FOOTPRINTS Impressions from where we were to where we will be

The Newsletter For The Japanese American Historical Society Of San Diego

Winter Issue 2001

Volume 10 Number 4



Terry & Ford Omori, Miki Honda, Ralph & Avis Honda, and Grandchildren

10th Annual Meeting Draws Full House

More than 150 persons turned out for the JAHSSD's 10th annual luncheon meeting Oct. 20 honoring four San Diego community leaders, hear a message delivered by Darcie Iki of the Japanese American National Museum and to view the outstanding artwork of the late Akira Shima.

To hear some of those who attended, the meeting was one of the better meetings.

Ms. Iki talked about the resettlement years of the Nikkei community discovered through the interviews of former internees while putting together the REgenerations project.

Kansha Awards were made to Agnes Benson, K. J. (Jimmy) Takashima, Fred Katsumata and posthumously to the late Ben Honda for their significant contributions toward making our community better for everyone.

JAHSSD President Jeanne Marumoto Elyea also accepted a significant gift made to the society by Leonard and Betty Slater of two paintings by the late Rose Schneider of pre-World War II scenes of Fish Camp, where many Nikkei families lived.

The Slater's came to possess the paintings through Mrs. Slater's mother, Mrs. Esther Moorsteen, a close friend and supporter of the painter from their early years as San Diego High students.

We thank Joe and Elizabeth Yamada for facilitating the donations to our society.

We thank everyone who turned out for the annual meeting and hope we will see everyone next year.

DATES TO REMEMBER

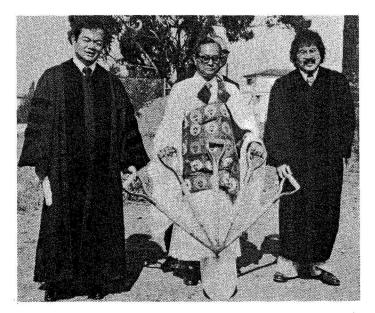
January 16, 2002 - CLPEP Grant Application Meeting S.D. Public Library 5-7 p.m. March 17, 2002 - Multiple Sclerosis Walk San Diego Embarcadero Harbor Walk 5k or 10k 7:30 a.m. March 24, 2002 - VFW Easter Egg Hunt Morley Field 1 p.m. April 13-14, 2002 - JR YBA Reunion 50th Anniversary

For more details call Buddhist Temple April 14, 2002 - Hanamatsuri Service Buddhist Temple of SD 10:00 a.m. October 2002 - JAHSSD 11th Annual Meeting - Tentative

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# A Moment In Time Photos From the JAHSSD Archive

#### by Don Estes

The photograph shows us a beginning. Three men in robes face the camera on a warm November 6, 1982; just twenty years ago. On the left is **Rev. Dr. Yoshikuni Kaneda** of the **Ocean View United Church of Christ**. In the center, **Rev. Koju Terada** of the **Buddhist Temple of San Diego**, and on the right **Rev. John Katagi** of the Japanese Christian Church. In their grasp, a multi-handled, gold- colored shovel that in a few moments would be used to turn the first dirt in the construction of the **Kiku Gardens Senior Housing Complex** in Chula Vista.

As the local Nikkei community entered the last third of the twentieth century, it had become apparent to many in positions of leadership that there was a growing need for a variety of social services directed to our elderly. By the mid 1970s, the lack of available senior housing was one of the most apparent and generally unfilled needs.

The catalyst for what eventually became Kiku Gardens was Yoshi Kaneda. Realizing he was new to the San Diego community and that the project for senior housing he envisioned would need the support of the entire community, Yoshi moved to recruit Moto Asakawa to his cause. Moto, whose father, Hachisaku, had come to San Diego in 1910, was one of the most respected local Nisei leaders who understood at once the nature of Yoshi's

vision. With Moto's help, other leaders of the community were mobilized.

Joe Owashi representing the San Diego Japanese Christian Church and Katsumi "Jimmy" Takashima of the Buddhist Temple of San Diego soon joined what was to become both an organizing and steering committee.

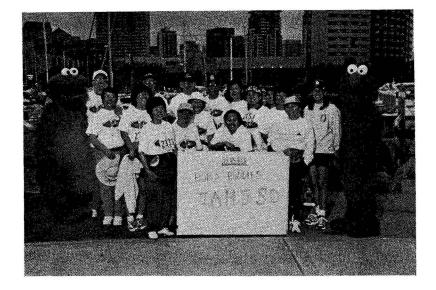
In short order, the San Diego Chapter of the JACL agreed to act as an umbrella organization for the project and other community groups like the VFW's Japanese American Memorial Post 4851 were enlisted formally as co-sponsors of the project.

