

FOOTPRINTS

Impressions from where we were to where we will be...

The Newsletter for the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego



The Shimokawa Camp barracks in the Bonita Valley as it looked in 1912. This building housed seasonal Japanese labor gangs and was used for this purpose until the late 1920s.

A MOMENT IN TIME:

Classic Photos from the JAHSSD Archives

by Don Estes

The photo accompanying this article was one of a number of truly fine photographs recently donated to the JAHSSD by **George Nakagawa**. They are "fine" because of the quality of the photography, the condition of the images, and the fact that they represent some of the earliest photo images of Nikkei agricultural activity in the South Bay.

We know that there has been a Nikkei presence in the South Bay for over 100 years. At the beginning of the Twentieth Century, there were two to three hundred seasonal Japanese workers picking citrus in the thriving groves of Bonita, Chula Vista, La Mesa, and, of course, Lemon Grove.

An empirical measure of the increasing Issei presence is evidenced by the number of Japanese-run labor camps that began to appear in the area around 1900. The first Japanese labor contractor of record in the South Bay was **Tomitaro Harada**, who organized crews of seasonal Japanese workers to pick lemons throughout the Bonita Valley and Chula Vista. By 1910, there were at least two other large Japanese labor camps operating in the same area: the **Shimokawa Camp** was located at the western end of the Bonita Valley and the camp of **Kenjiro Kiyohara** was at the corner of what is now Broadway and J Streets in Chula Vista. The **Hatashita Camp** was in National City. These camps all flourished until the late 1920s.

The camps represented one cornerstone of an institution known among the Issei as the "boss system." The primary impetus for the arrangement was the limited English language proficiency of these early Japanese agricultural workers, coupled with a corresponding inability of Caucasian farmers to speak Japanese. Into this linguistic vacuum stepped the

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Issei labor contractors who were willing to serve both sides as middlemen.

To the workers, these bosses held out the promise of not only a job, but housing, food and the other basic necessities of life. To the area's farmers, these enterprising entrepreneurs offered a ready reliable and convenient work force, coupled with a minimum of administrative headaches. (Continued on Page 3)

DATES TO REMEMBER

- SEPT 1 thru 24** – Enemy Alien Files Exhibit, San Diego Public Library lobby, 820 E St. Free
- SEPT 6 thru Oct 10** – JAHSSD Exhibit, *100 Year Road: Japanese Americans in the South Bay*, Bonita Museum & Cultural Center, 618/267-5141. Free
- SEPT 13** – Buddhist Temple of San Diego Annual Golf Tournament, Eastlake Country Club, 8 a.m.
- SEPT 14** – BTSD OHIGAN Service & Potluck, 10 a.m.
- SEPT 14** – Introduction to Buddhist Meditation presented by Rev. Marvin Harada, BTSD, 1:30 p.m. Free
- SEPT 20** – Tea Ceremony by Master Shoshi Saito, JFG, 1:30 p.m. Free with Garden admission
- SEPT 20** – *Judgment Without Trial: Japanese American Imprisonment During World War II*, reading and book signing by Dr. Tetsuden Kashima, Japanese American National Museum, Los Angeles, 1:30 p.m.
- SEPT 21** – OVUCC-BTSD Annual Exchange & Potluck at Ocean View, 10 a.m. service and fellowship
- SEPT 27 & 28** – 9th Annual Pacific Islander Festival, Ski Beach, Mission Bay. Alcohol free, 9 to 5. 619/699-8797 or www.pacificislanders.com
- SEPT 28** – Zenbu Introduction to Qigong, BTSD, 11:30 a.m. potluck, 12:30 p.m. program. Free
- SEPT 30** – JACL Sushi and Sake Social, Hayama Restaurant, 6–8:30 p.m. Reserv. 619/230-0314
- OCT 3 thru 5** – San Diego Asian Film Festival, Madstone Hazard Center Theatres. www.sdaff.com. Fee
- OCT 3** – San Diego Japanese Christian Church All-Church Camp, Pine Valley, 619/234-5627
- OCT 5** – BTSD FOOD FESTIVAL, 11 a.m.–4 p.m., 619/239-0896
- OCT 8** – Japan Society of San Diego & Tijuana honors Mike Morimoto and Dr. Randall Phillips, 619/233-6873
- OCT 12** – Japanese kite-making demonstration, Japanese Friendship Garden, 11 a.m., 619/232-2721. Fee
- OCT 12** – Aki no Matsuri fund-raiser, JFG, 4 p.m.
- OCT 18** – JAHSSD 11th Annual Luncheon Meeting and Kansha Awards honoring Umeko Kawamoto, Harold Kuhn and Kiyoo Ochi, BTSD, 10 a.m.
- OCT 19** – SDJCC Communion Service
- OCT 25** – BTSD Evening Service/Halloween Party, 5 p.m.
- OCT 26** – OVUCC 53rd Annual Bazaar, 3541 Ocean View Blvd., 11 a.m.–3 p.m.
- OCT 26** – Minyo (folk song) demonstration, JFG, 1 and 2 p.m. Free with Garden admission
- NOV 2** – BTSD Eitaikyo Service, 10 a.m.
- NOV 15** – Deadline for *Footprints* Holiday Greetings and Winter 2003 articles
- NOV 15** – Japanese bookbinding class, JFG, 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m., 619/232-2721. Fee
- NOV 26** – SDJCC Thanksgiving Eve Service

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Vernon Yoshioka



Mars is here and I wish that I had a big telescope. This month the Red Planet is as close to Earth as it will get, the closest in 60,000 years, and it is a significant event.

Thinking about this occurrence puts our history into perspective. Much of what has been recorded by man doesn't go back more than 4,000 years. But most of what we now know—that is, what has been discovered or written about—has been created within the last 100 years. It's mind boggling to think that I have been alive while all these new things have been happening. And maybe someday, someone will want to know what I saw and experienced. I do know that there are many things that I would have liked to have asked others about, but that the people who knew are no longer here to answer. Thus History is becoming a much more real topic in my life. Maybe this just comes with old age and failing memory. Anyway, try to get a good look at Mars, because it won't come this close again in our lifetime, or the lifetimes of our children and grandchildren—a truly historic event.

This Board of Directors is one terrific bunch of people. Even when Don and Ben and many of the Directors were out of town, the rest of the team was able to pull off some major events.

Don had compiled the materials for the exhibit entitled, *Beauty Behind Barbed Wire*, and was out of town the day of the exhibit. But it was set up and supported by an able team led by Susan Hasegawa. The result was a beautifully-presented exhibit.

Then on Aug. 5, under the leadership of Noriko Inoue, a number of us hosted a dinner and tour of San Diego for Shigeru Kojima of the Japanese Overseas Immigrant Museum of Yokohama, Japan.

The following day, August 6, Noriko, Gwen Momita, and Susan Hasegawa took Mr. Kojima around to see some of our historic sites.

Coming JAHSSD events this fall include a display at the Bonita Museum this month, an exhibit at the San Diego Public Library, and next month our Annual Meeting and Kansha Awards luncheon. Come and join with us at our yearly get-together to say thank you to our honorees, enjoy the fellowship, and share with us some of the answers to the yet unasked questions.

Help us record the history of our San Diego Japanese American Community.



Board members and guests at La China Restaurant in Tierrasanta:
 Seated from left: Dr. Randall Phillips and Shigeru Kojima;
 Standing from left: Vernon Yoshioka, Susan Hasegawa, Mits Kawamoto, Gwen Momita, Yukio Kawamoto, Noriko Inoue, and Nami Tanabe of Lighthouse Magazine.

KANSHA AWARDS, "SERVICE" THEME, TO HIGHLIGHT 11th ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

by Mich Himaka

"Service" is the theme of JAHSSD's 11th Annual Membership Meeting and Luncheon, 10 a.m., October 18, at the San Diego Buddhist Temple Annex.

Service to both the community and to the nation is what distinguishes the three recipients of the 2003 Kانشa Award as well as our featured speaker.

The three people whose long-time service to the community is being recognized this year are **Umeko Mamiya Kawamoto**, **Harold Kuhn**, and **Kiyoko Kimura Ochi**.

The keynote speaker this year is **Robert M. Wada**, President of the Japanese American Korean War Veterans organization based in Los Angeles. Bob is an uncle of **Jeanne Marumoto Elyea**, a JAHSSD board member, and brother of San Diegan **Mary Wada Marumoto**, **Frank Wada** of Spring Valley, and **Hank Wada** of Chula Vista.

Bob became very active in a variety of organizations in the L.A. area following his Korean War service with the Marine Corps. A native of Redlands, Bob is the youngest of nine siblings—four brothers and four sisters.

One of his favorite tales about his Korean War service was when his troop ship landed in San Diego where members of his family were present to welcome him home. Bob invited a few of his Marine buddies to join him for dinner at the Marumoto home.

"My Mom served them Spam, not knowing that you don't serve that to guys who lived on K-rations for the past several months," Jeanne recalled. "They wanted fresh milk, fruits and other goodies. Mom said that was all she had at that time."

Bob went to school on the G.I. Bill to learn surveying and later went on to become an insurance salesman. He and his family were interned in Poston I during World War II and he remains active with the Poston I group.

Umeko, Harold and Kiyo were chosen by the JAHSSD board to receive this year's Kانشa Award, joining a select list of San Diegans honored with a Kانشa Award in the past. Their many activities are cited in separate articles beginning on Page 12 of this issue.

Unfortunately, Harold advised us that he has had a previous family commitment on the meeting date and cannot be present to accept his award. We have postponed his award presentation until next year's luncheon so he can accept it in person and receive the appreciation of a grateful community.

The meeting will feature an exhibit of photos and artifacts received by the organization and put on by **Don Estes**, who retired this year as a San Diego City College professor. Our auxiliary, fondly called the **What's for Lunch Bunch?**, will again be selling various craft items they have been making over the past year to augment our fund-raising efforts. We will also encourage members to purchase a holiday greeting to appear in the Winter Issue of *Footprints*. All proceeds benefit the Society.

Pastor Norma DeSaegher of the Ocean View United Church of Christ will give the invocation and benediction.

An order form for the \$17 *bento* lunch is on Page 22 of this newsletter. As always, the program and exhibit are free and open to all, but if you'd like a bento, you have to make your reservation by October 11.



To read more about our 2003 Kانشa Awardees, please turn to Page 12.

MOMENT IN TIME continued from p. 1

It was the bosses who took care of all the personnel problems.

Between 1907 and the late 1920s, the cost to the workers usually ranged from ten to fifteen percent of their wages. The arrangement was especially liked by the employers who were relieved of all the issues implicit in the hiring, housing, and directing crews of seasonal workers whose language they did not understand, let alone speak.

Issei labor bosses like Harada, Hatashita, Kiyohara and Shimokawa tended to be Issei who had resided in the United States for a longer period of time and so possessed not only a better command of English but an intimate understanding of American labor practices as well.

Dependent as they were on the services of their boss, most of these agricultural crews evidenced very little overt labor agitation. Usually, the only viable option for a discontented worker was to leave and either seek self-employment, or the services of another boss.

In a 1974 interview, **Saburo Muraoka**, who had come as a teenage immigrant to Chula Vista in 1916, recalled that the pay of a Japanese field worker, before the boss's deduction, was five cents an hour for a nine- to ten-hour day. Little wonder then that many of these young Issei save assiduously for the day when they, too, would be land-owning farmers.

Lest we forget, it was these early Issei agriculture pioneers who changed the agricultural face of the South Bay and made the area a garden basket of Southern California. They were men like **Toraichi Ozaki**, **Michitaka Morishita**, **Sojiro Torimaru**, and **Bunsaku Yanomi** in National City, and in the Bonita Valley, **Gennosuke Sato**, **Kyuichiro Fujishima**, **Toshio Morooka**, and **Kosaburo Nakagawa**.

Among the first to farm in Chula Vista were **Mitsuji Kiyohara**, **Suekichi Ogino**, **Fukutaro Muraoka**, **Otokichi Kushino**, and **Mitsusaburo Yamamoto**; in Palm City, **Kiyotaro Iguchi**, and **Sataro Owashi**.

