



**Historic Preservation Commission  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, August 4, 2022  
2:00 – 4:00 PM  
City Council Conference Room, 280 Madison Ave N  
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110**

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It is recommended that attendance be in-person, in the City Hall Council Conference Room / 280 Madison Ave N, Bainbridge Island, WA, but it is also accessible via the Zoom meeting platform.

Please click the link to join the meeting: <https://bainbridgewa.zoom.us/j/92833530039>

Or iPhone one-tap: US: +12532158782, 93138375561# or +16699009128, 93138375561#

Or Telephone: +1 253 215 8782 or +1 669 900 9128 or +1 346 248 7799

or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656

[Webinar ID: 928 3353 0039](#)

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## AGENDA

### 2:00 PM Call to Order / Attendance / Conflict Disclosure

- Introductions
- Approval of Agenda for August 4, 2022
- Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 2, 2022
- Call for Public Comment

### 2:10 PM Review of Permit Applications

- Heritage Tree Register Nominations  
Commission review is in accordance with BIMC [18.24.120](#)
  - **Hubbard / Meier Nomination** City File [PLN52257 HTREE](#)
  - **Marshall Nomination** City File [PLN52238 HTREE](#)

### 2:50 PM Blakely Awards (*All*)

Review nominations and select award winner

Nominations received through August 2, 2022 close of business are attached  
(*Attachment A*)

- **Nominee for Preservation Leader:** Katy Curtis
- **Nominee for Preservation Leader:** Clarence Moriwaki

### 3:00 PM Review Revised 2022 Work Plan (*All*)

Once approved by the Commission, the plan will be submitted for review to the Planning Director and then forwarded to the City Council for consideration (*Attachment B*).

**For special accommodations, please contact Planning & Community  
Development 206-780-3750 or at [pcd@bainbridgewa.gov](mailto:pcd@bainbridgewa.gov)**



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3:20 PM Committee Updates

- Identifying Register-eligible Properties (*Chandler, Kortum*)
  - Boundary for a potential Port Blakely historic district and discussion of ideas to gauge community interest, such as a neighborhood open house (*Cliver / Kortum*)
- Public Education / Public Outreach (*Moreno*)
- Suyematsu Farm (*Hughes, with Chandler, Kortum as applicable*)
  - List of grant opportunities (*Kortum*)
  - Akio Suyematsu Day activities (*Public Interpretation Subcommittee*)
    - The HPC is invited to share the City's booth at the Farmers Market on August 6 and 27.
    - Discuss draft plan for celebration (*Attachment C*)

3:45 PM Old Business

3:50 PM New Business

3:55 PM Action Items (*Hughes*)

4:00 PM Adjourn

Call to Order (Attendance, Agenda, Ethics)  
Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 5, 2022  
Call for Public Comment  
Committee Updates  
New/Old Business  
Adjourn

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**Call to Order (Attendance, Agenda, Ethics)**

Chair Susan Hughes called the meeting to order at 2:02 PM. Commissioners in attendance were Susan Hughes, Eric Kortum, Judy Romann, Blaine Cliver and Rick Chandler. Commissioner Chris Moreno and City Council Liaison - Clarence Moriwaki were absent. City Staff present were Planning and Community Development Director – Patricia Charnas, Staff Liaison Senior Planner - Kelly Tayara, Associate Planner - Ellen Fairleigh, and Administrative Specialist - Renee Argetsinger, who monitored meeting and prepared minutes.

**Motion: I move that we approve the agenda**

**Romann / Kortum: Passed Unanimously**

The agenda was reviewed. There were not any conflicts of interest noted.

**Review & Approve Minutes – May 5, 2022**

**Motion: I'll make a motion to approve the May minutes.**

**Kortum / Romann: Passed Unanimously**

**Public Comment**

No public comment

**Review of Permit Applications:**

Planner, Ellen Fairleigh, presented details regarding Permit BLD26245 C-REP with comment from Galen Carlson and discussion by the commission. Further information is required before a decision is made.

**Motion: Postpone vote, more information required**

**Cliver / Romann: Passed Unanimously**

**Permit BLD26624 C-DEC:**

**Motion: Approve Certificate of Appropriateness**

**Kortum / Cliver: Passed Unanimously**

**Permit BLD26749 R-MEC:**

**Motion: Postpone vote, more information required**

**Cliver / Kortum: Passed Unanimously**

**Permit BLD26675 R-DEM:**

The Commission waived review– the existing structure retains little of its original character.

**Committee Updates:**

- **Identifying Register-eligible Properties**  
No update – postponed to a future meeting
- **Public Education/Public Outreach**  
Blakely properties discussed including creation of historic district and methods to include public involvement (*Hughes*)  
Farmer's Market booth planning, and attendance discussed. (*Hughes*)
- **Suyematsu Farm**  
Discussion of planning an Akio Suyematsu Day in August. Discussion about future of Suyematsu farm and what is required to stabilize and maintain buildings; applying for grants to support efforts. (*Hughes*)

**New Business**

- Discussion of reporting to City Manager of hours spent on commission work. (*Tayara*)

**Old Business**

- Update 2022 Work Plan (*Hughes/Tayara*)
- Update on Blakely Award Nominations (*Tayara*)
- FYI only, no action required – the Filipino American Community Hall's new roof (*Tayara*)

**Action Items (*Hughes*)**

- Fort Ward Bldg 16 – photographs of windows or a window sample
- Yates House – photographs showing context of heat pump in relationship to the rest of the building and the street
- Port Blakely HD boundary (*Cliver/Kortum*)
- COBI's goals and plans for Suyematsu Farm (*Schroer*)
- Start list of potential historic preservation grants for Suyematsu Farm and other historic properties – in table form (*Kortum*)
- Akio Suyematsu Day celebration planning meeting (*Suyematsu Farm Subcommittee*)
- Blakely Awards (*Hughes/Chandler*)
- 2022 Work Plan Revision (*Hughes*)

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 4:27 pm by motion.

**Motion: I move to adjourn**

**Romann / Cliver: Passed Unanimously**

# BLAKELY AWARDS NOMINATION FORM

**DUE June 15, 2022**

Nominating party: RIK CHANDLER

Contact Information: Email RIKCHANDLER44@GMAIL.COM Phone 541-790-9366

Signature: *Rick Chandler* Date: 13 JUNE 2022

\* ☒ Provide a narrative describing why the nominee is deserving of the Preservation Leader Award or Project of Excellence Award. Supporting photographs and /or documentation is encouraged.

☐ Nomination for Project of Excellence

Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Completion: \_\_\_\_\_

Design and Construction Individuals/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information (if known): Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information (if known): Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

☒ Nomination for Preservation Leader

Nominee (Individual or Organization) KATY CURTIS

Contact Information (if known): Email MEDIATE2PEACE@YAHOO.COM Phone 206-842-4943

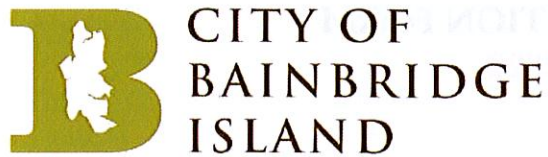
**Submit this nomination form and supporting materials to:**

Email: [pcd@bainbridgewa.gov](mailto:pcd@bainbridgewa.gov) Attn: Renee Argetsinger

Or submit in person or by mail to: City of Bainbridge Island  
Historic Preservation Commission  
280 Madison Avenue N.  
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

\* **NARRATIVE  
DESCRIBING**

**WHY NOMINEE IS DESERVING, AND SUPPORTING  
MATERIALS WILL BE SUBMITTED BY JUNE 22.**



## SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2022 BLAKELY AWARDS

The City of Bainbridge Island is seeking nominations for this year's Blakely Awards. Since 2011, Blakely Awards have recognized individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to historic preservation on the Island.

There are two nomination categories:

### **[1] Project of Excellence**

In recognition of outstanding historic preservation projects which are of significant value to the community.

To qualify as a Project of Excellence, the property should be listed on the Local Historic Register or meet the Historic Register eligibility criteria (BIMC [18.24.040](#)). The project must be located on Bainbridge Island and have been completed within the five years prior to the nomination date.

### **[2] Preservation Leader**

In recognition of community leadership in promoting historic preservation by an individual or organization.

