



FOOTPRINTS

Impressions from where we were to where we will be

The Newsletter For The Japanese American Historical Society Of San Diego

SPRING Issue 2000

Volume 9 Number 1



Mrs. Masako Shima and her Old Fashioned Sunshine Sponge cake. Union Tribune Photo July 5, 1958

FLASHBACK

by Hisae Shima Batchelder

It was 68 years ago when my mother, Mrs. Masako Shima, then a young teenager, returned to her home in Pasadena from Japan. Her next door neighbor, who she lovingly called "Aunt Frances," came to the family home and presented her with a "welcome back" cake.

Mom said she had never tasted anything more delicious and asked Aunt Frances to show her how to bake the cake.

In 1932, before the world knew anything about electric mixers or thermostats, Aunt Frances used a flat-wire whisk to beat the egg whites. To test the heat of the gas oven, she would put her hand inside to determine the right temperature.

Mom learned her lesson well for she took what she learned from Aunt Frances and entered her "Old Fashion Sunshine Sponge Cake" in the 1958 San Diego County Fair cake baking contest at Del Mar.

The contest was sponsored by the San Diego Gas & Electric Co. and the California Egg Association.

On July 4, 1958, Mom brought home the **Blue Ribbon** along with her prizes - a General Electric double-oven electric range and an automatic electric egg cooker.

(At our request, Mrs. Shima has graciously allowed us to print the recipe for our members. We thank her very much. - Edit.)

Mrs. Shima's Prize Winning OLD FASHIONED SUNSHINE SPONGE CAKE

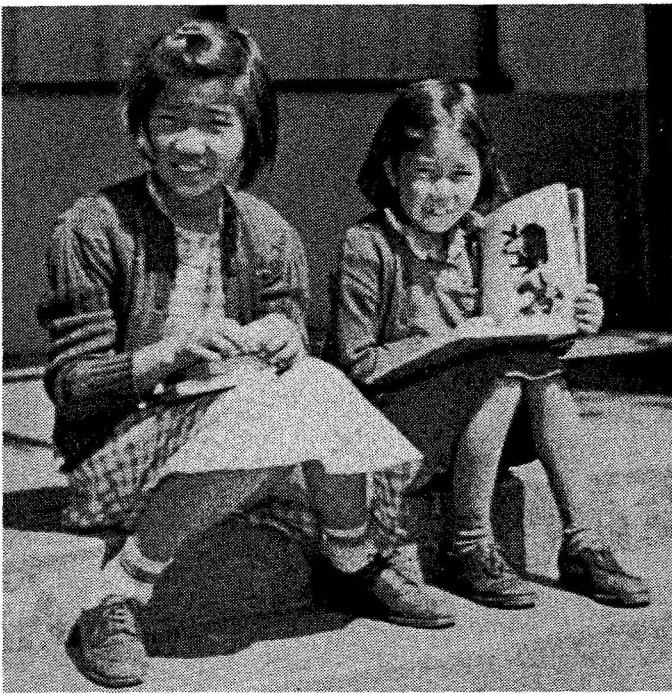
1 1/2 C granulated sugar
1/2 C water
8 egg yolks
8 egg whites
1 C sifted cake flour (resift 3 more times.)
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon cream of tartar
1 teaspoon lemon extract

Boil sugar and water in a covered pot until it forms a soft ball. In a large bowl, beat egg yolks until thick. Beat hot syrup gradually into egg yolks. Add lemon extract. Add flour 1/4 cup at a time. In a separate bowl, whip egg whites, cream of tartar and salt until stiff but not dry. Then fold into yolk mixture. Pour batter into an ungreased 10-inch tube pan and bake in pre-heated 350-degree oven about 45 minutes or until done.

Invert cake to cool completely at room temperature before removing from pan. Serve as is or sprinkle with powdered sugar. (Call Hisae with questions.)

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Yuriko Kawasaki and Mary Yanagihara Tanizaki share a moment on the steps of the Children's Library November, 1941. Photo by Clara Breed.

A Moment in Time: Classic Photographs From the JAHSSD Archive by Don Estes

It was late November, 1941, and the weather was changing from the warm Santa Ana laced days to the nippy mornings of November. Christmas was a little less than a month away when Jack Watanabe, Yuriko Kawasaki and Mary Yanagihara Tanizaki, went to visit their friend Miss Clara Breed at the Children's Library then located on the northeast corner of 9th and E across the street and upstairs from the old main Carnegie Library building.

That morning, Miss Breed had her trusty Kodak camera with her and asked the two girls to sit on the steps of the building and have their photograph taken with their newly selected books. After Yuriko and Mary had their picture taken, it was Jack's turn to be captured on film with his book, *Augustus and the Mountains*.

Clara Estelle Breed was not only San Diego's "Library Lady," the woman who established San Diego's branch library system, but she was also a great friend to the many Nikkei children who lived downtown and used the facilities of the Children's Library.

In a 1988 interview, Miss Breed recalled her most heart-breaking memory as a librarian: watching Nikkei children, all of whom she had grown to know personally, solemnly turning in their library cards

before they were shipped off into exile at the beginning of World War II. "This was a terrible injustice," she said at that time.