CORRECTIONS to the SUMMER 2003 ISSUE

- The following names were omitted from the list of Bob's Buddies donors: **Yo and Tom Honda**, **Connie Taniguchi**, and **George and Betty Wakiji**
- In the "Caught Being Nice" column, **Kisaburo Nakagawa** was misspelled.
- **Sidney Shiroma**, author of the delightful story *Mother*, is a graduate of Princeton, not Brown, as stated in the preface to Part II!

The Editor apologizes for and regrets the errors.

CAUGHT DOING SOMETHING NICE

What our Society has been able to achieve over the past ten years is largely due to the ongoing support of our members and friends in the Nikkei community and beyond. Without you and your support, we have no reason for existence. With each issue of the *Footprints*, we like to recognize and express our gratitude to folks who have helped us out.

Our successful Obon exhibit of camp-related arts and crafts at the Buddhist Temple of San Diego on August 2 would not have been possible without the loan of a number of items to bulk up the JAHSSD's own collection. We wish to acknowledge and thank loans from **Bob and Hisae Batchelder, Don and Carol Estes, Mich and Naomi Himaka, Sakiko Kada, Mitsuko and Yukio Kawamoto, Akiko and Ken Masumoto, Ritsuko and Fred Nabeta, Tom Nakada, Kiyo and Hideo Ochi, Masako Shima, and Bill and Joyce Teague.** We also thank the Buddhist Temple for offering the chance to take advantage of the great crowd that attended the 2003 Bon Odori.

Mounting an exhibit, whether it will be up for three hours or three months, involves the same amount of physical work. Frequently we forget the number of hours involved in gathering the materials, documenting and producing the catalog, setting up, being there during the exhibit, tearing down, and putting everything away. Behind this exhibit was a dedicated crew that made the presentation so appealing.

Thanks and appreciation to **Nancy Cowser, Mits and Yukio Kawamoto, Ben and Grace Segawa and Gwen Momita,** who worked diligently to have the exhibit set up by opening time.

Working as docents and fielding all manner of inquiries about the items on display were **Jeanne Elyea, Noriko Inoue, Mits and Yukio Kawamoto, Ben and Grace Segawa, Bruce Sherman, Duane Siefers, Gwen Momita, and Vernon Yoshioka.**



Some of the Beauty Behind Barbed Wire helpers (from left): Susan Hasegawa, Grace Segawa, Ben Segawa, Gwen Momita, Jeanne Elyea, Duane Seiferts

The pack-up and clean-up crew consisted of **Jeanne Elyea, Mich and Naomi Himaka, Mits and Yukio Kawamoto, and Bruce Sherman.** All worked until after 10 p.m. to leave the room better than we found it.

Don Estes authored the exhibit catalog and **Joyce Teague** edited and desktopped the final product. Overseeing this whole operation at every stage and making it work was our Exhibit Curator, **Prof. Susan Hasegawa,** who especially wanted to make sure we thanked **Mits and Yukio Kawamoto,** who were on the job non-stop from 1:00 p.m. until after 10:30 p.m. That's over nine intense hours! Thank you, Mits and Yuki.

We'd also like to acknowledge four young members of the Buddhist Temple who folded and collated all 300 copies of the exhibit catalog. They were **Caitlin Baker, Nathan Hiding, Isaac Martinez and Luke Sumida.** Three of these young people are the children and/

or grandchildren of Society members!

Through the kindness of **Jay and Mari Sato,** we have had several important items added to our collection. A first for our collection was the donation of a Japanese *tonto* sword in a *shirasaya* mounting. Given the size of the blade, the style of the mounting, and the motif of the sword bag, we believe this was a blade used as part of a traditional Japanese wedding costume. The blade's *tang* is inscribed, which will allow us to identify the swordsmith and approximate date of manufacture. More on this donation in a future issue.

Jay and Mari also donated six photographs showing aspects of tomato farming in Chula Vista and young students attending Chula Vista Gakuen in the 1920s. What's really great about these photographs, besides their excellent image quality, is that almost everyone in the photos is identified. Look for enlargements of these photos at our exhibit at the Bonita Historical Museum and at our annual meeting—they should evoke a lot of memories. We sincerely thank the Satos for their generous gift.

Through the good efforts of Society member **Ray Mayeda** of Torrance, California, we have received a donation from Ray's cousin, **Masanatsu Shimotsusa** of Tokyo. Masanatsu's dad and Ray's uncle was the pioneer Issei photographer **Masashi Shimotsusa,** who lived and worked in San Diego from approximately 1916 to 1927. Donated to the Society were photographs of the old Lincoln Elementary School that was located on 12th and E Streets; groups shots of early Coronado Japanese families; and a very welcome portrait photo of **Masashi Shimotsusa** himself taken at the time he lived and worked in San Diego. (As is frequently the case, it's usually the photographer you can't find a photo of.)

Included in the gift are full-page copies of the *San Diego Union* showing examples of Mr. Shimotsusa's work, and a business journal and sports program with ads for the Shimotsusa studios. Our deep appreciation to Ray, who has put us in touch with the Shimotsusa family in Japan, and to both families for their donations of early San Diego materials.

One of our long time supporters, **Akiko Matsumoto,** has come through again. Akiko has donated an unfinished ironwood base that belonged to her father, **Reverend Guzei Nishii,** who was interned at the Justice Department Camp at Santa Fe, New Mexico. Akiko also donated a number of vintage cloth rice sacks—the kind we all remember that were recycled into dish towels, washcloths and, in the 1960s, shirts. Thanks for thinking of us, Akiko.

JAHSSD wishes to recognize the **anonymous gift** of a copy of the Wednesday, June 27, 1945 issue of *The Poston Chronicle*. The lead story is the announcement by **Dillon S. Myer** that Camps II and III would be closed as of October 1, 1945. We appreciate the donation of this valuable addition to our camp-related archives.

Jeanne Marumoto Elyea has been kind enough to loan us two of her scrapbooks for use in our September exhibit on the Nikkei in the South Bay at the Bonita Historical Museum. Sections were reproduced for the display. Thanks, Jeanne, you're always there when we need help.

Our appreciation also to **Mary Itami** for her donation of several large rolled panoramic prints. Many of us remember these photographic prints which were shot by a motorized camera which scanned the crowd. (This of course allowed the wise-guy kids to run behind the group and have their photograph appear at *both* ends of the picture. *Right, sure you've got a twin brother...*) Please accept our thanks, Mary.

And lastly, our thanks and appreciation to the **Chicago Japanese American Historical Society** for a copy of their excellent curriculum materials on civil liberties which they developed in 1997. We look forward to more such exchanges of resources and ideas.

MEMORIES OF SOUTH BAY

by Ray Mayeda

Ray Kunitaru Mayeda's family lived in the South Bay prior to World War II. His uncle, Masashi Shimotsusa, was a pioneer photographer in San Diego. Ray is now retired and lives in Torrance, California, and is an active member of our Society. We appreciate his willingness to share his recollections of the South Bay before World War II. He can be reached at Kunitaru@aol.com.

During last April's Poston Camp III reunion in Las Vegas, I exchanged numerous memories with former internees. I reminisced with **Edythe Hirase Harada**, whom I had met while we were interned at the Santa Anita Assembly Center where we were corralled into horse stables in April 1942; later to be relocated to Poston's Camp III. I also ran into **Frances Watanabe Wada**, whom I had not seen for about 60 years; her mother was my Japanese school teacher in Chula Vista. I also saw **Suzie Shinohara Iwasaki**, who lived on a farm a half-mile east of ours in Otay; and **Tsutomu Date** and his sister, **Michiko Date Eguchi**. **Tsutomu** was my best friend at Otay Grammar School, while **Michiko** was my sister's best friend.

My wife **Theresa** and I sat at the same table with **Ben** and **Midori Koba Koga** at the reunion banquet. Since **Midori's** parents came from the same town in **Kagoshima, Japan**, as mine, I have known her for over 70 years.

This reunion motivated me to make a nostalgic trip to Bonita, Otay, and Coronado where I spent my boyhood years.

My father started to farm in Bonita in 1926. Although small, the farm was prosperous in those years. I tried to locate it, but it had long since been replaced by a golf course. In 1929, my father decided to expand and leased 40 acres of virgin land in the Otay Valley. He hired labor gangs to clear the bush and weeds, cultivate the land, construct roads, lay irrigation pipes, and build a three-bedroom house.

My father drove us to school whenever he had business dealings or went shopping in Chula Vista or San Diego. Otherwise my siblings **Al**, **Moriko**, **Yoko** and I grudgingly walked three miles each way to and from Otay Grammar School. **Charlie** and **Jimmie Shinohara** who lived near us usually joined us. We were overjoyed when our neighbors offered us rides.

My father specialized in tomatoes during the summer and celery in the winter. Because of the fertile soil, the Otay farm started to produce large quantities of top-grade tomatoes and celery. Then the Depression hit. I recall one summer the tomato crop was never harvested and was left to rot in the field because of the low market prices. My father quit farming in 1936 about a year after my mother passed away.

There were many Japanese American farmers in the South Bay area. The **Takashima**, **Saito** and **Shinohara** families also farmed in the Otay Valley. The **Date** family's farm was approximately one mile east of the Otay Grammar School, while the **Iwashita** farm was half a mile east of the **Date** farm. I recall that the **Hirai**, **Sato**, **Yamada**, **Kushino**, **Ozaki**, **Yonekura**, and **Yamamoto** families also operated farms in the Chula Vista area. The **Torimaru** family farm was located in National City. The main crops for these farmers were tomatoes, sweet corn, cucumbers, and celery. Most of these farmers survived the Depression and some of them even prospered. Over the intervening years, most of these farms have been replaced by housing tracts and shopping centers.

On my sentimental journey, I also attempted to locate our former Otay farm, but it appeared to have been long replaced by housing tracts. Since my parents came from Kajiki, Kagoshima Prefecture, the same town as the **Takeshitas** and **Kobas**, we visited those families often in Coronado when we lived in Otay. I retraced those visits by driving to Coronado via Silver Strand Boulevard. Lo and behold, million dollar



Ray Kunitaru Mayeda (front left) with sisters Moriko and Yoko in this 1927 photo. His parents Kunitomo and Yoshi stand behind them. Celery grown on their Bonita farm is in the foreground.

houses now occupy the east side of Silver Strand State Beach. The vacant one-block lots in Coronado no longer exist and beautiful hotels have sprung up. The San Diego area has become a very populous and beautiful place to live.

Although change is inevitable, I couldn't help but feel a bit wistful as I reminisced about growing up on the farm in the South Bay before the war.

SOUTH BAY NIKKEI EXPERIENCE FEATURED IN JAHSSD EXHIBIT

JAHSSD, in collaboration with the Bonita Historical Museum, will present a five-week exhibit on the Nikkei experience entitled, *The Hundred Year Road: The Nikkei Experience in the South Bay*.

The exhibit will run from Thursday, September 11, to Friday, October 10, 2003. All JAHSSD members should have received a green postcard invitation to the exhibit opening which is Thursday, September 11 at 7:00 p.m., hosted by the Bonita Historical Museum and JAHSSD.

The exhibit will feature photographs and artifacts representing the Nikkei experience in the South Bay, including pieces of camp-produced art as well as area-related vegetable lug labels from the Kathy and Ben Segawa collection of lug labels. Also featured will be a full-sized replica of a camp barracks room built by Frank Wada and furnished with items made during the camp era from the collection of JAHSSD.

The Bonita Historical Museum is located at 4035 Bonita Road in Bonita, California (near the intersection of Bonita Road and Willow Street—across the street from a Jack in the Box restaurant). The museum's hours of operation are Thursday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please call the museum at (619) 267-5141 if you have additional questions.

IN MEMORIAM

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

Fujie Nakagawa ~ June 6, 2003

J. John Hayashi ~ June 30, 2003

Mike Miyake ~ July 12, 2003

Carl Hikaru Kaneyuki ~ July 19, 2003

Hazel Yoshiko Roberts ~ July 21, 2003

Setsuko Shiromoto ~ August 2003

Tsutomu Ben Nakata ~ August 8, 2003

Pauline Yuki Smith ~ August 9, 2003

Hisako Helen Watanabe Mathews
~ August 13, 2003

Joe Ukegawa ~ August 16, 2003

Yukie Nakamura Hayashi ~ August 22, 2003

Asaye Emma Sakamoto ~ August 24, 2003

Jean Namiko Ishida Garcia ~ August 28, 2003

Tatsuo Mamiya ~ August 30, 2003

Sachio Matsubara ~ August 30, 2003

Lawrence Shintaku ~ September 2, 2003

Toki Yano ~ September 11, 2003

JAHSSD'S BEAUTY EXHIBIT A SUCCESS

JAHSSD's *Beauty Behind Barbed Wire: The Arts & Crafts of America's Concentration Camps*, a special exhibit at the Buddhist Temple's August 2 Bon Odori Festival, was a huge success.