To qualify as a Preservation Leader, the nomination should demonstrate how their efforts have advanced the cause of historic preservation in our community through public outreach and education, community leadership and promotion of historic preservation, and/or management of a significant preservation project.

Individual nominees must be Island residents or Island property owners. Organizations must conduct some historic preservation activities on the Island.

Rick's Address etc

18 June 2022

Renee Argetsinger  
City of Bainbridge Island, Historic Preservation Commission  
280 Madison Avenue N  
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Katy Curtis for the Blakely Award. Her work on Bainbridge, particularly through the Bainbridge Historical Museum, makes her truly deserving of this recognition.

I have known Katy professionally for the past XX years, most significantly through our work at the Museum when I was . . . . This was a time of growth for the Museum (Explain) and Katy's role, first as \_\_\_\_ and then as \_\_\_\_ brought a culturally enriching and inclusive voice to our process.

Katy's contributions as a Preservation Leader have been demonstrated in three concise areas:

1. Historical Museum
2. Preservation of Island Cultural Diversity
3. Education and Outreach.

In sum, Katy Curtis exemplifies the qualities necessary to promote our island's historic preservation through public outreach, education, and community leadership, and it is a privilege to nominate her for the Blakely Award.

Kathy,

It's hard to think about the BI History Museum and not think of you. The mark you have left on this institution is beyond measure. You made a place of history and memories come to life to all the students, teachers, parents and visitors whose lives you touched with your compassionate and thoughtful presence. Your educational programs were inclusive, substantive, clear, cultural, creative, lively, and inspirational. Your people still brought a unique sense of collaboration, partnerships, and community to everything you did at the museum. When I think about the hundreds, if not thousands, of students, teachers, parents, donors, and community members you served over the years through the museum's education program, it is nothing short of impressive. The all about Japanese-American experiences you created were one of a kind. You were instrumental in turning our island into a living, interactive center. You have so much to feel proud of and accomplish, during your tenure. We are all more fortunate and blessed by this chapter in your career! With deep admiration, gratitude & love,  
J.J.

## COLLABORATION

Delegation to Manzanar

Youth leaders in Social Justice

Port Madison history

Brenda Fantod-Johnson and Clarence Morikowi

Erin Grayson — Communities of faith

Charles Lawrence: A Suquamish man's life

Indopino Women — Honor their mothers

Meet TJ Faddis, Bainbridge oral history

Trans-parenting on Bainbridge

History of Crystal Springs

Our history — Dorvon and Reanna Rapada

For Love of trans

Stories of Dr. Frank Kitamoto

Vanishing Bainbridge

Equity of Bainbridge Island 2010

Hanukkah traditions

Indigenous people's day

Kay Sakai Nacho — Remembering a friend and hero

Ferry Tales with the BI Historical Museum

Stories of Bainbridge

BI Historical Museum Outreach

BI Historical Museum : Her vote, her story

## **CURRENT AFFILIATIONS**

**Co-Director, Educulture's "Only What We Can Carry" project**

**Co-Chairperson, Bainbridge Island School District's Multicultural Advisory Council**

**Community**

**BIJAC Trustee**

# Manzanar 69 Years Later

**Teachers, Park Rangers, Those Who Were There  
Learn Together What They Can Carry**

by Ken Mochizuki

**M**uch of America has seen the photo: 31-year-old Fumiko Hayashida carrying her 13-month-old, sleeping and bundled daughter Natalie as she walked down Bainbridge Island's Eagledale ferry dock on March 30, 1942.

The now-famous photo by the Seattle *Post-Intelligencer*, captured a tight-lipped Hayashida with an icy gaze expressing chaotic uncertainty yet steely resolve to confront what lay ahead as she was among the 227 Japanese American residents forced off the Island and escorted by U.S. Army soldiers to a ferry and then a waiting train in Seattle.

She also had to take along a three-year-old son and was over four months pregnant with another.

The Islanders became the first of what would eventually become some 120,000 immigrants and American citizens of Japanese descent forcibly removed from the U.S. West Coast by President Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066 during World War II. Among the 10 major incarceration camps being constructed in America's deserts and swamplands—or "relocation centers" as they were called then—one was ready enough to accommodate this first group of Japanese Americans: the Owens Valley Reception Center within the arid plains and mountains of east central California, later to be known as the Manzanar War Relocation Center.

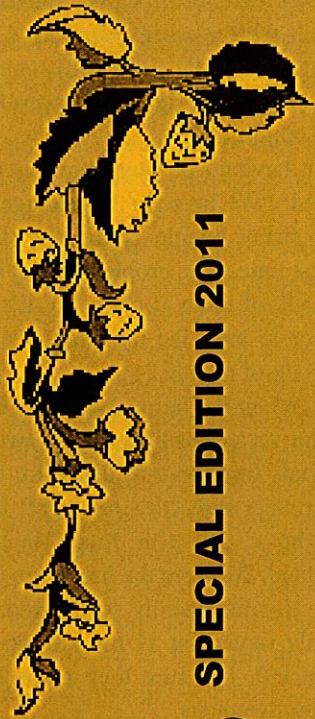
After a three-day train and then bus ride, the trip for the Bainbridge Islanders ended there, on April Fool's Day.

During April 2011, 69 years later, 100-year-old Fumiko Hayashida and daughter Natalie Hayashida Ong, 70, returned to the Manzanar site for the first time, now called the Manzanar National Historic Site and managed by the U.S. National Park Service.

On a still, sunny morning after a previous evening of roaring winds, the imposing, snow-capped Sierra Nevada mountain range to the west looked almost unreal, porcelain, like a cardboard cutout or a piece of a jigsaw puzzle, members of the "delegation" described. Upon reaching the sandy but pebble-strewn grounds of the Manzanar site, daughter Natalie helped her mother out of a minivan and into a wheelchair.

## The Moment Became an Event.

A crowd composed of three other Japanese American Islanders incarcerated at Manzanar, non-Japanese American Islanders from that time connected to those incarcerated, four faculty members from the Island's Woodward Middle School, journalists and Manzanar park rangers anxiously awaited what Hayashida's reaction would be—the icon from the photo and the oldest surviving Bainbridge Islander to have been incarcerated at Manzanar.



SPECIAL EDITION 2011

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY

BIJAC News

www.bijac.org

"Nice day," Hayashida said as cameras clicked and rolled. Natalie then began the conveyor belt of questions for her mother whenever they were on the Manzanar site. "How's it feel to be back?"

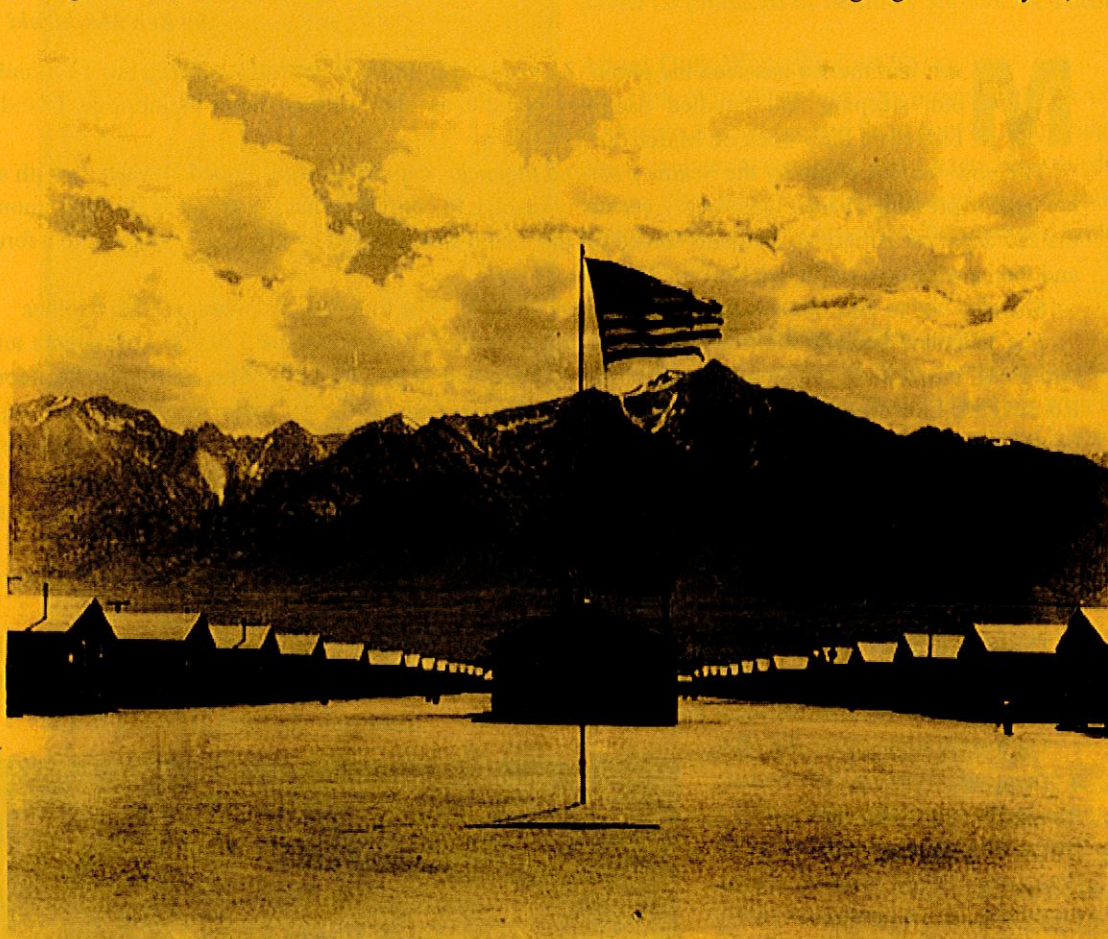
"Hard to believe ..."