A land search committee composed of Roy Arakawa, Moto Asakawa, Masaaki Hironaka, Paul Kuyama, Joe Owashi, James Yamate and Toki Yano was formed and eventually recommended the purchase of 3.2 acres of land on Third Avenue in Chula Vista. A major hurdle for the project was the \$100,000 deposit asked by the owner of the land to hold the property until funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) became available. Jimmy Takashima agreed to locate ten individuals who would loan the project \$10,000 each to save the property. As a result of Jimmy's efforts, ten volunteers came forward and the land was secured.

The ground breaking for the 100-unit facility was held on November 6, 1982. A little more than a year later, **Kiku Gardens** was dedicated to the service of the community.

Speaking at the dedication ceremony Moto Asakawa, Kiku Gardens first President, said, "The Dream of the Japanese American community has come to realization. Kiku Gardens Senior Citizens Housing Project is a solid accomplishment belonging to the Nikkei community now and for our posterity."

Today, Kiku Gardens continues to serve the community. It's truly a house that faith built.



# "Take a Few Steps...." With Bob's Buddies

You are all invited to "Put on the Green" and to come on out next March 17th (Saint Paddy's Day 2002) to take part with us in San Diego's annual walk to end Multiple Sclerosis. Last year our JAHSSD team, code named "Bob's Buddies," raised over \$2800 to defeat MS.

If you are interested in walking give our two cocaptains, Mich Himaka (619) 660-9865 or Don Estes (619) 280-9418 a call and we'll get the information to you as soon as we receive it from the local MS Society.

It's a day of fun, food, fellowship, food, and a walk by beautiful San Diego Bay. Join us!

**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.

Douglas Sadao AKAMINE - September 16, 2001 June UKEGAWA - September 24, 2001 Jessie Amiko (Hirai) KADOTA - September 27, 01 Minoru TAKASUGI - October 16, 2001 Sachiko McGEHEE - October 18, 2001 Mitsuko TYGART - October 20, 2001 Mitsuko TYGART - October 20, 2001 Michiko Donna BRUER - November 11, 2001 Michiko Donna BRUER - November 11, 2001 Takio T. "Tak" MUTO -December 1, 2001 Akiko HIRASE - December 6, 2001 Ann Elenora KEEAN - December 6, 2001

### **Editor's Message**

With this issue, my wife, Naomi, and I turn over our duties as editor and publisher of *Footprints* to Joyce Teague. My name will remain on the newsletter as "editor" until Joyce gets up to speed but she will be in charge. I plan to do some writing in the future (if some ideas come to my small mind) but Joyce and I will welcome any suggestions you readers might have for possible stories. And if you have stories you might have written about family members in the past that you don't mind having us publish, please forward them to us. We will be glad to edit any such stories you have available.

Meanwhile, Naomi and I would like to thank such continuing and previous contributors as Don Estes, Jeanne Marumoto Elyea, Yukio Kawamoto, Mits Kawamoto, Shinkichi Tajiri, the late Fred Hosaka, Dr. Ruth Okimoto, Elaine Hibi Bowers, Joyce Nabeta Teague and, of course, the numerous people who have written the many complimentary letters we have received. (What? You think we're going to name those who were NOT complimentary? Too numerous to mention.)

Seriously, though, we appreciated all the support you readers have given us. Without your support, we wouldn't be publishing this newsletter. It's been fun. Who knows? Some day, we might return and do it again.

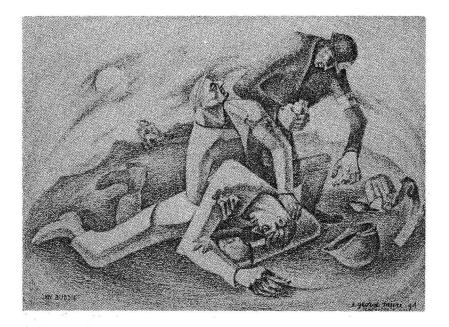
We ask you to continue giving Joyce your support, encouragement and story ideas. And thanks again for everything.