Over 300 individuals came through the exhibit and many were impressed with the variety of items on display. Delicate wooden bird carvings were an audience favorite, as well as the array of oil, crayon, and pencil drawings. The exhibit also included wooden canes, jewelry boxes, and koi banners. Camp internees were ingenious at securing supplies and utilized wooden vegetable and fruit lugs for painting and carvings.

The exhibit was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the diversity of artifacts in our collection. Society Members also loaned items for the display. JAHSSD volunteers were on hand to answer questions about the exhibit and the Society, and membership brochures and issues of *Footprints* were also distributed. The JAHSSD documentary *Democracy Under Pressure* was also available for viewing or purchase.



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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Yukio Kawamoto, Membership Chair

With the holiday season fast approaching, why not consider giving gift memberships to the JAHSSD to your out-of-town relatives and friends. One of the major benefits that comes with a JAHSSD membership is a free subscription to our newsletter, *Footprints*. We have heard many favorable comments from our out-of-town members about how much they enjoy *Footprints*. I am sure your friends and relatives will, too.

A warm welcome to our new members: **Rosalynn Carmen, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Hom, Debra Kawahara and Neil Nagata, Fumi Kawahara Spivey, and Kenichi Yokogawa** of Canoga Park. The membership for Mr. and Mrs. Hom was a gift of **Mrs. Emi Obayashi**.

We thank the following for renewing their memberships: **Bruce and Sharon Asakawa, Rev. Norma Nomura DeSaegher, Asa and Jaime Enochs, Edythe Harada, Karen Hart, Hasegawa General Store (Corporate Member), Yas and Sumi Imamura Ishida, Tim and Junko Kajita, Gale Kaneshiro, Eileen Katayama, Sakie Kawahara, Guy and Toshi Kiyoi, Frank and Janet Koide, and S. S. and Nori I. Komorita.**

Also renewing their memberships were: **Hiroshi Kubota, Mary Marumoto, Jodi Masumoto, Hideo and Kiyoko Ochi, Ichiro and Chieko Saito, Jiro Saito, Eric Segawa, Hideko Shimasaki, James and June Tajiri, Chie Roxanne Takehara, Pat (Goto) Takeshita, Tyler and Peggy Tanaka, Karen Tani, Tom and Taeko Udo, James and Helen Urata, Christy Vikander, Ted and Fran Wada, Sam Yamaguchi, Eunice Yamane, and Rev. Jim and Patsy Yanagihara.**

ENEMY ALIEN FILES EXHIBIT NOW AT SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

An attack on America—fear, fury, and calls for retaliation run rampant. The time is not September 11, 2001, but December 7, 1941, when the United States entered World War II. Over 60 years ago, thousands of Japanese, German and Italian immigrants in the USA and Latin America experienced arrest, forced relocation, internment and even deportation to war zones solely because of their nationality.

The *Enemy Alien Files* exhibit combines rare photographs, oral history excerpts, and documents to explore how wartime fears, anti-immigrant attitudes, and racism, affected men, women and children against whom no charges of wrong-doing were ever brought. The exhibit will be in the lobby of the San Diego Public Library's Central Library from September 1–24, 2003. The Library is located at 820 E Street.

On September 13, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the third floor auditorium of the Central Library, a panel will discuss the WW II experiences of "enemy aliens" and the fragile nature of our constitutional and human rights in times of crisis.

Enemy Alien Files is presented by the National Japanese American Historical Society, American Italian Historical Association (Western Regional Chapter), Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project, German American Education Fund, and the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (San Francisco). The exhibit is funded in part by the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program.

JAHSSD is among the local sponsors of this program and encourages you to visit the exhibit and attend the panel discussion. Please contact the San Diego Public Library at (619) 236-5800 for further information.

IN GRATITUDE

The Membership and Board of Directors of JAHSSD gratefully acknowledge the following monetary donations to your Historical Society since our last newsletter. If we have inadvertently omitted your donation, please accept our sincere apologies and notify our treasurer Bob Batchelder at (619) 421-6330 for correction.

BOB & HISAE BATCHELDER

~In Memory of Michael Kawamoto~

MIDORI KOGA

EMIKO OBAYASHI

HOW A JAPANESE TEENAGER STAYS JAPANESE IN AN AMERICAN WORLD

by Lisa Asano

Lisa and her parents are JAHSSD members who live in Japan for part of the year. We asked Lisa to give us a glimpse into her life when living in the U.S.

Being a teenager is no easy task. Holding on to your Japanese culture in the United States and being a teenager is even harder. Luckily here in San Diego, there are many ways that the Japanese youth continue to remain true to their own culture while being accepted by their fellow American students.

I am a student at Rancho Bernardo High School. The total Japanese enrollment at my school is about 30. This large number of Japanese students helps us to create a mini-Japanese community. We speak Japanese and discuss Japanese fashion, music, and politics.

There are two Japanese Schools here in San Diego: Minato Gakuen, which is the public school, and Ikuei Seminar, which is the private school. These two schools help us to continue our studies in our native language. Compared to many of our fellow Japanese who live in the United States who do not have an opportunity to continue their language, we are truly lucky.

Sometimes Japanese school can seem tortuous to us. It isn't that we don't value our culture or education. But often we have to make decisions about whether we will commit to our club functions at Rancho Bernardo High, or go to Japanese school; or whether to get a grade marked down at regular school because we didn't show up to rehearsal, or go to Japanese school.

Luckily, Ikuei Seminar is very generous in the fact that they allow students to make up the classes they miss. However, for those students who are still committed to the Ministry of Education-sponsored schools (like Minato Gakuen), such options do not exist and their students sometimes have to sacrifice either their American life or their Japanese life for one day.

The Japanese supermarkets also allow us to buy many of the goods that we would have bought if we were living in Japan: CDs, magazines, videos, pencils, paper, notebooks, appliances, and of course the actual food from back home. We sometimes trade CDs and magazines, introducing each other to the different Japanese artists.

Television Japan and videos allow us to keep in touch with the

news, dramas, and fashion in Japan. By watching the television shows, we keep in touch with slang words that people in our generation use on a daily basis.

Through the contributions of the community around us, Japanese teenagers living in San Diego manage to keep their heritage and culture alive, thereby making cultural ties between the United States and Japan possible.

J.A. KOREAN WAR VETS SEEKING NAMES FOR BOOKLET

by Robert M. Wada

In preparing to publish a booklet listing Japanese Americans who served during the Korean War, the JAPANESE AMERICAN KOREAN WAR VETERANS (JAKWV) is asking all who served during the Korean War era, from June 1950 to January 1955, to register with the JAKWV so an accurate list of all who served can be included. The booklet will be for historical and educational purposes, preserving the history and the role of Japanese Americans in what is often referred to as the "Forgotten War."

Whether you served in Korea, Stateside, Alaska, Europe, Japan or anywhere in the world during this 1950-1955 period, your name should be listed in the booklet to preserve your record of service.

Unlike those in the 100th/442nd or the MIS who served in World War II, there is no listing of Japanese Americans who served during the Korean War era. The only method to obtain this information is to ask fellow Korean War veterans, relatives and friends to report names to our committee. Membership in the JAKWV is not mandatory. We will use this list to try to determine the number of Japanese Americans who served in the armed forces during the Korean War era.

The booklet will be dedicated to the 247 Japanese Americans who were Killed in Action. It will have a memorial section honoring them and the JA Korean War vets who died after the war or in non-combat situations. It will also contain the names of JA Korean War vets who served during anywhere in the world from 1950-1955. Final publication is expected in about a year.

If you are submitting the name of a veteran for publication, please indicate if the veteran is living or deceased. Please advise if you are interested in joining the JAKWV. We are not necessarily soliciting membership for this booklet, but new members are always welcome.

Please help remember those who served during the Korean War by submitting names and addresses to: Frank Takeyama, 16923 Haas Avenue, Torrance, CA 90504-2206. For additional information, contact Robert M. Wada at (714) 992-5461; fax (714) 525-9761; or e-mail, bob_wada@earthlink.net.



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THE SOUTHERN BLUE PAGE: Serving San Diego and Imperial Counties

by Susan Hasegawa

Every morning I get up and read the *San Diego Union-Tribune* as part of my daily ritual. During the week I usually get different publications including *Pacific Citizen*, and *Hawaii Herald* (I'm originally from Hawaii, so news from the islands is always nice). I love reading newspapers and newsletters because they make me feel connected to different communities of interest.

Additionally, old newspapers are an incredible source for exploring the past. A wonderful collection of newsletters, donated by **Yo Kuyama**, opens a window into Nisei youth culture of the 1930s.

Yo Kuyama's late husband, **Paul**, was one of many young Nisei who worked energetically at creating a cohesive Nikkei community in the San Diego and Imperial County region. *The Southern Blue Page* was a weekly newspaper produced during the height of the Great Depression to "create a true and strong Japanese American spirit that is distinctively San Diego's and Imperial Valley's which would harmonize in the social machines of our county."

Within these pages, one finds a vibrant community of Nisei, young adults and teens, who organized recreational, educational, and political activities. *The Southern Blue Page* was based in Logan Heights and reported on events and activities of the Nikkei community from North County to the Mexico border.

An interesting aspect of the newsletter is its attempts at inclusiveness, both geographically and across generations. Although editors published sections in Japanese only sporadically, they were trying to appeal to Issei readers.

Southern Blue Page

IMPERIAL VALLEY SAN DIEGO

Banner for The Southern Blue Page

The Southern Blue Page obtained financial funding from both Nikkei and non-Nikkei sponsors, as well as individual subscriptions.

Early 1936 editions included sponsorship by **Miss Mary Ichino** (sic), a nurse at Mercy Hospital, **Roy Hanaoka** of Brawley, **Susie Mukai** of Spring Valley, **Central Park Shoe Shop** under the ownership of **Mike De Turi**, and **Miss Anness Sloss**, a singing teacher. The latter two names obviously were not Japanese Americans, but probably had a substantial clientele of Nikkei families. In fact, Central Park Shoe Shop seemed to be a consistent advertiser during the life of the paper. I'm sure all the Nikkei attendees at socials and semi-formals shopped at Central Park.

Throughout late 1936 and 1937, more Nikkei businesses took ads in the paper and editors encouraged patronage of Issei enterprises.

The Nippon Co. advertised free delivery in addition to "specializing in food stuff for Sukiyaki and chow mein." Other noted Nikkei businesses included **The Sun Café**, **Bernice Ohashi's Ginza Beauty Salon**, **Mrs. Katsumata's "Smart Haircutting,"** and **Saito Studio** (photography). An editorial in the August 1936 edition exhorts readers to "Buy at Japanese Store" and proclaims, "The isseis are reaching a crisis! Their

customers are Japanese, and in the decreasing population of isseis and a tendency of niseis to buy American, their business in time would fade out."

During a national economic crisis with double digit unemployment, the writer clearly appeals to young people's obligations to the Issei generation, but the editorial also depicts Nisei grievances of these businesses. In the last part of the editorial, the writer states: "But there is one thing that must be abolished before the niseis will buy from Japanese stores: the treatment of nisei customers by issei clerks must be improved, and personal criticism in the form of personal gossip must be abolished." While the Nisei writer rallied the community to ethnic economic solidarity, people like the writer also wanted simple respect for their efforts.



A group of young Nisei attending San Diego State College about the same time *The Southern Blue Page* was being published.

Most stories focused on San Diego, but the intrepid editors sought out stories from the far corners of the region with reports from Brawley, El Centro, and Calexico.

Readers heard of Brawley's post-Christmas dance headed by committee chair **Tsuyako Morita** and the **Di Gamma Japanese dinner** organized by **Toshiko Hamai**, **Suma Taira**, **Taka Aisawa** and **Yone Tamaki**. The El Centro YMWBA planned a farewell outing for **Mr. M. Okita**, a teacher at the Buddhist Church who was moving to San Luis Obispo. Calexico's Japanese Boy Scout Troop 20 of Holtville celebrated a banquet in November of 1936. These stories brought together readers from all parts of San Diego and Imperial Counties.

