoing effort to create a lasting legacy for 1830 Sutter, we launched a documentary film project last year. Through “Reaching for Justice - the Triumph of 1830 Sutter” (working title), we hope to make the story of the building a prominent part of Japanese American history and San Francisco history. So far, we have secured $10,000 in seed funding from the California Civil Liberties Project and got started on archival research. Stay tuned for further details and progress on this project.

While we have made great strides and are appreciative of your generosity, we have much more to accomplish in the coming years. Fundraising for the building addition is continuing as the construction costs were greater than anticipated. Your gift will also ensure continued preservation and retention of the historic facility for greater community use. Naming opportunities are still available starting at $1,000, with recognition on beautiful donor boards prominently displayed in the lobby. On behalf of the children, their families, our staff, and board, we thank you for your continued support and generosity.
“The Passing Wind Project” (It’s not what you think) by Nick Li

This school year at the After School Program, we wanted to get the kids excited about science and STEAM, so we took them on a fieldtrip to the SF Exploratorium in hopes that they could see really interesting STEAM principles in action! From there, we assessed what exhibits the children found engaging and followed up on those interests.

After the Exploratorium fieldtrip, our group did some brainstorming. During this process they discussed what they saw, heard, touched; what made an impression on them; could they replicate the effect; and have we seen this in real life.

Each group has slowly been finding its own way, but my group, humorously dubbed “The Passing Wind”, wanted to explore the movement of air and its effects on the natural world.

For this project, the 3rd to 5th grade students hope to be able to: 1) explore the movement of air; 2) figure out how to make the movement of air visible; 3) explain the “feeling” of air (air resistance/pressure); and 4) harness the power of moving air to do cool things.

As an educator, my hopes for this project are: 1) to get the children excited about different scientific concepts; 2) be able to apply those concepts to the real world; and 3) to explore, navigate, and learn alongside the students.

We decided to do some experiments to see if we could figure out some of the mechanisms of some of the exhibits that we saw. We decided to focus on the blowers, fans, and explore making a wind tunnel.

Together, the group explored the idea of laminar flow, an important concept related to wind tunnels. We found that a lot of our early experiments were not working as intended because the air that was being moved by the fan/blower was creating turbulent air, and after some research, we found we needed to instead create Laminar flow.

Laminar flow works with both air and water, so we attempted to refine some of the experiments, and try some new ones. Because we wanted to see this effect in a more visible form, we proceeded to make a Laminar flow nozzle. With such a device, we can see how a constant laminar stream can support an object or fountain.

After much experimentation, we continued to adjust the Laminar flow nozzle and the blowers. We also hope to carry some of these principles over and use them to make a wind tunnel, where we can see how different shapes can affect air flow, current, pressure and resistance.

These experiments were displayed in our “Mini Exploratorium” exhibition, held in mid-December, along with the other students’ projects. Another group of 3rd-5th graders created a stop-motion video of the making of spaghetti involving non-food items. A few other projects are shown below.

Photo credit: Kristen Jeong

The K-2nd graders explored creating with everyday materials. A few of their inventions included a mechanical baseball game with a sling shot to pitch a ball and a bat made of cardboard tubing connected to a rotating plate (above right), and a cup crusher to reduce the volume of waste (above left).

Photo credit: Kristen Jeong

Using peg boards and items they had at ASP, such as rubberbands, tubing, bells, and rails, a group of 3rd-5th graders created a pachinko-like marble race which incorporated use of their 5 senses.
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).

* **Online Donation:** Give online through our website at www.nlfchildcare.org. If your employer matches donations, you can double your gift!

* **Mail-In Donations:** Checks should be made payable to NLF, 1830 Sutter Street, SF, CA 94115

* **Amazon Smile** Visit www.amazonsmile.com and select charity: Nihonmachi Little Friends, and a portion of proceeds comes back to NLF!

* **United Way of the Bay Area** provides funds to NLF if you use code number 3251.

* **Remember NLF in your will or estate planning.**

NLF is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.
SAVE THE DATE:
Dowa No Omatsuri: A Festival of Children’s Stories Fundraiser
Sunday, February 23, 2020, 12:00–4:00 pm
Palace of Fine Arts Theatre

Nihonmachi “Big” Friends musicians performed at NLF’s 44th Anniversary gala.
Photo credit: Kaz Lewis

Staff and parents of alumni enjoy catching up at the Sushi Social
Photo credit: Kaz Lewis

Preschoolers always have fun with the tamaire at their annual Undoukai Sports Day in the Spring.
Photo credit: Susie Kagami

Preschoolers enjoyed starting their Summer Festival off with an odori (dance) on the rooftop playground.