

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Sept. 20, 2004

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**Gate for Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial to be built on Oct. 2;
volunteers needed to save historic cedar tree on Oct. 9**

The entry gate for proposed national memorial on Bainbridge Island to honor the first Japanese Americans taken to internment camps during World War II will be assembled on Saturday, Oct. 2, 9 am – 4 pm at its temporary location next to the Winslow Post Office main entrance. The gate will serve as an informational kiosk featuring plans of the memorial, remaining at the post office while the memorial is being constructed and moved to its permanent location at the memorial when the site is ready.

Everyone is welcome to witness the expert craftsmanship and assembly by members of the Timber Framers Guild, a non-profit educational association of master carpenters. Blending classic Pacific Northwest design with traditional Japanese elements, Guild members John Buday of Cascade Crest Designs, Lakebay, and Kevin Coker, Port Townsend, designed the hand-built gate from rare, donated Port Orford cedar timbers and logs, topped with a copper sheathed beam that will age to a fine patina.

The gate – made from totally donated materials and labor – would not be possible without the time, skills and materials from the Timber Framers Guild; John Buday, Cascade Crest Designs, Lakebay; Timbercraft Homes, Port Townsend; East Fork Lumber, Myrtle Point, Oregon; Cascade Joinery, Bellingham; Resource Woodworks, Tacoma; McKinstry-Roberge, Seattle; and Jim Matsudaira, Bainbridge Island.

The following weekend, Saturday, Oct. 9, at least 18 hearty volunteers are needed to help save the historic western red cedar tree located at the Eagledale ferry landing on Taylor Road. The bank below the century-old tree – honored as one of two West Coast trees on the National Register of Historic Trees – has suffered massive erosion and without immediate intervention risks falling into Eagle Harbor.

Volunteers in good physical condition are needed from 8 am – 3 pm to help stabilize the shoreline by filling and placing environmentally degradable 100-pound bags of indigenous gravel and soils, as well as provide work to shore up areas around the tree. Town and Country Market will provide box lunches.

Overseeing the shoreline analysis, planning for the restoration and providing needed materials was provided by Bainbridge Island marine biologist Cindy Stahl and her firm Marine Works Construction, Inc. – with half of all of the services and materials donated at no cost. Stahl and her crew will place a barge on the beach below Taylor Road on Oct. 8, which will be used as a staging area for the equipment and materials needed for the restoration project. Bob Crowell of On Deck Consulting, Bainbridge Island, has donated project management services and the restoration project received strong support from the City of Bainbridge Island.

For more information on the memorial, please visit www.bijac.org, and to volunteer for the shoreline restoration project, please contact Clarence Moriwaki at (206) 855-9038 or clarence@bainbridge.net

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