

paueru gaizette

パウエル街ゼット

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begin again

a zine of the powell street festival society



begin again

tell us about your beginnings – whether you are picking up where you left off or starting somewhere new. we invite your fresh starts and your restarts – your first time painting or the writing project you started last year and want to pick back up. beginning again as both a place of joy and grief, as something we must do after loss, and something we can always do. what does it mean for you to begin (again) – to begin in a context, to know you are neither the first nor last, to be brave enough to keep trying.





Hello dear readers,

Thanks for picking up the 5th edition of the Paueru Gaizette. The theme of this issue was decided in the beginning of 2024 at a New Year's day Shogatsu, reflecting our new edition of a Powell Street Festival 'zine and recognition of what it feels like being Japanese Canadian. For those unfamiliar, Shogatsu is the new years day open house where you serve Osechi, the traditional food which symbolizes good will for the new year and a long life.

We hosted our version of a Shogatsu with around 50 or so people, at my friend Kimiko's house for an Osechi potluck. This was special because it was mostly friends and family we knew from volunteering and being active with the festival community. Sharing their takes on nostalgic & traditional Osechi dishes. We also organized a group collage to be published in this edition.

As a child, my family would drive out to Steveston where my Japanese great grandparents and great aunties/uncles lived. There we reconnected with our relatives as they hosted their own Shogatsu and offered us Osechi. Sesame pretzels, teriyaki salmon, black cod, simmered shrimp, of course kuromame, and wild BBQ duck that sometimes still had pieces of buckshot in it (Ouch). New Year's day at the Tsumura household was our favourite day of the year for me and my cousins.

They didn't know it then (or maybe they did) but the space that the family made for us was one of the rare spaces where culture was passed down, where we could understand where we came from. Growing up in a predominately white context, Osechi might be one of the only pieces of culture you get exposed to as a Half Japanese kid growing up in Abbotsford in the 90's. Those childhood Shogatsu dinners are now a deeply rooted time and place in my mind, where I sometimes wish I could go back to.

Like the moment after a wave crashes into the rocks, a vacuum pulling us back to the ocean, the memories of family, Japanese culture, and internment, are all fading quickly into the past.

For many millennial/zoomer Japanese Canadians, it feels like we were born at the end. Especially in a world wrought with violence, corruption, and environmental collapse, it's hard not to feel like history is coming to an end with us in it.

But things have always been hard. No matter how out of place we feel, how far away our ancestors feel, how rejected or disconnected, we can still come together to celebrate who we are. The festival has always been a safe place to start over your search for cultural identity and understanding. Around people who understand why it's important to commemorate, and celebrate the Japanese heritage in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. I am so grateful to be able to offer friends that same space where I tried my first simmered shrimp.

Doing the only thing we can do, starting over from what we have. Through grief and joy. Watching patiently as a dandelion breaks through the concrete sidewalk, welcoming the first grandchild to the family, letting go of a marriage, the bond of memory to food and family, and honouring your ancestors by sharing their story. There is no saying goodbye, there is only the chance to begin again.

Kyle 八ヶ代

Our next edition will be available at the 48th annual Powell Street Festival happening August 3rd/4th 2024. You can stay connected by following Powell St Festival on social media, and subscribing to the newsletter. Or maybe this is the year you become a volunteer?



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New Years Day Group Collage

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Noah Haruki (NoahHarukiArt.com)

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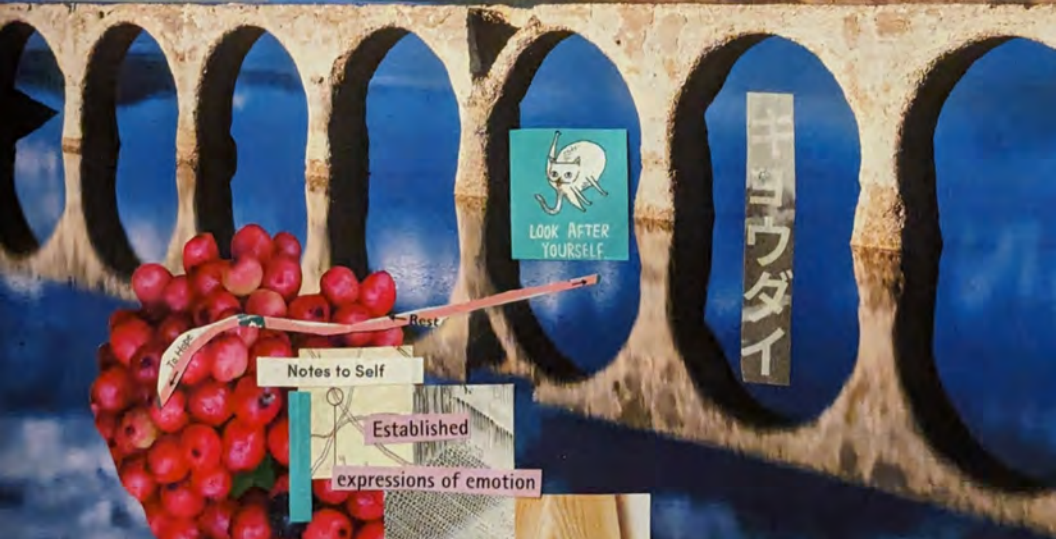
Kathy Shimizu

