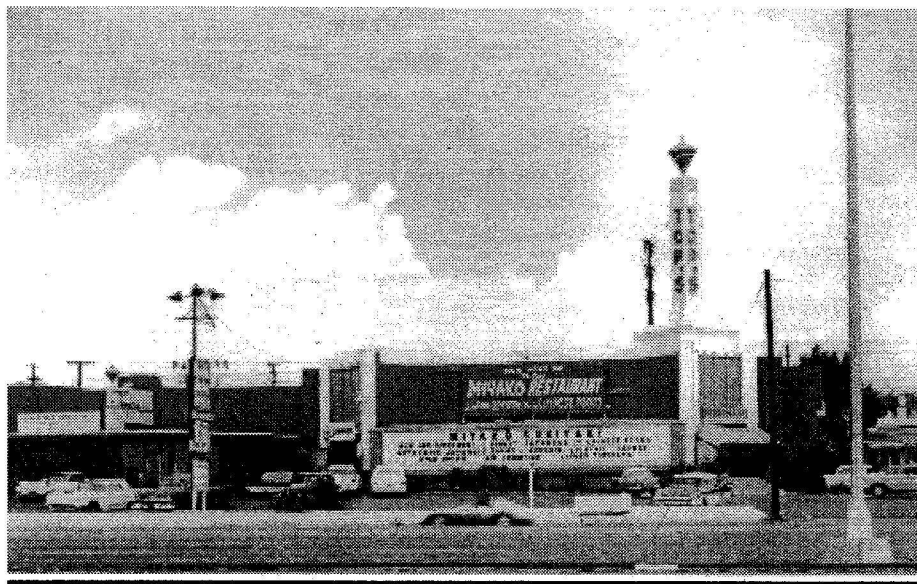


# FOOTPRINTS

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

**The Newsletter for the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego**



VOL. 12 NO. 2

SUMMER 2003

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## A MOMENT IN TIME:

### Classic Photos from the JAHSDD Archives

by Don Estes

**T**oday, if you are so inclined, you could go to a local Japanese restaurant every day for a month and never visit the same establishment twice. It's difficult for many now living in San Diego to imagine a time when there were virtually no Japanese restaurants in this community.

Prior to World War II, there were and had been restaurants and cafes that served Japanese dishes: **Kawamoto's Frisco Cafe** which was at 560 Fifth Avenue, **Yamasaki's Poppy Cafe** across and down the street at 505 Fifth, and **Obayashi's Sun Cafe** at 421 Market, all come to mind. But photos of the interiors of these restaurants all show counters, booths, and menus that include a mixture of American and Chinese food.

Featuring meals that could more easily be classified as *nihon shoku* were the **Marusan Meshiya**, run by **Sutematsu Iwata**, which was located on the ground floor of the Pacific Hotel at 510 Fifth Avenue. Down the street at 516 Fifth was **Otozo Izumi's Star Meshiya**. Over on Island were **Chohei** and **Ori Takamatsu's Sakura Sushi** at 526, and the **Showa Meshiya** at 427, first run by the **Okutsus** who subsequently returned to Japan. Later, the Showa was operated by **Isaburo** and **Ito Fujimoto**.

As with all Nikkei businesses, the onset of World War II and relocation brought an abrupt halt to their operation. After 1945, many of the pre-war families did return to San Diego, but the downtown Japanese area around Fifth and Island never recovered its economic position.

In 1949, the **Obayashi Family**, who had returned from camp and reopened the **Sun Cafe**, decided to inaugurate a distinctly Japanese restaurant called the **Miyako Sukiyaki** located on the ground floor of the old Royal Pie Bakery on the west side of Fourth Avenue between Market and Island. The timing for a Japanese restaurant was near perfect. Military men were returning from duty in Japan and sought not only good Japanese food, but a Japanese atmosphere as well. The Miyako did all that, as

well as feature Japanese waitresses in kimono.

In July 1954, **Al Obayashi** moved the restaurant from its Fourth Avenue location to 2137 Pacific Highway which had formerly been Top's Restaurant and Drive-in. The Miyako would remain at that location until the lease ran out in 1975.

