



**Nihonmachi**  
LITTLE FRIENDS™

Japanese Bilingual & Multicultural Childcare

# The Scoop

## Executive Notes by Cathy Inamasu

This past year has been an eventful one with the construction of NLF's preschool addition to our historic 1830 Sutter facility. Construction began in November 2015, and is expected to be completed in early 2017. The staff is working hard to design the interior of the new classroom, the outdoor rooftop playground, and develop a new schedule for students in both classrooms. It will be a challenging year, but a very significant one in NLF's history.

We can't express enough, our gratitude to those who have contributed and continue to contribute to NLF's programs and building campaign over the past 41 years. Your support has enabled us to achieve all that we have been able to accomplish.

We look forward to a grand celebration with all of you, to open our new expanded facility in 2017!

From all of us at NLF, may you have a Wonderful Holiday Season, and a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year!

*"When you are asking questions, I think it is important that we [teachers] are also curious...I want to ask questions that I don't already know the answer to. I want to know what they are thinking."*



Misa Okayama, Teacher  
Nihonmachi Little Friends

Congratulations to Misa sensei on receiving the First 5 Preschool For All "Excellence in Teaching" Award in May 2016 recognizing her exemplary work with children. We are so lucky to have her at NLF!

Slide courtesy of Preschool For All

## NLF's Sushi Social

NLF celebrated its 41<sup>st</sup> Anniversary with its "Sushi Social" on Friday, November 18, 2016, at its 1830 Sutter Street building with nearly 200 in attendance. A delicious assortment of sushi was prepared by Chef Masanobu "Massy" Sato, Master Chef Izumi Miyazawa, and their associates. Sato-san, who came up with the idea for NLF to host a "Sushi Social" many years ago, will unfortunately be relocating to Japan at the end of the year, so after many wonderful years, this may have been his last one. NLF truly appreciates his dedication and support, and wishes him all the best!

The evening's events included a program in the **Tateuchi Auditorium** with Capital Campaign Committee Members, **Susan Kobayashi** and **Joyce Oishi**, serving as co-emcees. They introduced **Consul General Jun Yamada**, who greeted guests with warm welcoming remarks; and the honorees for the evening, **June-ko Nakagawa** and **Benh Nakajo** (represented by his brother Steve Nakajo). Both June-ko and Benh have been long-time supporters of NLF and have served as co-emcees of its annual "Dowa no Omatsuri" performance at the Palace of Fine Arts Theater for many years.



Honoree June-ko Nakagawa with Steve Nakajo accepting on behalf of his brother, Benh Nakajo.

Photo courtesy of Kenji Taguma



Honoree Benh Nakajo.

Photo courtesy of Miki Heitzman



Consul General Jun Yamada gave welcoming remarks.

Photo courtesy of Kenji Taguma

## NLF's Sushi Social (continued)

Following the presentation to the honorees was a musical presentation by well-known musicians, **Anthony Brown, Mark Izu and Masaru Koga**. They performed two original jazz pieces and did a final number with students of NLF singing the "Okina Taiko" song.

The program ended with a power point presentation which included an update

on the preschool building addition, the importance of outdoor education and play in relation to the development of the new rooftop playground, and many ways people can still contribute to the building campaign, including naming opportunities beginning at the \$1,000 level. The evening was a huge success with new and old friends, food, drinks, entertainment and a heart-warming program.



Jazz Trio

Photo by Kenji Taguma



NLF children performing "Okina Taiko" with musicians, Anthony Brown, Mark Izu and Masaru Koga.

Photo by Kenji Taguma

## NLF 5K Run/Walk

Under sunny and blue skies, NLF's third Big Steps for Little Friends 5K Run/Walk took place on Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup> in Lindley Meadows at Golden Gate Park. Over 400 participants either ran or walked the route which started in the adjacent Polo Fields, enjoyed brunch refreshments, joined Zumba, and entered into a fun raffle. Prizes were presented to **Tim Cheng** (fastest adult male), **Michi Toki** (faster adult female), NLF

alumnus **Emi Steedman** (fastest youth), and **Shogo Stanfield** (the youth who collected all 24 bracelets from the volunteers along the full route).

The energizing Zumba was provided by licensed instructor and proud mother of two, **Angie Hirano**. She currently teaches at the Oakland Y and Lake Merritt Dance Center in Oakland. Her mission is to motivate people to live a happier and healthier lifestyle through the Zumba fitness program. Angie is also leading a community fundraising effort to fund local non-profit agencies serving people in need. Zumbathon charity events highlight local Zumba instructors who collaborate and give back to the community. Learn more about Angie by visiting [www.ashin.zumba.com](http://www.ashin.zumba.com).