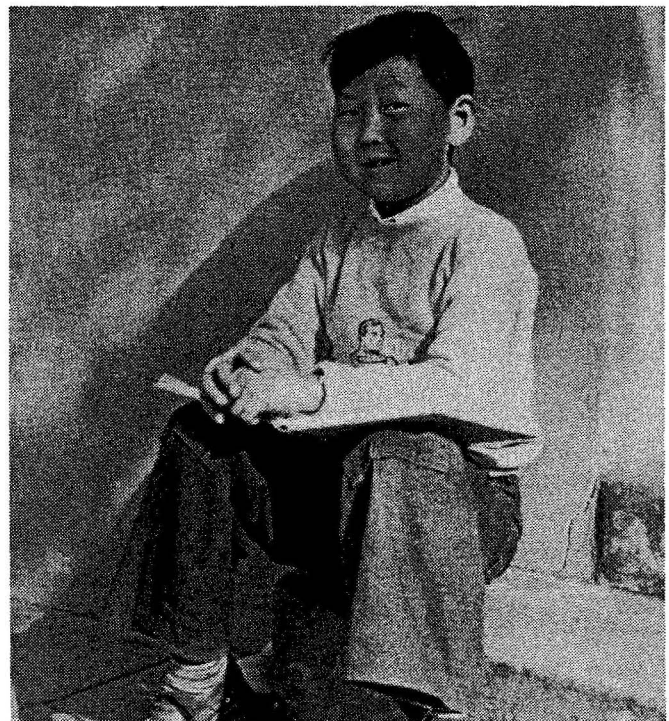
As the local Nikkei community gathered at the Santa Fe Depot, Miss Breed was there too. Ben Segawa remembers her handing out penny postcards to her young friends reminding them, "Please write to me." and "Tell me how you are getting along." And write they did. Over 250 letters were sent to this gentle lady over the next four years.

"She lived up to her creed," said Tetsuzo Hirasaki. "She lived the true Christian way of life." One day in the 1930s when Tets visited the library, Miss Breed gave him a pocket dictionary she had purchased. "I wore it out. Because of that (dictionary), I gained a command of the English language and was able to get along," he recalled.

Elizabeth Yamada remembers the regular packages from Miss Breed during the war. "They became an important part of my life. One particular book, *Home for Elizabeth*, was especially important since the only home I had at the time was a stable."

Miss Clara Breed never forgot the Nikkei community and the community never forgot her. She was the guest of honor at the 1991 Poston III reunion in San Diego. She died peacefully in her sleep on Thursday the 8th of September 1994.

Perhaps the best monuments are indeed, the ones we build in the hearts of others.



Jack Watanabe and his new book, *Augustus and the Mountains* November, 1941. Photo by Clara Breed.

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**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**March 25, 2000 - VFW Post 4851 Fund Raiser**

VFW Post 4851- 5:00 p.m.

**April 15, 2000 - Poston III Reunion Meeting**  
Buddhist Temple - 10:00 a.m.

**April 16, 2000 - Hanamatsuri Service**  
San Diego Buddhist Temple 10 a.m.

**April 16, 2000 - VFW Post 4851 Easter Egg Hunt** - Morley Field (By Tennis Court) 1:00 p.m.

**April 23, 2000 - Easter Sunrise Service**  
San Diego Japanese Christian Church 6:30 a.m.

**April 23, 2000 - Easter Service**  
at Ocean View United Church of Christ 10:00 a.m.  
Breakfast - 8:30 a.m.

**May 7, 2000 - JACL Scholarship Dinner**  
Tom Ham Lighthouse 6:00 p.m.

**May 13, 2000 - Ikenobo Ikebana San Diego Chapter - 25th Anniversary**  
Shelter Pointe Hotel and Marina - 2 - 7 p.m.  
(pre-reservation required)

**May 21, 2000 - Buddhist Temple Annual Golf Tournament**  
Balboa Park Golf Club - call Temple for info.

**May 28, 2000 - Padres Asian Heritage Day**  
1 p.m. game vs. Montreal Expos  
Tix: \$16 (Call JACL for info)

**May 29, 2000 Memorial Day Service**  
Mt. Hope Cemetery 9:30 a.m.  
Fort Rosecrans Cemetery

**May 31, 2000 - Premier of JAHSSD Video**  
**The Day the Devil Wept**  
San Diego Public Library - 6:30 p.m.

**June 4, 2000 - Buddhist Temple Bazaar**  
Buddhist Temple of San Diego 11:00 a.m.

**June 24, 2000 - JACL Kids Culture Day**  
Buddhist Temple of S.D. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Information Janis Tani (619) 482-1048  
(pre-registration required)

**July 9, 2000 - JACL Picnic**  
Crown Point Shores Mission Bay - 11 a.m. to Dusk

**October 2000 - Annual JAHSSD Meeting**

**Kendo Club** - Every Friday 7:00 p.m.

**Haiku Club** - 3rd Saturday of Month 9:00 a.m.  
Ocean View United Church of Christ  
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Eight years ago, a group of us - Yuki, Mich, Mas A., Jeanne, Don, Ben, Tom Ozaki, Mas Hironaka, Bubbles Shimasaki, Carol Kawamoto and me - following the most successful Poston III Reunion ever, met and founded what we hoped would be a historical society to preserve our unique history.

This organization has since grown and today we have approximately 300 members, a sound treasury, a collection of photographs and artifacts, developed various projects, a speakers bureau and a recognition program. We are an entity.

None of this would exist without the vital support of you, the membership. For your help and interest, especially during this past year of my presidency, I wish to thank you, one and all.

Now the time has come for me to move on, but I shall continue to have a great interest in this society and it's membership. I wish you all well.

With sincere appreciation,

Elaine Hibi Bowers
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**JAHSSD Board Realignment**

At its February 12th board meeting, the society directors regretfully accepted the resignation of **Elaine Hibi Bowers**. The gavel was passed to **Jeanne Marumoto Elyea**. **Karen Kawasaki** assumed the position of board secretary filling the vacancy created when **Jeanne** became president. Also confirmed in their new positions were **Bob** and **Hisae Shima Batchelder** who have jointly assumed the office of treasurer from **Masato Asakawa** who has returned to the position of board member at large.

In a formal resolution, the board offered their appreciation and thanks to **Elaine Hibi Bowers** for all her efforts and contributions to the society during her very productive term as president of our society. We hope she will consider remaining on the board.



## Absent Friends

Since the publication of our last newsletter, our society lost two very special friends who shared an overpowering love of local history. Both of them had been involved with us since the inception of our historical society in 1991.