The paper also published numerous items of interest to teenagers and young adults with a social notes section and etiquette advice. Teenagers seemed especially active in self-organizing with **Seinen Kai** groups in San Diego, Vista, Nestor, and Encinitas. They conducted beach outings, skating parties and number of dances.

Of course, editors wrote on relationship advice, always a hot topic among teens. One of the more humorous was: "Never fall in love, because people in love can't be reasonable."

The ambitious staff of *The Southern Blue Page* had a vision of a united Nikkei community here in the southernmost region of California. They worked diligently to bring together towns separated by geography and generations during the Great Depression and celebrated successes and victories of the Nikkei community.

The editor was **Chieko A. Sogo**, along with printer **Paul Y. Kuyama**, and executive secretary **Takao P. Nakadate**. Other organizers included **Chizue Kushino**, **Hideko Umezawa**, **May Sakamoto**, **Alice Sogo**, **Frank Ono**, **Sukenori Aizumi**, and **George Kuratomi**.

~ Next time: Politics and Sports in The Southern Blue Page ~

MY MOTHER'S GREAT ADVENTURE, Part II

by Sidney Shiroma

This is the second of four parts about Sidney's Okinawa-born mother. A native of Oahu, Hawaii, Sidney is a publisher who now resides in Rancho Bernardo (www.birkdalepublishing.com). We thank him for his kind permission to serialize his story here.

My mother's main hobby was gardening. She grew Manoa lettuce all year round, even in the heat of mid-summer. The first time my mother planted lettuce, she first selected a corner of our backyard which was overgrown with nutgrass. After the red volcanic earth was softened by heavy rains and turned a chocolate hue, she went out and dug through the soil with a pick ax to weed out the nutgrass. Nutgrass is an especially difficult weed to eradicate. Each bulb sends out multiple runners taking over any bare ground in an underground weed network. Unless you pick out all the bulbs, which are about the size of a large peppercorn, they will grow back. After my mother had pulled out all the nutgrass she could find, she let the ground remain fallow. Every week or so she would return to the fallow bed and dig out any new shoots and their bulb. After she was sure she had dug out all the nutgrass, she prepared the lettuce bed.

To keep the lettuce leaves green and tender during the hot summer months, she would sometimes water them three or four times a day. Her lettuce were the size of a volleyball, densely packed with dark green leaves. We could eat lettuce with extravagant abandon all year long and there was still plenty leftover to give to friends, relatives and neighbors. By comparison, I was shocked how scrawny the Manoa lettuce in the supermarket looked—like oversized Brussels sprouts, all stalk, fringed with pale green bitter leaves.

But her hobby grew beyond the lettuce patch. As my father got older, it was my mother who took over caring for the dendrobium orchids as well as most of the other plants in the yard.

One day, a plastic pot with a marijuana plant appeared among the dendrobiums, apparently placed there by my brother Spencer, who had limited gardening experience. This was the late 1970s and a surprising number of people in Hawaii were growing marijuana in their backyards. In those days, the police in Hawaii did not generally arrest small-time growers. They just confiscated all the plants. I don't know how long it took my mother to figure out that this was a marijuana plant. Regardless, I don't think my mother was pleased. She brought the matter up with my father who responded, "Well, all his friends are doing it, they can all go to jail together!" Her upbringing in rural Okinawa had taught Mom how to deal with nutgrass, but marijuana was an altogether different kind of weed.

Lacking a white middle-class upbringing, Mom didn't know how to react with the appropriate degree of hysteria. Instead, her upbringing had conditioned her to be the calming center in the maelstrom of our day-to-day family drama. Once, Obachan, Dad's aging mother who was living with us, had absent-mindedly left a pan of bacon grease cooking on the stove. It was Dad who first discovered the kitchen fire. Without thinking, he dashed out to grab the garden hose from the front yard.

From her outdoor command post in front of the washing machine, Mom spied Dad, garden hose in hand, charging across the front lawn toward the kitchen door, an heroic fireman in miniature. Sensing something was afoot, Mom joined herself to the phalanx of one. Of course, Mom knew that spraying cold water on a grease fire was a recipe for disaster. Firmly pushing Dad to the side, in one motion she dug out a large pot cover and dropped it on the crackling flame, dousing the fire in one gulp. Crisis over, Dad—once again in

charge—went off to yell at Obachan while Mom was left alone to clean up the mess in the kitchen.

Nestled among the dendrobiums, within my mother's nurturing purview, the marijuana plant received daily watering as well as, I suspect, regular fertilizing with the pungent organic fertilizer my mother used especially for the orchids. I must admit, I never actually saw my mother fertilizing the marijuana plant, as I was away at college at the time. But I'm sure she would have taken care of it no differently. After all, it was Mom who ended up taking care of the wounded pigeon we found in the yard until it was eaten by the neighbor's cat. She was careful to bury its remains in the back yard before we got home from school.

One morning, while Mom was outside hanging laundry, she noticed a police helicopter circling above the neighborhood. Suddenly, five squad cars came racing down the street, sirens blaring, and pulled up in front of a neighbor's house. Rushing to the backyard, they emerged a few minutes later carrying out pots of marijuana plants.

That evening, my mother related the events of the day to my father. By next morning, my mother could no longer be counted among the legions of small-time marijuana growers in Hawaii.

~ To be continued next issue ~

JAHSSD TO PRESENT FILM AT SDAFF

by Debra Kodama

The Japanese American Historical Society is proud to announce that it will be a co-presenter of a very moving and insightful documentary at the San Diego Asian Film Festival in October.

Sleeping Tigers tells the story of the Asahi baseball team from Vancouver, Canada. A synopsis from the web site for the film explains the premise of the program:

"In pre-WWII Vancouver the Asahi baseball team was unbeatable, outplaying the taller Caucasian teams and winning the prestigious Pacific Northwest Championship for five straight years. When Pearl Harbor was bombed, the Canadian government declared war against Japan and sent every person of Japanese descent, whether born in Canada or not, to internment camps. Faced with hardship and isolation, the former Asahi members survived by playing baseball. Soon attracting the interest of the RCMP and local townspeople, this quintessential North American game helped to break down racial and cultural barriers.

"Award-winning director Jari Osborne skillfully weaves rarely seen archival film and dramatic recreations, along with candid interviews with the last of the Asahi, to tell this remarkable story."

This documentary will be shown at the Madstone Theaters in the Mission Valley Hazard Center on Saturday, Oct. 4, at 10:45 a.m., and on Sunday, Oct. 5, at 11:45 a.m. Members of JAHSSD will be able to purchase discounted tickets (\$3.00) for either screening. To purchase tickets on-line, visit the Festival's web site, www/sdaff.org, or call 858/650-3459.

Sleeping Tigers will be co-presented by the Japanese American Citizens League.

M.I.S. INFORMATION SOUGHT

Haruo Tayama is seeking information on any M.I.S. veterans in San Diego. If you can help him out, please e-mail him at htayama27@msn.com.

CELEBRATIONS!

Community Milestones of Note

Evan Haruki Ong was born July 11 to **Mike and Ann (Koba) Ong**. Evan has a three-year-old big brother, **Davis**.

Conbgratulations also to **Wayne and Betsy Tsukamoto** on the birth of their son, **Ryan James Ichiro Tsukamoto**, born April 24.

Ellen Emi Okamoto and **Jon Neil Towne** were married August 10 at the Island Palms Hotel on Shelter Island.

Derek Ito, son of **Robert and Edna Ito** and grandson of **Lloyd and Emiko Ito** and **Mariano and Corazon Tengco**, turned 21 August 24 with a birthday bash with family and friends at Fat City Steakhouse.

Dr. Randall Phillips, San Diego's Honorary Consul General of Japan and a recipient of the Kansha Award last year, will be presented with the 2003 Reischauer International Education Award of the Japan Society of San Diego and Tijuana on October 8.

That same evening, JSSDT's 2003 Business Leadership Award will be presented to **Masayoshi Morimoto**, a founder and former president of SONY Manufacturing Company of America (San Diego). The recognitions will be given at the 10th Annual Leadership Awards Banquet.

Dr. Kenneth Schell, husband of Society member **Janice Schell**, has been appointed to the California State Board of Pharmacy by **Gov. Gray Davis**. Ken, the Clinical Operations Manager for Kaiser Permanente in San Diego, was also named Pharmacist of the Year last year by the California Society of Hospital Pharmacists.

Board member **Dr. Donald Estes** has retired from San Diego Community College District after teaching history for a whopping 43 years at San Diego City College. He calculated he has taught roughly 20,000 students during his career! Not one to rest even lightly on his laurels, Don is catching up on JAHSSD projects that need attention. Board members threw a surprise party for Don at the home of **Gwen Momita** and **Duane Siefert** on September 6.

Carol Hasegawa Estes has also decided to "throw in the towel" after serving 20 years with the National Supply Division of the Boy Scouts of America. What was originally a temporary, part-time job to help pay for her sons' trip to Japan for the IX Nippon Jamboree turned into a full-time position as the assistant manager of the San Diego Scout Shop.

We wish both Don and Carol a happy retirement, knowing full well their days are probably as busy as during their formal working days!

If you know of someone celebrating a special anniversary, achievement or milestone, please send us the details and we will gladly share the news in an upcoming issue.

JOURNEY TO THE UNITED STATES:

The Akiji Watanabe Story, Part V

by Fran Wada

We continue the serialized story of pioneer San Diego Issei Akiji Watanabe, researched and written by his daughter Frances Watanabe Wada of Seattle. We thank Fran for her permission to reproduce her father's story for our readers.

Brides From Japan

In the early 1900's, many Japanese women came to this country individually or in groups as picture brides for the bachelor Issei men living in the United States. They came from various educational and social backgrounds, but many were from farming communities, often from the same prefecture as their intended husbands.

Historical accounts often tell of disappointments upon seeing their husbands-to-be; many men had sent pictures of themselves taken in earlier years or even photos of their better-looking friends in order to make a positive impression. However, it appears that most couples made the best of these awkward situations and went on to establish lasting relationships.

Unlike the picture brides noted above, my mother met and married my father in Tokyo and traveled with him to America.

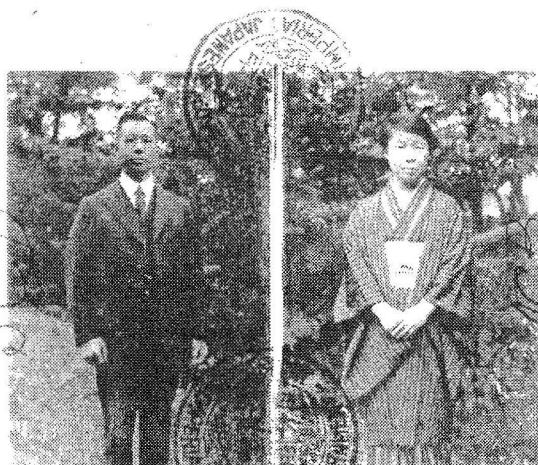
Kesaye Takeuchi was born on January 15, 1895, in the central part of Japan's main island of Honshu. Then called Shinshu or Shinshu-Shinano, this area is now called Nagano Prefecture. The Takeuchi home was located in Ina City which was formally called Misuzu.

My mother was the third and only remaining child of Kamematsu and Suzu Takeuchi, who were farmers. Her brother Konai and sister Yoshi died before marrying. She was surrounded by many nieces and nephews, the offspring of her half-brother, so I'm sure her childhood was busy and happy. My eldest cousin Kono, who was born with poor eyesight, has recalled how my mother took care of him when he was very young and especially how she encouraged him to strengthen his eyes by visual exercises. He feels that it is due to her strong determination and belief in exercise that his eyesight did eventually improve.

While I have no information about how my mother did in school, she must have been a good student as she went on to study at Matsumoto Jyoshi Shihan Gakko, which is now called Kyooiku Gakubu of Shinshu University, to become a *sensei*. Apparently my grandfather supported my mother's interest in becoming a teacher—which in those days was quite progressive, as girls were not raised to pursue "careers." After finishing her education on March 26, 1916, she taught in an elementary school in Nagano Prefecture and then in Tokyo.

