

August 2025: 50 Years of Care

In this issue: 50 Years commemorative, Bon Odori festival recap, Nikkei Manor improvements, Sponsorship Opportunities, Ayame Kai, Free Sumi-E class offering, Invitation to Open House, and more!



Seattle Keiro Nursing Home in the Mount Baker neighborhood, 1976.

Celebrating 50 Years of Community-Centered Care

This year marks 50 years since Keiro Northwest, originally founded as Issei Concerns by seven Nisei visionaries, began its mission to provide culturally sensitive care for Japanese American seniors. What began with the purchase of the former Mt. Baker Convalescent Center and its transformation into the Seattle Keiro Nursing Home has since evolved into the programs we know today at Nikkei Manor and Kokoro Kai. Throughout this journey, we have remained guided by our values of family, quality of life, and kimochi.

To honor this milestone, we have created a historical timeline, available both online and on display at Nikkei Manor. It highlights key moments in our journey, including the grassroots fundraising efforts that made Seattle Keiro possible, and the many ways we have adapted over the decades to meet the changing needs of our community. From humble beginnings to the vibrant programs we offer today, the timeline reflects not just our history, but the dedication and resilience of the people who made it possible.



Groundbreaking ceremony for new 150-bed nursing home, 1987.

We invite you to join us on August 21, from 12 to 3 PM to view the timeline in person and see recent upgrades to Nikkei Manor, including newly refurbished respite rooms, brand-new dining chairs, and a refreshed garden space made possible through the generous fundraising efforts of Ayame Kai.

While we are not hosting a formal anniversary party, we warmly welcome community members to reconnect with Keiro Northwest's legacy and consider a future with us at Kokoro Kai or Nikkei Manor.

Learn more in the recent [North American Post article](#).

50-Year Timeline



Tomoko Faasumalie being our fabulous "MC"!

Photo Credit: Eugene Tagawa

Bon Odori at Nikkei Manor Recap

Thank you to everyone who made our Bon Odori Festival such a meaningful day of fun and connection! True to our mission of bringing community to our elders, this annual event bridges generations through cultural celebration, food, and shared tradition. It was especially heartwarming to see residents, family members, and neighbors enjoying the festivities together.

Our bake sale was a hit again this year raising an incredible \$1,674, all of which will benefit the Nikkei Manor Employee Fund. We're deeply grateful to the many volunteers, donors, vendors, performers, staff and supporters who helped make this possible. Every single person contributed their time, talents, and resources to make the day unforgettable.

For a glimpse into the day's highlights, check out the [International Examiner's coverage by Theo Bickel](#).

Many photos available on our [Facebook page](#).

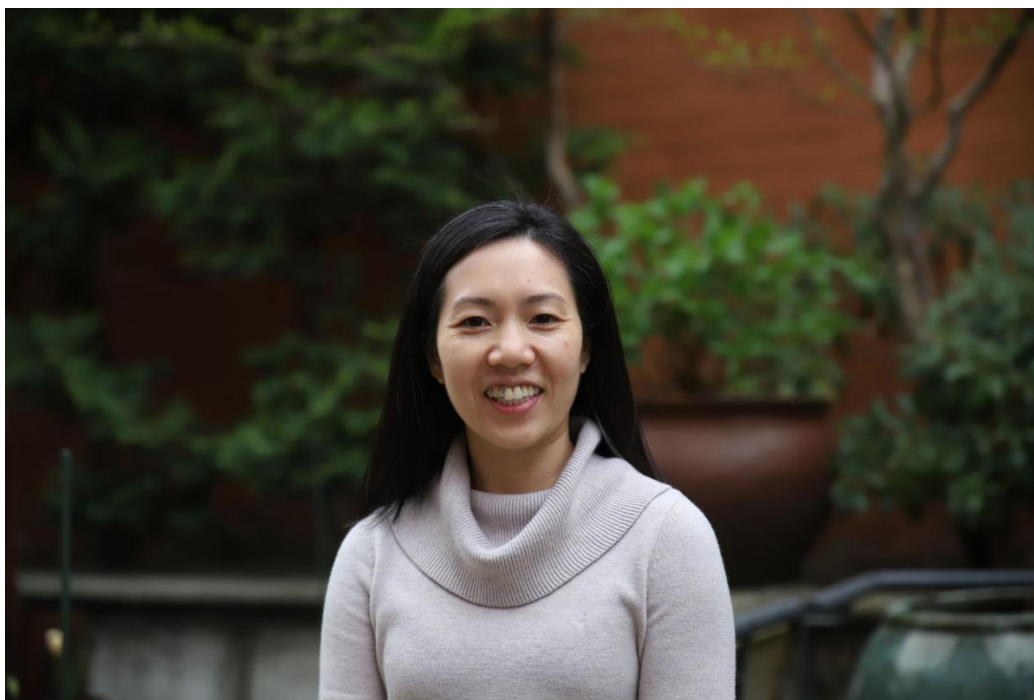
A very special thank you to 4Culture, whose grant helped us make this festival a great one, Okinawa Kenjin Kai, Northwest Taiko, Masako san, and Seattle Matsuri.



