



# The Scoop

## *Executive Notes by Cathy Inamasu*

NLF was just a seed of an idea in 1974 when its organizing committee first came together to discuss the possibility of starting a Japanese bilingual preschool-age program to serve Japantown. 38 years later, NLF is striving to plant a new seed for the future of NLF's programs and on-going generations of children. The campaign will finally secure a space for NLF's Bush Street site, and increase enrollment to help meet the needs of its long waiting list. Please read more about our "Plant A Seed" Campaign in this issue.

It's been another active and productive year for the agency. In addition to starting a new building project, the programs have gone through some administrative changes. We had to say "good-bye" to our Sutter Site manager, Chie Kuboyama, as she relocated with her family to Taiwan; welcomed Yuji Uchida as the new site manager; congratulated co-site manager, Maya Yoshikawa on the birth of her second child; dealt with budget cuts from the California Department of Education that impacted low-income families; held a successful strategic planning session and architectural charrette with the staff, board and capital campaign members; continued to have full enrollment at our After School Program despite public school bus cuts in service which prevented many of our families from accessing our program this year; maintained our success-

ful fundraising events of Dowa no Omatsuri and the Cherry Blossom Festival, in spite of the downturned economy; and saw one of our largest preschool graduating classes of 44 children, prepared and ready to continue onto kindergarten. Quite a year, thanks to our dedicated staff, parents, board and committee members!

As the holidays are upon us, we'd like to say a heart-felt thank you to all of you for continuing to show your support for the organization and programs in many different ways throughout the years. It's amazing how the NLF family circle grows wider and stretches farther as time goes on. From all of us at NLF, we wish you and your families a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season and may 2013 be a brighter year for all!



Sutter Site preschoolers enjoying tamagotchi at doukai in October.

## *Capital Campaign Update by Makiko Kambayashi*

This November marked the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of 1830 Sutter Street, a building rich with history for both Nihonmachi Little Friends (NLF) and the entire Japantown community. NLF hopes to celebrate that important milestone by reaching one of its own: raising \$200,000 as seed money to successfully launch our Plant A Seed Campaign (PASC). We hope *you* will be a part of that achievement. Please read on to find out about the campaign and how you can help.

*What is the purpose of the Plant A Seed Campaign?* Through the \$3.5 million (note: this is a working goal) Plant A Seed Campaign (PASC), NLF is creating a new preschool building addition on the lot adjoining its historic Julia Morgan-designed 1830 Sutter Street building. The proposed site will replace the current Bush preschool site, allowing NLF to increase enrollment and improve its preschool facilities, while respectfully acknowledging and preserving the historic 1830 Sutter Street building.

*What are the key features of the new facility?* The proposed building will enable NLF to increase its total preschool capacity to 92 children and expand its services to meet the growing demand for its programs. New large classroom space will enjoy natural light and feature an open-space configuration to provide the greatest flexibility in use. Amenities to

support the preschool's music, science, and art activities will be designed in the classroom space for ease of use by the children. Room acoustics will be designed to ensure quiet for those essential nap times. A rooftop playground and garden will provide space for outdoor play and learning activities. An elevator will provide universal access to all levels of both the new preschool addition and the historic Sutter Street building.

*Where are we in the planning process?* HKIT Architects, NLF's architectural partner for the project, have shared floor plans at the recently held Sushi Social. HKIT's design team is currently working with the PASC Committee to develop the schematics of the building's interior



Board member, Dai Yoshida, his wife, Miho and Capital Campaign Coordinator, Makiko Kambayashi at Sushi Social. Photo courtesy of William Lee, Nichi Bei Weekly.

## Capital Campaign Update (continue)

and exterior, which reflect the seasonality of Japanese architecture. NLF is planning to meet early next year with adjacent neighbors, businesses and community-based organizations to ensure that their concerns are being addressed during this process. As for marketing, NDD Creative is currently helping NLF design a PASC T-shirt with the new campaign logo. Available in Youth sizes S-L, and Adult sizes S-XXL, these tees will be for sale in early 2013.

*Can we pull this campaign off?* With your help, we can! In its first capital campaign that concluded in early 2010,

NLF successfully raised over \$2.3 million for the purchase and restoration of 1830 Sutter Street that encompassed renovation of the *Noh* Theater, reroofing of the roof, and remodeling of the kitchen and children's restroom. The majority of the last campaign committee members are very much involved in the current campaign. With the caring dedication of our supporters like you, we are confident in creating a new legacy for Japantown, and the next generations of young people who will carry on our community and ensure its future.

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Master Chef Izumi Miyazawa (left) and Chef Masanobu Sato (far right) and associates created an array of delicious sushi.

*Photo courtesy of John Nagano, Nichi Bei Weekly.*

## Sushi Social by Susan Kobayashi

On Friday, November 16th, NLF and our supporters gathered at our 1830 Sutter Street site for NLF's annual Sushi Social commemorating the 37<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NLF, the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1830 Sutter Site and the 10<sup>th</sup> year since the settlement of the community lawsuit against the San Francisco YWCA. Attendees enjoyed an array of delicious sushi made by Master Chef Izumi Miyazawa, Chef Masanobu Sato, and their associates, as well as a tantalizing assortment of other dinner courses, desserts, sake and other drinks.