-- Mich and Naomi Himaka

# IN GRATITUDE

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

Anonymous Mrs. Mikiye Honda - In memory of Mr. Ben Honda Mr. Dale Kusumoto Mrs. Shizue Maruyama Mrs. Umeko Ruth Voorhies



# Shinkichi Tajiri: Truly A Man For All Seasons -Part IV -

With permission, we here continue our excerpts from the autobiography of distinguished artist **Professor Shinkichi George Tajiri** a former San Diegan, now a resident of Baarlo, The Netherlands.)

Joining the army took me out of camp, but it also interrupted my last year and a half of high school at Poston. No matter. When I left camp, the school was without desks, chairs, books, paper and pencils. I was told that I would receive my high school diploma when I finished my basic training. The three months of basic training taught me what the human body could endure and was more beneficial than memorizing volumes of facts and dates. We were sent on 20-mile "forced marches," alternating between marching and running and carrying 50 pounds of equipment. We slept outdoors in the rain and snow and never dried out for a week. We learned survival.

After eleven months of intensive training and acquiring the various skills of destroying another human being, we embarked from Newport News, VA on May 1, 1944. Destination unknown. The voyage took 28 days as we zigzagged across the Atlantic and the Mediterranean. After three weeks at sea, we were given little books on how to speak Italian. We landed at Naples and on June 7th we were shipped to Anzio where we received our "baptism of fire." German planes flew over that first night to bomb an ammunition dump adjacent to our camp. We worked our way north through Rome, which had just fallen, to Citavecchia. On June 26th, we were committed to combat. By then I was in Company M heavy machine guns - 3rd Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

Throughout my childhood, I was very much a loner and always found it difficult to work in a group. I was made a messenger and sent out alone over mountains and across valleys. On one of my solo runs, I unexpectedly captured two German soldiers. They jumped out of some shrubbery and came towards me with their arms raised, looking fatigued and drained and more frightened than me. Their grey-green uniforms had been stripped of all vestige of rank and unit and the only equipment they carried were their canteens. I swung my carbine off my shoulder and waved them in the direction I had just come from. One soldier was about 45, thin, grey-haired, with a limp. The other was a youngster who looked 15, blond and bewildered. I rushed them back to our lines until we met some of our troops and handed them over.

Next Issue: "The day I got Wounded."



Nisei troops in Italy round up captured German soldiers.

# **Caught Doing Something Nice**

As a society composed completely of volunteers, we are heavily dependent on the goodwill and help of our members and friends when it comes to carrying on our mission of preserving the Nikkei story here in San Diego. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following for their invaluable assistance.

Those of you who listen to National Public Radio locally may have heard **Joe Horiye** and **James Yamate** on the October 16th mid-morning show "These Days." The dynamic duo very ably discussed and fielded questions on the World War II Nikkei experience against the backdrop of the September 11th terrorist attacks and their impact on American Moslems. Thanks guys. You did a terrific job.

This past quarter has been an especially good one for our growing collection of artifacts because of the thoughtfulness of a number of our friends and supporters. We would like to recognize the following individuals and their families for their donations.

Our thanks go out to Mrs. Emiko Hoshi and her family for the donation of feathered tuna fishing jigs, wire leaders and barbless hooks used in the local pre-World War II Nikkei fishing industry. Also donated was a leather fisherman's pole holster and a fisherman's utility bucket. The gifts were donated to us in memory of her late husband Mr. Paul Hoshi.

We want to recognize and thank Mrs. Jane Yamaguchi Takeshita and family for their generous donation of a number of artifacts to our archives. Included in the gift were militaria, historic photographs, books on the Nikkei experience and a series of Japanese language books and dictionaries belonging to her late father Mr. Yataro Yamaguchi an early Issei pioneer who settled in Pacific Beach.

We want to express our thanks to Mr. And Mrs. Art Nishioka for their donation of two very fine illustrated books of poetry that were produced at Poston. In addition, their gift included a number of books for our reference library on the Nikkei experience in America written in Japanese. The books were donated in the name of Art's late Mother, Mrs. Nancy Nishioka of Chicago.

Artifacts are likewise coming to our growing Poston Restoration Collection. We want to extend our thanks to, **Mr. Malcom Matsumoto** of Berkeley CA, for his generous donation of his stepfather's suitcase which was carried to Poston in 1942 and back to Berkeley following the closure of the camp.