I believe it was while she was in Tokyo that she was introduced to my father. I do not know the details, but it is my understanding that they met through Shigeshi Nagata, Chairman of the Christian organization Nippon Rikkokai, who was a friend of my father. In addition, my mother's elder brother Konai was associated with the Rikkokai, and perhaps he, too, had a role in my parents' meeting. Konai later emigrated to Mexico as a member of one of the farming colonies of Japanese immigrants. But due to ill health and his unhappiness in Mexico, he returned to Japan where he passed away.

It was Chairman Nagata who suggested that Akiji Watanabe and Kesaye Takeuchi marry and go together to America, and thus I suppose he acted as their *baishaku-nin* [go-between]. My parents married sometime in 1921 in Tokyo. Together they left for the United States from the Port of Yokohama on the S.S. *Shinyo Maru*, landing in San Francisco



Passport photos of Akiji and Kasaye Watanabe for their 1922 trip to the United States as man and wife.

on January 15, 1922. It must have been an unforgettable day for my mother, as the 15th was also her 26th birthday.

My mother, having been an elementary school teacher in Nagano-Ken and Tokyo, probably had dreams of pursuing her career in the United States. She no doubt was aware that many Japanese couples in California were raising families and saw this as a wonderful opportunity to teach the Japanese language to the young Nisei.

At any rate, I am sure she came to this country with similar hopes and desires as my father—a new and fulfilling life. But perhaps she had more feelings of ambivalence than my father because she had never been to the United States. Whatever apprehension she might have had, she must also have felt strength and comfort from knowing that her husband was familiar with the ways of the West, and she was starting a new life with him in this new land.

~ Next issue: *The Journey to San Diego* ~

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SOUTH OF THE BORDER: News from the Japanese Association of Ensenada

by Kiyoko Nishikawa

The Japanese Association of Ensenada will be hosting and organizing the 7th National Mexican Nikkei Convention from July 22–24, 2004, in Ensenada, Baja California.

The National Nikkei Convention is held every two years in Mexico. Attendance is by Mexican Nikkei and their descendants. The convention is designed to encourage friendship and a spirit of unity among Nikkei living in Mexico.

The last convention was held in Chihuahua, where the Ensenada delegation actively participated. One of the surprises of the meeting was for Mexican Nikkei from other areas to learn that there were over 1500 Nikkei living in Ensenada.

It is now our turn to invite other Mexican Nikkei to join with us in 2004. To carry out this task, the Japanese Association of Ensenada has already formed an organizing committee which envisions three broad areas of activity for the convention. The first would be recreational, involving tours of important tourist sites in the Ensenada area. The second would be cultural, with conferences dealing with the roles of the Nikkei in contemporary Mexican society. The third area will involve the opportunities for Nikkei in the area of business. The committee will also be inviting American Nikkei to attend the convention and participate in the program.

We are encouraging anyone interested in learning more about the Nikkei experience in Mexico and the contemporary Nikkei community to attend. More information will be available later this year.



Members of the Japanese Association of Ensenada visit the Beauty Behind Barbed Wire exhibit on August 2: From left: Yukio Nishikawa, his wife Rosalinda, their daughter Kiyoko (the author), and Sakae Kato, JAE Japanese language teacher.

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WINNERS OF THE 20

UMEKO MAMIYA KAWAMOTO:

Staying Involved

by Mich Himaka

"As long as I can move, I will stay involved, but I am tapering off little by little."

Slowing down, maybe, but not much.

Staying involved is the lifestyle of **Umeiko Mamiya Kawamoto**, one of our three 2003 Kansha Award recipients, despite a stroke she suffered in January 1990.

I guess I've known Meko and her family all my life. That would include her parents, **Yoshigoro and Tami Mamiya**; and her late brothers, **Yosh** and **Tats**. She was the youngest in the family. The Mamiyas operated a barber shop and bathhouse on Island Avenue between Fifth and Sixth Avenues.

Meko was born in San Diego on November 16, 1920. She grew up in what we might have considered Nihon-machi. There were a lot of Japanese families living in the downtown area between Fourth and Sixth Avenues and Market to J Street, in what is now the heart of the present Gaslamp District.

The area was so friendly, Meko remembered, recalling the downtown area as we knew it. "You walk down the street and we were taught that if we saw **Mr. Kuratomi** fixing a shoe, we would bow and say, *"Konnichiwa."*

"Everybody was just friendly," she remembered. "When Japanese farmers came to town, they would go to the Kawasaki's grocery store. They would leave all of the things they bought at the five-and-dime there while they went to eat at a nearby Japanese restaurant or to a movie. Everybody was like family."

World War II changed all that though. With the outbreak of the war, all of the community leaders were rounded up by the FBI and incarcerated—except for Meko's father. Because of a mix-up involving their similar names, Meko's brother Yosh was picked up instead. But the authorities eventually arrested her father two or three months after the war started.

On April 8, 1942, along with other San Diegans, Meko, her mother and brothers were evacuated to the Santa Anita Assembly Center. Four months later, the San Diego group was relocated to Poston III, Arizona.

Meanwhile, her father had been moved from one camp to another, eventually moving to Santa Fe, New Mexico. Meko said that the family decided that to be reunited with their aging father, they had best leave camp and move to an inland location, which they felt might hasten her father's being released from internment camp.

Yoshi and a friend, the late **Paul Hoshi**, purchased a small hotel in Denver, Colorado. Eventually, their father joined them in Denver.

On January 27, 1946, Meko married **Harry Kawamoto**, another San Diegan, who had served in the U. S. Army with Co. E of the



famous 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Harry was drafted in February 1942, a couple of months after WWII started. He saw action during the campaigns in Italy and France and participated in the rescue of the Lost Battalion.

To my knowledge, the jovial Harry Kawamoto never publicly talked about his war experiences. But Meko credits Harry for her getting involved with the community.

"Harry was such a good example of being a person who was so community-minded," she said. "I think it just rubbed off on me."

"I think Harry was more deserving of this award than me."

Harry was active in the San Diego JACL, the San Diego Buddhist Temple, the Japanese American VFW Post 4851, the San Diego Gardeners Association, and did volunteer work with other organizations.

Meko followed in his footsteps and went beyond, which has led to her being selected for the Kansha Award this year.

The VFW Post did not have an auxiliary unit but she volunteered in numerous fund-raising activities for the post. She has been active in the Buddhist Temple Adult Buddhist Association, always helping out at the annual Bazaar, Food Festival, Obon Odori festivities (and even continues to dance in them). She has been volunteering at the Ocean View United Church of Christ's annual bazaar and numerous other church activities. She was a volunteer during the early years at the Japanese Christian Church senior nutrition program, has done volunteer work at the Japanese Friendship Garden in Balboa Park since it opened, and she still serves on the board of the JACL Credit Union.

When her sons, **Gary** and **David**, were active in the Buddhist Temple's Junior Young Buddhist Association, she and her husband often chaperoned groups of young people on treks to Los Angeles and Orange County.

Meko continues to work on the Buddhist Temple's monthly newsletter, and helps with the folding of the Ocean View Church's monthly newsletter.

"I'm truly surprised that I'm being honored with this award," Meko said. "Like I said, Harry was much more deserving of this. I am happy that Harry's being so involved has set a good example for us. **David** and his wife, **Carol**, are carrying on his good acts."

"As for me, as long as I can move, I will stay involved. However, I am tapering off little by little."

HAROLD KUHN: Service with a Smile

by Gwen Momita

I first met **Harold Kuhn** at Ocean View United Church of Christ. He was carrying one of his famous rum cakes for a potluck. Wow! This is a wonderfully moist homemade cake, generously topped with a potent rum mixture. That cake was the most popular item on the dessert table! Harold claims to have seen mothers pinch off a piece from the "middle" of the cake to give to their young children. I asked if he'd ever seen an adult scrape off just the "top" section!

Well, as I've come to learn, rum cake is not the only thing this energetic man is famous for. Harold is a true community servant, one who gives of his time and talents with a smile. It is therefore appropriate that we recognize Harold for his long-time dedication to our community. His Kansha Award is well-deserved!

Harold was born on January 20, 1926, in Erie, Pennsylvania.

03 KANSHA AWARDS

His early life on the farm was shared with six siblings, with Harold smack dab in the middle. Early on, Harold's mother made sure her family participated in religious activities through the Pentecostal Church. Thus, Harold has always had a strong faith base, and sets a perfect example of someone "making a difference."



In 1944, Harold was drafted into the Navy. During the Second World War, he served as a seaman on a fleet tanker. (I had to ask: a fleet tanker carries goods to other ships while at sea.)

Following WWII, Harold spent several years working in restaurants and various other jobs. In 1950, during the Korean Conflict, he rejoined the Navy. Thus began his twenty-five year career in the Service as a Lithograph Specialist. He was responsible for printing ship information, details regarding port visits, as well as fleet intelligence.

In 1952, while Harold was stationed in Japan, he met and married his wife, **Kuniko**, of Kamakura, Japan. As Harold puts it, "The day I managed to stagger into her tea shop will remain the luckiest day for me!" Harold also began to learn the Japanese language while in Kamakura. He speaks and understands much more Japanese than most Sanseis, including myself!

For the next several decades, Harold and Kuniko were sent to various duty locations. One location, Morocco, became their home for two years. It was during this time that they adopted their only daughter, **Sandra Leah Kuhn**, born in Athens, Greece. Sandra, also known as Alex, currently resides in Los Angeles.

Harold has been involved with numerous projects and community organizations. For many years, he served as a volunteer maintenance worker at Kiku Gardens. He was also on the Board of Directors and currently is Member-at-Large/Sr. Vice-President.

Harold also served on the Friendship Garden Board of Directors for approximately six years. He is now a docent and conducts tours for San Diego City School's Balboa Park Program for Fifth Graders.

Other organizations where you will see Harold's friendly smile include the Chula Vista-Odawara Sister City Society, San Diego-Yokohama Sister Cities, the Asian Pacific VFW Post (where he served as president for two years), Japanese International Society, JACL Kid's Culture Day, Japanese Coordinating Council, and Ocean View United Church of Christ, where he continues to be an active friend and supporter.

Norma DeSaegher, Pastor at Ocean View, shared that she has been impressed with Harold's dedication to the annual Bazaar. "He is always one of the first ones present for the ENTIRE week of preparations! Harold and Kuni-chan are wonderful stewards and a real blessing to us!"

Because the theme of this year's JAHSSD Annual Meeting is "Service," I asked Harold about his thoughts on this subject:

"Everybody should get involved!!! I've been involved in service all my life. It's fulfilling for me to know I'm helping in some way. Part of our responsibility as a citizen is to be an active part of the community."

With the 2003 Kansha Award, we say *arigato* to Harold for continuing to give "service with a smile."

KIYO KIMURA OCHI: Helping Others

by Mich Himaka

Being confined behind barbed wire fencing during World War II did not sit well with **Kiyoko Kimura Ochi**.

Nor did she let grass grow under her feet. It wasn't her style to do that. From PTA president to a volunteer worker with numerous organizations, she remained active in the community until a stroke slowed her down June 17, 1999.

Kiyo's many activities in our community is why she is one of three persons selected for the 2003 Kansha Award.

Like **Meko Kawamoto**, I guess I've known Kiyo all my life, too. Kiyo says we are distantly related, both sets of our parents having lived in a village that today is known as Shingu, Wakayama-ken, Japan.

The oldest child of **Kumataro and Hatsue Kimura**, Kiyo was born August 5, 1920, in San Diego.



Her father was a fisherman who later went into truck farming in the East County town of Bostonia.

Her brother, **Jimmy**, was born after her in San Diego and her late sister, **Dawn**, was born when the family lived in Bostonia.

"I don't think I had started school yet when my folks went into farming," Kiyo said. "We farmed in the Grossmont-Fletcher Hills area. Other families farming in that area included the **Oguras**, **Ben Segawa's** uncle and a **Mr. Ebisu**.

"I started school in La Mesa but then we moved to the Casa de Oro area where the Oguras and the **Furuta** families were farming. Later, we moved to Lemon Grove truck farming such crops as cucumbers, lettuce, cabbage, beans and tomatoes."