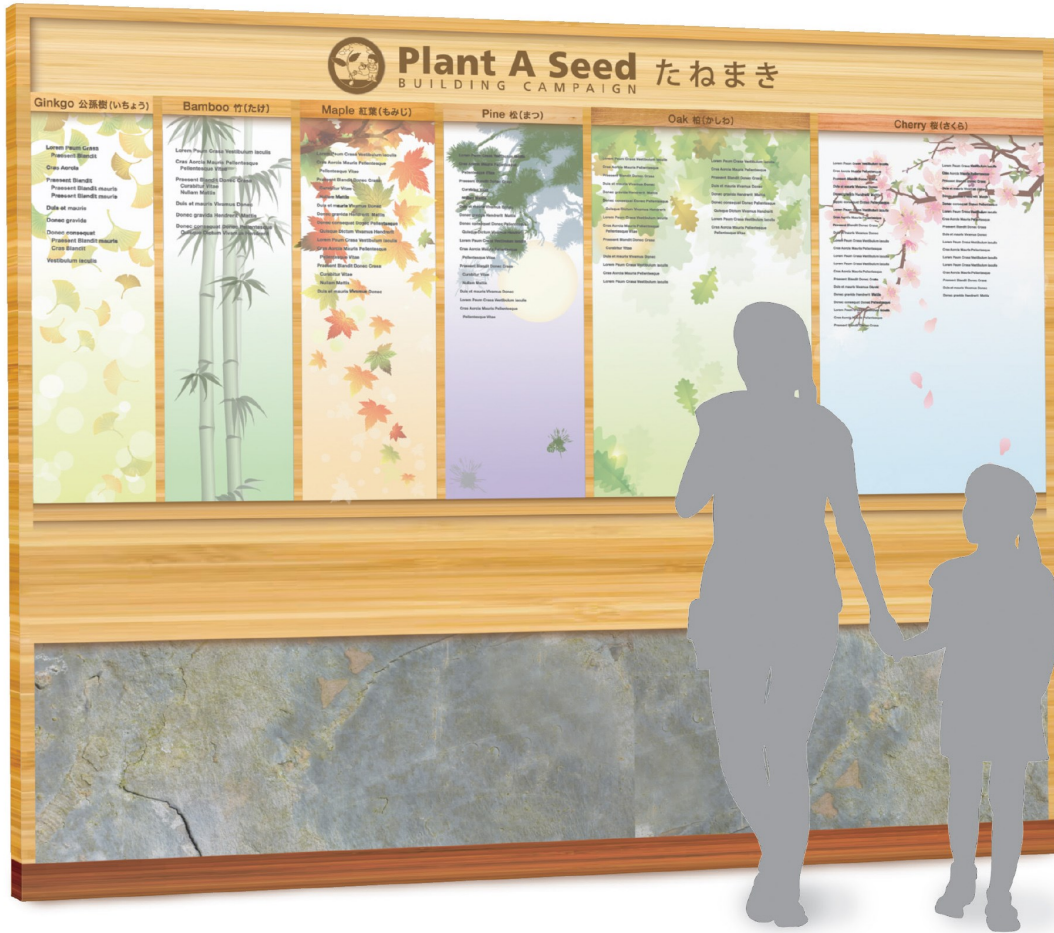
Special acknowledgments go to Event Sponsors, **Paragon Real Estate Group; Clint K Taura, DDS; Xperience2; New York Life; J Weekly**; and to food donors, **Wise Sons; Whole Foods; and Peets' Coffee**. Also, a big thank you to **Sound Innovations**, for donating their services and equipment that morning. The 5K Event organizing committee did an incredible job in making this fundraising event a huge success while encouraging fitness!



5K Fun for all ages!

Photos by Susie Kagami

# Nihonmachi Little Friends' Plant a Seed (Tané Maki) Campaign Major Donor Board



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. Through the generosity of many donors, NLF's dream is coming true.