We also want to recognize Mrs. Florence Mohri of Costa Mesa, CA, who has generously donated an original watercolor by the well known Nikkei artist George Shogioka who was held at Poston. In addition, Mrs. Mohri has donated a

number of historic photographs, books, pamphlets dealing with Poston, aa well as a portfolio of fifty scenes of the WRA "relocation centers" drawn by Henry Fukuhara.

Our sincere thanks to Mr. Matsumoto and Mrs. Mohri. We also would like to acknowledge the considerable efforts of Dr. Ruth Okimoto who helped facilitate these donations. Big Thanks Dr. Ruth!

This past October saw our society celebrate its tenth birthday with, by any measure, a very successful, Annual Meeting. Once again we thank the **membership of the San Diego Buddhist Temple** for their thoughtful permission to use their splendid facilities. Our special acknowledgement to **Rev. Tesshi Aoyama** who gently instructed our publication committee on the difference between "Itadakimasu" and "Oagari Kudasai." Thanks for setting us right, Sensei!.

It was also a real pleasure for us to have **Rev**. Brian Nakamura from the San Diego Japanese Christian Church with us to provide, not only the grace, but a very moving and meaningful benediction. Thank you, Pastor Brian, you made us think.

The smoothness of the meeting was the product of the many talents of our Vice President Susan Hasegawa, who kept us laughing and managed to keep a long meeting on schedule.

Once again, we are indebted Jeanne Marumoto Elyea and her tightly organized and highly experienced crew. Her sisters, Linda Marumoto McLemore Allyne Marumoto Tachiki, who worked and registration, answered a million questions, and made sure everyone was taken care of. A man who's always hard to spot because he's always busy helping in a million ways, Bill Elyea. The hard working kitchen crew, Nancy Cowser, Mits Kawamoto, Grace Segawa and Grace Tsuida. We continue to thank of the Minazaki-san Hillcrest Ichiban Restaurant for all his support over the years. Next time you stop by the restaurant, thank him for his ongoing support of your society.

The center piece of this year's meeting was an outstanding exhibit of art designed and curated by **Bob** and Hisae Batchelder. Our society owes a great debt of thanks to the whole Shima family for their willingness to share the art work of their late father, Mr. Akira Shima. We especially want to thank Mrs. Masako Shima for her wholehearted support of this project.

The eye-catching table centerpieces were the design genius of Naomi Himaka of Kei Dan Florist and the "Ladies Decoration Committee" of the JAHSSD. How could you miss those paper Tsuru that the ladies so lovingly crafted. Thanks also to the members of the JAHSSD Board of Directors, See Caught Doing Something Nice page.7 \*\*\*\*\*\*

#### **CHANKO-NABE**

By Joyce Nabeta Teague

I got up this morning and padded into the kitchen where my dear husband, **Bill**, and daughter, **Jamie**, were cooking me up a fabulous breakfast. I sang.

Happy birthday to me, I'm not 53 I ain't that no more. I turned 54! Gee, Bill said, You're

#### Gee, Bill said. You're your own poet laureate! =\*=\*=\*=

That was the start of a Chanko Nabe column that was never finished because I became so distracted by what most Americans now refer to as "9-11." On that infamous morning, Bill and I had just gotten up and were readying for a pre-breakfast walk around chollas Lake. Bill had heard the breaking news on NPR and alerted me to it, so as I was putting on my shoes, I watched the broadcast of smoke billowing from one of the World Trade Center Towers. It was a stunning image, but at that point, no one seemed to realize this had actually been a deliberate act. We decided to go ahead with our walk. It wasn't until we returned home an hour later and turned on the TV again that we, along with the rest of the world, learned the U.S. had been attacked in this most incredible manner. We began to comprehend the terror in "terrorism."

I went through that first paralyzing week, feeling vaguely as if it were my moral and patriotic duty to keep the television or radio on during every waking hour. Exercising and chores fell by the wayside. It was difficult to concentrate on projects or deadlines. But even the subsequent declaration of war, and the myriad of global, economic, political and emotional repercussions which followed, I forced myself not to mare the images on CNN the focus of my day. Our household slowly settled back into a calmer rhythm of work, obligations, attentiveness to family and friends, relaxation and other issues much closer to home. We've resumed most of our gentler routines, including the early morning walks around Chollas Lake.