Kiyo graduated from Grossmont High School in 1939, then went to work on the Owashi's farm, picking beans and squash.

Then World War II started and the Kimura family, like other San Diegans, went to the Santa Anita Assembly Center and then on to Poston III, Arizona, where they lived in Block 330 Unit 3-D, at the opposite end of the barracks from our family.

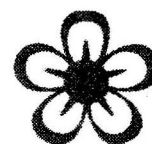
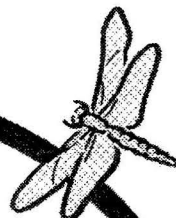
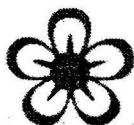
"I didn't like (being in camp) at all," she says firmly. "As soon as I was able to, I cut out! I was a leave officer in camp with **Hatoo Nakamura**, who was from La Jolla, so we processed our own papers to leave camp. I left in September 1943 and went to Ann Arbor, Michigan, and got a job with a handicapped children's hospital.

"Enroute to Chicago, we were on a troop train full of soldiers going on R and R (rest and recuperation). There was no place to sit down but two soldiers gave up their seats for us. We were scared to death but all of the soldiers were very cordial. Otherwise, I don't think we would have made it."

Kiyo worked at the hospital for two years earning \$12 a week, or about four times what workers in camp earned (continued on page 17)

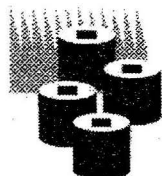
Ocean View United Church of Christ

(Japanese - American)

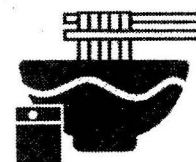


Daylight Savings
Time Ends!

Sunday, October 26, 2003
11:00 am - 3:00 pm



TERIYAKI CHICKEN • UDON • SUSHI
TACOS • BAKED GOODS • SNO-CONES
YAKISOBA • ENTERTAINMENT • GAMES
DRAWING • PLANTS/PRODUCE/FLOWERS
WHITE ELEPHANT • CRAFTS • MORE!



Half the proceeds will go to the Legacy Fund!

Location:

Ocean View United Church of Christ
3541 Ocean View Blvd., San Diego CA 92113
(Take I - 15 to Ocean View Blvd. Exit)
For more info call: (619) 233-3620

WE GET LETTERS

Hi, Noriko San:

Ogenkii desuka? This is Kiyoko, daughter of Nishikawa Yukio. I'm writing you on his behalf. We are all very thankful to all of you. Everyone was very kind to us and we hope that this will be the beginning of a very good relationship between the Nikkei community of San Diego and the Nikkei community of Ensenada.

I think we have much to learn about the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego. Here in Ensenada there are a lot of Nikkei, but almost all of them (including me) are Mexican-Japanese or mixed Nikkei and most families have lost their Japanese traditions. There are only five Issei pioneers still living, so it's difficult to keep our Mexican Japanese culture alive.

We, at the Asociacion Japonesa de Ensenada (Japanese Association of Ensenada), have been working very hard to maintain and spread the Japanese and Nikkei culture. Next year's convention is part of this effort, and I think it will be a great opportunity to get together not only the Nikkei of Mexico, but the Nikkei from both sides of the border.

We really hope you can come to our event next year. We will be sending you information about it.

Thank you very much,
Kiyoko Nishikawa

Ensenada, Baja California, Republic of Mexico

P.S. Please tell us when Professor Estes is back and say hello to everyone at the JAHSSD.

Dear Susan San:

Thank you for the list of San Diego Downtown Nikkei Businesses. The two days I spent in San Diego were an extremely useful pleasant time for me. I learned a lot from you. Thank you again for the hospitality.

I really loved San Diego not only for the research resources on American Nikkei but also for my personal interest. The Asian Thematic District and Little Italy were all very interesting. I was especially impressed by all the Nisei at Kiku Gardens who started saying the names of the Issei pioneers pictured in your slide show.

I am excited by all the research resources available in San Diego. I hope in the future I will have a chance to stay there at least a year to work on those materials.

Please give my regards to all the JAHSSD board members.

Sincerely yours,
Shigeru Kojima
Japanese Overseas Migration Museum
Yokohama, Japan

Dear Professor Estes,

I am writing at the suggestion of Steven Binns of the Smithsonian Center for Education. Earlier this year I found a photo on their site entitled, "Letters From the Japanese Internment." At the time, the photo showed my aunt Fusa Tsumagari and her brother (my father) Yuki Tsumagari. It was a very exciting moment, as it is the earliest photo I have seen of my father and aunt. Later when I visited the site, the image had been cropped so that only Fusa is visible.

Both my father and Aunt Fusa passed away a few years ago. Now I am trying to track down the full image for my mother who now lives in San Diego. Steven Binns directed me to you and the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego as the source of the photo. I would like to know if its possible to purchase prints of this photo and if there are any others of my Father and aunt in your collection. I would love to

facilitate getting a copy to her.

I am currently in residence at the Rockefeller Villa in Bellagio, Italy, but will return to Connecticut in September. I do travel to San Diego several times a year to see my mother and would love to know more about the Society and perhaps arrange a visit. Thank you so much for any assistance you may be able to give me with this matter.

Sincerely,
Barbara Tsumagari
Bellagio, Italy

Dear Don:

For a number of years since my retirement, I have been giving occasional lectures at the Lansing Community College in a Management course entitled, "Diversity in the Workplace." My role was to talk about Nikkei experiences and in my presentation I have been showing the tape, *Democracy Under Pressure*.

Yesterday I received a packet of materials the professor of the class sent me. Since the packet includes notes from students in those classes, I thought you would be interested in knowing how our Michigan students reacted to the tape as well as the discussion of the Nisei World War II experiences.

You may keep the materials and use them as you please. Also you may be interested to know that I thought of sending you these materials as I was reading the current issue of the *Footprints*.

Sincerely yours,
Iwao Ishino, Ph.D.
East Lansing, Michigan

Hi Don:

In response to my request for photos taken in San Diego by my uncle Masashi Shimotsusa and a copy of his portrait photo, my cousin [Masanatsu who lives in Tokyo] sent me a large package containing the following:

- Uncle Shimotsusa's portrait photo and other miscellaneous photos.
- San Diego newspaper full page clippings showing photos of ladies taken by my uncle and other full page clippings reflecting city views etc.
- Chicago Bears souvenir program containing M. Shimotsusa photo studio advertisement.
- San Diego Business Journal dated October 1926.

My cousin Masanatsu will donate the entire package to the JAHSSD. Please acknowledge the receipt of his donation. I will write his address in kanji and send it along with the package.

As always,
Ray Mayeda
Torrance, California

Hi everybody,

Hope you are well, wherever you are. I am continuing to enjoy life in Panama. It seems that the weather has cooled off a bit lately—a nice breeze here and there and lots of refreshing rains. My school just installed two big lightning rods outside of the high school/middle school buildings, so it is fun to run over to watch the lightning. In the past, some trees have been struck by lightning and caught on fire, so these rods will get a lot of use.

My friends and I have discovered a great new dim sum place. Oh, it's almost like being back in LA/San Diego! Each time I go, I feel like I am almost at home—it is so strange to see such a big concentration of Chinese (speaking in Chinese) in Panama City. Usually the Chinese I see around town are speaking Spanish.

A few days ago, we had a big earthquake—it was 5.3, but was centered near Colon, which is the big city on the other (cont. on p. 14)

side of the Canal, about 50 miles from Panama City. But boy, we sure did feel it! My whole building shook really hard for what seemed like a long time. I think since I live so high up, that it took longer for my building to stop shaking. Being from Southern California, I woke up, lay still, and just waited for it to be over. My friends and students from South America, however, didn't like the earthquake at all, and were crawling under beds and running downstairs to the lobbies in their buildings. The earthquake was all we could talk about for a couple days.

Yesterday, outside Atlapa Convention Center, there were thousands of people gathered to witness a very historic occasion: the attempt to make the world's largest national dish, which in Panama is a chicken soup called *sancocho*. *Sancocho* is made with water, chicken, radish, salt and culantro (a cousin of cilantro). They made 2,800 gallons of *sancocho* yesterday, which they sold to people for 25 cents a bowl. Everybody said it tasted pretty good, but my friends and I decided to avoid the big crowd and gorged ourselves on dim sum instead. We did go by in the afternoon to see what remained of the huge pot of soup. Oh my!

So, as you can see, the excitement just never stops here in Panama. We are two weeks into a new school year—my students are very sweet. I know all of them from last year, so I don't have to spend much time telling them about my academic expectations. It is so much easier this time around, and I only have 45 students total. Whoa, pretty cool.

Stay well.

Love,
Karen

Dear Joyce:

I apologize for not acknowledging your gifts to the Chicago Japanese American Historical Society sooner.

Right after you left my husband and I was involved in a horrific car accident and it was a miracle we both walked away without a scratch...Also during this time, Chicago area had several severe rainstorms and we had to vacuum gallons of water out of our basement throughout the days in order to avoid flooding on three different occasions in a two-week period. Reasons for procrastinating are, I feel, justified. I say this because I am a procrastinator! Anyway, I finally did find our curriculum book. The CJAHS developed this very practical lesson plan book in conjunction with the Smithsonian exhibit that was on display here in Chicago in 1997, "A More Perfect Union: Japanese Americans and the U.S. Constitution."

Thank you again for all the materials.

Respectfully,
Jean Mishima
President, CJAHS

Tel: (858) 541-0728 Fax: (858) 541-0782

芳芳



3755 Murphy Canyon Rd., Suite E, San Diego, CA 92123

YUKIO KAWAMOTO, FOUNDING BOARD MEMBER, TO RETIRE

by Joyce Teague

At the August meeting, Yukio Kawamoto announced his decision to leave the JAHSSD board when his term expires at the end of December. The board members received the news with great regret.

Since JAHSSD's inception, Yuki has been solid as a rock and as responsible in his quiet way as any one individual for the growth and success of this organization. He developed our membership database and has been handling the Membership Chair duties, mass mail labels, our post office box, and countless other important tasks for the Society. A talented woodworker, Yuki designed our beautiful Kansha Awards which he creates for us each year. Along with his faithful wife and "sidekick" Mits, Yuki can always be counted on to be where needed and give 100 percent to each task.

Mits frequently accompanies Yuki to our monthly breakfasts at Fong Fong. While we will miss their regular presence at these meetings beginning next year, we take solace in knowing Yuki's retirement from the board doesn't mean an end to their involvement with and dedication to the Society! Yuki will remain our "go to" man for many things, as well as a valuable guide and mentor. Thank you, Yuki.

To Members of the JAHSSD Board of Directors,

It is with deep regret that I inform you that I will end my tenure as a member of the board of directors of the JAHSSD with the expiration of my current term in December 2003. I will not be a candidate for another 3-year term. I am feeling my age—my memory is failing and I no longer have the energy to fulfill all the duties of the office.

I take great pride in being one of the founders of the JAHSSD and in what we, as a board, have accomplished in taking what was a germ of an idea and creating an organization which has become a highly respected "can do" organization within the Japanese American community as well as in the community at large. I leave with the leadership of the JAHSSD in good hands and I know you will continue the successes we have achieved.

One of the things I treasure the most is the friendship and camaraderie that we developed in working toward a common goal. Some of you were old friends, some were acquaintances, some I hardly knew, some I did not know at all, but we all became fast friends. The support, kindness and generosity Mits and I received from all of you during Michael's illness and subsequent death will never be forgotten.

As long as I am able to, I will continue to make the plaques for the Kansha Award and until the board can find someone to maintain the membership database, I will continue that task. Of course, you can always count on me as a volunteer whenever and wherever I can be of help.

Wishing the board continued success,

Yukio Kawamoto
August 24, 2003

KIYO OCHI continued from p. 13

in a month. She then moved to Detroit where she got a job babysitting a set of twins, earning \$35 a week. She made sure to return to camp every June to visit her folks.

After World War II ended, her parents and sister, **Dawn**, moved back to San Diego.

Kiyo returned to San Diego in 1946. Jobs were scarce here, she recalled. She went babysitting. That's when she learned the ins and outs of the stock market and went into selling stocks and bonds and insurance.