**Dorothy LaVerne Hom** had a deep love of history and a committed sense of mission. She was active with our sister society, the **Chinese Historical Society of San Diego and Baja California** where she was a founding member.

When we were first organizing the JAHSSD, Dorothy and her husband of 47 years, **Tom**, provided our fledgling board with sage advice and counsel. Later, when we initiated the current search for a permanent home for our collection, Dorothy and Tom once again assisted us unsparingly.

Dorothy Hom passed away on December 11, 1999. She is survived by her husband Tom, six children and eleven grandchildren.

**John Rojas Jr.**, Chula Vista's unofficial historian, was one of the first in line when we began soliciting new members for our society in 1991. Not only did John and his wife **Mina** join the JAHSSD, but they were among our first Charter Life Members.

John is credited with the founding of the **Chula Vista Historical Society**, and was responsible for the publication of a number of books on early Chula Vista. It was through John's efforts and encouragement that *South Bay Monogatari*, telling the story of the Nikkei experience in the South Bay, was published in 1996. A prolific writer in his own right, John's outstanding work was his, *Trees of Chula Vista*.

We could always count on John's help at our annual meetings where he was generous with both his time, talents and materials. Much of our society's early photographic support came from John, a life-long photographer.

John passed away January 22, 2000 and is survived by his wife Mina, three children and four grandchildren.

The retention of our local history was greatly enhanced by the lives and efforts of Dorothy Hom and John Rojas. They will be missed.

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## IN MEMORIAM

The JAHSSD notes with great sadness the passing of San Diegans and former residents of our community. We extend our heartfelt condolences to their families and friends.

**Dorothy LaVerne Hom** - December 11, 2000  
**Jinsuke Omori** - December 24, 1999  
**Mitsu Konishi** - December 30, 1999  
**Takako Kemp** - January 3, 2000  
**Joyce Nagata Maguire** - January 6, 2000  
**Arlene Kumamoto** - January 10, 2000  
**Chiyoko "Linda" Mintzer** - January 11, 2000  
**Nobuko Nomura Martin** - January 13, 2000  
**Joan Goon** - January 13, 2000  
**Dawn M. Takanashi** - January 17, 2000  
**Sakae (Ei) Takehara** - January 20, 2000  
**Kazuo "Blackie" Matsushita** - January 20, 2000  
**John Rojas Jr.** - January 22, 2000  
**Marian Yasukochi Kota** - January 25, 2000  
**Chiyoko Lanning** - February 23, 2000  
**Mary Ejima** - February 28, 2000  
**Kimiko Wilson** - March 5, 2000

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## IN GRATITUDE

The membership and the Board of Directors of the JAHSSD would like to gratefully acknowledge the following memorial donations to your historical society.

**Sue Tushima** - in memory of **Mr. Masaaki Hironaka**

**Don And Carol Estes** - in memory of **Mr. John Rojas Jr.**

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## Caught Doing Something Nice

We like to acknowledge the many kindnesses of our members and friends who do so much to provide for the vitality and vigor of our society and our efforts to preserve the Nikkei experience for the future. As always we offer all of you our grateful thanks for your continuing support.

In this issue, we would first like to acknowledge a donation by retired city librarian **Rhoda Kruse**. Miss Kruse who was a friend of **Clara Breed**, has generously donated a beautiful oil painting of a barracks at Poston III by **Kaneyoshi "Joe" Sugaya**. Mr. Sugaya, who was 60 when he painted the picture in 1945, was resided in Block 328-13-E at Poston. **Hiomi Nakamura** remembers that Mr. Sugaya was a gardener in La Jolla before World War II and that he occasionally had some of his art work shown in La Jolla.

We thank everyone who supported us with their Millennium messages in our last issue of *Footprints*. Thanks to **Carol, Don and Mathew Estes** for all their hard work setting up of the messages.

Our video, *The Day The Devil Wept* is developing nicely with the help of our Advisory Committee. We thank **Keiko and Glen Negoro, George Furuya, Yuki and Mits Kawamoto, and Grace and Ben Segawa** for viewing the first rough cut of the video presentation and for sharing their insights with one of our project's co-producers, **Debbie Kodama**. The Advisory Committee is chaired by local high school teacher **Karen Kawasaki**. We appreciate your insights.

As part of our mission of telling the story of the local Nikkei experience, we regularly send speakers to local schools. Our thanks go to **Yuki Kawamoto, Ben Segawa and Mich Himaka** who spoke to U.S. History classes at **Mount Carmel High School** in February. **Jeanne Marumoto Elyea, Hisae Shima Batchelder, Grace Segawa, and Debbie Kodama** observed the presentation. If you would like to assist our speakers bureau, please contact our secretary **Karen Kawasaki** at (858) 536-1553.

Assisting with a major mailing for the video project in February was, **Don Estes, Susan Hasegawa, Karen Kawasaki, and Toyoka Murakami**. Thanks for giving up a Saturday morning to get this critical mailing out.

**Taro Matsui** loaned us documents and assorted papers from the 1920s belonging to his mother, **Hanano Matsui**, dealing with her immigration to the U. S. They included her ticket to sail to the U. S., her passport and other items. They were copied for our archives and returned to him. Thank you, Taro.



This 1997 photograph by **Bob Goldfeder** of the "Soul Tower" at the site of the Manzanar cemetery, will be featured in an April exhibit at the Scott Street Studio.

## Manzanar - Then and Now

A show comprising over fifty historic and contemporary photographs of the Manzanar concentration camp will be featured at the **Scott Street Studio Gallery** in Point Loma between April 28 and May 21, 2000.

The exhibit is the creation of **Bob Goldfeder**, retired architect and photographer who became interested in the Owens Valley camp while working on a photographic essay of old Highway 163.

