

カナダ日系のコミュニティ・歴史・文化の月刊誌

the Bulletin

けっほ
April.2023

a journal of Japanese Canadian community, history + culture

JAPANESE CANADIAN LEGACIES COMMUNITY UPDATE



GVJCCA Wins BC Multicultural and Anti-Racism Award for Intercultural Trust

Emi Sasagawa Debut Novel: Atomweight

コロナ渦収束に向かう社会と取り残される人々 | コミュニティコーナー

Tegami: Reaching Out Across Distance | Nitobe Gardens Plaque Unveiling

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Atomweight – a novel by Emi Sasagawa

Prologue (excerpt)

I took another sip of the too sweet cocktail in front of me. “Surprise me,” I had said to the middle-aged bartender when he asked me what I wanted to drink. I was sitting alone at a pub near Holborn Station, popular with the university crowd. I’d walked by it many times, but never been inside.

That Thursday, I’d counted on a full house; instead, the pub was nearly empty. Just a couple of businessmen having a heated discussion the 2008 financial crisis, and how the Bank of England intended to pump £75 million into the economy, and a group of five men who looked to be a few years older than me, early twenties maybe. In the six months I’d been attending the London School of Economics, I’d learned to recognize the overblown egos of a certain class of British schoolboy. With nothing to prove and little to lose, a few drinks were the only excuse they needed for bigotry or misogyny.

Somebody had picked up a girl at a party last night. “She was wild, if you know what I mean.” Another one was waiting for the right time to text back after a first date—two days would suffice, one of his friends advised. A third one was bragging about a threesome he once had with two German tourists. “Thirsty tourists, I tell you.”

Their remarks annoyed me, but this was just standard misguided masculinity. Nothing made my blood boil or my hands twitch. I itched for a confrontation, but they didn’t excite me. No spark. Another sip of my cocktail. I wondered why more women weren’t gay.

The front door swung open and slammed against a chair, admitting a frigid wind and a young South Asian man who took a seat at the bar and ordered a pint. I pulled my hair back from my face so I could see him better.

He was the definition of average: short—only a couple of inches taller than me—with straight, black hair perfectly parted to one side, wearing the caramel boots, acid washed jeans, and navy-blue bomber jacket typical of first-generation Asians on the rise. He and I were the same hue of brown, but where the hairs on my hands were thin and light, his were thick and black.

There was something about his features that reminded me of Ayesha. The nose, the eyebrows. He looked like Asad. Or was this just me, thinking all South Asian men looked the same? I inhaled deeply, stretching my arms above my head, then turned to the bar and took the last sip of my drink.

“Do you want another one of those?” The younger bartender, Teddy according to his nametag, came over.

“It’s alright. Just a shot of vodka.”

“You here often?” the Asad lookalike asked. “I feel like I’ve seen you before.” His right foot tapped on the footrest to the rhythm of the rain.

“I doubt it,” I replied curtly, folding the napkin in front of me into a triangle. I looked at his biceps. Not much bigger than mine.

“Technically, I’m not supposed to drink.” He moved a seat nearer. His eyelashes were so long they curled up, just like

Ayesha’s. I could smell the rain on him, mixed in with cigarettes. I missed how she smelled of cigarettes. He took a large gulp of his beer and then turned to me. “Muslims are not supposed to drink.”

“Then why do you?” I asked, spurring him on, sizing him up. My jaw tightened in anticipation.

“I guess I don’t like being told what to do.” He laughed and downed the rest of his beer, keeping eye contact with me, inviting complicity in his religious transgression. “Another one,” he called to Teddy.

I couldn’t decide whether he was trying to impress me or if he was just a regular asshole. Maybe this was a straight courting ritual, one I was not familiar with. His attention felt forced, repulsive, and I welcomed the familiar heat rising to my head, a blend of anger and elation. He was pushing the right buttons.

I smiled as Teddy wiped the counter with a dirty cloth and placed a shot of vodka in front of me. He stretched over the bar, on the tip of his toes and leaned in. “Is he bothering you? I can ask him to move.”

“It’s fine, thank you,” I said, tight-lipped. I’m sure Teddy’s intentions were good, but I hadn’t asked for help.

“Is he the boyfriend?” Asad lookalike asked.

“No.” My nostrils flared as I turned to face him. “Penises don’t interest me.”

The man’s eyes widened. “That’s a bold statement.” He laughed louder than necessary, feigning ease.

I stared at him. “I guess I don’t like being told who to like.”

“Touché.” He turned to face me as Teddy exchanged the empty beer glass for a full one.