Chollas Lake Park is a well-hidden jewel set in the middle of one of San Diego's most diverse neighborhoods, Oak Park. Tucked away off State 94, just west of the revitalized College Grove Shopping Center, the park is a peaceful and enjoyable place to picnic, jog, fish, shot hoops and relax. The park is heavily used year-round, especially by exerciseminded folks, who like to circumnavigate the lake or hike down into North Chollas Canyon, which is out of view of surrounding streets. It offers a nice respite

from the stresses of the nearby urban world. It is also, as I learned, a good place to escape our current prepoccupation with the Taliban, anthrax letters and the dismal job market.

Inspired by our health-conscious daughter, Bill and I had begun a walking routine around the lake during the summer. Because of our height and stride difference, it's impossible for the two of us to stay at the same pace. Either I have to run-leap (picture a graceful, bounding deer) to keep up with Bill, or he had to take tiny, mincing steps (picture him playing "Mother May I" with his shoelaces tied together) to slow down for me. Either way, one of us wouldn't be able to get the aerobic benefit of brisk walking. So, though we start off together, Bill is soon striding off and disapppearing around the bend, leaving me far behind.

As I huff and puff along, working myself up to a musical wheeze, I admire and make up histories for the other "regulars" who pass me in either direction. There are reasons we settled in this aging urban neighborhood, and this wonderful park and the variety of hearty neighbors who frequent it are among them. These neighbors are a wonderfully diverse cross section of folks, part of the 105th Congressional district Bob Filner claims is the most ethnically diverse in America. There's the cluster of gray-haired matrons laughing about last week's church social. There's the tall white guy discussing the Bible with the short Asian guy. A muscular man in his 70s who shouts encouragement as he passes ("Looking GOOD, girl! Keep it UP now!")

Then there's the stocky gal sweating buckets and swinging a large water bottle in front of her beet-red face like a drum major wields a baton. The first time I saw her, I thought maybe she was spewing out occasional bursts of profanity because she had Tourette's Syndrome...but later I decided she was listening to rap music and merely "singing along."

Other regulars -- dog walkers who look like their dogs, young mothers pushing strollers and flanked by kids on trikes, the old guy with a cane and a stutter step, the shadow-boxing guy, the skinny guy in a felt hat -- have a nod or a wave and sometimes a lighthearted comment as they pass.

I usually get behind someone with legs shorter than mine and try to keep up. But even the tiniest whitehaired lady walking with a determined stride can pass me by. The only people I manage to overtake are those slowly clumping along on crutches...or bending over to tie a loose shoelace...or a couple resting on a bench and grousing about local politics.

Exercise aside, the benefits of walking around Chollas Lake have increased since the events of Sept. 11. In these unsettling times, every aspect of this simple activity -- the trees, the water, the squawking See Chaanko-Nabe page 17 Caught Doing Something Nice continued from page 5

who again this year came up with the door prizes. We can't leave this without recognizing **Tommy** and **Sumi Yanagihara**'s attempt to donate a beautiful plant without being spotted. Gotcha, **Tommy** and **Sumi**.

Our thanks too to our hard working photographer Vernon Yoshioka who recorded the meeting for posterity. Michi Okuma, another long time supporter and charter life member, Carol Estes, both donated copies of their photos of the Annual Meeting for our use. Thanks ladies.

Finally, our special thanks to **Darcie Iki** of the **Japanese American National Museum** who joined us to talk about the importance of oral histories in the Nikkei community and working together. Thanks again, **Darcie**, for coming all the way from LA to be with us.

Thanks to **Don Estes** who presented a slide show on the history of the local Nikkei pioneers to the **San Diego Chapter of Ikebana International's** October meeting.

Membership News

by Yukio Kawamoto

A warm welcome to our new members: Matthew Estes, Kumao Estes, Jean Wada, John Benson, Kristina McCauley, Roy and Aiko Muraoka, Laura Shimasaki, Ralph and Avis Honda, Ford and Terri Omori, Sheila Yagura, Dr. Ruth Okimoto and Marvin Lipofsky. We are pleased to have all of you as members of our society. We thank the following who provided gift memberships: Don and Carol Estes, for Matthew and Kumao Estes, and Miki Honda, for Ralph and Avis Honda and Ford and Terri Omori. We also thank Frank Wada and Agnes Benson for upgrading their memberships to life and including their spouses, Jean Wada and John Benson, respectively, as new members.