"Does it make you sad?"

"She [Natalie] wasn't walking ..."

"Do you remember the mountains?"

"I knew it was the mountains... This was our home... it was a long time ago... And, I came home. I remember."



"Do you remember how pretty it was—all those mountains behind you, too? Was it kind of hazy like this in April of '42?"

"We didn't have time to look and enjoy the scenery... It was all buildings, but now, it's all sagebrush."

As Natalie then wheeled her mother into the site's interpretive center with its bookstore, museum and theaters completed in 2004, Hayashida said, "I'm glad to come back here and see all this improvement—I didn't know."

"I didn't realize I made history; I'm not the only one."

### "It's Not Right!"

From 1942~1945, the Manzanar War Relocation Center near Independence, California confined over 11,000 Japanese Americans within one square mile.

Before the showing of a 22-minute introductory film on the history of the Manzanar camp site, Park Ranger Carrie Andresen said, "I'm so happy you're here today and not yesterday because those high winds would have really changed the experience out on the site. With those winds really high, we wouldn't have been outside. We want to learn together—that's the most powerful thing that can happen."

Alisa Lynch, the site's chief of interpretation, said the Bainbridge

Islanders' trip, particularly with Hayashida aboard, almost didn't happen due to the possible government shutdown the week before.

"I was on a shutdown call with other regional directors," she recalled.

"And, I said, 'If we shut down, this is what you are destroying.'"

Lynch, who has worked at the Manzanar site since 2001, compared the Islanders' journey to the annual Manzanar Pilgrimage sponsored by the Los Angeles-based Manzanar Committee.

"I think Carrie would agree that having you guys come is one of the highlights of the year," she said. "We love the Pilgrimage when

so many people come back for the first time—the problem is that there's 1,500 of them at once. So, it's really nice to have the intimacy of a small group of people."

When the lights came up after the film, an agitated Hayashida swept her hands like a baseball umpire calling a runner safe. "It's not right! It's not right at all! I'm from Bainbridge Island. We were the first to go out!"

Natalie calmly countered: "We only stayed for 11 months, and after we left, I'm sure they made lots of improvements..."

"That's all made up!" Hayashida insisted.

Andresen interjected that "a lot of the film footage," some in color, "was taken in '43, '44, '45," after those from Bainbridge Island were allowed to transfer in February 1943 to the Minidoka War Relocation Center in south central Idaho to be with those from the Pacific Northwest.

"We could only take what we could carry," Hayashida continued. "We didn't have freedom like that, at all!"

What got her riled up was that the film didn't portray the Manzanar when the Bainbridge Island contingent arrived. In the footage, children happily played on slides and swings. Japanese mess-hall cooks served restaurant-quality Japanese food.

Natalie said of her mother's reaction to the film: "There was no playground for the children. And you would see them [in the film] being served food like at a regular cafeteria and she said it wasn't like that—we had 'K' rations. They were still building the barracks."

Lilly Kodama, 76, Fumiko Hayashida's niece and seven years old when she and her family were removed with those from Bainbridge Island, added, "I remember standing in line with Army mess kits and it wasn't Japanese food at all, but spinach out of a can that was an awful green mess."

Lynch said that, when the Islanders first arrived, there weren't even guard towers and barbed-wire fences yet. The Army enforced confinement with its military police patrolling the perimeter on foot or in vehicles. The latrine was portable even, Andresen said.

"For those who first arrived, they were getting food from the Army Quartermaster Corps," Lynch said. "The first people here were boiling their water in garbage cans to wash dishes." By the first summer, she said, those incarcerated started growing vegetables in camp.

Eventually, there was a chicken ranch, hog ranch, cattle ranch for Japanese American cowboys. But most of that was after you were gone.”

After Hayashida and her daughter later walked through replicas of camp barracks, Natalie recounted that her mother thought the replicas looked too good and she “was rather agitated that it wasn’t anything like she remembers. There was lots of sand, lots of gaps [between the boards], not only on the floor, but on the walls and ceiling. Very little privacy.”

Lynch said her staff has conducted over 350 oral history interviews over the last 10 years with those incarcerated at Manzanar.

“While people had common experiences at Manzanar and Minkidoka, no two people had the same experience,” she said. “We find from those interviews that people are all over the map as far as what they remember. Some people will say, ‘I met my husband, I learned my career—it wasn’t so bad.’ Other people will say, ‘This destroyed our lives, it destroyed our families.’ But, no matter what people say, this place changed their lives. Those of us who work here, this place changes our lives in a much more positive way.”

As part of a staff of 16, Lynch said about 80,000 to 90,000 people visit the Manzanar National Historic Site every year. “The reason we do the work we do is to tell the stories of the people who were here and help visitors today connect,” she said. “People are very excited to connect with people who lived this history.”

### Lived Experiences

The “delegation” visited the Manzanar site as the result of a brainchild of Jonathan Garfunkel, managing director and founder of Global Source Education, a nonprofit Bainbridge Island organization with the motto “bridging classrooms and communities.”

“Our programs are grounded in the firm belief that educators can only facilitate the sort of learning in their students that they actively experience themselves,” Garfunkel, 46, said. “We believe that lived experiences inform a more lived curriculum.”

A world traveler before becoming a teacher, Garfunkel spent 1988 in Tibet.

“That was my first true experience being face-to-face with injustice,” he said, “with oppression, human rights, civil rights—from my own personal experience with the Chinese police and army and what I witnessed happening to Tibetans and what Tibetans told me while I was there. To a certain extent, it mirrors all the dynamism of the Japanese American experience with exclusion.”

Applying his travels to teaching, Garfunkel was “asked to teach a more global approach to the traditional curriculum,” he said, and taught grades five through 12 for eight years as a “global social studies teacher” in Rye, N.Y. and the greater Seattle area.

“I lived, worked and traveled through Asia and the Pacific, so I was able to comfortably expand the curriculum beyond the Western Civilization focus,” he said. “I made Western Civilization ‘world civilization.’”

“I had been getting a lot of calls from teachers as to how to bring the topic to life. The simultaneous experience of pushing the edges of the curriculum of my own classroom, but yet being asked to help others, led me from teaching secondary students to

teaching more teaching professionals and graduate students.”

Garfunkel ended up in Seattle, earning his master’s degree in education from Antioch University. In 1994, he started the Tibet Education Network (TEN) in Seattle, providing educators with curricular resources on that country. In 1999, Garfunkel founded Global Source Education in Seattle’s Greenwood neighborhood.

Among the 12 past or ongoing Global Source Education “Initiatives and Projects” are TEN and “The Burma Project.” The latter provides resources and focuses on the struggle for human rights in that country—“Rights have become the fourth ‘R’ in a growing number of K-12 classrooms and schools,” the project description states. There also are the “Sustainable Schools Project” and the “EduCulture Project,” which provides elementary school students with the opportunity to learn and work alongside Bainbridge Island farmers.

