

Special Thanks

Thanks to Our Donors

(from January 2000)

Lillian & Charles Kadota
Lucy Komori and
Shinobu Homma
Malcolm Maynard
Mami Miyata
Alia Nakashima
Audrey Nishi
July Ono
David Shimzu
Kathy Shimizu
Dr. Tom Shoyama
Rita Wong
Les Yamada
Sachiko Yamaguchi

Once again, the Powell Street Festival Board would like to thank all of you who have become members or renewed your membership in the past year. Special thanks to those of you who sent in donations with your membership! We would also like to thank all of you who attended our Annual General Meeting on April 15th. We really appreciate everyone's support!

As always, we continue to look for core volunteers and Board members. With the development of a strategic plan (please see "The APOD Story" inside for more information), we are hoping that we can count on people to serve on committees, fundraise and solicit support from the three levels of government to try to make positive changes to the Festival and the Downtown Eastside.

2000 Powell Street Festival Board

President: Atsuko Yamashita
Vice-President: Sayuri Katayama
Secretary: Alia Nakashima
Treasurer: Kathy Shimizu
Directors: Elizabeth Hyodo, Ian Miki, KD Watanabe

Newsletter articles by Miko Hoffman, Reiko Tagami and Kathy Shimizu and newsletter production by Kathy Shimizu.
Photos by John Endo Greenaway and Kathy Shimizu.
This year's poster designed by Kao with production help from Michael Speier.

The Hapa Big Board at Centre A

Michael Tora Speier's *Hapa Big Board* (huge interactive skateboard) will be on display at Centre A (849 Homer Street at Smithe in Vancouver) in August, just after the Festival. For more information, please call 876-1548.

Centre A is dedicated to the research, production, collection, presentation, dissemination, and interpretation of contemporary Asian Art.



What can you get for 5 bucks? A One Year Membership to the Powell Street Festival Society!

- You get two exciting issues of the PSFS Newsletter (Including a sneak preview of each year's Festival)!
- It's a great way to support the Festival and keep in touch.

Membership	\$5.00
Donations greatly appreciated!	_____
Amount enclosed	_____

Please make all cheques payable to: **Powell Street Festival Society**, 1101 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC V6H 1G2

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Prov. _____ Postal code _____
Phone _____ Fax _____
Email _____ Date _____

Membership is for 12 months from the date of registration; donations are gratefully accepted and a tax-deductible receipt will be issued for the amount over and above the membership cost.

Powell Street Festival

July 2000 Volume 6 Number 2

Powell Street Festival 2000

– by Miko Hoffman



Miko Hoffman,
this year's
Powell Street Festival
Coordinator

The 24th annual Powell Street Festival is on **Saturday, August 5th and Sunday, August 6th** and it is fast approaching. Read on for some of the exciting additions to this year's Festival!

The change that is on everyone's mind is the temporary change in location. Although the move from an outdoor festival indoors to the Vancouver Japanese Language School (or VJLS at 475 Alexander Street) is quite drastic, we feel confident that most aspects of the Festival that we know and love will be accommodated—all under one roof! You'll still be treated to dance, music, taiko, community tables, displays, martial arts, workshops, crafts, food, and more! Festival favourites, like *Sawagi Taiko* and *Katari Taiko*, *Sakura Singers*, dance from *Nishikawa-Ryu* and *Otowa-Ryu*, displays from the *Vancouver Ikebana Association* and *Vancouver Sumie Class*, will all be back. The Children's area will be diverse and fun as always, with face painting, kabuto making, and kiai contests.

The unofficial theme for the 24th annual Powell Street Festival is the *International Year for the Culture of Peace* as declared by the UN, and as such, we are happy to have *Peace Boat* join us as special guests at the Festival. Peace Boat is a Japan-based Non-Governmental Organization committed to establishing a global network which supports initiatives in the fields of human rights, the environment, peace issues, and sustainable development. During the 17 years since their inaugural voyage, they have sailed to more than 85 ports of call in over 60 countries, joined by 13,000 people from all walks of life. We are lucky enough to have Peace Boat dock in Vancouver during the Festival. They are excited at the prospect of

participating in a walking tour and possibly a workshop on the JC internment, both by the *JC National Museum*. They will also have their own table in the "community tent" and will perform (Saturday, 4:30 pm) a dance written for the Team UNESCO Manifesto 2000, reflecting the six points of the Manifesto: respect, reject, share, listen, preserve, rediscover.