I nodded slowly. The man and I locked eyes. He opened his mouth, but then looked away. We were close. I could feel it. Now was not the time to be coy. “It looks like you have more to say about this.” I pressed my lips together and inhaled. “Please, do enlighten me on your unsolicited opinion.” Idiocy only needs the smallest opportunity to make an appearance.

He sneered. “You should be careful who you go around saying that to.” He took a sip of his beer. “If you were my sister, I’d set you straight.” He shifted his body in his seat and turned away from me.

Rage rose from the pit of my stomach, up my chest, all the way to my head. My legs shook under the counter. I moved my neck from side to side. Even then, in thick of unrepressed anger, I wondered if I was enough—big enough, strong enough. At five foot four and just over a hundred pounds, I was an atomweight, lighter than straw. Maybe that’s why he couldn’t have known what would happen next.

Excerpt from *Atomweight*, by Emi Sasagawa reprinted with permission. Published by Tidewater Press.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF JAPANESE CANADIANS

NAJC.CA

ANGLICAN
HEALING FUND

When three doors close another one opens

This article contains references to sexual abuse of minors.

Dear Community members,

This is an update from the Healing Fund for Japanese Canadians. We are working with the NAJC and the Anglican Church to support survivors of Mr. Nakayama’s sexual abuse. Mr. Nakayama was an Anglican priest who is known to have abused boys from the 1930s to the 1980s. His actions had been covered up for decades. The Healing Fund for Japanese Canadians was established in 2021 and the Project Office has been collecting information on Mr. Nakayama’s abuse history. We have faced challenges from some members of the community who do not know the best path forward. Silence has been the dominant approach to healing this pain since the 1930s. For most survivors and families this approach has not worked.



Our recent work

Survivors have asked for openness in telling the truth surrounding Mr. Nakayama and his crimes. They have voiced their support for correcting the historical record that has been written predominately in support of Mr. Nakayama. In our search for information we approached the Anglican Church for information. The Dioceses (Anglican regional administrative districts) of New Westminster and Calgary have yet to provide their records.

The Healing Fund has approached other archives for information. We have done this to ensure a complete picture of Mr. Nakayama’s life is known and that the continued trauma of survivors can be remedied, in part, by letting them know that Mr. Nakayama’s true nature will be brought to light. Nothing has been more painful for some survivors to know that Mr. Nakaya-

ma’s prolific abuses were kept secret (Testimonies 5, 16&17, 19). With continued documentation of this history we hope to correct the historical record so future generations can have a full understanding of the crimes committed and the impact these have had on families and communities across Canada.

Following the September 2022 *Bulletin-Geppo* story (on page 15, where we shared our search into the 1952 Okinawa abuse incident) we contacted the Diocese of Hawai’i. We asked their archivist Mr. Ching and Bishop Fitzpatrick for information regarding Mr. Nakayama. We did this because in 1952 the Anglican Church in Japan (Nippon Sei Ko Kai) was overseen by the American Episcopal Diocese of Hawai’i. On December 7, 2022, the Diocese responded that not a single document pertaining to Mr. Nakayama’s expulsion in 1952 was found.

The Diocese of Hawai’i suggested the Episcopal archives in Austin, Texas, might have more information. On March 9, 2023, we received this response from the Episcopal archives:

Dear Peter...We have reviewed our holdings around the Episcopal missions to Japan and the missionary district of Hawaii and did not find any (emphasis added) references to Mr. Gordon Goichi Nakayama.

This result is very informative because it demonstrates that evidence of Mr. Nakayama’s abuses were hidden, destroyed or forgotten. It is documented that Mr. Nakayama was exposed molesting a child in Okinawa and was sent home to Canada in disgrace. And yet it is incredibly difficult to find church records on this decision, or records of Mr. Nakayama at all.

Mr. Nakayama’s personal files likely contain much information but they remain closed in the private archives at UBC until 2095. We asked for clarification from UBC on this ban on access to these archives and they have been denied by both UBC and by the donor of these materials. The Healing Fund views this restriction to be a deeply saddening decision by UBC. It hides materials from survivors, their families and the community for an unreasonably long time while survivors and their families are experiencing continued trauma and mental health issues related to Mr. Nakayama’s crimes.

Three doors that have closed: the Diocese of Hawai’i, Austin’s Episcopal Archives, and UBC’s Archives. But one has opened in the most unlikely of places: Mr. Nakayama’s own published books. In his life Mr. Nakayama published many books that

continued on page 37



Sincerely,
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Milestones

HIGA, Amy Our much loved matriarch Amy Higa left this world February 16, 2023. We will miss her forever. She lived in her house until her last day which was her great wish. She used to say “I’m not lonely in this house. I sit at the kitchen table overlooking the ocean and solve the crossword like I did with your dad.” Amy presided over many happy family get-togethers, always with her signature flower in her beautiful hair. How lucky we were to be in the centre of this woman’s life.