As a result of the compelling story involving Manzanar, the issues surrounding relocation and detention began to take hold of Goldfeder's life. Three years and hundreds of photographs later, Goldfeder opened his Manzanar exhibit to rave reviews in Fresno. During the Fresno exhibit, over 500 people attended a reception hosted by the Fresno Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League.

Goldfeder, now a resident of San Diego, will be opening the local presentation of his Manzanar photographs at a reception co-sponsored by the San Diego Chapter of the JACL on **April 29, 2000**. For more information please contact the Scott Street Studio at (619) 980-9188.

## REgenerations

### DEVIL DOCUMENTARY PREMIERE SET

Mark your calendars! Tell your friends! JAHSSD's documentary, *The Day the Devil Wept*, is set to premiere Wednesday, May 31, at 6:30 p.m. at the Downtown Central Library on E St.

Created for history students to supplement their study of World War II, the 26-minute video shows the effect of relocation on the San Diego Nikkei community. It was inspired by the resettlement stories which the REgenerations Oral History Team began recording in 1997. It focuses on the impact of the mass incarceration as described by two locals who lived through the experience. They were among the 2,000 people of Japanese descent removed from San Diego County in 1942 and sent to concentration camps away from the West Coast.

The video production and an accompanying teacher curriculum kit was funded last year in part by a grant from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP). The video is in the final editing stages, thanks to the generous support of JAHSSD members and others who responded to a last-minute appeal for funds needed to complete the project.

Following the premiere showing, there will be a panel discussion featuring local scholars and former internees. Refreshments will also be served. Please contact **Joyce Teague, (619) 527-7855**, for additional information about our exciting premiere event.

Meanwhile, our mail solicitation for additional support for our video production, *The Day The Devil Wept* is developing very nicely. We have almost reached our goal and hope to go over the top in the next few weeks.

None of this would have been possible without the generous support of the many members of our community who wish to see this video finished and placed in local schools and colleges. To each of you who have contributed so far, we are deeply appreciative of your prompt and generous support.

We will acknowledge each donor by name in our next issue of the *Footprints* and also will be acknowledging each donation individually by mail.

## WHAT WAS HER SECRET?

### A Preface

The tapestry woven of the past century's Japanese immigrants of San Diego is woven thickly with thread of hardship, struggle and poverty. Out of this panorama, one slight figure emerges. Her accomplishment against the barriers of language, Fish Camp, the Depression and widowhood to raise eight children alone, marks her achievement as one of our community's most successful persons of the past century.

She had to have been focused working one to two shifts in a fish cannery and still keeping her children neat, clean, clothed, shod and fed. When did she sleep? The children were well-trained, industrious and obedient; but responsibility, performance and hardship on the eldest must have been severe as they did all they could to help the family.

The wonderment is that all of her eight children, their children and grandchildren have reached adulthood to lead purposeful, responsible, law-abiding and contributing lives. Somehow, they were instilled with the values of integrity, hard work, achievement and dignity, to where these qualities seem to be genetic. In addition, rather than being defeated by adversity, they responded with strength, tempered like good steel.

During her latter years when she lived in a retirement home, she was in her element. Finally, no work, and able to enroll in classes to her heart's content -- even as often as seven days a week! With busy hands and active mind, she remained sharp.

During the WWII years, their family and mine lived for three years in the Block, 329, in Poston III, Arizona. We probably saw each other every day at the mess hall, school, or just around. Last summer I contacted a daughter, **Sakie**, and asked that she write an article for our newsletter on her recollection about her mother and how she raised them. I was extremely interested, as I believed our readers would be, in the "how-to's" of that universally most important of all duties - Parenthood, from the experiences of a phenomenally successful master.

Sakie contacted the rest of the family and accompanying article is their collaborative input. A week after I received it, **Ei Takehara**, 97, a true heroine, passed away January 20. I have learned that in true veneration, all 51 descendants, from all over the world, came to the Chicago to pay their respects at her services.

-Elaine Hibi Bowers



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### A Family's Tribute to a Matriarch

**Sakae (Ei) Suzuki** was born on New Year's Day, 1903 in Shingu-shi, Sano, Wakayama-ken, Japan. After marrying **Akisaburo Takehara** on Dec. 25, 1920, they immigrated to the United States on the "Siberia Maru" and landed in San Francisco on Feb. 1, 1921. At the immigration center, her name was inadvertently changed from Sakae to Ei, based on a difference in the translation of her name in Japanese characters. From there, they moved to La Mesa where he worked as a carpenter and she picked peas. After farming in Spring Valley for three years, they settled on Kalmia Street in San Diego, across from the Westgate Cannery in what the Japanese in San Diego called Hokkaido. He was self-employed in the fishing business with a boat named "Tomoye."

On Dec. 23, 1935, Akisaburo was killed in a hit-and-run auto accident and Mrs. Takehara was left to raise eight children -- ages four to thirteen. Her brother wanted her to send half of the children back to Japan, but she refused because she didn't want to split up the family. Although she could have gotten financial aid from the government, she was too proud to apply. She supported her family by cleaning tuna at the Westgate Cannery by day and cleaned mackerel fresh off the boat at night. At time, her hands would be so numb and in pain from holding the knife, she couldn't open her hands. **Aiko**, the eldest daughter, also worked at the cannery and the older children, before they became of age, helped where they could. The children were always clean and clothes were mended. Mrs. Takehara managed to not accumulate any debts.

World War II resulted in many moves and changes for the Takeharas. On February 1942, they were given orders to relocate inland because they lived near Lindberg Airport and the waterfront which was a

restricted area. Expect for **Ukie**, the second daughter, who was employed as a schoolgirl, they moved to Sunnyside and lived there until April 1942, when they were uprooted again along with other Japanese families. The family was then sent by train with only the belongings they could carry to the Santa Anita Assembly Center where they lived in converted horse stables.