The end of the war also meant a change in Kiyo's life when her husband-to-be, **Hideo Ochi**, returned to San Diego following service in the U.S. Army. The couple married January 7, 1947, in San Diego and are the parents of **Janet Fontanott**, **Holly Hidingier** and **Shirley Watson**. The Ochis also are the grandparents of five grandsons.

It was while her children were school-age youngsters that Kiyo's commitment to service began with involvement with the Parent-Teacher Associations (PTA) at their elementary and middle schools. She would go on to serve as PTA president of both schools while Janet and Holly were students there.

Her service in the Nikkei community began when **Jack Hamaguchi** recruited her to help members of the Meiji-kai Issei organization. She served as secretary for the organization.

"Mr. Hamaguchi used to say I had to go with the members each time they went to Las Vegas, or cherry picking in Riverside County or wherever they went because none of them understood English," she said.

Kiyo also served as volunteer manager of the San Diego Gardeners Association Credit Union and as volunteer association treasurer for 30 years. They gave her \$100 each month for the wear and tear on her car and gasoline because she had to do credit union banking daily.

"I was able to help a lot of people in distress then," she said. "They used to come tell me their personal problems. Hideo used to tease me that I should have been a minister."

Kiyo also was a volunteer worker at the San Diego Japanese Friendship Garden. She also served the Kiku Gardens first as a volunteer when the facility opened. She was then urged to take a paid position as secretary there until her stroke caused her to retire in 1999.

Kiyo also served as treasurer for the House of Japan in Balboa Park; the Japanese Coordinating Council from its beginning in 1970 to 1999; the San Diego JACL; and the Buddhist Temple of San Diego and its Fujinkai, helping at all the temple functions, including Obon, various fund-raisers and other activities.

"But all these activities could not have happened but for **Hideo**, who helped with the housework and with the kids during their growing up years," Kiyo said. "I give him a lot of credit for anything I've been able to do."

COMMUNITY F.Y.I.

Beginning Sept. 1, the Japanese Friendship Garden will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. For information on JFG's many programs and events, call the office at (619) 232-2721.

In 1993, **Fred T. Hosaka** published *Shortchanged in America: A Story of Hardship, a biography of his Issei father, Minetaro Hosaka (1881-1943), who farmed in San Diego's Mission and Sweetwater Valleys prior to World War II. This is a well-written softcover book, 175 pages with photos and illustrations. If you would like a copy, mail \$15 check (includes S&H) payable to: Fred Hosaka, HC 83 Box 5770, Coquille, OR 97423.*

RECIPES FROM YUTAKA'S BLOCK 33 COOKBOOK

From late 1942 through Spring 1943, Yutaka Kida worked in the mess hall of Block 330 at Poston III. While there, he carefully maintained a record of the menus for the block. Here are some of his notes from October 1942.

Monday Oct. 12, 1942

BREAKFAST

CASABA CORN FLAKE MILK
BOILED EGG
AMERICAN FRIED POTATOES
HOT BISCUIT
BUTTER JAM COFFEE

DINNER

BAKE SPAGHETTI WITH HAM
STEW-CARROTS
LETTUCE SALAD
FRESH APPLE
JAM BREAD TEA

Saturday Oct. 31, 1942

BREAKFAST

BANANA CORN FLAKE MILK
FRIED FRANKFURTS
AMERICAN FRIED POTATOES
BISCUITS BUTTER COFFEE

DINNER

BAKE CODFISH
SPANISH SAUCE
BOILED POTATOES
MACARONI SALAD
BREAD TEA JAM

1000 Island Dressing

1 Gal mayonnaise
1 qt chopped celery
1 qt chopped Bell pepper
1 qt chopped peaches
2 qt catsup
1 qt chopped onions

Pie Dough

8# flour
5# short
1/2 cup salt
5 cups cold water

Pumpkin Pie

10# caro
2# sugar
60 eggs
8 qt pumpkin
1/3 cup salt
1 oz each Ginger,
cinnamon, nutmeg

CHANKO-NABE

by Joyce Nabeta Teague

A Trip to Little Tokyo

On Father's Day of this year, Bill and I and my parents, Fred and Ritsu Nabeta, drove up to Los Angeles where we spent two nights at the Miyako Inn in the heart of Little Tokyo. This was in part a long-promised nostalgia trip to the L.A. area which we'd talked about doing with Mom and Dad for a pretty long time, sort of waiting for them to tell me when they wanted to go.



Mom, Dad and Bill enjoy French Dip sandwiches at Philippe's on Alameda St. where Mom remembers buying them for a dime on her way to Japanese school.

Mom was born and raised in Little Tokyo where her parents managed a hotel near the old train depot before the Union Station was opened; and Dad was born the same year in neighboring Venice, where his parents farmed in the 1930s, growing mostly celery. After internment, Dad (Poston I) and Mom (Manzanar and Tule Lake) were married in Los Angeles and spent the first four years of their marriage in various West L.A. neighborhoods before moving to Watsonville in 1950. My brother Fred and I, the oldest of five children, were both born in Los Angeles.

There were some places Mom and Dad were curious to know if they still existed, and a handful of old friends there they thought it might be fun to pay a visit. But they were vague about setting a date, and I always seemed to have a deadline to meet, so it was easy to let the trip slide by. It wasn't till Dad told me one day he had read in the *Rafu Shimpo* obituaries that his old friend Mitsuo Ichinose had passed away, that I realized we just needed to make the trip, "ready or not."

Dad's Story

Mits was the oldest of four children of the Shogoro Ichinose family of Inglewood, California, who took Dad in when he arrived from Japan by himself at age 15, just before the outbreak of World War II. The Ichinose and Nabeta families were from the Kurogi area of Fukuoka. (Dad is a *kibbei*—U.S.-born but educated in Japan—whose father had moved the Nabeta family back to Fukuoka when Dad was eight in 1933.)

Dad worked on the Ichinose's truck farm to earn his

Fukumi Nabeta, "fresh off the boat" at age 15, with a four-footed friend on the Ichinose farm



keep. With the Ichinose boys, he had instant friends. But when it came time to enroll in their high school, he was placed instead in a third grade class because he had lost all his English while in Japan. Dad, the top student in his middle school back in Kurogi, couldn't bear the frustration of sitting at an undersized desk with children half his height. He enrolled instead in an English Language school for a spate of time till he was forced to concentrate on earning some money. But his language skills quickly caught up to those of his cohorts, and today his English is flawless.

The Ichinose family moved away from Inglewood when the West Coast Nikkei were evacuated after U.S. entered the war, so Dad relocated to San Jacinto (Riverside County) to stay with the Akira Ushijima family, also from Kurogi. There he met Jimmy "Pearhead" Ushijima who became a fast friend. But when the Riverside County Nikkei received evacuation orders, Dad entered Poston's Camp I, assigned to the bachelors' barracks where he was soon elected Block Manager, youngest in the camp. But that's another story for another time...

Growing Up in Venice

Dad's parents, Genshichi and Shimeno Nabeta, were truck farming in Venice, California, when my Dad was born, the second of eight children. (The five oldest were born in California, the three youngest in Japan.) Their main crop was celery. The couple originally hailed from a village called Koya in Fukuoka, but like most Issei who had emigrated here, their goal was to make enough money in America to allow them to return to Japan successful. Our Jii-chan (grandpa) as my siblings and I would come to know him many years later, was a tall, stern and taciturn man, and both physically and in temperament a contrast to Baa-chan (grandma), who was short, round-featured, and of exceeding gentle nature.

Being typical little boys, Dad and his older brother Tetsuo wanted the things their schoolmates had, but apparently Jii-chan was very grudging about luxuries. The children did not receive birthday gifts, for instance. So the boys would often accompany Jii-chan on his trips to the Farmer's Market in the hopes he would let his guard down and buy them a treat. One time, they begged him for marbles displayed in a big bin and being sold by the bag. Jii-chan relented. Thereafter, the boys happily played with the marbles every chance they got.

One day, Baa-chan told Jii-chan that the boys both needed new coveralls: theirs had gotten very worn-out at the knees...*because they were always on the ground playing marbles*. Jii-chan ordered the boys to gather up every single marble and bring them to him. Before their horrified eyes, he threw the lot of them down the hole of the outhouse.

Dad also remembered wanting a bicycle very badly. Jii-chan finally bought them one which he and Tetsuo were to share. One time Tetsuo was in a hurry to get into the house and dropped the bike outside in the driveway, right behind Jii-chan's truck. Of course, the very next time Jii-chan got into the truck, he backed right over it. That was that. He never bought them another bike. Harsh lessons like these had a lasting impact on the Nabeta children, all of whom became hard-working adults expecting nothing except what they earned for themselves.

Jii-chan's Truck

"My father was one of the few people we knew who had a brand-new truck," Dad told us. "He must have had something on the ball."

There was a shack Jii-chan had erected on their property which was let to some tenants. The tenants moved out, so Dad and Tetsuo thought it would be fun to sleep out there by themselves, which they did. Whenever they slept in the shack, they felt very brave. One night they were out there, bundled in their bedding, when the dog started

barking furiously. The boys heard some sounds outside, but were too scared to go out in the dark and investigate. In the morning, Jii-chan went out to discover his truck had been jacked up and all four tires stolen. He really bawled out the boys for not going in and waking him up!

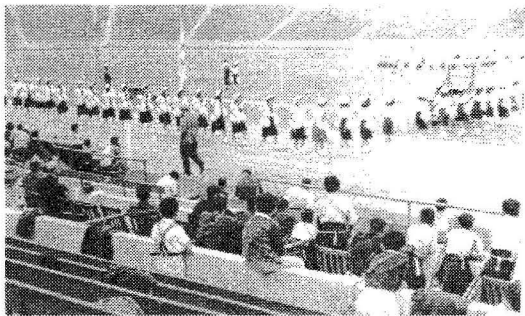
Family Saturday Routine

Because the produce markets were closed Sundays, Saturday was the truck farmer's day off. After a long week of laboring in the fields, the family would pile into the truck and head for Little Tokyo. This was before freeways, so it was a considerable drive through several neighborhoods from the ocean all the way to Downtown L.A.

Jii-chan would park in front of the Japanese market on First Street and he and Baa-chan would do the week's shopping with the kids tagging along. There was the special treat of seeing movies at the Fujikan Theater on First Street, where a *benshin* would perform the sound effects and do all the voices for the silent films screened there. Dad remembers seeing the first "talkies" there, too. The day ended with dinner at a "China meshi" or a Japanese restaurant—"never American food," Dad laughingly recalled. Then it was back into the truck and Venice.

On the last day of our L.A. stay, we drove through some of the Westside neighborhoods my parents lived in after they were first married. We stopped for a stroll through the lovely Rose Garden at Exposition Park where my mother would push me in a stroller when I was a toddler. (During the lean postwar years as Dad and Mom struggled to raise two kids, as well as two of Dad's younger sisters who had arrived from Japan to live with us on the very day I was born—walking to Exposition Park was affordable family recreation.)

Admiring the exterior of the huge L.A. Memorial Coliseum was also nostalgic. Mom recalled singing and dancing on the field, along with her Japanese school classmates and students from Japanese Schools all over Los Angeles, in celebration of Japan's 2600th year. She was about 15. She and her sister Mutsue also participated in sporting events on the Coliseum field as part of the celebration.



Students from the L.A.-area Japanese schools perform in honor of Japan's 2600th anniversary, circa 1937. Photo courtesy of Ritsu Nabeta.

Dad admitted that despite his father's strictness, he had to give Jii-chan credit for taking him and Tetsuo to some of the competitions of the 1932 Olympics! He was only seven at the time, but he remembers watching track and field events inside the Coliseum, a swimming meet in the pool behind the stadium, and the fabled Marathon run along what is now Crenshaw Blvd. They were among the Nikkei families who picnicked on *goza* (straw mats) under the eucalyptus trees lining the street to wave at the Japanese runners in the race.

Our trip to L.A. was only two days long, but it evoked in my parents rich childhood memories. I've only related a handful of them, and will throw a few more into the *Chanko* pot another time.

CALIFORNIA JAPANESE AMERICAN MONUMENT UNVEILED

On August 26, 2003, a dedication ceremony for the California Japanese American Monument took place in front of the Nisei War Memorial Hall located in downtown Sacramento. The ceremony featured a purification ceremony and a taiko drum performance. Guest speakers were Dr. Kevin Starr, State Librarian of California, and Jerry Enomoto, Chair of the California Japanese American Monument project.