The program kicked off with a rousing speech by Consul General of Japan, Hiroshi Inomata. Capital Campaign Committee member and former parent and board member, Karen Kai then introduced the event's honoree, Hats Aizawa. Hats Aizawa, honorary co-chair of NLF's first Capital Campaign, and his wife Amey, were honored for their dedicated support of Little Friends. A nephew of the Aizawa's, Lon Hatamiya, took the stage to speak about his uncle and the influence Hats had on his own commitment to community service. NLF children presented the Aizawas with flowers and a beautiful plaque recognizing their significant contribution to NLF and the community. A larger version of the plaque, adorned with photographs of the Aizawas, will be permanently installed at the entrance of the Sutter Site building.

Karen Kai then broke the big news that NLF is embarking on an important capital campaign to build a new building



Hats and Amey Aizawa in front of the model of their plaque. *Photo courtesy of William Lee, Nichi Bei Weekly.*

on the lot next door to the current Sutter Site. The motto for the campaign is "Plant A Seed". Just as the 1830 Sutter Site building and the programs housed in it are the result of the seed planted 80 years ago by a group of hard-working Issei women, we invite our generation to plant a seed for future Japantown genera-



Honoree, Hats Aizawa and wife Amey received their plaque from NLF children.

*Photo courtesy of John Nagano, Nichi Bei Weekly.*

tions. This is a very exciting development because it will mean that the entire preschool will have a permanent home and, for the first time, both programs be housed in one contiguous structure. This will allow for greater coordination between the two programs as well as on-going cost savings.

After a broad and thorough review of the ten architectural firms that submitted proposals, the NLF Board and Capital Campaign Committee selected HKIT Architects to design the building, which we expect will become a landmark in Japantown. Director of Design, Rod Henmi, and Senior Associate, Tad Sekino, who are both active members of the Bay Area Japanese American community, attended the Sushi Social. Rod, presented the preliminary design work so far which include a rooftop playground, a double-height lobby, and connections to the current building.

Joyce Oishi, Board Member, Capital Campaign Committee member and former parent, followed the architectural presentation with a heartfelt and inspirational call to the community to join in the "Plant A Seed" Campaign. As Joyce eloquently put it, "This is our chance to leave our legacy for the next generation."

Over 140 supporters attended the Sushi Social this year. Funds raised at the event will go towards the Plant A Seed Campaign, as well as for NLF's programs. Thank you to all who participated!

## Capital Campaign Update (continue)

**What is the \$100,000 Challenge Fund?** The Plant A Seed Campaign is the next step in NLF's commitment to the future of San Francisco's Japantown community. To this end, NLF Board, Staff, PASC Committee, along with current NLF parents have stepped forward and vowed to match up to \$100,000 in funds donated toward the Plant A Seed Campaign. A gift or pledge of any amount would be much appreciated. Take advantage of a 2012 tax-deductible contribution before the end of this month! The deadline for the challenge is Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. We hope you will take this opportunity and become a part of our growing community of supporters!

Thank you for your support and investment in NLF. For more information on how you can participate in the Plant A Seed Campaign, please contact NLF via phone at (415) 922-8898 or e-mail [nlfchildcare@gmail.com](mailto:nlfchildcare@gmail.com).



Families enjoyed another successful preschool Halloween party!



Bush Site preschoolers enjoyed walking around Japantown in their costumes made at school.



Can you guess what these Sutter Site preschoolers are? Too cute!

## Ways to Support NLF

**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](http://Escript.com) and follow the directions to register.

**Building Fund:** Your contribution will go toward the Plant A Seed Campaign to build a new Sutter Street preschool building addition. **Remember, your donation/pledge will be matched dollar-for-dollar—doubling your investment if it is received by January 31, 2013.**

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

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

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

**Credit Card Donors:**

Name as it appears on the card: \_\_\_\_\_  
Card number: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Online Donation:** You can give online through our website at [www.nlfchildcare.org](http://www.nlfchildcare.org)

**Remember NLF in your will or estate planning. Donate Your Car to NLF by calling 877-411-3662 for free pick-up.**

**NLF is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.**



# Nihonmachi LITTLE FRIENDS™

Japanese Bilingual & Multicultural Childcare

## NIHONMACHI LITTLE FRIENDS

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### SAVE THE DATE:

*Dowa No Omatsuri: A Festival of  
Children's Stories Fundraiser*

*Sunday, Feb. 24th 12:00pm –4:00pm*

*Palace of Fine Arts Theatre*



ASP students worked on their egg experiment during group time.



ASP students enjoyed making their own salad shakers during group time to promote healthy eating.

### 2012 ALUMNI NEWS

*Sean Bennett* was promoted to Corps de Ballet with the San Francisco Ballet.

*Candace Fleming* is recently engaged, and just graduated from nursing school.

*Shohei Takatani* and his wife celebrated the birth of their first child, a baby girl.



Chizuru Kineya, Melody Takata, and Tatsu Aoki performed during the Toyoakimoto CD release concert on July 29th in NLF's Tateuchi Auditorium.