After three months, the Takehara family was sent to Poston Camp III Relocation Center, Block 329. Ironically, this was a time when Mrs. Takehara's life struggles would ease because her older children could help to support the family. She worked in the mess hall and also made adobe blocks for the school. Though she was considered an enemy alien, three of hers sons served in the U.S. Army during the war. The eldest, **Ichiro**, served in Europe and **Kiyoshi** and **Yo** served with the 441st CIC in Japan with Occupation Forces. Her youngest son, **Joe**, later served as a dental officer in the Air Force.

Mrs. Takehara left camp in July 1945 with the youngest children, Joe and **Fumiko** and joined her older children in Chicago. She first helped babysit her grandchildren and later went to work at Wrap-On Company on the assembly line to support herself and put her youngest son through college and dental school. She worked for another 15 years. Her employer, Mr. Russell, was very fond of Japanese and treated them generously.

Retiring at 68, Mrs. Takehara joined the Service Committee where she enjoyed making pottery, "kaminigyo" dolls, macrame and other crafts. Later, she moved to Heiwa Terrace, a retirement home primarily for Japanese. There, she continued with her crafts and made many friends. There wasn't a day when she didn't participate in some activity. After classes, she continued to put all her energy into her crafts which she enjoyed immensely. Many times she said she was too busy with her classes to visit family in the suburbs. She is very dedicated to her classes and it kept her mentally alert. She has lived 19 years at Heiwa Terrace which she lovingly called "Tengoku" (Heaven.)

Though there were many hard times in her early years, Mrs. Takehara lives happily with her daughter and son-in-law, **Sakie and Jim Kawahara**, in Mundelein, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. Her fondest moments and memories are with her extended family of fifty-one --- eight children, twenty grandchildren and twenty-three great-grandchildren who live throughout the country from Hawaii to California, Illinois, New Mexico, Michigan and Massachusetts. One granddaughter lives in France and a great-granddaughter lives in Japan. The family has had four family reunions, the last one in the Chicago area. Another one next one is being planned to take place in San Diego in the year 2001.

see A Family Tribute page 9



## CHANKO-NABE

By Joyce Nabeta Teague

Friendship and food. Like hot dogs and buns, or shoyu and mayonnaise, it's a combination meant to be. I can't swear that eating together enriches a friendship, but sitting at the table with a cherished friend can definitely make a simple meal something special.

Recently, Bill and I flew up to Berkeley where our daughter Jaime attends college. Besides the guaranteed good time of a family get-together, we always look forward to a trip to the Bay area because the ethnic eateries are abundant, diverse, and tasty.

Our traveling companion was Lucile Cheng, a long-time friend whom Jaime has fondly adopted as her Chinese Grandma. This wonderful woman is a lot of energy in a petite package, proud of her independence, ever-learning, and still as curious about the world as a small child. She is also a true epicure who revels in the sensual qualities of food. Not only does she study the cuisine of many cultures, she is also skilled at conveying her enthusiasm about them, having taught gourmet and Asian cooking classes in extended education for a lot of years. Not to suggest she tries to impress with all her knowledge. Just the opposite. She is just plain fun to eat with!

Lucile was born in San Francisco's Chinatown and grew up there and in various Oakland neighborhoods. Since those days, she has traveled all over the world and had many interesting jobs, eventually settling in San Diego. We got to know her well because our first house was directly across the street from hers in Azalea Heights.

Doing even the simplest thing with an adventurous pal is to have a heightened experience. Sometimes you discover new things; other times you get to look at familiar things in new ways. Lucile has a phenomenal memory, right down to the street numbers of every place her family ever lived, and the bus routes to the teachers' studios where she studied French and voice. Buildings we'd normally drive past without a glance turned out to be her alma mater, her father's Chinese school, her stepfather's corner market, the hospital where she was born, and so on.

Each location elicited a special memory, like the movie theater where a nickel would buy a double feature, a cartoon, one episode of a serial, and a Creamsicle. While riding the trolley into San Francisco's Chinatown, she recalled window shopping at the famed Emporium, a cheap way for a poor family to spend an evening. Sometimes, to the embarrassment of the kids, her mother would pull an expensive coat off the rack, turn it inside and out, examining every seam closely. But, later, she would duplicate the stylish coat at home with material she had at hand, using an old sheet, worn smooth with age,

for the lining.

Our dinner on Saturday night was in an unassuming Chinatown restaurant where Lucile remembered meeting her mother often for lunch. Back then, it had different owners and a different name, but a hunch told Lucile this would still be a good place to eat, and it was.

The interior was brightly decorated with red, green, and yellow plastic cut-out dragons heralding in the New Year. Our waiter was good-humored and attentive. Wielding three spoons, he filled and wrapped our vegetables mu shiu with skill. Had we been there on our own, I'm sure we would have enjoyed our dinner. But because we basked in Lucile's happy glow, every morsel was delicious and satisfying. Soul food.

Around the corner in City Lights Bookstore in North Beach, Lucile held up a book of oral histories of Chinese women of San Francisco and let me take a picture of her with it. An interview with her mother - a similarly adventurous and independent soul who passed away at the age of 90 - is featured in the book.

The next day, our bright umbrellas unfurled against the gray sky, we splashed around the U.C. Berkeley campus as Lucile told Jaime funny stories of her youthful escapades there. From high atop The Campanile, she joyfully pointed out familiar landmarks below. Later, as we drove past the Oakland schools she had attended as a child, she sang each school song with gusto from the back seat of our rental car.

It was a fulfilling weekend for each of us. Lucile was able to indulge in a little nostalgia and we got to share in her pleasure. I hope everyone has a Lucile in her life, someone who appreciates the past, but chooses to live in the moment. For her, every new day has the potential to be as delightful as any she has ever experienced before. I don't know if she was born with this outlook or whether it was learned, but in either case it is a gift for her and for those who know her as well.