Several weeks ago, **June Yamaguchi Takeshita** donated to our collection the snapshot that accompanies this article. It came from the photo album of her brother, **Manuel "Mark" Yamaguchi**. The photo is undated, but from the sign on the building, it appears that the restaurant had only recently (*cont. on p. 3*)

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- JUNE 15 - BTSD ALL-TEMPLE PICNIC, Rohr Park, 10~2 pm  
 JUNE 16 - JCC (Japanese Coordinating Council)/JSSDT GARDEN PARTY marking 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of U.S.-Japan relations, Japanese Friendship Garden, 6~8 pm, 619/233-6873. \$10  
 JUNE 20 - Occupational Training Service 30th ANNIV. LUNCHEON Honoring Robert Ito, Doubletree Hotel, 11 am. Reservations: 858/560-0411  
 JUNE 21 - JACL KIDS CULTURE DAY (for Grades K-8), BTSD, 9~3 pm, 619/482-1048. \$15  
 JUNE 21 - OBON AGAIN RESALE SHOP and HERITAGE SOURCE BOOKS: kids' gifts and books, BTSD Annex, 12~4 pm, 619/527-7855  
 JUNE 22 - ZENBU MAH JONG PARTY & POTLUCK: learn/practice mah jong, bring a dish to share; BTSD, 11 am, 619/527-7855. Free  
 JUNE 25 - ASIA JOURNAL of BUSINESS and CULTURE First Anniversary Celebration, Fat City, 5~9 pm  
 JUNE 29 - JACL-SD ANNUAL COMMUNITY PICNIC, East Crown Point Shores, 11 ~ dusk, 619/230-0314  
 JULY 6, 8, 13, 15, 17, 22, 29 - BON ODORI DANCE PRACTICES, BTSD (Sundays-10:45 am, Tuesdays-7:30 pm). Free and public welcome  
 JULY 25 - ASIAN BUSINESS ASSN. (ABA) 10th Anniv. Golf Classic, Eastlake Country Club, 1 pm, 619/235-8880 or [fabiola@abasd.org](mailto:fabiola@abasd.org). Entry fee  
 JULY 27 - BTSD OBON SERVICE and July/August Shotsuki (Memorial) Service, 10 am  
 AUGUST 2 - BON ODORI Festival, BTSD, 5~9 pm, 619/527-7855. Free  
 AUG. 2 - JAHSSD SPECIAL EXHIBIT (tba), BTSD, 5~9 pm  
 AUG. 2 - OBON AGAIN RESALE SHOP, BTSD, 5~9 pm  
 AUG. 9 - FESTIVAL OF THE AUGUST MOON, Japanese Friendship Garden, 5:30~9:30 pm. Reservations: 619/232-2721  
 AUG. 16 - ABA FAMILY POOL PARTY, Tierrasanta Park & Rec Center, RSVP: 619/235-8880 or [fabiola@abasd.org](mailto:fabiola@abasd.org). \$5/person, \$15/family  
 AUG. 16~17 - RUMMAGE SALE, BTSD parking lot, Hours TBA, 619/239-0896  
 SEPTEMBER 7 - BTSD DHARMA SCHOOL begins, 10 am  
 SEPT. 14 - OHIGAN SERVICE, BTSD, 10 am  
 SEPT. 30 - JACL-SD Sushi Sake Social, Hayama Restaurant, 619/230-0314  
 OCTOBER 8 - JSSDT 10<sup>th</sup> Annual LEADERSHIP AWARDS BANQUET honoring Masayoshi Morimoto and Dr. Randall Phillips, The Prado at Balboa Park, 6~9 pm. Reservations: 619/233-6873  
 OCT. 18 - 11th Annual JAHSSD MEMBERSHIP MEETING and KANSHA AWARDS

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Vernon Yoshioka

Summer is upon us and we still are looking into leads as to where we might set up a museum. The S.D. Chinese Historical Museum has a choice location in the area designated by the City of San Diego as the Asian Pacific Heritage District (APHD). This is an eight-block area in downtown San Diego that overlaps the Gaslamp District. The specific boundaries of the APHD are from Market to J Streets, which lies between Second and Sixth Avenues.

Through the efforts of the S.D. Chinese Museum, and particularly of **Michael Yee**, the APHD is being considered in the future planning of the redevelopment of Downtown San Diego. An effort to preserve the historical area of downtown San Diego that relates to the Asian Pacific communities is being brought forward by this new group known as the Asian Pacific Historical Collaborative. Don Estes and I have been working with this group to make sure that the Japanese American portion of the story is properly included. Thus the JAHSSD is a sponsoring organization for the loosely-organized and unincorporated APHC. Hopefully through this joint Asian Pacific venture, we might find a lead in obtaining our own JA museum site.

