

**March 2, 2006**

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**Blessing and dedication ceremony for Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial on March 30, 2006 – the 64<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first exclusion of Japanese Americans in WWII**

Leaders from six different faiths will consecrate and dedicate the land prior to construction of the first phase of the “Nidoto Nai Yoni – Let it not happen again” Japanese American Memorial on Bainbridge Island.

**The special ceremony will be held on Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 10 – 11 am at the site of the former Eagledale ferry landing, located at the end of Taylor Avenue on the south side of Eagle Harbor (across the harbor from the Winslow ferry dock), Bainbridge Island.**

The Bainbridge Island/North Kitsap Interfaith Council – whose organization seven years ago initially proposed creating a memorial to honor the first Americans of Japanese ancestry to be forcibly removed from their homes and displaced to internment camps – will be joined by members of the Bainbridge Island Buddhist temple; the Islamic Center of Washington, Idriss Mosque; the Kol Shalom congregation; the Tsubaki Grand Shrine of America & Tsubaki Kannagara Jinja; the Suquamish tribe; the Seattle Baptist Church; and the Unitarian Universalist Church.

This American story began on March 30, 1942, when with only six days prior notice and only allowed to bring what they could carry or wear, 227 Bainbridge Island men, women and children were gathered up by armed U.S. Army soldiers and delivered in military trucks to the Eagledale ferry landing. There they boarded the ferry Kehloken and departed on a lonely journey with an unknown destination and fate.

These Bainbridge Island families were the first of more than 120,000 Japanese Americans – two-thirds of them United States citizens – to be exiled from the West Coast. While more than 114,000 were sent to internment camps, others served in the U.S. military, some were unjustly imprisoned and some moved away, but all were forbidden to stay.

Their only crime was being Nikkei – persons of Japanese ancestry.

The National Parks Service has completed a two-year study that could lead to the memorial becoming a satellite unit of the National Parks System.

To date, the \$5 million memorial project has raised more than \$2.1 million – \$1.1 million for development and \$1 million for land. A scale model of the proposed national memorial will be on display at the event.

**Parking is very limited at the ceremony site – carpooling is strongly encouraged.**  
**Free bus service directly to the site will be provided by the Bainbridge Island School District, with one bus beginning at 9:25 a.m. from the Winslow ferry terminal for walk-on passengers arriving on the 8:45 a.m. sailing from Seattle to Bainbridge Island. A second bus will pick up park-and-ride drivers at the lower parking lot of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, intersection of Wyatt Way NE and Sportsman Club Road, 1187 Wyatt Way NE. Return service to the park-and-ride lot and the ferry terminal begins at 11:15 p.m.**

**Limited parking for media vehicles is available on a first asked, first reserved basis.**  
**Please contact Clarence Moriwaki at (206) 855-9038 or [clarence@bainbridge.net](mailto:clarence@bainbridge.net) to reserve a parking spot.**