A week after we returned home, I took Lucile an album with copies of the photos taken on our trip. I also gave her a small box of Peeps, those marshmallow candies shaped like bunnies or chicks which are extruded into cellophaned boxes. She loves these sugary confections - no doubt a fondness carried over from her youth - and looks forward to their appearance each Easter. Like Lucile herself, a box of Peeps is a lot of pleasure in a little package. She couldn't have been more tickled had she been handed a box of elegant chocolate truffles.

Friendship and food. I'll eat to that!

Though her children went to work after graduating from high school to help support the family, her grandchildren have attended college and several have gone on to earn graduate degrees. One grandson is a medical doctor and is practicing in California and another has a doctorate in chemical engineering. Most work in the technical/scientific fields or human services. Her oldest great-granddaughter is in Japan teaching English and one great-grandson is in college. Many have received awards and recognition for their academic achievements and accomplishments.

In looking back, Mrs. Takehara has no regrets and feels blessed to have had all the years to enjoy her family. The grandchildren and great-grandchildren realize that their lives were enriched by her love and devotion to her family. Having known her, they hope to continue in her tradition of discipline, hard work, dedication and pride in living fulfilling lives of their own.

*(Mrs. Takehara passed away Jan. 20 in Chicago after this article was sent to San Diego. -- Ed.)*

## IKENOBO IKEBANA in San Diego

by Hugo Seligman

The Ikenobo Ikebana Chapter of San Diego celebrates its 25th anniversary May 13 welcoming the 45th Headmaster of Ikenobo, **Sen'ei Ikenobo**, and other distinguished professors of this floral art form from Japan.

The program will be from 2 to 7 p.m. at the Shelter Pointe Hotel and Marina on Shelter Island Drive. Reservations are required. For more information about the program schedule, please call Mrs. Hugo Seligman (858) 277-9033.

Mrs. Sadako Oehler, the chapter president since its inception, has been teaching ikebana for over forty years in San Diego.

Ikebana began with Ikenobo over 500 years ago with the traditional styles such as "rikka", "shoka", "moribana." In keeping with the time, a "free style" has been developed to blend in with contemporary environments and tastes. Over the years, other schools of floral art in Japan have been developed and these also are active in the San Diego community. This floral art culture has come to link the United States and Japan in the fostering the harmony sought between humanity and nature.

Mrs. Oehler's itinerary takes her throughout San Diego County and often to other parts of the United States, Canada and Japan. An annual highlight here is Arts Alive at the San Diego Museum of Art in Balboa

Park featuring Ikebana displays in the Asian Gallery. The Ikenobo Chapter of San Diego currently numbers 150 members.

## SHO HAIKU KAI in San Diego

by Hugo Seligman

The Sho Haiku Kai of San Diego celebrated its 25th Anniversary in January. This unique form of Japanese poetry was rekindled in San Diego by visits from the late **Shisei Tsuneishi-sensei** of Los Angeles, who despite his advanced years inspired a few of the local Issei. (Tsuneishi-sensei was the father of the **Rev. Art Tsuneishi**, former pastor of San Diego Holiness Church now retired in Los Angeles.)

Tsuneishi-sensei, a native of Koichi-ken, Japan, came to America in the early 1900s. He worked as a laborer and raised a large family, but he always found time to observe nature and expression for same through poetry, American as well as Japanese. His collected works are now in the archives of U.C.L.A.

His haiku is etched on a memorial stone in the Monterey Park Central Library garden and on a plaque in the L.A.'s Little Tokyo Shopping Center. The Emperor of Japan honored him with a medal of recognition for his accomplishments in America. It is sensei's inspired memory that the Shuo Haiku Kai strives to find literary expression of the American scene through this Japanese language art form.

Members correspond with Hototogisu and Wakaba-sha Haiku Kais in Japan to hone their skills in this literary field. The Japanese members have appreciated our efforts for providing a different view of the world from across the sea.

The silver anniversary observance gave our members from the past the opportunity to share their experiences with others. Shuo Haiku Kai currently has 24 members.

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## Letters

Dear JAHSSD Members:

On behalf of the family of **John Rojas Jr.**, I wish to express my sincerest gratitude for your thoughtful wishes and generous gift. The floral arrangement was beautiful and made the services in remembrance of my husband more special to our family.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

**Mina Rojas**

*see Letters page 10*



**Dr. Terry Tanaka and Don Estes** discuss the JAHSSD's exhibit, The Hundred Year Road at the Chula Vista Pioneer Museum.

## **Dr. Terry Tanaka Leads Prestigious Dental Group**

**Dr. Terry Tanaka** of Chula Vista was installed as president of the **Academy of Dentistry International** on Oct. 7th in Honolulu, Hawaii. The academy meets annually just prior to the **American Dental Association** meeting.

The Academy is the honor society for dentists dedicated to sharing their knowledge to serve dental health needs and improve the quality of life throughout the world.

Membership as an Academy Fellow is a distinctive honor bestowed on dentists who have made significant contributions to society.

**Dr. Terry** is currently clinical professor at the USC School of Dentistry. He maintains a private practice in prosthodontics in Chula Vista. He is well known for his anatomic dissections, research in the field of head, neck and temporomandibular joint (TMJ) disorders, and is highly sought after as a lecturer on restorative dentistry.

The recipient of many awards and honors, **Dr. Terry** lives in Chula Vista with his wife, **Naomi**, and is in practice with his daughter, **Dr. Katherine**. The Tanaka's other children includes, **Alan**, a computer specialist; **Randy**, a dentist in Chula Vista; **David** teaching in Colorado; and **Mindy**, a doctoral student.

## **SUNSHINE COMMITTEE**

### **Let a Little Sunshine In**

Do you know a JAHSSD member who is sick?

If you know of a JAHSSD member who is ill or in the hospital, please let our Sunshine Coordinator, **Nancy Cowser**, know. We would like to send a card to the ailing member wishing them a speedy recovery. We are asking that all our members and friends help us with this worthwhile project.