The California Japanese American Monument project was funded by the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program, (CCLPEP). Its goal is to provide residents and visitors to our state Capitol with informative and illustrative information about the Japanese American experience during World War II. The Monument Project is divided into ten panels focusing on various aspects of the legal and social challenges faced by Japanese Americans in California from the time of their arrival in the late 1800s.

The site of the Nisei War Memorial Hall was chosen for this project as it is the last remaining building associated with the historic Japantown of Sacramento. Prior to World War II, over forty Japantowns existed in the State. As of 2003, only three remaining Japantown communities exist in San Francisco, San Jose and Los Angeles.

The California Civil Liberties Public Education Program, (CCLPEP), was created by legislation authored by Assembly Member Michael Honda in 1998. Its main goal is to educate the California community about the Japanese American experience during World War II.

JAPANESE IN ARIZONA ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

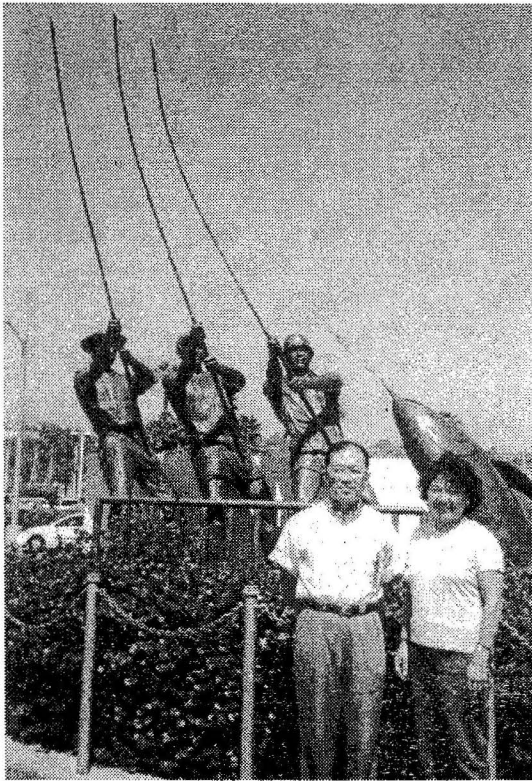
JACL Arizona Chapter, in conjunction with the Japanese American National Museum (JANM) and possibly Arizona State University, will cosponsor the Japanese in Arizona Oral History Project.

This project seeks to document the history of Japanese who moved to and settled in Arizona prior to and during the Second World War. While historiography exists regarding the Japanese American experiences within Poston and Gila River, the two internment camps based in Arizona, much remains to be documented regarding initial patterns of migration and settlement to the Arizona Territory from the 19th century through the 1940s. Most documentation of early Japanese settlement in the Arizona Territory has centered on the Phoenix and Tucson regions, overlooking the rich and diverse experiences of Japanese who settled in rural areas such as Prescott and Yuma City.

The initial outcome of this project will consist of oral histories of Nisei in Arizona—the archives of which will be deposited with JANM—and a book that documents the array of Japanese American experiences in Arizona. This community-based project will train members of the JA community and other volunteers in Arizona to conduct archival research and oral histories. The book's appendix will record all of the known Japanese and Japanese Americans who lived in Arizona through World War II. This will be an important resource not only for the community, but for those who are interested in the history of Arizona as well as those interested in the history of Japanese Americans.

Four products are anticipated from this project: a book, a documentary, a web site connected to the JANM web site, and an archival collection. Project co-coordinators are Doris Asano (dfolder@aol.com) and Dr. Karen Leong (Karen.Leong@asu.edu).

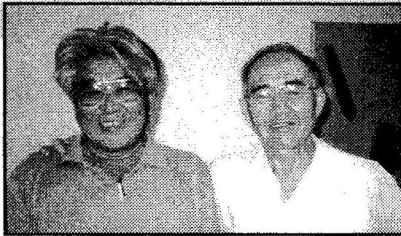
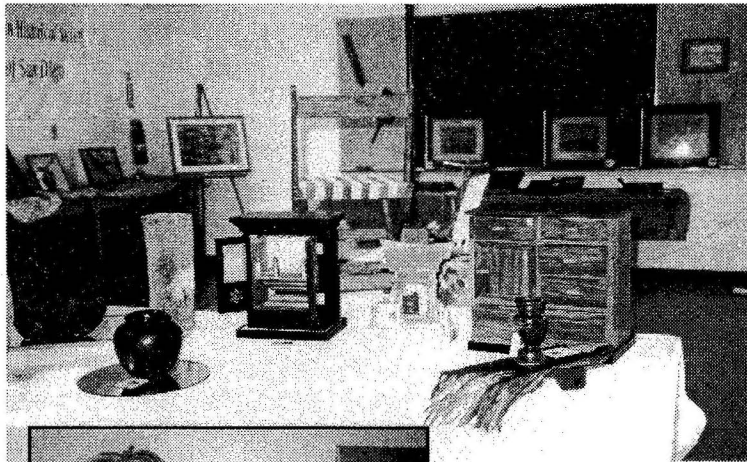
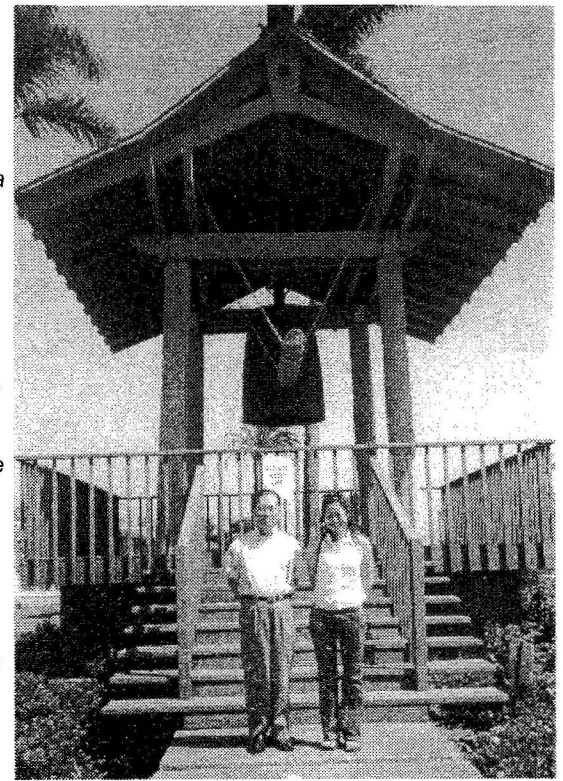
BEAUTY BEHIND BARBED WIRE EXHIBIT AND RECENT JAHSSD EVENTS



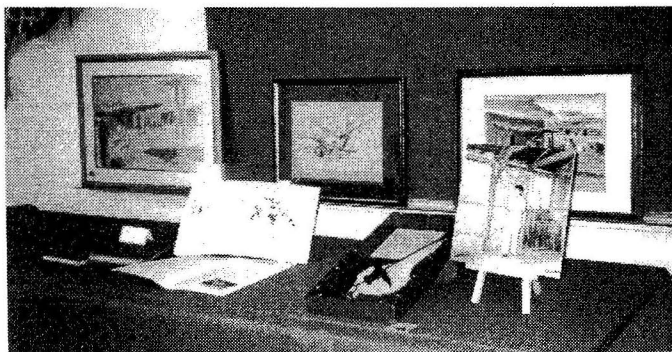
Left:
Shigeru Kojima of the Japanese Overseas Migration Museum in Yokohama, poses with Gwen Momita in front of the Tuna Fisherman's Memorial, Shelter Island, August 7, 2003.

Mr. Kojima enjoyed a two-day tour of Nikkei San Diego last August, hosted by JAHSSD board members, including a midday visit to Kiku Garden retirement home where the group had lunch and watched a slide show on the history of San Diego's Japanese population with some of the Garden residents.

Right:
Mr. Kojima with Noriko Inoue in front of the San Diego-Yokohama Friendship Bell, Shelter Island



BEAUTY BEHIND BARBED WIRE displays and visitors. 300 catalogs were given away during the four-hour exhibit August 2 at the Buddhist Temple's Bon Odori Festival. *Left:* Roy Muraoka and Kenzo Sato. *Upper right:* Leora Hamada and Mary Yagura admire the wooden bird carvings. *Right:* Janice Shieghara and Mary Yamada enjoy the display.



2003 HOLIDAY / NEW YEAR GREETINGS

Personal, organizational or business messages accepted. Please print your message below.
We'll format your greeting for you. It will appear in the Winter 2003 Issue of *Footprints*.

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Amounts are suggested donations to the Society. Color photos and graphics will appear as black and white. Mail your order and check to: JAHSSD HOLIDAY GREETINGS, P.O. BOX 620988, SAN DIEGO, CA 92162-0988...or bring them to the Annual Meeting on October 18. Your photo/logo can also be e-mailed as a digital image to the Editor at paperpushers@att.net. Deadline for Holiday Greetings is November 15, 2003.



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DEMOCRACY UNDER PRESSURE

Video and Teacher's Guide

Democracy Under Pressure: Japanese Americans and World War II tells what happened to 2,000 people of Japanese descent living in San Diego after the outbreak of World War II. U.S. citizens and resident aliens alike were given a few days to dispose of their businesses and property and removed en masse from San Diego County. Law-abiding families spent the duration of the War behind barbed wire in concentration camps hastily built in desolate desert areas. Returning to San Diego after the war to rebuild their lives meant additional hardship.

This story of the removal and incarceration of San Diegans of Japanese descent was previously untold. JAHSSD made the 26-minute documentary for local students of American history...and for those still unaware of this period during which Constitutional rights were ignored by otherwise reasonable men, and the lives of innocent people were forever altered.

Told by two native San Diegans who lived through the ordeal as young students, *Democracy Under Pressure* is a powerful and moving educational tool and would make a thoughtful gift to a favorite teacher, friend, or grandchild. A curriculum guide with study materials/lesson plans is also available for classroom use.

In 2000, JAHSSD distributed *free* videos and guides to *all* public and private secondary schools and colleges in San Diego and Imperial Counties. The video is also in circulation in the San Diego Public Library system. See it; share it.

THE JAPANESE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SAN DIEGO

takes great pleasure in announcing its

2003 KANSHA AWARDS

in recognition of exemplary service to the Nikkei community to

MRS. UMEKO KAWAMOTO, MR. HAROLD KUHN, MRS. KIYO OCHI

11th Annual JAHSSD Luncheon Meeting

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2003

10 a.m. ~ 1 p.m.

Buddhist Temple of San Diego, 2929 Market St.



BOB WADA *President, Korean Veteran's Assn., will speak on "SERVICE"*

~ WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN THE COMMUNITY IN HONORING KIYO, HAROLD & UMEKO ~

What's-for-Lunch-Bunch?" crafts on sale. The program and special exhibits are free and open to all members and guests, but bento lunches **must** be ordered in advance by October 11. **Reservations confirmed at the door on October 18.** Make check payable to "JAHSSD" and mail to: JAHSSD Obento, P.O. Box 620988, San Diego, CA 92162-0988. Info: Jeanne Elyea (619/690-1151) or Nancy Cowser (858/270-0733). **Thank you for your support of the Society! See you at the luncheon!**

~~~~~

No. of bentos at \$17 each: \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

*Please list names of all attending so name tags can be provided.*

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# Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego

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**Four times means four consecutive issues. Advance payment required.** Please attach camera-ready ad or your business card (for individual section). Design assistance available. Make check payable to JAHSSD and mail to: **Footprints Ads, P.O. Box 620988, San Diego, CA 92162-0988.** JAHSSD thanks you for your kind support!

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## THE JAPANESE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SAN DIEGO

is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to acknowledge and preserve the contributions of the Japanese American community to the City and County of San Diego. *Footprints* is the quarterly publication of the JAHSSD. Subscription is free with membership. We welcome your articles, stories, letters, comments. Send them to: *FOOTPRINTS* EDITOR

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## OUR RICE IS TWICE AS NICE...



Ayako Kaminaka, Mary Yagura, Emi Shimizu and Shiz Furuya, members of the Buddhist Temple of San Diego's Fujinkai (Buddhist Womens Assn.), relax after preparing makezushi for the Bon Odori Festival, August 2001.