Reflecting qualities of strength, beauty, richness, flexibility and steadfastness; the theme for recognition of the major donors to the Tané Maki/Plant a Seed Campaign is traditional Japanese trees. With thanks for helping NLF continue to grow and pass on the rich cultural and community heritage of Japantown, major donors will be listed in a specially created display in the main lobby of the new building:

## Levels of Giving

\$250,000+	\$100,000+	\$50,000+	\$25,000+	\$10,000+	\$5,000+
Ginkgo 公孫樹 (いちちょう)	Bamboo 竹 (たけ)	Maple 紅葉 (もみじ)	Pine 松 (まつ)	Oak 栢 (かしわ)	Cherry 桜 (さくら)
					



# Halloween Party Project at the After School Program (ASP)

In the early fall, the After School Program (ASP) teachers spent time observing the 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> graders in free play to see what they were interested in, which could lead to a possible project. The students started using a cooler (ice chest) in their play to pull their friends around the playground. They were also into designing their own games with rules and objectives. Thus, the idea of creating and organizing the ASP's annual Halloween Party was conceived.

In the process of developing the event, the students discussed and

used their understanding and empathy skills to figure out how to make the activities appropriate for the different age groups. As they wanted to utilize real tools, risk-taking discussions occurred with the building of the actual props. Some of the problems they needed to solve were how to modify the roller coaster to make it work indoors and function quieter; and how to construct the "ASP Avenue" so it resembled what many fondly remembered of the preschool's Halloween trick-or-treating "neighborhood". ASP parent, Aldo Espinoza, was invited to be a guest presenter and assist the students with their construction.

The event was a success and great fun for all. The students learned much from the project. They discovered it was very tiring pulling the kids in the roller coaster, the importance of explaining rules in advance to the participants, and the need to improve the marking of the path for the "ASP Avenue" and use tickets to control crowds.

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"ASP Avenue" for trick or treating.

Photo by Lisa Mizuiri



The designers of the Photo Booth tested it out.  
Photo by Lisa Mizuiri

## Your Support is Needed—Be a Part of a Legacy

**Plant a Seed (Tane Maki) Campaign Major Donor Wall:** Pledge or contribute and have your name be a permanent part of the 1830 Sutter Street building.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Amount of Pledge: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to have my name on the donor wall at the following level:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$5,000 (Cherry/Sakura)      \_\_\_\_\_ \$10,000 (Oak/Kashiwa)      \_\_\_\_\_ \$25,000 (Pine/Matsu)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50,000 (Maple/Momiji)      \_\_\_\_\_ \$100,000 (Bamboo/Take)      \_\_\_\_\_ \$250,000 (Ginkgo/Icho)

**Children's Songs Community Building Campaign Display:** Pledge or contribute and have your name be a permanent part of the Community Donor Wall.

I would like to have my name on the donor wall at the following level:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$3,500 (Koinobori/Carp Streamers)      \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000 (Kaeru no Uta/The Frog Song)      \_\_\_\_\_ \$2,500 (Okina Taiko/The Big Drum)

**Credit Card Donors:**

Name as it appears on the card: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card number: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Card Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please remit this form and contribution to: NLF, 1830 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115 (415) 922-8898

## *A Teacher's Perspective – “Anar's Spider”*

As the new building addition is almost complete, the staff is looking forward to the move and a new chapter in NLF's history. Throughout the curriculum, the teachers instill many of the Japanese values such as “*omoiyari*” (caring, respect); “*nintai*” (patience, resilience); “*kansha*” (thankful, sincere); “*souzousei*” (creative, innovative) and “*gakumon*” (lifelong learning) with the children as they play, discover, explore, investigate, and grow.

As the staff continues with the Project Approach style of teaching, we'd like to share an opportunity for learning that the Gobo Group had with a simple paper cup. Like they say, “Someone's trash can be another person's treasure”. The children's perspective on items are so different from adults.

The Sutter site preschoolers go to the After School Program often to play outdoors due to the construction of the new building addition. One day, Anar found a paper cup that was used for snack on the ground. It was flipped over and torn in several places. He claimed it was a “spider” and said,



The paper cup “spider”

Photos by Ryoko Kobayashi

“It's mine!” Ryoko sensei recognized this teachable moment and had to ponder the following questions: “Is it really his spider because he found it?” “If he wants the spider, maybe he can make one by himself so he will feel satisfied.” and “Is this a good opportunity for the children in the group to learn one of the various ways to use a paper cup for crafts?”

Anar was quite adamant that the “spider” was his even when Ryoko sensei explained that it might belong to someone else. Ryoko sensei

suggested to Anar that they examine the “spider” during group time and figure out how to make the same thing so he could return the original to the rightful owner. Being flexible, Ryoko sensei changed her group lesson plan and all the children in Gobo Group were just as excited as Anar to learn more about the “spider”.