“Teachers on Bainbridge Island teaching about the [Japanese American World War II] internment, outside of what they had done on their own, had never been offered a professional development experience, let alone a trip to Manzanar, to really bring this topic to life,” he said. “We on the Island are very familiar with life before the war, a little bit during the war, a lot after. But, this is really sort of a missing piece: where did our Japanese Americans go? It didn’t happen on the Island. It’s important for us as an island community to see that as a Bainbridge Island story, not a Japanese American story.”

By 2008, Garfunkel conceived the program to pair Island educators with Japanese Americans who were removed from the Island during World War II and called it the “Only What We Can Carry (OWWCC) Project.” The next year, he received an \$8,200 grant from the Washington Civil Liberties Public Education Program—a statewide initiative to teach about the Japanese American World War II incarceration—and assembled the 2009 OWWCC Project contingent of educators from the Island’s Wilkes Elementary, Breidablik Elementary in Poulsbo, Washington and four of the Island’s “elders” to go to Manzanar.

“I call them, in the most honorific way, elders from our community,” Garfunkel said.

Along with the Hayashidas, the “elders” in the 2011 OWWCC Project delegation also included Frank Kitamoto, Fumiko Hayashida’s nephew and president of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community; Kitamoto’s sister Lilly Kodama; Karen Beierle McCormic, a lifelong friend and former Island classmate of Kitamoto; and Mary Woodward.



The 2011 pilgrimage to Manzanar in front of the “Soul Consoling Tower.”

Woodward is the daughter of the late Walt and Milly Woodward, publishers of *The Bainbridge Review* from 1940–1963. During World War II, the *Review* was one of the few media outlets in the country that protested the removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans. The Woodwards are also credited with making the return of the Island's Japanese Americans after the war possible by publishing articles about the Islanders at Manzanar.

"They did feel a responsibility as the voice of Bainbridge Island to do it right, to be as objective as they could with news reporting, but also to use their voice in what were, over the years, sometimes unpopular positions," Woodward, 65, said at the "Voices of Bainbridge Island" public program at the Manzanar interpretive center. "People on the Island were informed—I think in many communities only one side was presented."

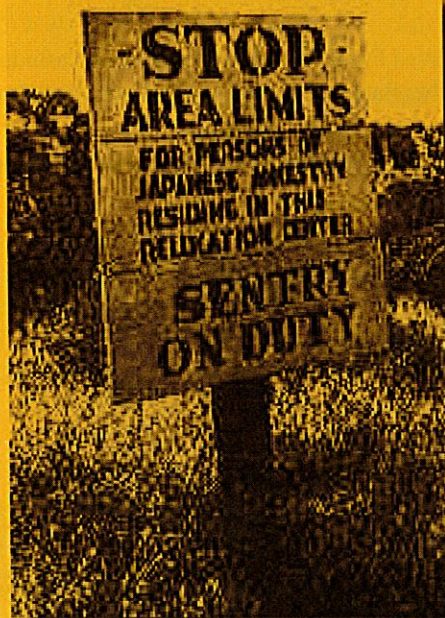
Kitamoto, 72, Kodama and Woodward participated in the past three OWWCC Project delegations. For the 2010 delegation, Katy Curtis joined the group and is currently the OWWCC Project co-director. She led this year's delegation along with Garfunkel.

A native Bainbridge Islander who returned to the Island five years ago, Curtis, 50, is also the education outreach coordinator for the Bainbridge Island Historical Museum. While attending Humboldt University during the '70s, she attended a meeting of the university's fledgling Black Student Union and was invited to become its secretary "because they didn't have anyone else to do it," she said.

"I looked at my white arm and said, 'I don't know if I qualify.' They said, 'Anybody who wants to help qualifies.'"

A certified mediator, she spent 10 years as a diversity awareness facilitator on the University of California's Berkeley campus and also worked in multicultural mediation and divorce mediation in the San Francisco Bay Area. In 2008, she met Garfunkel while both served on the Bainbridge Island School District's Multicultural Advisory Council and discovered he was "great to work with."

"When Jon approached me about this project, I was drawn in completely, immediately, because of the combination of social justice issues," Curtis said. "Jon is a consensus builder. I really wanted to make a difference in the community and in the schools. OWWCC was a place where my passion for healing racism could contribute. I believed in this concept that, through building individual relationships and storytelling, we gain understanding. For me, this is the most meaningful type of learning experience."



#### April Fool

Ted Kitayama drove six hours from his home in San Jose, Calif. to join the Manzanar delegation.

Growing up at the southern end of Bainbridge Island near Pleasant Beach, "we didn't have much transportation" and another town three

or four miles away was "someplace else, in the next world," Kitayama, 81, recalled. His family operated a small nursery, growing tomatoes, cucumbers, and cut flowers during the winter, in a greenhouse. When all of Japanese descent were forced off the Island, he can still remember the train ride to Manzanar:

"We came first class, and for us it was an adventure because I think it was the second time I'd seen a train. We were able to board Pullman cars with bunk beds, black porters, tablecloths for dinner and breakfast, observation cars" and eating food "definitely better" than he had ever eaten before, he said. Anytime the train passed through a city, the soldiers on board "told us to pull down the blinds."

However, his adventure abruptly changed upon arrival at Manzanar.

"First thing I noticed was the sand, glowing sand," he said. "And, in the middle of the field, they had a bunch of straw. They gave us the mattress covers, and they said, 'Fill it with straw, and that's your mattress.' The wind was blowing. All I remember is that, as a 12-year-old kid, I thought somebody would say, 'April Fool's and go home.'"

Like Hayashida, Kitayama recalled the camp's primitive conditions when they first arrived.

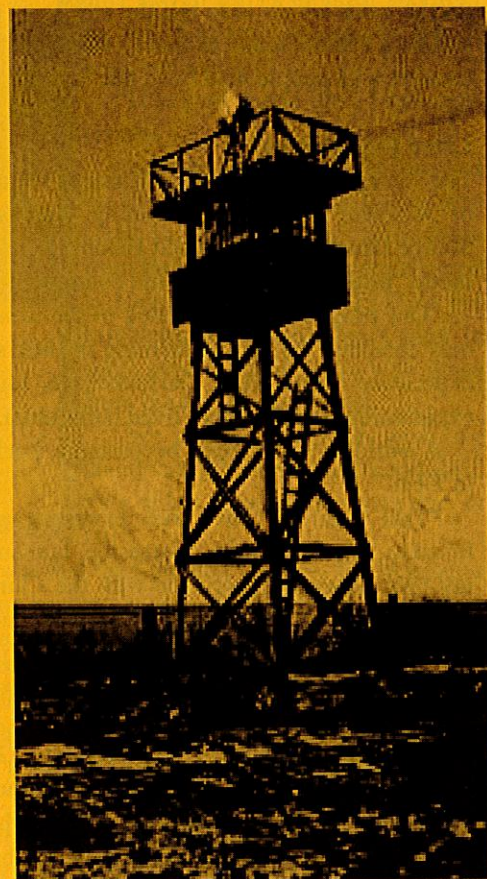
"I think they had just pounded in their last nail in our barracks the day before we came," he said.

Kitayama had returned to this site for the first time two years ago as part of the Manzanar Pilgrimage when "all you see is people," he said. He accepted an invitation from Garfunkel to join this year's delegation.

"I was a resident here a few years ago, but not by choice," he said. "I'm going to see what I missed the first time I was here."

Lilly Kodama grew up on a 20-acre Bainbridge Island truck farm operated by her grandparents. Her father, Yoshito Frank Kitamoto, worked for Friedlander's Jewelers. As a traveling salesman, he sold watches and other wares, sometimes to farmers in eastern Washington. After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the FBI swooped down and arrested Japanese American community and club leaders, aliens with suspected ties to Japan, and those who possessed items declared "contraband" including any kind of weapons, guns, cameras and shortwave radios. The Kitamotos became one of 34 Japanese American families on the Island with a father taken away.