We thank the following for renewing their memberships: Edythe Harada, Nancy Cowser, James and Yuri Yamate, Miyoshi and Emi Ikeda, Kikuye Koga, Charles and Jan Ogino, Oliver and Michi Nishimura. Masako Matsuhara. James Matsumoto, Eileen Katayama, John Jr. and Amy Yamamoto, Yoshito and Marleen Kawahara, Ken and Akiko Matsumoto. Shizue Maruyama, Kimiye Tachiki, Yukiko Sugiyama, Rov Kusumoto, George and Chiyoko Masumoto, Chikaye Itami, Mitsuye Yamamoto, Grace Igasaki, Osao and Setsuko Himaka, Michiko Okuma, Peggy Tsurudome, Shig and June

Yamashita, Toshiko Kawasaki. Shizu Watanabe, Jane Takeshita, Alice Yano, Hibi, Maxwell Hibi. Robin Shimasaki, Don Teri Campbell, Glenn and Keiko Negoro, Mary Iguchi, Hiroko Ito, Lee and Allyne Tachiki, Susumu and Tami Satow, Harvey and Rose Itano, Frank and Jean Boyd, Miki Honda, Sue Gerrish, Helen Umekubo, Kiyo Matsumoto, Mitsuo Tomita, Emiko Obayashi, Fred Nakatani, Chieko Moriyama, Linda Sakiko Kada, Judy Kikuta. McLemore, Richard and Susan Namba, Shig Oto, Mary Yamamoto, Art and Judy Hibi, Kiyoshi Nakamura and Ray Mayeda.

(Editor's Note to all new and renewing members: You've all got stories about your

family or family members who have contributed to our community. Send them to us and we will edit them to be included in the newsletter. They could by old high school or college papers you have done in the past.)

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# We Get Letters

As always we welcome letters and contributions from members, friends, and interested parties.

Dear Mrs. Elyea:

Thank you for the privilege of attending the local Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego's annual meeting on October 20, 2001, to accept the four <u>REgenerations</u> volumes.

On behalf of the students and staff of San Diego City College, it gives me great pleasure to accept this landmark oral history dealing with the Japanese American resettlement experience following World War II. This valuable resource will be a welcome addition to our library collection for current and future generations of students.

It would mean a lot to me, in your role as president, if you would kindly extend my personal thanks to the board of directors and to the membership for their hospitality and generosity. Special thanks goes to the San Diego interviewees who agreed to share their life experiences so eloquently.

Sincerely yours,

Curtis Lang College Librarian

See We Get Letters page 16



# A Memorable Trip to Japan

by Mich Himaka

April 11, 2001 -- We arrived in Tokyo yesterday and our first tour would include a visit to the *Wakamatsu Beya* -- a sumo stable of young sumoists in training. It is a stable of about 70 sumo wrestlers, of which about 40 are foreigners.

We got off the bus and were cautioned not to take any flash pictures, not to say a word while watching or we would be banished.

Now I was in no mood to be tossed out by some 340-pound mound of flesh so I promised I would keep my big mouth shut!

We got off the bus as it pulled up to a small building. (I wondered: How could any sumo wrestler fit in THAT building -- let alone 70?! It turned out they didn't all train there at one time.)

As we lined up to go in, there was a BIG SHADOW that fell over our group. A MOUNTAIN OF A MAN walked past us and we all gawked! Word spread like wildfire.

"Isn't that, you know, THAT GUY?" someone asked in a small voice. We gulped collectively and nodded our heads.

Yep. It was THAT GUY. The Round Mound of Sumo Wrestlers. The BIG SHADOW!

AKEBONO! The recently retired Yokozuna GRAND CHAMPION of Japanese Sumo Wrestlers. The Muhammad Ali of Sumoists! The Mark McGuire of Sumotoris! THE BIG MAN HIMSELF!

It's very awkward looking at a man's belly button when you're standing on tiptoes. It's more awkward when you're looking for your wife, who had disappeared behind the BIG MAN. My God! I thought. Please don't fall on her! Now they told us that the sumo wrestler train on *Chanko Nabe* and many bowls of *gohan* and they nap for two hours.

I don't think our good friend and president Jeanne Marumoto Elyea would make an adequate *ochazuke* for them.

We all filed into the *beya* quietly and some of us sat down while others stood back. And there was another familiar face -- Jesse Kahuna, aka Takamiyama. Next to Akebono, he was a shrimp. But a BIG Shrimp!