It would be really terrific if we could find a place that has relevance to the Japanese American history and a presence in Downtown San Diego. The biggest drawback is that a lot of developers would also like to find space to develop in the same area. However the Chinese Museum was able to get a joint use facility with a commercial venture for their expansion project.

If you have any thought or suggestions on a site, please pass them on to JAHSSD.

JAHSSD is broadening my knowledge of both history and local geography. I had a chance to see the campus of CSU San Marcos where I went with Shinobu for the first time on May 1 to speak for JAHSSD at the Asian American History Month event. The event was sponsored by the Asian Pacific Faculty Staff Association of CSUSM for the campus.

What an interesting campus. We went into the library from the ground level, on the first floor and took the elevator to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor and exited at—ground level. We entered the University Hall from ground level on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and exited on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, also at ground level. As you might have guessed, this is a very hilly campus, and the center of the campus is one huge circular staircase. The buildings are all very beautiful, with very unique architecture. We walked all the way around our room, UH101, looking for the entrance after exiting the elevator. It was well-hidden from the elevator side, and we finally found the doorway behind the entrance area for the rest rooms. But once we got inside, the class room/lecture hall was very nice.

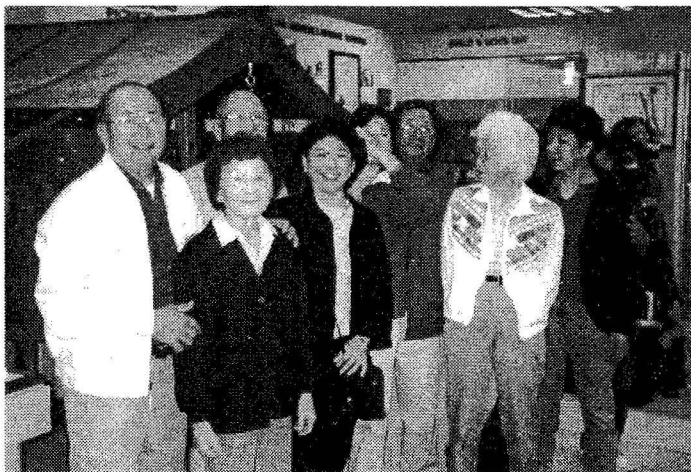
Our only disappointment was that just a few people showed up for this event. The best part for me was learning about Chinese American history in San Diego from **Murray Lee**, and the Filipino American history from **Judi Pataksil**. **Michael Yee** did a nice wrap-up with the reason for, and purpose of, the Asian Pacific Historical Collaborative. Oh yes, and they did have refreshments for a larger crowd, so I did my part in participating in the festivities. So you can say this activity was very "broadening."

I will continue to do my best in representing the JAHSSD interests whenever the real experts are unavailable. Needless to say, this is also fun.

## IMPERIAL VALLEY JACL FRIENDSHIP DINNER

by Gwen Momita

The Imperial Valley Chapter of the JACL held its Friendship Dinner on May 3, at the Valley Trails Park in El Centro. Approximately 220 people gathered to enjoy the excellent cuisine and some fun entertainment, including a **Shoto-Kan Karate Club** demonstration and a performance by the **Shokenji Taiko Group** of Vista. Mostly, however, it was a great time to see old family friends, and meet some new ones.



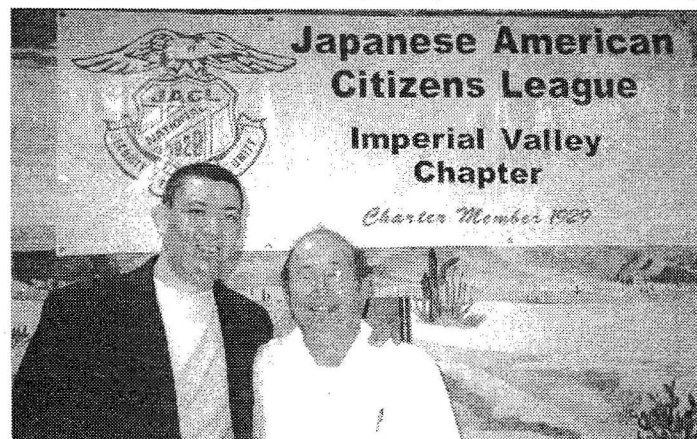
The author (4th from left) with her family at the Pioneer Museum

The first "old family friend" I met was my uncle, **Larry Shimamoto**, who is the outgoing JACL president. He and many others had worked hard to prepare the food and decorate the venue. During a short break, he told me how the idea of a Friendship Dinner came about during his tenure.