Nancy can be reached at **(858) 270-0733** and let her know the name of the person and where they are, if hospitalized. Your help on this project is greatly appreciated.

\*\*\*\*\*  
*Letters continued from page 9*

As newcomers to the San Diego Area, we are pleased to send our application to the JAHSSD.

Your *Footprints* newsletter have been passed to us by my sister Grace Igasaki and June Kushino. My husband Kenji and I enjoy reading them.

Sincerely,  
**Carol Kushino II**

Dear Yuki,

Thanks for being so prompt in sending me the extra issues of the "Footprints." I appreciated Don Estes article on Mas Hironaka. It was so eloquently written and a beautiful tribute to Mas.

Sincerely,  
**Sue Tsushima**

Dear Don,

Thank you for the eloquent article on Mas Hironaka in the winter '99 issue of *Footprints*. It was an eloquent tribute to Mas and gave us great comfort in this recognition.

I asked Yuki Kawamoto to send me two copies so that I may send them to my sisters. He has promptly done so.

You have done much for the Japanese community by doing the horrendous job of preserving the historical facts. It's a monstrous job and I give you full credit.

Thank you again and best wishes for the coming Holidays.

Sincerely,  
**Sue**



## Beloved Auntie Dawn

(The following are excerpts from a eulogy by **Janet K. Ochi-Fontanott** in memory of her aunt, **Dawn Mary (Kimura) Takanashi**, who passed away Jan. 17, 2000)

Words that describe: Fun-loving, inner strength, great honesty, generous, friend for life, likeable, friendly, spoke her mind.

Things you associate her with: Binion's Horseshoe, jackpots and good eats.

Things she loved: Her family, her dogs and cats; collecting frogs, tigers and pigs; shopping for clothes and shoes; friends; and, above all, Life.

A most memorable moment in time occurred on a May 1999 trip to Las Vegas with Humberto and me. We stayed at the Golden Nugget. As members of the 24-Carat Club, we got free room for two nights. I won \$400 playing Keno.

I gave "metsuke" (good luck money) to Auntie Dawn. She played her die-hard dollar slot machines at the Horseshoe until 2:30 a.m. leaving her dry.

She comes into the room frustrated but not defeated. In the morning, she says, "Janet, can you lend me two hundred of your lucky money. This time I'm playing here at the Golden Nugget. Forget the Horseshoe!" "Of course, Auntie, but only if you win big."

She turns, rubs her two hands together, walks out the door and heads off to battle the dollar slot machines.

Meanwhile, Humberto returns to the room, frustrated with very empty pockets. He asks, "Where's Auntie Dawn?..."

At that moment, there's a knock at the door. We both think it's housekeeping -- Auntie Dawn has a key -- she wouldn't knock. I get up and open the door and there's Auntie Dawn with a little impish smile. I knew immediately.

"You hit it!" She says, "Yup." Humberto jumps off the bed and picks her up off the floor and spins her around. He gently puts her on the end of the bed and both of us ask.

"How much?" "Five," she replies, opening her purse holding a fist full of \$100 bills. "I hit...three Super 7 momos."

In life and now in death, **Dawn Mary Takanashi** is our Super Jackpot, making all of us the big winner! Her memory will always be a part of us; her love nestled deep within us; her enthusiastic spirit the light that embraces us...

There is tremendous happiness in making others happy, despite our own situations. Shared grief is half the sorrow, but happiness when shared is doubled. If you want to feel rich, just count all of the things you

have that money can't buy.

To Dawn Mary: wife, mother, sister, auntie, grandma, great-grandma and friend. We all thank you for sharing your happiness and spirit, showering us with unconditional love and generosity, blessing us with your contagious smile and above all making us rich with all those things you gave unselfishly to us that money can't buy.

How fitting you left us on the holiday celebrating Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, Brian and D-Ann's, B. G. and Patty's wedding anniversary. In your own simple way, you made it easy for us to always carry you in our hearts, to remember to bring you flowers and to honor the memories of your life and spirit, too! You did it your way. As Dr. King proclaimed, "Free at last, free at last, thank God Almighty I am free at last!"

Thank you, Auntie Dawn, for touching so many and making such a difference in our lives. You always looked out for us and now baby Garrett Scott, first son of B. G. and Patty Konishi, wishes to care for you by accompanying his great-grandma as her littlest Guardian Angel to their final resting place. May their souls be truly blessed, their journey guided by God's Golden Light and may they play and always rest together in eternal peace and harmony.

*(Dawn, daughter of the late Kumataro and Hatsue Kimura, is survived by her husband, Masao Takanashi; son, Masao Martin Takanashi; daughter, D-Ann Reiko Konishi; grandchildren B. G., Matt, Andee, Ricky, Tin and Jimmy; great-grandchildren Taylor, Connor, Yuta, Ami and Veranikah. Great-grandson Garrett Scott Konishi preceded her in death July 8, 1992. Others include sister Kiyo Ochi and brother Yasuichi Jim Kimura.)*

## Nikkei Athletes Exhibit Opens

An exhibit paying tribute to the Nikkei athletes opened March 4 at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles and will run through February 2001.

Carrying the theme, "More Than a Game: Sport in the Japanese American Community," features salutes to such athletes as Wat Misaka, who starred on two University of Utah national basketball champions in the late 1940s and went on to become the first and only Nikkei to play professional basketball as a No. 1 draft choice of the New York Knicks, to Olympic ice skating champ Kristi Yamaguchi.

It may surprise some Nikkei but our community had a whole range of athletes including boxers, football players, wrestlers and baseball players of note.

Other athletes featured include Olympic weightlifter Tommy Kono, Olympic swimmer Evelyn Kawamoto and NCAA long-jump champion Hank Aihara.