FOR



Hold
** these **
Truths

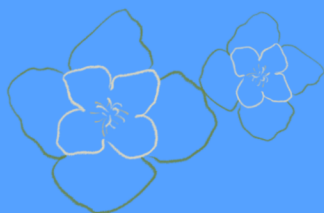
keep
your
head
in the
clouds
feet
on the
ground



Notes to Self



ALL



Genmaicha

Leanne Toshiko Simpson

Someone stole Marianne's cane at a sushi restaurant, but she doesn't let it get her down. She teaches me to jitterbug in her living

room, lets the eggs boil into petulant sulphur – a mere whim of a breakfast once planned. Instead, we drive to Sandown Market,

steer our tiny shopping cart between narrow aisles of words I've barely learned. Kamaboko? Yes. Umeboshi? No. She presses into soft tofu,

leaving deft imprints in wan flesh. Nodding she beckons me closer, invites me to gouge my own. It's fresh today. I sink into its consolation but my fingers

strain, emerge damp and traitorous from another graze with home. Back in her bungalow, Marianne pours genmaicha with shaking hands

and tells me about the letter her mother received from Hiroshima. Tears leak into her teacup and I remember that I couldn't cry when I released a lantern

into the Motoyasu River, that I didn't even know her mother's true name – a tourist in my own history. But I also remember when Marianne leapt across

a barn floor to catch my wedding bouquet, how Inouye women have bled joy and hardship through uprootings and reunions across

oceans and ghost towns alike. What is home but a recipe for something you didn't know you craved?

Before I leave, Marianne hands me three stout persimmons from California, grown on family land returned by a hakujin neighbour, a rare instance of safekeeping.

She trusts me to know when they are ripe, but as always, I wait too long.



Is it imposter syndrome or is it a side effect of being asked one too many times, "What are you?"



Nicole Yukiko



by Megan Kiyoko Wray

(RE) CONNECTIONS

FIRST	ORIGIN	KINDLE	TEST
BASE	MAIN	SOURCE	FRESH
NOVEL	ROOT	ATTEMPT	PEAT
AIM	ORIGINAL	BID	CLAIM

find groups of 4 that share something in common ☺

(RE) CONNECTIONS

STARTING PLACE

ORIGIN, SOURCE, BASE, ROOT

FIRST	MAIN	KINDLE	FRESH
NOVEL	TEST	ATTEMPT	PEAT
AIM	ORIGINAL	BID	CLAIM

find groups of 4 that share something in common ☺

(RE) CONNECTIONS

STARTING PLACE

ORIGIN, SOURCE, BASE, ROOT

NEW FIRST, FRESH, NOVEL, ORIGINAL			
MAIN	TEST	ATTEMPT	PEAT
AIM	KINDLE	BID	CLAIM

find groups of 4 that share something in common ☺

(RE) CONNECTIONS

STARTING PLACE

ORIGIN, SOURCE, BASE, ROOT

NEW FIRST, FRESH, NOVEL, ORIGINAL			
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GIVE A TRY

ATTEMPT, BID, TEST, AIM

MAIN	KINDLE	PEAT	CLAIM
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find groups of 4 that share something in common ☺