The Imperial Valley has been, and still is, a farming community. In the past, many Japanese earned their living raising cantaloupes, tomatoes, and asparagus. As farmers, they worked side by side with multiple ethnic groups, cooperating on various farming issues and endeavors. The dinner was conceived as a way for the Japanese community to reach out in friendship to the broader community.

Larry says, "We hold our Friendship Dinner to offer hope and vision that one day, we will all become united as one."

To help keep this vision alive, the JACL has a new president, **Jason Hoshizaki Jackson**. Jason, a 30-year-old Yonsei, currently



JACL-Imp. Valley Presidents: Jason (incoming) and Larry (outgoing)

runs a security agency and attends a local college. Jason's grandmother, **Mary Hoshizaki**, was an active member of the JACL for many decades. When she passed away, Jason expressed his desire to carry on her legacy. He hopes membership will continue to rise, and that more Yonseis will step forward to take positions of leadership in the community.

All in all, it was a delightful evening. We were reunited with long-time friends, met some new ones, and paused to remember those who have passed on. We look forward to future events from community-minded visionaries such as Larry and Jason.

### MOMENT IN TIME continued from p. 1

recently opened. The old "TOPS" sign can be seen on the column at the right. The cars in the parking lot appear to date from the late 1940s to the mid-1950s. Center left is a sign advertising "Double Decker Jumbo Beefburgers 59 cents." Further to the left is the "drive-in" portion of the restaurant which also still sports a "TOPS" sign.

After the remodel was complete, the restaurant critic for the *San Diego Tribune* described the newly-refurbished interior as "lavish." It was at this second incarnation of the Miyako where many San Diegans had their first taste of teriyaki, tempura, sake, and, yes, even sushi.

Just to remind you how far your dollar went in the 1950s, the following descriptions are from an original menu used at the opening:

*All dinners include soup - Suimomo (clear) or Miso Shiru (bean), Oshinko (Japanese Pickle) steamed rice, cookies and tea.*

*Number 1 Sukiyaki Dinner-Tempura or Sashimi, Beef sukiyaki \$3.25; Tempura Dinner-\$2.25; Teriyaki Dinner (Beef or Pork)-\$2.25; Sashimi Dinner-\$1.25; Deluxe Teriyaki Dinner (New York Cut)-\$4.50, Top Sirloin-\$4.00.*

From the a la carte menu: *Sashimi-\$1.25, Buta Dofu-\$1.25, Barbecue Hawaiian Spare Ribs-\$1.50, and so on. Ice cream was 15 cents and Japanese Yokan was 25 cents. The Miyako also offered a full menu of Cantonese dishes at comparable prices. The most expensive thing on the Chinese menu was Chinese-style Lobster at \$2.50.*

All this reminds me of one of my grandfather's favorite injunctions: "Ah, my boy, the old days are gone forever."

*Assisting with this article were Umeko Kawamoto, Bill Obayashi, Emi Obayashi, Jane Takeshita, and Grace Tsuida.*

### CAN YOU HELP US OUT?

JAHSSD has been asked to develop an exhibit for the **Bonita Historical Museum** on the history of Nikkei farmers in the South Bay. We are particularly seeking farm-related photographs we might borrow to copy. Originals will be returned. We would also be interested in the loan of any agricultural or business-related artifacts you might be willing to loan us.

### CORRECTIONS

**WINTER 2002:** In the Kashima wedding announcement in *Celebrations*, the co-officiating minister was listed as **Rev. Russell Hamada**. The minister was actually **Rev. Marvin Harada**.

**SPRING 2003:** On p.9, **Ms. Kayoko Sekiyama**'s name was misspelled. The Editor apologizes for and regrets these errors.

## CAUGHT DOING SOMETHING NICE

As a Society, we are always grateful to our members and friends who see their way clear to assist us in carrying out our mission of preserving all elements of Nikkei history here in San Diego. We would like to recognize and extend our gratitude for the contributions of the following individuals. Without your continued help and support we would be in deep trouble.

Our collective thanks to the crew who prepared the Spring 2003 issue of *Footprints* for mailing. Collating, folding and affixing labels were **Bob Batchelder, Nancy Cowser, Jeanne Marumoto Elyea, Don Estes, Mich and Naomi Himaka, Noriko Inoue, Gwen Momita, Ben Segawa**, and our Editor, **Joyce Teague**.