In her youth Amy and her amazing family overcame the forced evacuation and property seizure of Canadian-born citizens of Japanese descent. After university Amy and Jack became energetic participants in the Grande Prairie, Alberta community. Amy taught high school English once her children were all in school. In 1972 Amy and Jack returned to Amy’s Vancouver birthplace where they worked, travelled and enjoyed rich and fulfilling lives.

Amy leaves her loving family: her brother Seiji; her children Dorothy, Lawrence, Arnold and Geoffrey; her son-in-law Gordon and daughters-in-law Juvena and Mary; and her grandchildren she was so proud of, Lauren, Aileen, Mackenzie and Dillon.

We are grateful to the Lions Gate emergency staff for their professionalism and kindness. A small Celebration was held on April 1, 2023 at the West Vancouver Lawn Bowling Club.

KANEDA, Toshi May 21, 1925 - February 10, 2023. With great sadness we mourn the passing of Toshi Kaneda on February 10, 2023. Toshi was a distinguished scientist with the Alberta Research Council (Alberta Innovates) from 1960 to 1992.

He will be remembered by his wife Hideko, of 64 years, his son Ken, daughter Kana, grandson Justin, granddaughter Tara, great-grandson Haru and great-granddaughter Rin.

Toshi was born and raised in Utsunomiya, Japan. He obtained a Bachelor of Engineering from the Tokyo Institute of Technology, where he also completed his graduate work. He abandoned a career in architecture for a chance to pursue a career in the promising new field of microbiology. After graduating from Tokyo University with a Doctor of Science degree, he left his native Japan to complete his postdoctoral studies at the Prairie Regional Laboratory of the National Research Council in Saskatoon, and the Biochemistry Department of Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

In 1960, Dr. Kaneda joined the Research Council of Alberta and in 1963 published his first two papers on the biosynthesis of branch-chained fatty acids. It was a scientific best-seller. Over the next 29 years, Toshi continued the researched pioneered and developed by his microbiology group and with the support of the Albert Research Council, he made important contributions to the chemistry of living organisms and to the body of scientific knowledge. In recognition of the international standard of his work, Toshi was named Research Fellow of the Alberta Research Council in 1984.

Toshi and Hideko had lived in Edmonton for 34 years in the house which Toshi designed - the only time, he says, he had a client for those skills!

After retiring and moving to Langley BC, Toshi enjoyed spending time with his family, travelling, photography and tending to his collection of exotic plants.

KIMURA, Doris Midori (nee Fukuhara) It is with sadness that the family of Doris Midori Kimura announce her peaceful passing on March 17, 2023 at the age of 92 in Burlington, Ontario. Doris was a long-time resident of Vancouver. In 2019, she and her late husband Ed moved to Burlington. Loving mother of Lorraine Kimura (Alan Simunic) and Karen Kimura (Richard Hodgson). Doting grandmother to Ashley and Emma Simunic, and to Paul and Kate Hodgson. She is also survived by older sisters Sumi Fukuhara of Mission, BC and Terry Kawamoto of Abbotsford, BC. She will be deeply missed by her family and friends. The family would like to thank the staff of the Williamsburg for the exceptional care she received while she resided there. A Celebration of Life will be held later in Vancouver. For those who wish to donate in memory of Doris, a donation to the Canadian Lung Association or the Nikkei Place foundation would be appreciated by the family. www.smithsfh.com

MATSUMOTO, Miki Rose March 27 1921 - February 26 2023. With deep sadness we announce the passing of Miki Matsumoto, a month short of her 102nd birthday. Miki was born in Prince Rupert BC to Morikichi and Nami Doi, spending her childhood and youth with her family and working at the Haysport cannery. In October 1941, at the age of 20, Miki married a young boat builder, Isamu (Sam) Matsumoto. Along with thousands of other loyal Japanese-Canadians, Miki and Sam then suffered the indignity of being sent to an internment camp in Slocan City, BC, where their two sons, Ken and Alan, were born. After their release from internment two daughters, Rita and Pat, were born in Nelson BC.

After the War Measures act was lifted on April 1, 1949, Sam moved the family to Dollarton in North Vancouver to pursue his dream of shipbuilding, and soon another daughter, Julie, was born. The family and shipyard kept Miki very busy, but she still found time to volunteer for various organizations like the I.O.D.E. and the local church.

We remember her as a beauty, an expert seamstress and an excellent cook. She loved movies and was a foodie before her time.