"He was arrested because he couldn't prove his citizenship," Kodama said, "and we had dynamite in the barn—ironically issued by the government to help the farmers clear the land. But, that's still



weapons, I suppose. And he had a rifle—he used that to shoot deer and pheasants for food.

“People ask me if I missed my father. I probably didn’t because he was away as a traveling salesman. I was the oldest and my youngest sister was nine months old, so my mother had to look after four of us without her husband, my father.”

When her family was forced to leave the Island, “my mother told me this was going to be like a vacation,” Kodama said. “In those days, if my mother said we were going to Seattle, I couldn’t sleep the night before because that was such an exciting event. When I got on the train, I was really excited about that, too, because I had never been on a train.”

### Rhubarb

What Kodama remembered were her and her siblings arguing about who got to sleep on the top bunk in the Pullman car. After the Islanders were transferred from the train to buses at Mojave, Calif., and as the busses neared the Manzanar site, Kodama also remembered spotting the barrack buildings in the distance and thinking, “Oh, look, there’s a rhubarb shed.”

“The shed my uncle grew rhubarb in, it was shaped exactly like that—it was long, covered with tar paper,” she recalled. “When we did arrive at Manzanar, my mother had told me that one day I said, ‘What kind of vacation is this, anyway?’”

A couple of episodes at Manzanar also stayed with Kodama:

“There was an amphitheater, a makeshift stage, and it must have been some event because I was in charge of Frank, my younger brother, and you sat on the ground to watch a movie or something. A dust storm came up and everybody got up to leave and we were more or less just trampled because I was just seven and Frank was three or not even that. Frank ended up on the ground and we ended up at the clinic, and they were removing particles of stone and grit from his face.”

And then there was an incident at Bairs Creek, which cut diagonally across the southern corner of the camp.

“I think I saw trees and I walked over there and I found the creek. And, I was so happy to play in this cold water and it made me think of home, because on our property there was a creek. But then, I happened to look up and there was the guard tower with a soldier up there with a gun. I always said machine gun, but it might not have been. That alarmed me and I ran back to the barracks. I never went back there after that.”

### Slightly Overwhelming

After the introductory film and session, the delegation scattered to all the exhibits in the impressive interpretive center—constructed on the site of the camp’s former auditorium which was built in 1944 by those incarcerated. Some found their names in camp records from back then. The elders surrounded an enlarged photo, trying to identify Islanders being marched to the waiting train along Seattle’s waterfront in 1942.

Natalie Hayashida Ong continued questioning her mother.

“Is this what your room looked like?” she asked when in a replica of a barrack room.

“You got slivers from walking on the floor.”

“Did you feel this?” Natalie asked, touching the re-creation of a straw-filled mattress covered by a U.S. Army blanket. “Is that what it felt like?”

“I can’t remember.”

Natalie learned that her brother, Leonard, was brought “home” in a cardboard box after being born in the camp hospital. Fellow Islanders later made a crib for him.

And when approaching the mess hall replica for the first lunch on site, Ted Kitayama quipped, “They sure used a lot better lumber on this one than the one I remember.”

At the lunches, and during the first morning gatherings of the day, Garfunkel asked each member of the delegation for comments on their Manzanar experience thus far.

“I think it’s the whole contrast between the incredibly beautiful surroundings and the ugliness of having been here and trying to piece that together,” said Patti Schlosser, 64, librarian at Woodward Middle School. “The other thing for me is that it’s so moving to be here together.”

“I am actually walking in the steps that people walked,” said Jessica Bender, a Woodward seventh-grade social studies/language arts teacher. “Emotions are difficult, I think,” Bender, 30, continued. “Watching the movie in the interpretive center made me angry, then being out here in these beautiful surroundings. But it’s really hard to see the beauty in a historical perspective.”

Stacie Munoz, also a humanities teacher at Woodward, passed when being asked to share at first. “At this point, I just feel like it’s so slightly overwhelming, so much to take in, I haven’t had a chance to process this,” Munoz, 38, said. “For me, being a mom with little kids at home—thinking about Fumi coming with two little ones and being pregnant—I keep thinking about the little kids from a parent’s perspective, and how you explain it to your kids so they wouldn’t feel the impact anymore than they had to.”

“I was talking with Fumiko about what it was like giving birth to Leonard while at Manzanar,” Bender said later. “And, she regularly just said that she ‘just did it,’ which I took as there was no time to think about the conditions—you just had to do what you had to do to survive and with three little ones.”

Woodward Middle School Principal Mike Florian had attended a pilgrimage to the Idaho Minidoka camp site before with some 160 people there. He had also attended the OWWCC Project annual Summer Institute, where educators are invited to learn more about the Islanders’ incarceration experience. There, Garfunkel approached him about taking a group of teachers to Manzanar.

“I think Minidoka was very emotional for me,” Florian, 55, said. “But, it’s a different experience here because we’re with a smaller group.”

“I keep thinking that I want to go back to Minidoka when they have a similar exhibit as well,” he continued. “I think it’s really powerful when you can see it, touch it, feel it.”

### Walking Encyclopedias

The OWWCC Project delegation soon became acquainted with the park rangers’ reference-section knowledge of the former Manzanar War Relocation Center. When the delegation arrived at the site of the camp’s former park, Park Ranger Richard Potashin, who conducted most of the oral history interviews with those incarcerated at Manzanar, spoke about the history of Pleasure Park, later to be named Merritt Park after the camp’s administrator, Ralph Merritt.

Keichiro Nishi, an Issei (first-generation immigrant from Japan) was a landscape gardener and nursery owner in Santa Monica, California before the war. Arrested by the FBI and imprisoned at Ft. Missoula, Montana, he was paroled—mostly on the strength of letters written to the Department of Justice by his former Caucasian

customers—to rejoin his family in Manzanar.

“Instead of being bitter and angry, he started creating gardens here,” Potashin said. Nishi created a rose garden at first, then assembled a crew to create a larger, Japanese-style garden completed in spring of 1943. It included a bridge over diverted water that created a creek, and a gazebo constructed out of native black locust and cottonwood trees.

Over 65 years, the park “had been buried like the stories had been buried,” Potashin said. With excavation completed in 2009 over a course of two months, the creek bed and rocks of Merritt Park had been restored.

“Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston wrote in the iconic book, ‘Farewell to Manzanar’ that Pleasure Park was the only place you could go and take a picture without the backdrop of barracks,” Potashin said. This is a powerful statement of not only creativity, but of working with whatever you can find, of trying to make things better for the community, as well. [There are] a lot of themes in the garden here.”

Next stop: Manzanar’s cemetery outside of the former barbed-wire fence. Less than 20 bodies were buried there; no remains are left, the park rangers said. Next to the human cemetery was a pet cemetery. How could that be? members of the delegation asked, since none of those incarcerated could take their pets. Local residents from nearby towns dropped off unwanted pets at Manzanar, the rangers said, and were adopted by those within the camp.

Next stop: the site of Children’s Village, the only orphanage in any of the incarceration camps in America during the war. Operated from June 1942, 101 children, ranging from newborns to 19 years old, lived at Children’s Village, Lynch said. Japanese American orphans were from orphanages in the Los Angeles area, unwanted babies from other incarceration camps, those who had no parents, and those orphaned at Manzanar, such as two girls whose father killed his wife and then himself, Lynch recounted.

“In talking to visitors, one of the hardest things to understand is how is it that the government went around and got children out of orphanages to put them here,” Lynch said. “Part of the rationale at the time was, in a lot of the orphanages, people cared for people of their own ethnicity—to keep them together.”

The delegation members constantly marveled at the rangers’ knowledge and how “they spit out Japanese names and words like it’s nothing.” At an emotional last session with all of the rangers present, Kodama said, “It’s really astounding. None of you are with Japanese backgrounds, but yet, you know what the whole story is. That’s the marvel to me.”

Garfunkel lauded the rangers for “rolling out the red carpet” for each year’s OWWCC Project delegation.

“The first time the government brought you here, it was perhaps a little less of a red carpet,” Lynch said. “We are also a part of the U.S. Department of Interior, same as the War Relocation Authority [the federal agency that operated the World War II incarceration camps]. Time changes everything.”

## Island Voices

During the “Voices of Bainbridge Island” program the next day, the elders talked about the lesser-known postwar experiences.