## Membership News

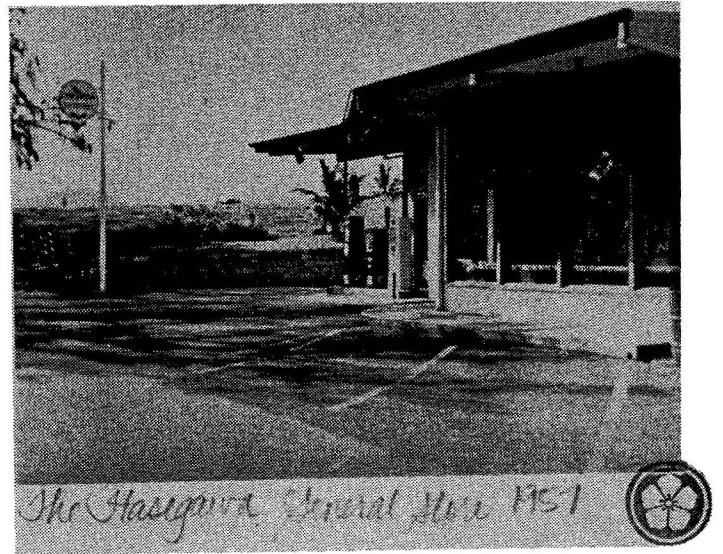
by Yukio Kawamoto

A warm welcome to the following new members who recently joined the JAHSSD membership: **Hasegawa General Store** (Corporate Member), **Marilyn Himaka** (Life Member), **Todd Himaka**, **Kenji and Carol Ii**, **Thomas Karasawa**, **Ken and Debra Kodama** (Life Members), **Takashi Kondo** (Vice President of Union Bank), **Helen Kusumoto**, **Chiyo Nakagawa**, **Kathy Nakayama**, and **Helen Umekubo**. Memberships for Thomas Karasawa and Helen Umekubo were gifts of **Babe Karasawa**, and memberships for Helen Kusumoto, Chiyo Nakagawa and Kathy Nakayama were gifts of **Roy Kusumoto**. The Hasegawa General Store of Hana, Hawaii, is owned and operated by the family of our VP **Susan Hasegawa**.

A big thank you to the following members who recently upgraded their membership to Life: **Robert W. and Hisae S. Batchelder**, **Yeaji and Midori Fujino** and **John and Tsune Hashiguchi**. Bob and Hisae Batchelder joined the JAHSSD board this year and have agreed to serve as co-treasurers replacing **Masato Asakawa**, who will continue as a board member.

We also thank the following members who renewed their memberships: **Ann Tsuchiyama Carlin**, **Jeanette M. Dutton**, **Frank and Suye Fujikawa**, **Ruth Fujimoto**, **Taye Hashiguchi**, **Yoko (Mayeda) Hashima**, **Yukie Yagade**, **Art and Judy Hibi**, **Holly Hidingier**, **Tetsuo and Sasako Himaka**, **Fred T. Hosaka**, **Louise Iguchi**, **Mary Iguchi**, **Iwao and Mary K. Ishino**, **Martin Lloyd and Emiko Ito**, **Robert and Edna Ito**, **Kimie Kaneyuki**, **Kiku Kawamoto**, **Ken Kida**, **Frank and Tami Kinoshita**, **Kenneth and Katherine Koba**, **Don and Hanako Konishi**, **Calvin Koseki**, **Tomiko Kozuma**, **Roy Y. Kubo**, **Harold A. and Kuniko Kuhn**, **Roy Y. Kusumoto**, **Kiyo Matsumoto**, **Yoshio Matsumoto**, **Linda McLemore**, **Isamu and Pauline Nakamura**, **Kiyoshi Nakamura**, **Yoshie Nakashima**, **Fred Y. Nakatani**, **Richard and Susie Namba**, **Michael Okuma**, **Shirley Omori**, **Tom H. and Elizabeth A. Ozaki**, **Jay and Mari Sato**, **Kenji and Satoko Sato**, **Susumu and Tami Matsumoto Satow**, **Taka and Beverly Sawasaki**, **Grace Seki**, **Fusa Shimizu**, **Chizuko Shintaki**, **Mitsuko Tachiki**, **Shinkichi George Tajiri**, **Fudo Takagi**, **Kikuo and Beni Takahashi**, **Mitsue Tanaka**, **Connie I. Taniguchi**, **Masaharu Tsuida**, **Sue Tsushima**, **Kiyo Uda**, **Kenneth Uyeda**,

**Takeko Wakiji**, **Yukie Yagade**, **Joe and Elizabeth Yamada** and **Mitsuye Yamamoto**.



The old Hasegawa's General Store at Hana, Maui, pictured here in 1957. A new store was built after a disastrous fire in 1990.

### New Corporate Member is an Old Friend

"You name it and they got it." is the popular motto of the newest corporate member of the JAHSSD. Founded in 1910 by two brothers from Hiroshima-ken, **Shoichi** and **Saburo Hasegawa**, **Hasegawa's General Store** has served both locals and visitors to Hana, Maui, for the last ninety years.

Four generations of **Hasegawas** have been involved with the store. After the retirement of the brothers, the store was run by **Shoichi's** son, **Toshimasa Hasegawa**, and his wife, **Shizuko**. The present owner, **Toshimasa's** son, **Harry**, and his wife, **Nita**, took over the operation of the store in 1961. Today, the store is managed by their son, **Neil**.

The San Diego connection comes through **Harry** and **Nita's** daughter, **Susan Shizuko Hasegawa**, who coincidentally is the Vice President of the JAHSSD and a Professor of History at San Diego City College. Another daughter, **Kelly Hasegawa** is a teacher at **Hisamasa Tamura Elementary School** in Fountain Valley in Orange County.

Our thanks to **Hasegawa's General Store** for their continued support. We urge all our members who visit Hana, Maui to drop in and say "thanks" to **Harry**, **Nita**, and **Neil**.

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