Anar and Ryoko sensei introduced the paper cup “spider” to the Gobo Group. They carefully examined it and were excited to try and recreate it. They used their fingers at first to tear the cup but couldn't, so they used scissors to make their own unique spiders. The children then wanted to find out who the original creator was. Ryoko sensei asked them “How can we find out?”



Examining & creating their own spiders.



Anar and his very own spider!

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## *Halloween Party Project at ASP*

*(continued from page 5)*

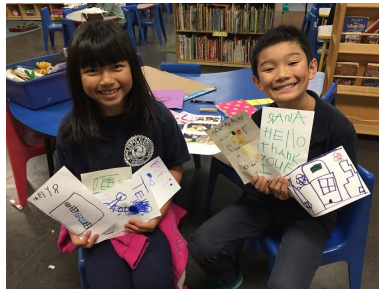


The After School Program was transformed by the 3rd through 5th Graders into the Zombie Game, Photo Booth, Haunted Roller Coaster, and trick-or-treating along “ASP Avenue” for the K to 2nd graders.

Photo by Lisa Mizuiri

## “Anar’s Spider” (continued from page 6)

The children decided they would put the original “spider” in an envelope along with their comments and questions for the owner and give it to Jack sensei who works at ASP to put it on the wall so the owner could claim it. When a teacher asked the children who made the “spider”, Maya and Nobu raised their hands. Ryoko sensei contacted them and interviewed them on video, asking the children’s questions such as, “Why did you make it?” “How did you make it?” and “Are you interested in coming to the preschool to do an activity with us?”



The “spider” creators, Maya and Nobu!

Ryoko sensei showed the interview video to the Gobo Group and they are counting the days when they can meet the creators, Maya and Nobu who will be making the spi-

ders with them. What a wonderful activity to create a connection and community between the ASP and the preschool.



The children watched Maya and Nobu’s interview.

Photos by Ryoko Kobayashi

### 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).

- \* **Online Donation:** You can give online through our website at [www.nlfchildcare.org](http://www.nlfchildcare.org)
- \* **Amazon Smile** If you shop online at Amazon.com, you can designate a portion of your purchases to go to NLF by signing up at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and select charity: Nihonmachi Little Friends.
- \* Designate your contributions through the **United Way, and Combined Charities Federal Campaign**, to go directly to NLF. NLF’s code number is 3251.
- \* **Remember NLF in your will or estate planning.**
- \* **Escrip** is an easy way to have a portion of your shopping go directly to NLF. Just go to [Escrip.com](http://Escrip.com) and follow the directions to register.
- \* **NLF is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.** Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

### Nihonmachi Little Friends

#### Staff

Holly Dela Cruz	Lisa Mizuiri
Todd Eshima	Keiko Moore
Eli Hiroi	Misa Okayama
Carmen Huang	Makiko Romero
Cathy Inamasu	Joseph Thompson
Sara Jin	Yuji Uchida
Kai Kaapana	Ryoko Weber
Asuka Kitayama	Fen Xiao
Ryoko Kobayashi	Charlene Xu
Yukie Krumholz	Yuwen Ye
Jack Lin	Olivia Yee
Naomi Miura	Maya Yoshikawa

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**Curtis Lowe**, Board Vice-Chairperson

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Joelle Matsuura	Tony Tam
Jade Nelson	Mie Yaginuma
Joyce Oishi	

#### Capital Campaign Committee

Cathy Inamasu	Kaz Naganuma
Karen Kai	Joyce Oishi
Makiko Kambayashi	Augie Phillips
Susan Kobayashi	Adrienne Shiozaki Woo
Mari Matsumoto	Cynthia Tsuchimoto



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**SAVE THE DATE:**

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

*Sunday, February 26, 2017  
12:00pm –4:00pm  
Palace of Fine Arts Theatre*



Preschool performers at last year's annual Dowa no Omatsuri performance in February.

Photo by Koji Iwata



The Bush preschoolers performed a few songs for the Seniors at the Kimochi Home for *Keiro no Hi* (respect Seniors Day).

Photo by Ryoko Weber



ASP children performed a few songs at Kokoro Assisted Living and presented an art piece to them.

Photo by Eli Hiroi



Sutter preschoolers wearing their own costume creations!

Photo by Yuji Uchida