Residents and participants enjoying the performances.

Photo Credit: Theo Bickel

From the Desk of Nikkei Manor's Executive Director



Wow...what a whirlwind July!

We kicked things off with a bang on the 4th of July with an ice cream social, followed by big laughs when the Seafair Clowns brought their silly

performances and joy to our residents.

For Tanabata (Star Festival) celebration, our residents made wishes, folded origami, and decorated bamboo branches with hopes for health, happiness, and good fortune. We also hosted a Cognitive Health education session that inspired great conversation and wrapped up with a refreshing Tai Chi session to keep our bodies and minds moving in harmony.

One of the most special highlights of the month was our Bon Odori celebration where residents, families, staff, and the community come together to enjoy traditional music, dancing, food and community connection . The energy was infectious, and the smiles were unforgettable! I hope some of you were able to attend and experience that fun energy yourselves.

Oh, in the midst of all the festivities, we also tackled some much-needed building maintenance. Yes, that construction noise was our roof replacement, which is now officially completed. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue investing in the future of our building.

This year marks Keiro Northwest 50th anniversary and we were proud to showcase a special timeline display at Bon Odori celebration. If you missed that, join us for our upcoming Open House on August 21st from 12–3 PM. Come see recent updates, learn more about our services, mingle with our residents and staff and get a tour of our Nikkei Manor community. We'd love to see you there!



Holiday Market Sponsorship Opportunities



Ayame Kai's anticipated Holiday Market returns on Saturday, November 15, and we are currently welcoming sponsors! Supporting this event is a unique opportunity to align your **business or organization** with a trusted community fundraiser that benefits Nikkei Manor and Kokoro Kai. Your sponsorship helps cover event costs so that all proceeds can directly support elder care and enrichment.

Explore the full range of sponsorship opportunities at: <https://ayame-kai-market.raiselysite.com/>

Special Thanks from Ayame Kai Guild

Together with the Ayame Kai Guild, we extend heartfelt appreciation to the generous individuals and businesses who donated **in-kind items** to support this year's Summer Market. Your contributions helped make the event a success and continue to uplift the elders at Nikkei Manor and Kokoro Kai.

Thank you to...

Uwajimaya
City Produce
Japanese Community Cultural
Center of Washington
Patrick's Cafe and Bakery
Tomoko Matsuno
Jody Patawaran
Alicia Eng
Kris Terada
Nancy Fujimoto
Mari Nakashima
Shiz Kaku
Julie Ann Oiye
Fran Shintaku
Marcia Chow
Jenifer Kimura
U.Nami Kushi
Diane Felix
Marlene Okada
Chris Nagasaki Murphy
Tres Sandwiches
Pat Wakazuru
Liz Olschefski

Joyce Sato
Gail Hikida
Wendy Maldona
Momo Nikaido
Estate of Suteko Fujino
Colleen Kiyonaga
Mary Takahara
Itsuko Simpson
Mia Fisher
Louise Kato
Pauline Sakuma
Mrs. Uyeno
Cheryl Hoshino
Georgetown Brewing
Tres Sandwich House
Koto Coffee Jelly
Let's Roam
Wild Waves
Seattle Aquarium
Umami Kushi
Sugimoto Tea
Milk Drunk
Saint Bread
Seattle Storm
The Pastry Project

Join Us For These Upcoming Events



Genki Wellness Program: Sumi-e Workshop

Join us for a special **Genki Wellness Program: Sumi-e Workshop** led by **artist Hiroko Nagatomo** on August 29, from 1:30-3:30 PM at Nikkei Manor. This relaxing and meditative class is free and open to all and offers a hands-on introduction to the traditional Japanese ink wash painting technique. All materials will be provided, and no prior experience is necessary. Space is limited so RSVP soon to reserve your spot!

