

September 6, 2006

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Feed a Timber Frammer – prepared meals needed for visiting master carpenters working on Japanese American Memorial project

Master carpenters from the non-profit Timber Framers Guild (TFG) will descend on Bainbridge Island from Sept. 15-30 and apply their skilled craftsmanship to build an informational pavilion and two gates, completing Phase I construction of the “Nidoto Nai Yoni - Let it not Happen Again” Bainbridge Island Nikkei Exclusion Memorial. The design of the pavilion and gates will echo the memorial entry gate currently located at the Winslow Post Office, which was designed, built and donated by the TFG.

The TFG and the Memorial Committee is seeking donations of prepared breakfasts, lunches and dinners to feed up to 20 members during the course of their two-week visit. The retail value of the meals is eligible as a tax deductible contribution to the memorial project. The American Legion Colin Hyde Post #172 has generously offered their hall to the TFG members for breakfasts and meetings. Lunches will be eaten at the memorial site, and dinners may be consumed at the American Legion Hall or at the donating restaurant. Volunteers are available to deliver prepared meals.

Housing for the TGF members is being provided by volunteers from the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community, the North Kitsap/Bainbridge Island Interfaith Council and the Bainbridge-Ometepe Sister Islands Association.

To date, the \$5 million memorial project has raised more than \$2 million – \$1 million for land and \$1 million for development. The first phase of the project has been under construction since April and it features a new entry roadway into Pritchard Park, a bus drop-off circle, two parking lots, wooden boardwalks over wetlands, trails, an informational pavilion, gates and a wetland/stormwater filtration area. US Reps. Jay Inslee (D-Bainbridge Island) and Mike Simpson (R-Idaho) have introduced federal legislation that would designate the memorial as a satellite unit of the National Parks System.

The Bainbridge Island Nikkei 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.

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