While thanking people for help with the Spring Issue of *Footprints*, we shouldn't forget the folks at the **Fong Fong Restaurant**, located at 3755 Murphy Canyon Road, who so kindly allow us to prepare the newsletter for mailing each quarter at their place of business. If you haven't tried **Fong Fong**, please do so, you'll be very pleased. They have a terrific Chinese-Hawaiian menu, especially breakfasts.

We want to acknowledge with great thanks the generous and much-needed donation of a high quality, air- and water-tight storage compartment by **Jeanne and Bill Elyea**. As we have begun to acquire larger historical artifacts like furniture, trunks, luggage, tools, and bulkier items—including **Frank Wada's** masterful reproduction of a Poston III barracks room—our need for storage space had become critical. Thanks to Jeanne and Bill, we now have additional safe and secure storage.

Thank you to new JAHSSD member **Lisa Asano**, a student at Rancho Bernardo High School and the Minato Gakuen. Lisa is taking time from her very busy study schedule to assist us with a translation assignment and the JAHSSD web site. **Lisa**, her mother **Gayle**, and father **Hiroaki**, all became Society members in February. We welcome the Asano family to our Society and appreciate Lisa's willingness to jump right in and help out.

We appreciate the recruiting and promotional efforts of **Noriko Inoue** who has been attending meetings of the San Diego Asian Business Association and passing out copies of our membership brochure to prospective members. (Noriko originally designed that same membership brochure for us when she was majoring in graphic arts at San Diego City College.)



Debbie and Ruth field questions at Chicano Federation's Leadership Institute

**Debbie Kodama** has been serving as the JAHSSD representative on an ad hoc advisory committee initiated by KPBS for Asian-Pacific Heritage Month in May. Speaking of Debbie, in April she, along with **Ruth Voorhies** and **Joyce Teague**, braved our

last April rainstorm to make a presentation for the San Diego Chicano Federation's Leadership Training Institute. They screened our internment video, *Democracy Under Pressure*, and fielded many questions from the students. Thank you, ladies, so very much and we hope everyone was able to stay dry.

We want to acknowledge and thank **James Makoto Tajiri** for his thoughtful donation of a beautiful, hand-crafted silver-and-gold combination candle holder/incense burner. **Jim** donated the work of art to JAHSSD at the Poston III Reunion held in Las Vegas, March 24–26, 2003. (See story and photo on p. 9)

One of the strongest supporters of our photograph and artifact collection, **Jane Yamaguchi Takeshita**, has donated to our collection a high-quality photograph of the **Miyako Restaurant** on Pacific Highway just after it first opened. Thank you, Jane. You have our continuing appreciation for all you do for us.



From left: Debra Kawahara, Ruth Okimoto, Vernon Yoshioka, Don Estes and Lynda Yoshikawa

At the invitation of **Debra Kawahara**, Assistant Professor of Psychology at Alliant International University, our Society presented a panel at the First Annual Models of Healing for Indigenous Survivors of Inter-Generational Trauma held on the Sycuan Reservation on April 17. Participating were **Don Estes, Yukio and Mits Kawamoto, Ruth Okimoto** of Berkeley, **Ben and Grace Segawa**, and our President, **Vernon Yoshioka**. Thanks to all of you for a very successful presentation.

Speaking before a full house at the Lemon Grove branch of the County Library on May 1, **Jeanne Elyea, Don Estes, Grace Segawa**, and **Ben Segawa** discussed the San Diego Nikkei relocation with members of the **Lemon Grove Historical Society**. A lively question-and-answer session followed the showing of the *Democracy*



Ben Segawa, Helen Ofield, Jeanne Elyea

*Under Pressure* video. Thanks to all who participated.

On Saturday, May 3, an Asian Pacific Islander Forum was held at the **Chinese Historical Museum** in San Diego's downtown Asian Thematic District. Presentations on the history of San Diego's Nikkei community were made by **Don Estes** and **Susan Hasegawa** representing **JAHSSD**.

**Vernon Yoshioka** has generously donated three World War II U.S. Army "ditty" bags, in mint condition, that had belonged to his uncle, **George S. Yoshioka**. Our thanks to Vernon and the Yoshioka family.

We would like to recognize **Gwen Momita** for her donation of a copy of *The Eighty-fifth Anniversary of Protestant Work Among the Japanese in North America—1877–1962*. We also would like to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of *Kansha in Gassho: Fiftieth Anniversary, San Diego Buddhist Temple—1926–1976* from **Tommy Yanagihara**. **Eiko Masuyama** of Cerritos, California, generously send us a copy of her new book, *The Buddhist Church Experiences in the Camps, 1942–1945*. As always, we appreciate all these thoughtful donations to our historical reference collection.