(RE) CONNECTIONS

STARTING PLACE

ORIGIN, SOURCE, BASE, ROOT

NEW

FIRST, FRESH, NOVEL, ORIGINAL

GIVE A TRY

ATTEMPT, BID, TEST, AIM

RE_____

MAIN, KINDLE, PEAT, CLAIM

find groups of 4 that share
something in common 😊

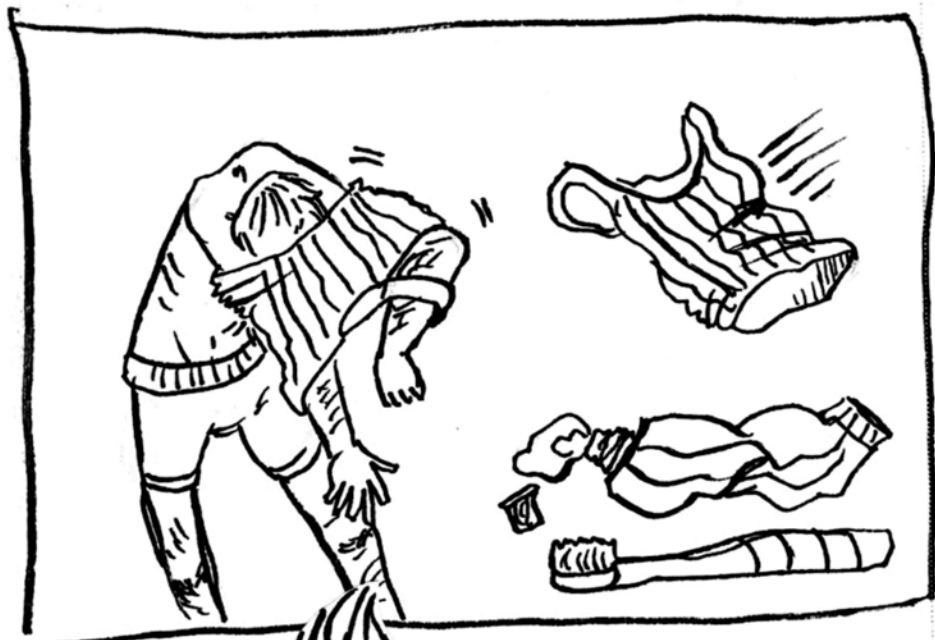
sometimes the beginning is

begin and return

where you expect it











hey, Annie's son right?



haha, yeah,
Makoto.

first day at
Britannia right?

yup!

Deepali, talked
to your mom a
few days ago.



well that's exciting
huh, grade 12.



I wish you luck Makoto.
I hope you have a wonderful
day.

alright, thanks Deepali!
have a nice day too.



END

10 Ways to Begin Again

Emily 八ヶ代



1. Begin again every time you hear “New York” by St. Vincent
2. Believe, still, that much like Emily Byrd Starr of L.M. Montgomery’s Emily of New Moon series that, “you’re one av the folks God really loves”
3. Be the first on your mum’s side to graduate high school & celebrate this with everyone you love while dressed as pirates
4. Try harder
5. Try again
6. Blow up your marriage & let go with love (even though you will never do better than her and you will probably die around the age of forty)
7. Be better
8. Be the hired gun
9. Bury your dad, all of your biological grandparents, and one of your cousins before you turn thirty. **Shoganai, Amen.**
10. Choose love as often as possible because, in your limited experience, it’s always worth it



Carnegie was looking for
an indigenous artist

26 years ago.

At the bottom of the pole is a
Copper symbol that exemplifies
wealth.

Above the copper symbol is a

Sisiutl design

(two headed sea serpent)
represents good & bad

Similar to yin & yang.

Sting figure represents a
challenge "getting up & doing
something"

Laureen Watts



Dave Rufus helped design the totem pole at Openheimer park. Around 26 years ago, when his first daughter Lauren was born. He now has one granddaughter and one Grandson and is still carving today. The totem pole was created to raise awareness to the missing and murdered indigenous women as well as combatting the drug and overdose problem in the downtown east side.

The community helped with the carving of the totem pole while Dave was behind the design process.



a changing baseline
takes honey not vinegar
we've no other choice



青柳



10 Women Begin

Emily 八ヶ代

Here are the first lines from ten novels by Japanese women. There is a lot of talk of windows and husbands watching TV.

1. "It starts with the earth. How can it not?" - All Over Creation by Ruth Ozeki
2. "My name is Namima - 'Woman-Amid-the-Waves'." - The Goddess Chronicle by Natsuo Kirino
3. "This morning a boy passed by my house." - Terminal Boredom: Stories by Izumi Suzuki
4. "Okay, that's the right side done. I'll start on the left now." - Where the Wild Ladies Are by Aoko Matsuda
5. "The apartment had windows on all sides." - Territory of Light by Yuko Tsushima
6. "If you want to know how poor somebody was growing up, ask them how many windows they had." - Breasts and Eggs by Mieko Kawakami
7. "When I got home from the supermarket, my husband was watching a boxing match on TV." - The Lonesome Bodybuilder: Stories by Yukiko Motoya
8. "When the night game ended, her husband reached over to switch off the TV." - Toddler-Hunting and Other Stories by Taeko Kono
9. "Someone tickled me behind my ears, under my arms." - Memoirs a Polar Bear by Yoko Tawada
10. "We lie in bed, listen to the click of blinds, watch a thing thread of dusty cobweb weave back and forth, back and forth, in the waves of air we cannot see." - Chorus of Mushrooms by Hiromi Goto





YOU CAN'T EXPECT

A complete set of instructions

for first-time

boundless curiosity

Focused on the future,

With only mental blueprints

You Can't Get There From Here

dee sads



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thank you, dear readers, artists, and community.

see you in august,

xoxo

the zine team

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