Before incarceration, the Hayashidas operated an 80-acre

strawberry farm, the largest on Bainbridge Island. State laws prohibited the sale of land to noncitizens from Asia. However, since Fumiko Hayashida’s husband, Saburo, and his brothers were American citizens, they owned the land they farmed on and had a place to return to. However, “the crops were in disarray,” said Natalie. Like other Islanders who no longer found farming lucrative and too arduous, her father later landed a job at Boeing and moved the Hayashida family to Seattle in 1951.

For Ted Kitayama’s family, however, “we didn’t return to Bainbridge Island because father leased the land and no one took care of the greenhouse,” he said. “We didn’t have anything to come back to.” His family relocated to Seattle, and by 1948 his older brothers had finished college—Tom

at Washington State University, and Ray and Kee at Ohio State University—graduating in horticulture, and were looking for jobs. They asked one of their former professors “where’s a good place in California to start a business?” Kitayama recounted. The professor replied that one of his students had landed a horticulture job at Mount Eden in the San Francisco Bay Area. One of Kitayama’s brothers got a job there, another found a job in the same area, and the Kitayamas eventually bought and operated a nursery in Mount Eden.

After Lilly Kodama’s father rejoined the family in Manzanar after being apprehended by the FBI, Friedlander’s sponsored her father to leave camp and go to Chicago and attend watchmaking school. Her father later opened Frank’s Jewellery in Seattle. When Kodama hoped to go to college, her father replied that the family couldn’t afford it.

Kodama’s mother Shigeko, who only had a sixth-grade education, then took it upon herself to farm, growing a variety of crops including raspberries and Christmas trees.

“She always begrudged that she had to quit school,” Kodama said. “She always wanted to be sure that, when my father said that he needed to save money for my brother’s education—she was a feminist from way back then—she just decided that she’d find a way to earn money to supplement my father’s income so we could go to school.”

At age six, when the Island’s Japanese American population began returning in 1945, Karen Beierle McCormic was about to enter first grade. At a picnic for all parents and students before school started, she remembered her mother pulling her aside, pointing out Frank Kitamoto, and saying, “I want you to be very kind to Frank. Because he’s been gone for a long time and he’s just coming back, and he may just need a real friend.” She and Kitamoto became lifelong friends and attended Bainbridge High School’s 1957 senior ball together.

During the “Voices of Bainbridge Island” program, Garfunkel remarked that to be an interracial couple at that time was “groundbreaking.”

“We didn’t think so,” McCormic said. “We were just good friends.”

Her father was scoutmaster for a Boy Scout troop on the Island before the war, and two of his scouts were Kitayama’s brothers Tom



and Ray. Beierle McCormic later expressed amazement that her father often talked about the “Kitayama boys,” and that she finally met one of them at, of all places, the site of the Manzanar camp.

And Ted Kitayama found what he missed “the first time I was here.”

“Japanese people, with this *shikata ga nai* [Japanese for the “it can’t be helped”] attitude could survive anything,” he said. “Looking at that beautiful Merritt Park that was made, and like the auditorium—it was good to know that we could at least know how to survive and exist and keep out of trouble.”

During that same program, Mary Woodward articulated the theme of the Manzanar excursion.

“I think the mothers of the children who were sent to the concentration camps all deserve a medal,” she said. “I’ve only talked to one person who was a child in camp who had a bad experience. That was because his father was not there and his mother was very ill and he had to assume the parental role. But, every other child has good memories, and I, as a mother, really marvel at that. How do you keep your emotions under control for so long under very extreme situations? So, Fumi and all the rest of your ilk, you’re heroes in my mind.”

### Can’t Replace an Event Like This

“I would say there were a couple of new things I learned that I didn’t expect,” Principal Florian said during the last morning on the Manzanar site. “Just about the size of the camp and how many buildings there were, and what it was like when they shut down the camp. But, I think those are all kind of trivial compared to the emotional experiences of those families here. So, the tidbits we picked up here, like what it was like for Fumi to take care of three children in a situation like this, were much more impactful.”

What he and the other educators learned during the four-day trip, he said, “seems to fit in pretty well with a citizenship unit that we do and the whole idea of human rights, freedom of the press, and it also fits in nicely with the history of Washington state and the different immigrant groups that came into the state at different times over the years. So, I see it as us being able to insert that little, very important piece of local history into Washington state history, as well.”

Florian and the Woodward educators had sessions with Garfunkel and Curtis prior to the trip so they could get the most out of it.

“Jon and Katy assembled reading materials, videos and discussion topics that were crucial to our preparation for this trip,” Florian said. “I am thankful for their expertise and passion about our Island history.”

“Lot of us have dreams of possibilities, but Jonathan actually works to make them come true,” Kitamoto said. “His sensitivity toward people and his ability to express himself and to put things in proper perspective is beyond approach.”

“The best way you can get kids interested in something is to be excited about it,” Bender said.

“You can’t replace an event like this, where you get to come and sit with Fumiko Hayashida and hear her story, and Lilly and Frank and all these amazing individuals that lived through this,” she said. “If I were to come here with my husband and just visit like we do typical National Parks, it’s not the same. I’m excited to go back and share my pictures, and share it with my family and share it with my parents, and my students, as well. Might be a little tired on Monday, but I think it was well worth it.”

“I heard it said that we ask our students and our own children to

stand up for others and what’s right in bullying and other kinds of situations,” Munoz said, “but, as adults, our kids don’t necessarily see us do that. If we’re going to ask our kids, who are in a more vulnerable stage than we are, we really need to be doing that, too. As we approach Washington studies and get into that citizenship unit, Mary’s parents, Walt and Milly, will be a great example of that.”

“It was very powerful,” Schlosser said of her journey to Manzanar. “I think I can think about it at a different level, and I think I can share the experience in a way that I could not have described the events without this context.”

Did this trip help the Woodward school educators to live up to who their school was named after?

“Absolutely,” Florian said. “We celebrated Walt’s 100<sup>th</sup> birthday last year, and I’ve always felt like we didn’t really know that much about Walt and Milly Woodward. As a school, we have one photograph of the two of them with their names under it, but no explanation of who they were and what they meant to the community of Bainbridge Island. When I became principal last year, I wanted to explore that relationship with Mary Woodward and Frank and others and try to make that clear to our students. I think this has definitely given us a more detailed, first-hand experience on exactly what the efforts of Walt and Milly meant.”

### Expressing Gratitude

During the closing session of the Manzanar trip, Curtis had the delegation pass around a rose quartz heart and asked each member to express what they were grateful for. Voices choked up and halted as some talked of the “sense of family” only four intense days of living, learning and experiencing together could bring.

“We are just so fortunate to have the staffing that we have in our school district,” Kodama said. “I’m getting older—the people to tell the story, we’re not going to be here forever. And to have the idea that teachers are going to carry on for us, and to have students who will know and learn—especially since we kept our darn mouths shut about the whole thing for all these years. I’m just grateful for Global Source and the opportunity to be here. Every time I come, I think, ‘Oh, my mama put up with an awful lot, and I didn’t appreciate her very much.’”

“I was 13 months old when I first crawled, set foot on Manzanar,” Natalie Hayashida Ong said. “So, this is a real journey of discovery for me.

“I was a little selfish, I suppose. I was thinking that I would find out stories from my mother and my family. But I learned so much more, not only from older cousins, but from the park rangers. Your stories are so interesting. And, I feel like I recaptured a little bit of that time when we were evacuated from our homes—I didn’t know what had happened. And, I think I’ve opened up the door to more conversation with my mom—wish we had done this a couple of years earlier. But, I’m also finding out that maybe it’s not too late.”

An organization like Global Source Education and the OWWCC Project “needs to be spread beyond the Island,” she concluded.

Natalie then passed the quartz heart to her mother. “What are you grateful for, Mom?”

“This is the happiest moment for me,” Fumiko Hayashida said. “It’s a good way to end your life.”