As we sat there watching the trainees, Jesse talked with **Patsy Yanagihara**. As we filed out, Patsy remarked, "He called us *kotonks!*"

Uh, nothing wrong with that, is there? What? You expect me to run back in there and pick a fight with a 500-pound hillside for calling us *kotonks*? He'd probably make *chanko nabe* out of me!

As we were almost out the door, I noticed the flash of a camera.

Tom Yanagihara's grandson, Trevor, had inadvertently fired off a flash while taking a photo of an exhibit outside the training room.

We all rushed out the door before we got thrown out just for practice!

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#### **Grant Application Meeting Set**

An informational meeting regarding grant applications is scheduled from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday Jan. 16 at the San Diego Public Library, 820 E St., San Diego.

The meeting is sponsored by the Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CLPEP).

For further information, call Lisa Turgeon at (916) 653-5862 or contact her through her e-mail lturgeon@library.ca.gov.

It could be very helpful for organizations seeking federal funds.

#### **ROY S. YONEKURA**

Certified Public Accountant

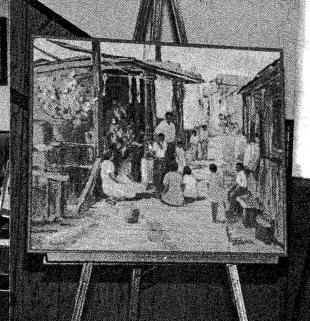
2605 Camino Del Rio So. #101 San Diego, California 92108 (619) 294-8882 Fax (619) 692-0307





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We Get Letters continued from page 7

#### To JAHSSD,

Really enjoy the newsletter as I'm homebound with my husband and it does keep me in touch.

#### Tami Matsumoto Satow

#### Dear Mrs. Elyea,

I would like to thank the board and members of the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego for honoring me with a Kansha Award at your annual meeting. There are many deserving members of the Japanese community, and I am profoundly touched by being included with them. My family and I enjoyed the exhibit of Mr. Shima's art work and your special guest speaker, Ms. Darcy Iki.

Again thank you for including me in such a distinguished group with Mr. Ben Honda, Mr. Fred Katsumata, and Mr. Jimmy Takashima.

#### Sincerely, Agnes Benson

#### Dear Ms. Elyea:

It is with mixed emotions that I write this letter to advise you of my retirement at the end of September from Union Bank of California after 45 years of work in the Bank of Tokyo Group. I have spent much time, over 30 years, working outside of Japan, both in the Americas and Europe. But, of course, I count nearly 17 years in California as most enjoyable!

As I enter this new chapter of my life, I look forward to having more time with family and friends, as well as discovering new books to read and places to visit.

On my journey back to Japan, I will carry many wonderful memories with me. I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to many friends who have contributed to these memories throughout the years.

My colleague, Mr. Tomihiro Wada, has already been appointed as the manager of Japanese Corporate Department in San Diego to succeed that part of my job in Union Bank of California. I would appreciate it very much if you would extend him the same support and friendship that you have given me.

With best wishes for your happiness and success.

Sincerely yours,

Hi Don:

Congratulations on the wonderful event and thank you very much for inviting me to participate. I had a great time seeing everyone again and visiting and meeting new people. The Kansha Awards were very touching and inspiring. Thank you for the honorarium. I really appreciate it.

Thanks again for everything.

Aloha,

Darcie (Iki) Japanese American National Museum

#### Dear Editors:

I enjoyed reading the Footprints fall issue 2001.

I grew up on a farm in Otay, California and Jimmy Takashima, Kansha Awardee, was one of our neighbors. His family farm was about two miles east of ours. I recall that Jimmy's brother, Tots, operated a trucking business and would transport our tomatoes to Los Angeles.

Your write-up on **Ben Honda**, another Kansha Awardee, was well-written. His accomplishments and contributions to the Japanese community were impressive. I used to see Ben at the annual Kagoshima Prefecture Association picnics held at Imperial Beach.

The article entitled, "Windows in Time, Photographs From the Archive of the JAHSSD" by Don Estes on page 4 of Footprints caught my eye because the name of the photographer, "M. Shimotsusa" was my uncle. His photo studio was located at 538 Fifth Street in San Diego, California.