**Mits and Yukio Kawamoto** have donated a Nikon camera with a range of accessories in memory of their son, **Michael**. This photographic equipment is a welcome addition to our equipment inventory and will be used to make detailed photographs our collections inventory and assist us in maintaining a photograph record of Society events. Our deep thanks to Mits and Yuki.

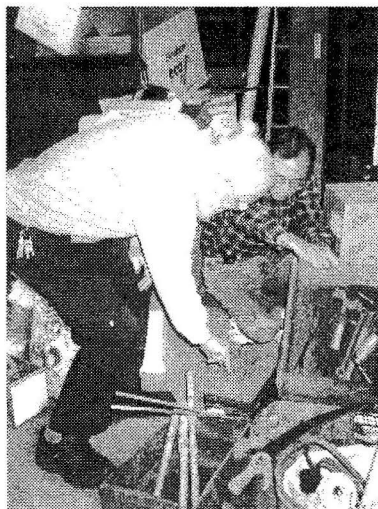
Talk about support! Not only did **Setsuo and Jan Iwashita** donate a number of valuable items—including a chest of drawers made in Poston by Sets' father, **Zenbei Iwashita**—but they even helped heft much of the heavy stuff onto our borrowed truck. A real "gem" of a find for us was their donation of a 2' x 5' wooden sign found in the Iwashita basement that says, "BUDDHIST TEMPLE." We're still attempting to date the sign and figure out its origin.

Sets' sister, **Florence Iwashita**, also donated a boxful of valuable items, including several scrapbooks of photographs their parents **Zenbei and Tamiko Iwashita** had collected over the years. **Kenny Kodama** was kind enough to let us borrow his pickup and **Ben and Grace Segawa, Joyce Teague, and Don Estes** got everything loaded. We also want to thank **Bill and Jeanne Elyea** who helped Ben and Grace unload the truck and store the our new acquisitions at their home.

The Society was also the recipient of a treasure trove of wonderful prewar photo-graphs from **George Nakagawa** which we

have not had time to catalog yet. One of these fine old photos, of 32-year-old **Kosaburo Nakagawa** taken in 1916, graces the mailing label page of this issue. Thank you, George, for thinking of us!

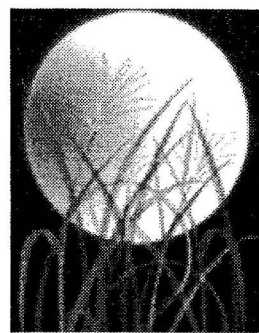
Finally, our warmest thanks to **Sidney Shiroma** of Rancho Bernardo for permission to serialize his charming reminiscences about his Okinawan-born mother which begin this issue on Page 14.



Sets Iwashita, in his parents' garage, shows Don Estes tools used by his father

## THE FESTIVAL OF THE AUGUST MOON

*A Night of Fellowship, Tradition & Entertainment*



SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 2003

5:30 ~ 8:30

JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL PATRICE LABAO (619) 232-2721

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Yukio Kawamoto, Membership Chair

A little note about our renewal policy. Membership renewal fees are due in the anniversary month that you joined JAHSSD. For example, if you joined in July 2000, your annual membership dues will be due in July 2001, July 2002, July 2003, etc. You can tell when your current membership will expire by looking in the upper right corner of the mailing label on each issue of our newsletter, *Footprints*.

You really don't have to worry about missing the expiration date because we'll send you a renewal notice at the beginning of the month in which your membership renewal fees are due.

A warm welcome to our new members: **Hiroaki and Gayle Asano, Lisa Asano, Tsutomu and Rosie Date, Michiko Eguchi, Cynthia Hanna, Dick Jensen, Tsuneko Koyama, Joe and Terry Mizufuka, Terry and Sachi Nishida, Earl and Louise Osaki, Chiyoko Oshima, Masako Shima, Hesaa Takahashi, Machi Uchida, and June Yoshioka**. We are pleased to have all of you as members of our Society.

We thank **Hisae Batchelder** for providing a gift membership for **Masako Shima, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Yoshioka** for providing a gift membership for **June Yoshioka**, and **Sue Tsushima** for providing a gift membership for **Tsuneko Koyama**.

