

[Open in browser](#)



Volume 2, Issue 2

- Contents -

Sedai Features: Margaret Lyons – Early Career in Broadcasting

Maru: Immigration Stories - Choosing Artifacts and Photographs for a New Exhibit

Support Our Kids Homestay Program 東日本大震災被災児童自立支援プロジェクト

Sedai Features: Margaret Lyons – Early Career in Broadcasting



Like the rest of Japanese Canadians, Margaret Inouye (later Lyons) was removed from her home in Mission, British Columbia during WWII. After much deliberation, it was decided that Margaret and her younger sister would be sent to Winnipeg and work as domestic help for a wealthy family. At the time, there were exclusionary law in Winnipeg that forbade Japanese Canadians from living in the city and a debate ensued if they would allow two dangerous enemy aliens, who in truth were two teenagers, to live there. Margaret's powerful employer were able to persuade the city and Margaret and her sister were allowed to stay. The rest of her family weren't given such consideration so they lived in outside the perimeter of the city.

Despite the hardship, in an interview with the JCCC in 2010, Margaret expressed a sense of relief, "I personally escaped a fate that was all mapped out for me from my

mother. I wanted to go to university because my English teacher wanted me to try out a scholarship for UBC. My mother forbid it.” Margaret would go on to complete her undergraduate degree in Economics in McMaster University where she met Edward Lyons, her future husband. On the day of their graduation, Margaret would marry Edward and then move to London, England where she would land a job at BBC as a typist. In this month’s Sedai feature, Margaret retells her early career in broadcasting and how she worked her way up at BBC.



Margaret Lyons. 2010-036. Sedai Oral History Collection.

On January 28, 2021, the North American Broadcasters Association (NABA) held a virtual tribute for the late Margaret Lyons to celebrate the legendary woman who led the Radio Revolution. To watch the tribute with insights from her former CBC colleagues including Peter Herrndorf, Pamela Wallin, Mark Starowicz, click [here](#). Interested in learning more about Margaret? Here is another short clip from the Sedai project: [Margaret Lyons - Diversity in Radio](#). Margaret’s [interview transcript](#) is also available on the Sedai Project at the JCCC.

Maru: Immigration Stories - Choosing Artifacts and Photographs for a New Exhibit

Over the past 2 years, the JCCC has been working on planning, researching, designing and creating our new exhibit Maru: Immigration Stories. You may have already seen some of the images and artifacts featured in this exhibit, but we wanted to tell you how some of these items are chosen.

During the research phase, all items that were found both within the JCCC Collections and the collections of other institutions were added to a spreadsheet that was sorted by research topic. For instance, there were about fifteen photographs of ships listed from both the JCCC Collections and from other institutions.

In the design phase, we looked at the text and decided where photographs of ships would be most effective, and determined which photographs would work best with the text. In the end we chose four photographs of ships to go with the text.



View of Passengers Arriving in Vancouver Aboard the Kumeric, 1907, Rare Books and Special Collections, University of British Columbia Library, JPCP-36-002b.

One such photo was of the ship Kumeric. We had two options for this photo. Both photos were tried on the panel design panel, but due to the composition of the photographs, one looked better than the other.



A Kumeric Immigration Ship Landing, ca. 1904, JCCC Original Photographic Collection, 2001.6.12.

Over the last year or so, as we document and share with our community the working process of this exhibit, we have received donations of photographs from community members who want to share their personal and family histories with us. Some of those were of their own family on board these ships. These photographs have thrown a delightful wrench into our planning as we try to find ways to incorporate the best of them into an already jam-packed exhibit.

We hope that you will have as much fun exploring the photographs and artifacts in Maru: Immigration Stories as we had choosing them!



Passengers on Hie Maru. After 1938. Saburo and Toshie Takahashi Collection, JCCC. 2020-11-02-01.

Support Our Kids Homestay Program

On Feb 13, 2021, Fukushima was hit with an earthquake which left more than 150 people injured. 10 years since the Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami, one is reminded again of the earth's devastating power and destructiveness. In 2011, an earthquake and tsunami, the strongest in Japan's recorded history, left more than 450,000 homeless, and took the lives of more than 15,500 people. At that time, embassies in Tokyo came together to launch a homestay program for young people from that region. Canada, together with the UK, USA, Australia, Ireland, France, Switzerland and San Marino hosted 449 students between 2011 to 2019 to allow them, for two weeks, to leave behind the reality of their changed lives, and immerse in another culture, and learn about other country's experience and history.

The JCCC was fortunate to have participated in this program, through the generous and enthusiastic support of Ms Chako Setoyama and Mr James Matsumoto.



[Support Our Kids Introduction 2019](#)
東日本大震災被災児童自立支援プロジェクト「Support Our Kids」の紹介映像です。

2021年2月13日、福島県沖を震源とする地震が発生し、150人以上の方々が負傷されました。東日本大震災から10年の月日が経ち、また自然災害の恐ろしさを改めて感じる事となりました。2011年に発生した日本観測史上最大の地震では、1万5500人以上の人々の命が奪われ、45万人以上もの人々が住む場所を失いました。その年、東京にある世界各国の大使館が集まり、被災した若者たちを対象としたホームステイプログラムを立ち上げました。2011年から2019年までの間、カナダ、英国、米国、オーストラリア、アイルランド、フランス、スイス、サンマリノに合計449名の学生を迎え入れました。学生たちは震災の被害に遭った故郷を離れ、2週間の滞在期間中、訪れた国の文化を体感し、その国の状況や歴史を学ぶことができました。

日系文化会館は、このプロジェクトに参加いたしました。Chako Setoyama氏とJames Matsumoto氏からのご厚意に心より感謝申し上げます。



Want to post your article?

Your article is welcome! Please [email us](#) with a subject 'JCCC Bulletin'



Sent by Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre
6 Garamond Court, Toronto, ON, M3C 1Z5
(416) 441-2345