# BIJAG

## BAINBRIDGE ISLAND JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY

1298 Grow Avenue NW  
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110  
Phone (206) 842-4772

### VISIT OUR WEBSITE

[www.bijag.org](http://www.bijag.org)

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### About the Author

Ken Mochizuki is a free-lance writer and author of the young adult novel *Beacon Hill Boys* and the picture books *Baseball Saved Us*, *Heroes*, *Passage to Freedom: the Sugihara Story*, and *Be Water, My Friend: the Early Years of Bruce Lee*. He has also been a writer/editor for the *International Examiner* and *Northwest Nikkei/North American Post* newspapers in Seattle; has written for nonfiction books and exhibits at the Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience in Seattle; and wrote the performance piece, *Within the Silence* produced by Living Voices of Seattle, and the book for the musical version of *Baseball Saved Us* produced by Seattle's 5th Avenue Theater.

### About Only What We Can Carry

The Only What We Can Carry project (OWWCC) uses the study of WWII, Japanese American Exclusion, and its impact on Bainbridge Island, to foster learning experiences about exclusion, inclusion and citizenship. An educational and community development project, OWWCC was founded to provide educators and citizens experiences that can inform a more lived curriculum for students, build bridges across generations, and enrich communities.

### OWWCC Delegations to Manzanar

Particularly because of the Island's role in the story of WWII, Bainbridge educators are in an unique educational landscape to engage with living history locally and beyond Island shores. OWWCC organizes delegations of Bainbridge Island educators paired with current and former citizens of Bainbridge Island who lived through WWII and the experience of "internment," to retrace the 1942 journey of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American community to Manzanar concentration camp, California. The four-day journey gives delegates the opportunity to explore historic sites; walk where they and/or their friends walked seven decades ago; discover artifacts; interact with experts; and do research. With new friendships and expanded access to resources, delegates bring back extraordinary ideas for enhancing curricula and meaningful experiences to share with students and the community.

### OWWCC 2011 Summer Institute

To expand upon the lessons learned by the delegation to Manzanar, OWWCC created OWWCC Summer Institute, an intensive professional development program. The unique program conceived to assist educators and schools in enriching their teaching and learning about Bainbridge Island's local experience of a global conflict and crisis, and to help educators find more meaningful ways to bridge classroom and community around local-global topics of study. OWWCC's 2011 Summer Institute, August 22~24, will be hosted at multiple sites on Bainbridge Island and is open to formal and non-formal teachers serving elementary and secondary education.

### Thank You to Our 2011 Program Partners

Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community  
Bainbridge Island School District  
Bainbridge Island Historical Museum  
Manzanar National Historic Site, National Park Service  
Walt and Millie Woodward Fund  
Bainbridge Island Arts and Humanities Council  
Bainbridge One Call for All

### Contact OWWCC

OWWCC is locally grown project of Global Source Education, a non-profit, professional learning organization serving elementary and secondary education in the Pacific Northwest and beyond for over ten years. To learn more about OWWCC and how you can support our programs, please contact us at:

### *The Only What We Can Carry Project at Global Source Education*

P.O. Box 11316, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110  
Ph. 206-780-5797 [info@GlobalSourceNetwork.org](mailto:info@GlobalSourceNetwork.org)  
[www.onlywhatwecancarry.org](http://www.onlywhatwecancarry.org)

*"These conscientious educators with deep understanding  
teaching the 'Internment Experience' make the community and  
world a better place."*

*—Kay Nakao*

*We urge you all to attend our monthly meeting on the first Wednesday of the month.  
Call or visit our website for time and location. There are no dues, the only obligation being an interest in Japanese  
American history and heritage and a willingness to lend your support and interest to our ongoing projects.*



## **SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2022 BLAKELY AWARDS**

The City of Bainbridge Island is seeking nominations for this year's Blakely Awards. Since 2011, Blakely Awards have recognized individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to historic preservation on the Island.

There are two nomination categories:

### **[1] Project of Excellence**

In recognition of outstanding historic preservation projects which are of significant value to the community.

To qualify as a Project of Excellence, the property should be listed on the Local Historic Register or meet the Historic Register eligibility criteria (BIMC [18.24.040](#)). The project must be located on Bainbridge Island and have been completed within the five years prior to the nomination date.

### **[2] Preservation Leader**

In recognition of community leadership in promoting historic preservation by an individual or organization.

To qualify as a Preservation Leader, the nomination should demonstrate how their efforts have advanced the cause of historic preservation in our community through public outreach and education, community leadership and promotion of historic preservation, and/or management of a significant preservation project.

Individual nominees must be Island residents or Island property owners. Organizations must conduct some historic preservation activities on the Island.

## BLAKELY AWARDS NOMINATION FORM

**DUE June 15, 2022**

Nominating party: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information: Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Provide a narrative describing why the nominee is deserving of the Preservation Leader Award or Project of Excellence Award. Supporting photographs and /or documentation is encouraged.

☐ Nomination for Project of Excellence

Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Completion: \_\_\_\_\_

Design and Construction Individuals/Organization:

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information (if known): Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information (if known): Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Nomination for Preservation Leader

Nominee (Individual or Organization) \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information (if known): Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Submit this nomination form and supporting materials to:**

Email: [pcd@bainbridgewa.gov](mailto:pcd@bainbridgewa.gov) Attn: Renee Argetsinger

Or submit in person or by mail to: City of Bainbridge Island  
Historic Preservation Commission  
280 Madison Avenue N.  
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

## CLARENCE MORIWAKI

The Bainbridge Island Historic Preservation Commission nominates Clarence Moriwaki for the 2022 Blakely Award, in honor of his work in creating the Japanese Exclusion Memorial on Bainbridge Island and promotion of the Japanese American exclusion story. With his communications, public relations, and government experience, Clarence was instrumental in creating the Japanese American Exclusion Memorial. As a board of trustees member of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community (BIJAC), he became involved in the project in 2000, and in 2008 helped establish the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial Association (BIJAEMA) that would oversee the development of the project. Clarence has served as president of both BIJAC and BIJAEMA. The BIJAEMA continues to oversee and develop the Memorial, as well as BIJAC conducting programs, tours and education on the human rights lessons of the exclusion and incarceration..

The concept of a Japanese American Exclusion Memorial on Bainbridge Island was originally proposed by Rev. Joseph H. Kiernan of St. Barnabas Church. In 1999, he reached out to the North Kitsap/Bainbridge Island Interfaith Council with the idea of raising awareness of the forced removal of Bainbridge Island's Japanese American community on March 30, 1942, becoming the first of 120,000 Japanese Americans from the west coast during WW2 to be unconstitutionally exiled and incarcerated in American concentration camps.

The group reached out to and formed a joint effort with the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community to commemorate this historic event, and they first considered installing a plaque at the Winslow Ferry Terminal. However, the forced removal took place at the other side of the harbor at the site of the former Eagledale Ferry Dock.

As the historic site of the first forced removal and exclusion, Clarence felt that place matters and that the Eagledale Ferry Dock should be the location of commemoration, and he also believed that it was worthy of federal recognition. Toward this end, he developed and implemented a successful multi-year strategic, legislative and public relations plan to designate the memorial project as a National Historic Site. He created a base of support from the bottom up—first the Bainbridge Island civic groups, organizations and the City Council, Kitsap County, Washington State Legislature and Governor, so that when the BIJAEMA went to the national level, the federal government could see that the project had wide, statewide support. With his unique public relations, communications, and government background, Clarence knitted all the pieces together to make this happen.

As the concept for a Japanese American exclusion memorial was developing, Bainbridge Island Mayor Dwight Sutton created a task force to acquire the Wyckoff property – later becoming the Friends of Pritchard Park – tasked with securing the \$8 million needed to purchase the entire 50 acre site. Clarence was appointed to and served on both organizations.

Since the western edge of the Wyckoff property was the site of the historic Eaglesdale Ferry Dock, the Friends of Pritchard Park wanted to ensure that as funds were raised that portion would be preserved, so they strategically chose to purchase the property in four parcels, with the first comprising the western eight acres.

As president of both BIJAC and BIJAEMA, Clarence oversaw the successful designing, planning, permitting, contracts, construction and project management teams that built the first two phases of the project. He was also instrumental in raising more than \$3 million in government funding, foundation grants and private donations to pay for acquisition and construction.

The memorial site was dedicated in 2002. Clarence then began working with Congressman Jay Insee and the National Park Service to designate the memorial project as a National Historic Site, earning rare, bipartisan unanimous support. It was signed into law by President George W. Bush on May 5, 2008.

The site became a unit of the Minidoka National Historic Site where most of Bainbridge's Japanese Americans were incarcerated. The Memorial Wall, phase two of the project, was completed and opened to the public on July 30, 2011.