New also to this year are evening concerts taking place on both Saturday and Sunday. These evening fundraisers for the Powell Street Festival Society (with admission by donation) will feature more contemporary performances by new and previous Festival artists. The Saturday show will be a pop-oriented night, with local pop bands and a DJ. The Sunday show will be more improv/new music-oriented, featuring *Almost Transparent Blue* (a trio comprised of alto-sax, electric guitar, electronics, and percussion), *Loud* (taiko and guitar), and *Bambooning* (a shakuhachi duo comprised of Al Ramos and Hoshi Bonchiku from Japan). These shows will start at 8:30 pm on each night.

More new entertainment this year includes a theatre performance from the *VJLS drama club* and the first performance by the *Vancouver Rakugo Club*, Japanese comedic storytelling by *Shige Yoshioka*, both on Saturday. The drama club will perform a story about a group of students who get together for a sleepover—as they sleep, the actors play out their dreams.

You will find a huge interactive skateboard in your midst when you arrive at the Festival. This *Hapa Big Board*, the brainchild of *Michael Tora Speier*, will offer fun and education for people of all ages. Be sure to check it out!

Za Daikon will once again be bringing us their theatre production. The only performance in the Firehall Theatre this year, *Za Daikon* will truly reveal their popularity with two shows, on Sunday at 3:00 pm and at 6:00 pm. They will be performing *Urakido Monogatari*, a story about a lovable thief. Their 3:00 pm show will be preceded by the *Vancouver Rakugo Club*.

The *Urasenke Vancouver Chapter* will be treating us to more than their usual *Sa-do*. This year, participants will be invited to take part in the tea ceremony, taking place in the tatami room on the VJLS roof. Tea service will take place hourly from 1:00-5:00 pm on Saturday and room is limited, so sign up early!

continued inside

(It looks like we'll be at this location for one more year.)

Powell Street Festival Society 1101 West Broadway Vancouver, BC V6H 1G2

tel: (604) 739-9388 fax: (604) 732-4417

web: <http://www.shinnova.com/powellstfestival>



Special thanks to Kao for creating this year's poster and flyer designs and to Michael Speier for coordinating the final production.

continued from front page

Returning from last year, the poet **Sherry Tanaka** brings us **World Poetry Cafe: "Healing Voices: Peace on Earth."** She will host a round table conversation and poetry experience with some of the most unique and renowned poets from Vancouver's multicultural communities.

Feeling a bit sore? Representatives from the **Canadian College of Shiatsu Therapy** will be on-hand to provide Festival go-ers with a free Shiatsu demonstration and treatment on Saturday from 2:00-5:00 pm. As usual, there will be many ways to "join in" at the Festival—by signing up for the JCNM's walking tours, learning origami, being treated with Shiatsu, drinking tea... or just have a seat in the hall and enjoy some food and entertainment!

One of the major changes in format will be the food booths. The Festival Foods area will be supplied by one large group, consisting of members of many of the community groups who have had booths in the past. The menu will be limited, but don't doubt its quality—these are the same cooks who have brought you the ever-popular takoyaki, imagawayaki and teriyaki chicken in the past!

And, as always, we need dedicated volunteers to help run the Festival smoothly. If you're interested in helping out before, during, or after the Festival, let us know. Call Miko at 739.9388 for more information.



The Vancouver Japanese Language School & Japanese Hall had its official opening on Sunday, June 25th with a wonderful performance by Chibi Taiko, the attendance of many dignitaries and a huge crowd of supporters. We are very excited to be holding this year's Festival in this beautiful facility and we would like to express our gratitude to the Vancouver Japanese Language School Board of Directors for allowing us to do so and for being so accommodating. They have really supported us through this year's changes and we greatly appreciate that. Please come down to the Festival and see the new School for yourself!



The APOD Story

At the beginning of this year, the Powell Street Festival Society received an **Arts Partners in Organizational Development (APOD)** grant (Part B) through the Vancouver Arts Stabilization Team. The program is funded by the Vancouver Foundation, the City of Vancouver, the B.C. Arts Council and Canadian Heritage. Special thanks to Sook Kong and Alia Nakashima for writing the grant application which was based on the Needs Assessment the Board did in 1998 (thanks to an APOD "Part A" grant we received), the Board's evaluation of the 1999 Festival and the conversations and helpful suggestions given at the Community Meeting held in October 1999. Thanks again to all of you who participated in that meeting. The funds from the second APOD grant have allowed us to hire consultants to help us develop a strategic plan.