Date: August 29, 2025 1:30-3:30 PM

Location: Nikkei Manor

700 6th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98104

Please RSVP to Tomoko at tfaasuamalie@keironw.org or 206-726-6474



Nikkei Manor Open House: Featuring 50 Years of Keiro Northwest

Join us on August 21 for a special Open House at Nikkei Manor, where we'll also be marking 50 years of Keiro Northwest. Come tour our community, see recent updates, and learn more about our services all while celebrating five decades of caring for elders.

Date: August 21, 2025 Time 12-3PM

Location: Nikkei Manor

700 6th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98104

1-bedroom and studio apartments currently available.

RSVP to Beau Preiser at bpreiser@keironw.org or call 206.735.1752

Benefits Kawabe, Kin On, Legacy House & Nikkei Manor

PANCAKE BREAKFAST



1st Hill Lion's Annual Pancake Breakfast

Mark your calendars for the 1st Hill Lions Club Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, September 13, from 8 AM to 1 PM at Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church. This annual event raises funds to support Nikkei Manor, Kawabe House, and Kin On, bringing the community together over a hearty breakfast for a great cause.

Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased from a 1st Hill Lions Club member or at Nikkei Manor. Come enjoy delicious pancakes while helping to make a difference in the lives of local seniors.

Date: September 13, 2025 Time 8AM-1PM

Location: Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church

3001 24th Ave S, Seattle, WA

Cost: \$15



Onigiri making as a fun activity at Nikkei Manor.
Photo by Mariko Ueno

July's Highlights

- **7-7** Tanabata (Star Festival) celebration
 - **7-4** Fourth of July Ice cream social
 - **7-15** Onigiri activity
 - **7-20** Seafair Clowns visit residents
 - **7-24** Japanese high school students visit from Japan (coordinated by York Benimaru)
 - **7-25** Genki Wellness Program: Cognitive Health by Alicia Eng
 - **7-27** Bon Odori and Keiro NW 50th anniversary t-shirts
-



Japanese high school students visit from Japan (coordinated by York Benimaru)

Photo by Mariko Ueno

August: Upcoming Activities & Events

- **8-8 and 8-22** Gentle Tai Chi class by Tomoko
- **8-13** Koto “Japanese Harp” concert at August birthday party
- **8-19** Outing to Japanese American Town Hall by Tsuru for Solidarity at MLK Fame Community Center
- **8-20** Hawaiian flower craft at Kokoro Kai
- **8-24** Koto concert by Kanako Ford and Marcia Takamura
- **8-21** Open House and 50th Anniversary display
- **8-27** Hawaii Day
- **8-29** Sumi-E Workshop

We are able to continue offering art classes by Seniors Creating Art this year thanks to a generous family donation.

- **Full Calendars:** [Kokoro Kai](#), [Resident Activities at Nikkei Manor](#)



Did You Know? You Can Donate Stock!

Gifting appreciated stock is a smart and impactful way to support Keiro Northwest. By donating stocks directly, you may avoid capital gains taxes and receive a charitable deduction for the full market value, all while making a lasting difference in the lives of our elders. Talk to your financial advisor to see if a stock gift is right for you.

[Instructions for Stock Gifting](#)

A Gift from Amazon

Looking for a simple way to support our residents and program participants? You can help by purchasing an item from our Amazon Wish List! From activity supplies to everyday essentials, each donation enhances the quality of life at Nikkei Manor and Kokoro Kai.

[Amazon Wish List](#)

You Can Even Donate Your Old Vehicle

Keiro Northwest and Nikkei Manor have partnered with CARS (Charitable Adult Rides & Services) to facilitate vehicle donations. To get started, simply visit the link below or call **855-500-RIDE (7433)**. Your generous vehicle donation will gift 70% of the net value to supporting our mission.

[CARS for Nikkei Manor](#)



Photo Credit: Theo Bickel

Staff Anniversaries!

August Anniversaries

Eva Orallo 16 years

Vicky Aguas 19 years

Thank you for making every day the BEST day for our residents and participants.



Photo by Eugene Tagawa

最後に、ありがとうございました。



Our Mission Statement: Honoring the past and preserving Japanese American heritage, we provide uniquely-tailored care to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs for elders to thrive.

www.keironw.org



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