We thank the following for renewing their memberships: **Toshio and Mary Abe, Tim Asamen, John and Jill Damrose, Jeanette Dutton, Dell Farnham, Ruth Fujimoto, Kimie Fukamizu, Elizabeth Hatashita, Harry and Misako Honda, Chiz Imoto, Robert and Edna Ito, Thomas and June Hamada, Jon and Carrie Kawamoto, and Umeko Kawamoto**.

Thanks also to **Karen Kawasaki, Larry Kida, Ben Kitahata, Micko Kodama, Tomiko Kozuma, Nancy Martinez, Glen and Roslyn Masumoto, Henry Mukai, Ritsu and Fred Nabeta, Sumio and Fumiko Nakamoto, George & Karen Shinzaki, Shinkichi Tajiri, Fudo Takagi, Howard Takahashi, John and Kiyo Takemoto, Sumako Azusa and Haruko Tsuneyoshi, Sue Tsushima, Kiyo Uda, George and Betty Wakiji, Henry and Mary Yamada, and Chiyeiko Yagi** for their renewals.

## IN MEMORIAM

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

GUILLERMINA ROJAS ~ March 2, 2003  
MICHAEL S. KAWAMOTO ~ March 13, 2003  
CHIYOE ELEY ~ March 24, 2003  
NATSUO PHINNEY ~ March 27, 2003  
ELSIE T. HASHIMOTO ~ April 5, 2003  
GERALD HOSHI ~ April 2003  
TAKEKO RITA NAKABACHI MOUNTS ~ April 11, 2003  
DOROTHY C. ISHISAKI ~ April 14, 2003  
MASAKO SATO VLCEK ~ April 19, 2003  
HARUYO "CLEO" HIRAI YABU ~ April 28, 2003  
WILLIAM DOUGLAS MONCRIEF ~ May 7, 2003  
SANAE GUTZMAN ~ May 8, 2003  
MATSUE ISHINO ~ May 9, 2003  
AKINO MATSUDA CHIHARA ~ May 10, 2003  
JANE AKEMI ODAYASHI ~ May 19, 2003  
YOSHIKO ENGLER-WALSH ~ May 25, 2003  
NORIE K. MOROCCO ~ May 30, 2003

## Remembering Michael Kawamoto by Robert A. Brown III

*In March of this year, we lost member Michael Kawamoto to brain cancer at age 43. Mike was a highly-respected professional in the title business, an SDSU alumnus, music aficionado, film buff, food fan, bon vivant, and much-loved by his family and friends. The following is a remembrance by a fellow former Marching Aztec—one of many people who miss Michael.*

Mike was one of the brightest and most animated individuals that I had ever met. I remember watching "Jeopardy"...and being astonished over the amount of trivia he would seemingly pick out of the air. He could have easily been a very strong competitor considering he was so well read and had a great memory. His knowledge of films and their directors would have given the Movie Geek a run for his money on Comedy Central's game show, "Beat the Geeks." I supposed part of what drew me to Mike was the hope that some of his intellect would rub off on me. But now I try to think back on memories long past...

Although I don't exactly recall how Mike and I met so many years ago at San Diego State University, I will always remember the many hours we spent together. From endlessly repeating the latest half-time routine, to witnessing the inept Aztec football team "snatching defeat from the jaws of victory." Our Aztecs' offensive digressions became so predictable that after the announcement of a penalty, we would say in unison: "HOLDING ON THE AZTECS!"

But there were many more good times reflected by post-game concerts and the trip to the Mirage Bowl in Japan. We performed before a crowd over 100,000 of which few understood an iota of how football is played. The crowd roared on fumbles, kickoffs, and incomplete passes. The cheerleaders of *both* schools

## OCEAN VIEW UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

53rd ANNUAL BAZAAR

NEW DATE: OCTOBER 26, 2003

11AM ~ 3PM

**Food! Entertainment! Prizes!**

were played simultaneously on the stadium's PA system. It was mostly bedlam. But the fans were completely entranced by the whole spectacle, and we agreed that this would probably be the closest we would ever come to being rock stars. The crowd that remained after the game for a impromptu concert showered us with cheers and gifts.

And there was life after band, too—bowling, movies, birthday celebrations, and much, much more. Mike would keep score at the Padres games, and even brought himself to do The Wave during the final game of the 1984 NLCS.