Miki carried out endless ideas and projects, and, as with anything she put her mind to—like making a massive patchwork cover for our regulation-sized pool table or hooking a 40-foot hallway rug—she did a wonderful job. Whether it was Japanese home cooking or Edith Adams recipes, we all remember how she turned out delicious meals (or picnics) daily for the whole family for all the years we were at home. Every New Year’s Day celebration Miki outdid herself with fabulous Japanese dishes and holiday delicacies and at rare restaurant meals she would

study the dishes and figure out how to improve them. She collected recipes by the binders-full.

Miki was Mom, Grandma, Baachan, Great Grandma and Aunt. She was predeceased by her husband Sam, her sister Mie and eldest son Ken, and is survived and will be so sadly missed by four children, twelve grandchildren and eighteen great grandchildren.

NAKAMOTO, Kevin It is a profound sadness to announce the sudden passing of Kevin Nakamoto on March 2, 2023. Kevin was born on February 14, 1970 to Kaz and Mary Nakamoto. Kevin was the most loving husband, brother and uncle. He is survived by his wife, Sharon, parents Kaz and Mary, sister Cheryl, brother-in-law, Edward, nephew Spencer, niece Lauren, brother Derek, sister-in-law Kelly, nephews Jaden and Kai, and their beloved pet Harley. Upon graduation from Burnaby North Secondary School, Kevin went on to earn his bachelor’s degree from Simon Fraser University. He started work in the collection business at Equifax Canada, where he met Sharon. Kevin’s career began at Intertek PSI in 1995 when it was called Warnock Hersey. He excelled in his career with Intertek and his position allowed him to travel the world, having lived in China and been based in Pennsylvania. Sharon would stand by his side during all the moves and travelling. They built their lives together with Max (passed) and Harley. Kevin had the personality and natural charisma to make friends no matter the situation. He was a fantastic story teller and often left everyone laughing. His stories left long lasting memories to everyone who had the pleasure of hearing them. As a man of true integrity and loyalty, Kevin would always persevere under any circumstances. He worked incredibly hard as he was so dedicated to his teams over the 28 years. Kevin built everlasting relationships and has dear friends that have been with him since he was a young child. He always enjoyed good food and great wine with his friends and had a passion for speed-anything on 2 or 4 wheels that could move fast! Kevin was a truly great man whose impact will forever be felt by his family and friends that loved him dearly. As a giving and generous man, Kevin’s passing leaves an unfillable gap in our hearts. His ability to sacrifice, provide, support, and love will be forever engrained in all of us. A Celebration of Life will follow. In lieu of flowers a donation can be made to Heart and Stroke Foundation, Coquitlam Food Bank, your local Food Bank, or the Nikkei Foundation.

YAMANOUCI, Masami (Sam) July 24, 1936 - February 23, 2023. It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Masami (Sam) Yamanouchi on February 23, 2023. He leaves behind his son Barry and granddaughter Elana and daughter-in-law Sheila. He predeceased by his parents Keiji and Tei, his wife Tomie, son Rod (Sheila), sisters Kumi (Min) and Sumi (Tosh), and brother Hisao. Sam grew up in

Picture Butte, Alberta, and eventually studied at the University of Alberta to become a structural engineer. He then moved to Vancouver and worked as an engineer for over 30 years. In 1964, he met and married the love of his life, Tomie and was greatly dedicated to her and their two boys. Sam had many interests which included bridge, hockey, golf, gardening, wood working and fishing. He loved to chat with people and is fondly remembered by friends and family for his sense of humour. He will be missed by us all. There will be a Celebration of Life for Sam and his wife Tomie at the Vancouver Bridge Centre 2177 W. 42nd on April 29 at 3:00pm. ♦



Healing continued

chronicle his missionary trips. We recently acquired a book published in 1958, shipped in from Tokyo. This book details Mr. Nakayama’s missionary trips across America in the 1950s. Importantly, these are the first trips Mr. Nakayama is allowed to go on after being exposed as a sexual abuser to the Nippon Sei Ko Kai, the Episcopalian Church, and the Anglicans as a clergy sexual abuser. This book will now be added to our list of materials to be translated.

In Closing

The impact of clergy sexual abuse can be profound and long-lasting. Survivors may experience a range of emotional, psychological, and physical effects, including depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and even suicide. The abuse can also damage the trust and faith that people have in their support networks, religious institutions and leaders.

It is important to speak out about clergy sexual abuse, report instances of abuse, and work to prevent future harm. This includes supporting survivors, holding abusers accountable for their actions, and promoting healing and justice for all those affected by this devastating form of abuse.

Ultimately, addressing clergy sexual abuse requires a coordinated effort from individuals, religious institutions, and society as a whole. It requires a commitment to listening to and supporting survivors, holding abusers accountable, and creating a culture of transparency, accountability, and healing. By working together, we can help prevent future abuse and support those who have been impacted by this devastating form of abuse. ♦

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