My uncle studied photography in London and Paris for approximately two years. He left San Diego about 1928 and then established a photo studio in Tokyo near the American embassy. Masashi Shimotsusa became a well-known photographer and won numerous international photographic awards. When I was stationed overseas at Tachikawa Air Base (near Tokyo), I visited my uncle and recall that his studio displayed photographs of Japanese movie stars, Admiral Heihachiro Togo, Admiral Gombei Yamamoto, members of the Imperial family and political and business leaders.

I look forward to reading the Footprints. I believe you are doing a great job.

Sincerely,

#### Ray Kuni Mayeda

Takashi Kondo Senior Vice President

#### Chaanko-Nabe continued from page 6

geese, the friendly and familiar faces, and even the circular path we tread round and around -- contributes to a feeling of continuity, community and comfort. With the uncertainty of each new day, the walk somehow reassures me we can all handle tomorrow step by measured step.

# Transit Pres./GM Ron Yagura to Retire After 27 Years of Service

San Diego Transit Corp. bus system President and General Manager **Ron Yagura** announced his retirement effective in February after 27 years with the firm.

Ron, 55, the son of Mary Yagura and the late Iwao Yagura, has served as transit bus system president and general manager since 1993.

He will be succeeded by Langley Powell.

Congratulations on your retirement, Ron. Enjoy it.

~~~~~

College Honors Prof. Mari Taniguchi

Former San Diegan Mari Taniguchi received an honorary Master of Arts degree from Lawrence University in Appleton, WS., after a 40-year teaching career there.

She was one of four retiring professors honored during the university commencement exercises last June and at a special alumni reception during reunion weekend.

Mari is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. T. Taniguchi and sister of the late Take Taniguchi.

A university magazine, *Lawrence Today*, says Ms. Taniguchi, a professor *emerita* of music, retired from active teaching in September 2000 but continues to maintain a vocal studio in the university conservatory.

"She joined the Lawrence faculty in 1961, teaching voice and vocal literature," the article states. "She earned her bachelor's degree in voice and piano, a master's degree in music literature and an Artist's Diploma at the Eastman School of Music and also studied at the Giuseppe Verdi Conservatory in Milan, Italy, as a Fulbright Fellow.

"She made her operatic debut in the title role of Madame Butterfly with the Turin Opera Company and subsequently performed at leading opera houses throughout Italy and Switzerland. A long-time conductor of the Lawrence concert choir and the Downer Women's Chorus, Prof. Taniguchi has made frequent appearances with the Green Bay and Fox Valley Symphonies.

"Many of her voice students have gone on to successful musical careers, including baritone **Dale Duesing**, who performs regularly at the worlds leading opera houses and who earned a Grammy Award in 1993, and **Mark Uhlemann**, winner of the prestigious New York Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions in 1997."

(Editor's Note: I thank Jay and Mari Sato for forwarding the magazine article to us for use in our newsletter. We appreciate it very much. We encourage others who may come across articles pertaining to former San Diegans to send them to us. Mari Sato is a former student of Milwaukee-Downer, which merged with Lawrence College to become Lawrence University.)

> TAKENORI MURAOKA ATTORNEY AT LAW

1901 FIRST AVE., SECOND FLOOR SAN DIEGO, CA 92101 TELEPHONE (619) 233-6434



May 2002 bring one and all much happiness, good health and prosperity throughout the year!

Mich, Naomi, Keith and Daniel Himaka



We wish you every happiness, good fortune and, most of all, a healthy and fruitful millennium.

In memory of our father, grandpa, great-grandpa, Kikuichi "Windy" Marumoto, and in honor of our of mother, grandma, and great-grandma, Mary Sumiko Marumoto.

Bill, Jeanne, William, John and Michael Elyea Les, Allyne, Melinda, Wende and Justine Tachiki Linda and Roger Mc Lemore Joyce, Tom, Tanya, Jimmy, Amy and Nathaniel Kelly Steven, Andrew and Mathew Marumoto We wish all our friends a happy holiday season.

Please keep healthy! John and Tsune Hashiguchi

Happy Holidays!

Bob and Hisae Batchelder We wish you good health and happiness in this holiday season and the coming year.

Yuki and Mits Kawamoto



Our very best wishes to all in 2002!

Nobue Nishi Ken & Alice Matsumoto Family



As we enter the Year of the Horse the Estes family takes this opportunity to wish you all Health, Happiness and Prosperity. Dlease remember always, **Dinjo ni kokkyo nashi** Chrere are no boundries to kindness Carol, Don, Matthew, and Rumao



Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego

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and

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