Since then, the BIJAEMA began plans to expand the memorial and BIJAC developed educational programs on human rights and the exclusion. In 2020, the BIJAEMA began work on the third phase of the exclusion memorial, the departure deck which was completed this summer with evocative interpretive displays, with the final fourth phase being a visitors center. The Japanese American Exclusion Memorial is the 3rd most visited tourist site on Bainbridge Island.

Since 2002, Clarence has been speaking publicly and educating the world about the internment story, becoming a nationally-recognized keynote speaker presenting "Let It Not Happen Again: Lessons of the Japanese American Exclusion", covering the timeless story of the loss of liberty during times of fear, prejudice and failure of political leadership. He currently serves as a board member of Humanities Washington and was a member of their Speakers Bureau. He has presented his exclusion and incarceration story to numerous public and private organizations including professional and civic associations, federal, state and local government agencies, historical societies, museums, libraries, faith groups and educational institutions.

The Historic Preservation Commission is not the only group that has recognized Clarence's contributions to local history. In 2006, he received Kitsap County's Wall of Fame Award, a countywide award for outstanding leadership on creation of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial. In February of 2009, he received the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award, the highest award given by the National Park Conservation Association honoring the year's most outstanding conservationist. In 2017, the Bainbridge Island Chamber of Commerce awarded Clarence Citizen of the Year. It is high time that the City of Bainbridge Island recognize Clarence for his contribution to local history by awarding him the 2022 Blakely Award.



# Clarence Moriwaki

*Let It Not Happen Again: Lessons of the Japanese American  
Exclusion*



## City of Bainbridge Island – Historic Preservation Commission

### Draft 2022 Work Plan (Revised June16,2022)

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**HPC Mission (BIMC 18.24.020):** The mission of the HPC is to advocate for the preservation of historically significant buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts. The HPC establishes, maintains, and updates the local historic inventory, local historic register, heritage tree register, and identifies register eligible properties. Additionally, the HPC reviews nominations to the local, state, and national registers, minor conditional use permits (CUP) for zoning relief, changes or alterations to local historic register or register eligible properties, demolition permits, and special valuation of historic properties. The HPC also provides resources and advocacy for historic preservation which may include participating in and promotion of public education programs, fostering historic preservation through recognition of excellence in restoration of historic properties, advising COBI as requested on matters affecting city historic properties, and maintaining information on federal or state historic preservation programs, funding sources, or incentives.

#### 2022 Priority Areas

##### 1. COBI Historic Registry

- a. Review current list of COBI historic properties, including all associated location data/GIS data/maps, nomination forms and associated information, held by COBI and HPC.
  - i. Submit an information request to COBI Planning Department for current listings and associated information for the purposes of integration and development of a COBI Historic Registry geodatabase to be accessible to HPC commissioners for the purposes of assisting with HPC permit reviews and Historic Registry identification and planning efforts.
- b. Identification, documentation, and evaluation of COBI Historic Register eligible (i.e., previously undocumented and unevaluated) districts, sites, and buildings in the following areas/neighborhoods identified by HPC in 2021: Port Blakely, Rolling Bay, Winslow, and Rockaway Beach. In 2022, the HPC will focus on a potential Port Blakely historic district.
  - i. Process to include identification of register eligible properties, delineation of historic district boundaries, notification and outreach with property owners (interest/support), documentation and evaluation of identified Historic Registry eligible historic districts and contributing elements and standalone historic properties, and preparation and submittal of associated nomination forms for COBI, property owner, and HPC review and approvals.
- c. Review COBI Historic Registry property owner notification letter. Update draft as needed.
- d. Identification, promotion, and expansion of COBI Heritage Tree Registry.

## **2. Suyematsu Historic Farming District**

- a. Advocate and advise COBI and the lease holder, Friends of Farm (FoF), in the following:
  - i. Insure that local historic register requirements for the historic farm (as outlined in the BIMC) are addressed in future planning for the farm including COBI funded reports and planning documents, the COBI/FoF master lease, and FoF 2022 Draft Master Plan;
  - ii. Long term use and interpretive goals for the farm;
  - iii. Funding opportunities and methods for stabilization, historic preservation, interpretation and long term management of the historic farm;
  - iv. Listing the Farm on the WA Historic Registry and National Register of Historic Places to enhance grant acquisition; and
  - v. Any other issues that may arise.
- b. Place all associated and appropriate Suyematsu Historic Farm documents in an HPC accessible server/folder/database.
- c. Identify and prepare a list of potential grant opportunities for preservation and interpretation of Suyematsu Farm to assist in future funding efforts.

## **3. Public Outreach and Engagement**

- a. Promote Bainbridge Island local register properties by sponsoring and supporting public activities that may include:
  - i. Submitting educational articles to the COBI Newsletter/Bainbridge Island Review/Kitsap Sun;
  - ii. Sponsoring local workshops, open houses, or speakers;
  - iii. Installing educational exhibits in local venues; and
  - iv. Other promotional activities as identified.
- b. In August of 2022, the HPC proposes to conduct promotional activities to showcase the Suyematsu Farm historic district in commemoration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Akio Suyematsu Day (August 19, 2022).
- c. Promote the Bainbridge Island heritage tree registry. In April of 2022, the HPC established a booth at the Farmers Market to encourage the public to nominate their heritage trees for the registry.
- d. Educate the Bainbridge Island public on the importance of their cultural heritage. In 2022, the HPC proposes to conduct a targeted outreach meeting and/or community-

based workshop/open house regarding Port Blakely. The purpose of this meeting would be to:

- i. Educate the public about the COBI Historic Registry, Bainbridge Island history, and the historical significance of the Port Blakely neighborhood;
  - ii. Assess interest from associated property owners in participating in COBI Historic Registry and nomination process; and
  - iii. Facilitate community building and the exchange of oral histories and related information and documentation potential from generational families living in these areas.
- e. The HPC proposes to expand outreach to and coordination with the Bainbridge Historical Society and Museum, COBI Public and Private K-12 Schools, and associated historic stakeholder communities (e.g., Suquamish Tribe, Japanese American communities and organizations, and Indi-Filipino American community and organizations) in the future. The purpose of this outreach would be to assess ongoing efforts, needs/gaps, and interest in collaborating in an annual educational outreach program that highlights and integrates different aspects and areas of Bainbridge Island History into K-12 programs and curriculum.

4. **Ongoing Review COBI Permit and Historic Registry Requests and Applications**

## HPC Plan to Celebrate Akio Suyematsu Day - August 19, 2022

### Planned Events:

- a) Booth at the Farmer's Market (August 6, 13, 20, 27).
  - i) Maintained by HPC members and volunteers
  - ii) Two posters: 1) Introduce the BIHPC and what it does; introduce historic properties on BI; 2) Introduce Akio Suyematsu, his contribution to BI history, and his legacy, Suyematsu Farm.
  - iii) Handouts to mirror articles submitted for publication
- b) Submit an article to Kristen Drew of COBI and to the Bainbridge Review focusing on the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Akio Suyematsu Day, his contribution to BI history, and his legacy, Suyematsu Farm.
- c) August 19-20: Open house at Bainbridge Island Historic Museum or other venue to include:
  - i) Copies of posters used at Farmer's Market
  - ii) Blowup photographs of Suyematsu Farm history
  - iii) Invited guests who knew Akio and can speak about farm history and his legacy
  - iv) Refreshments
  - v) Times: Friday, 1-4; Saturday, 10-1.
- d) Banner: "Celebrate 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Akio Suyematsu Day – August 19, 2022"

### Assigned Tasks:

**SH:** develop posters; work with Rick to identify historic photographs for open house and posters; talk with Kristen Drew with COBI and Nancy Treder at Bainbridge Review; Work with Rick to contact museum as possible venue

**CM:** write articles; promotional handouts

**EK:** Ask COBI about creating and installing a banner on Winslow Way; invite historic preservation professionals and those with an interest to attend open houses; distribute promotional handouts

**RC:** Contact Museum as open house venue; application for market booth; Identify historic photographs for open house

**BC:** Provide farm photographs

**All Commissioners:** contribute time to Farmer's Market booth and open house; (schedules created); assist as needed.