We are very excited to be working with **Eponymous Productions and Management Services** who will act as our consultants for our APOD grant. Eponymous is a three person team (**Jim Smith, Bernard Sauvé** and **Dorothy Woodend**) that has extensive experience working with arts organizations in Vancouver, including Vancouver New Music, The Holy Body Tattoo, The Firehall Arts Centre and numerous groups within the Vancouver cultural community. They have been bookkeeping for the Powell Street Festival Society for the past 4 years, for which we are very grateful, and have been learning about the Society and the Festival during that time. Their expertise in organizational development and management will be a great asset to the Society's

process of trying to make positive changes for the long term survival of the Festival!

As a result of some initial meetings, we have established that we will work with Eponymous over the next four months. The idea is to strike a Working Committee that will work in association with the Board and Eponymous to review the internal structure of the Society, assess the current environment and hopefully, devise an organizational structure and financial model to sustain the Society. We will also use this year's Festival to assess the current situation regarding audience, volunteers, participation, and programming. As part of this process, we hope to hear from **YOU**, our loyal supporters, so we are holding another **Community Meeting on Monday, August 28th at the Vancouver Japanese Language School at 7 pm**. Part of the idea is to collect more feedback (we still have your suggestions from the last meeting but you may have some new ones after this year's Festival) but the Board and Eponymous would also like to hear what the community thinks about the ideas that we are developing for the Society. You will be our "sounding board" so please join us on August 28th!

The APOD process should be wrapped up by the end of November of this year and we hope to start implementing changes as soon as possible. We appreciate your patience and we will do our best to communicate the outcome of this work as best we can. If you cannot make the meeting but would like to send us your suggestions, please fax them to the office at 732-4417. Thanks!

Film and Video: The (Long and) Short of It

– by Reiko Tagami

An Asian with an afro, the quest for the elusive pine mushroom, a day in the life of a Chinatown cafe (remember that machine that serves milk from a tube?), a young girl's fascination with laundry whitener, and a beautiful pas-de-deux between a magnifying glass and a photograph. All these and more serve as subjects for the short films by a multi-talented group of local Asian Canadian artists.

An enthusiastic and varied audience turned out to watch "Short Sightings", the first-ever Powell Street Festival Society film and video night. **Gastown's Blinding Light Cinema** proved that good things definitely come in small (and short) packages, as it was the perfect venue for the event, held on Monday, May 29th, 2000, in celebration of Asian Heritage Month.

The lineup of films ranged from the social commentary of **Kira Wu** (*Whitewash*), **Cindy Mochizuki** (*Uninvited Guests*) and **Leo Quan** (*Uninvited Guests* and *Power Gyoza*), to **Gordon Wong's** bittersweet, questioning *Shuet Ying: A Story of My Mother*, to the gentle nostalgia of **Lynda Nakashima's** *Hong Kong Cafe*. The unfettered, gleeful silliness of **Meesoo Lee's** barrage of shorts in the first half of the evening (*Feelings* and *Cookies* were two of my personal favourites) contrasted with **Hoi Bing Mo's** introspective *Broken Lines* and *State of Mind* later on. Tweaking form, **Mo-ling Chui** (*Elasticity*) and the team of **Cindy Mochizuki** and **Leo Quan** used multiple frames in their work, while **Winston Xin** made utmost use of computer technology, producing the biting *Boulevard of Broken Sync* as a Quick-Time video on his Mac.

The works screened at "Short Sightings" were ample testament to the innovative vision and talents of Vancouver's current crop of Asian Canadian film and video artists. The Powell Street Festival Society sincerely thanks the artists and Video Out for donating the use of these works and the Blinding Light Cinema staff for being so helpful. Make sure to mark next year's event on your calendar!

ICAS Japanese TV Programs

Thanks again to the Intercultural Action Society (ICAS) for promoting the Festival during their Japanese community TV programs on Rogers Multicultural Channel. As always, they will be at the Festival covering the action so smile for the camera when you see them! The ICAS program schedule is below:

Sunday	9:00 - 10:00pm	Japanese Drama (English subtitled)
Monday	5:00 - 5:30pm	News from Japan
Tuesday	5:00 - 5:30pm	News from Japan
Wednesday	5:00 - 5:30pm	News from Japan
Thursday	10:00 - 10:30am	Local Topics
	5:00 - 5:30pm	News from Japan
Friday	5:00 - 5:30pm	News from Japan
Saturday	10:30 - 11:00am	Local Topics (rebroadcast)
	6:00 - 6:30pm	Japan This Week (English)
	11:00 - 11:30pm	Weekly News from Japan (Japanese)

Rogers Multicultural Channel:
Rogers Cable 20/ North & West Vancouver, White Rock: Cable 57 / Delta: Cable 50

Do you know anyone who might want to volunteer at the Powell Street Festival? Please let Miko know at 739-9388! Thanks!