The Del Mar Fair was Mike's birthday choice for us "Three Musketeers," as we were called—Mike, Barney Olson, and me. We made the trek from exhibit hall to craft ex-



Michael Kawamoto

hibits, the Fun Zone, and food vendors. The exhibits seemed really unchanged from year to year, but there always seemed to be the one or two new things that would "justify" the trip. But outside of the exhibits and people-watching, the main draw (and I may be speaking for myself) was the food. We would always do a great deal of sampling from the many vendors.

I regret being unable to attend the burial ceremony. My life will be emptier without having Mike in it, and relying only on memories to fill in the gaps.

April 1, 2003

JAHSSD,

Mike Kawamoto has been a part of my life for the past 20 years as a good friend and coworker at Chicago Title. Mike was a very generous, kind and dependable person. He was always willing to put others before himself no matter what the reason.

All of us at Chicago Title know Mike was very familiar with the JAHSSD, and was a very active supporter of your organization. Please accept a donation of \$500 in memory of a good friend that will be greatly missed by many.

Sincerely,

Joe Goodman, Vice President/Manager  
Chicago Title Company  
San Diego, California

## 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.

### *In Memory of Michael Kawamoto*

Elizabeth Atkinson, Mr. and Mrs. Masato Asakawa,  
Louis Botte, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brown, Laurie Celli,  
Chicago Title Company, Nancy Cowser, Doris Doi, Frank Doi,  
Michael Doi, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Eliya, Mr. and Mrs. Don Estes,  
Mr. and Mrs. David Fujikawa, Susan Hasegawa,  
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hashiguchi, Mr. and Mrs. Michio Himaka,  
Grace Igasaki, Noriko Inoue, Nayoe Kasubuchi,  
Kiku Kawamoto, Mr. and Mrs. Trace Kawasaki,  
Mr. and Mrs. Saburo Kodama, Mariko Kowase, The Kozuma  
Family, Mr. and Mrs. Hiroshi Kubota, Stanley Kubota,  
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Kufin, Mr. and Mrs. George Kusaka,  
Mr. and Mrs. Berto Moretti, Chieko Moriyama,  
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Mr. and Mrs. Dave Ware, Mr. and Mrs. Wendy Whitson,  
Mr. and Mrs. Shig Yamashita, Tamako Yano, Paul Yasuhara

### *In Memory of Cecilia T. Ishihashi*

Mr. and Mrs. Jofin Takemoto

The Membership and Board of JAHSSD would like to thank the following individuals for their gracious monetary support of our Society this past quarter:

June Kushino  
Dr. Francis I. Tanaka

We also acknowledge the donations to the Society in honor of the 88th birthday of **Emi Obayashi**.

## ROY S. YONEKURA

Certified Public Accountant

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BONITA, CA 91908-1647  
(619) 482-0275  
FAX: (619) 482-0242

## JAPAN-U.S. CENTER WOMEN'S FORUM by Hisae Batchelder

The Japan-U.S. Center Women's Forum held their fourth annual Culture Award Luncheon on May 25 at the Doubletree Hotel in San Diego. Five honorees were acknowledged for their dedication to and skill in teaching Japanese culture, and one honoree for serving as an excellent community leader in San Diego.

The awardees were **Michiko Delaney** (Kimono), **Yoshiko Monji** (Minyo), **Wakako Seligman** (Haiku), **Mitsue Vlastakis** (Nihon Buryo), **Keiko Yonamine** (Okinawa Buyo), and **Tom Yanagihara** (Community Service).

The Forum was founded in 1997 to enable women to address current issues, as well as to promote Japanese culture, traditional and modern arts in our community.

Congratulations to the recipients of this prestigious award.

## JAHSSD RECEIVES CCLPEP GRANT

The Board of the JAHSSD has been notified by **Diane Matsuda** of the California State Library that we are the recipient of a 2003-2004 grant from the **California Civil Liberties Public Education Program**.

The \$7,000 grant, entitled **Preserving a Shared Legacy: The Poston Restoration Project**, will be used to organize, plan, and present a three-day, two-night workshop designed to bring together members of the **Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT)** and surviving members of the Poston internee community from Camps I, II, and III.

The central purpose of the workshop will be to develop a strategic plan for the establishment of a living history project which would, among other things, save and recondition existing barracks still on the reservation along with internee-built classrooms, and also restore the high school auditorium at Camp I.

As envisioned by the application, part of the project planning will involve relocating selected barracks to the original high school site at Camp I adjacent to the existing Poston Monument. These structures would become the core facility for the living history program.

The initial planning meeting was held Saturday, June 7, at the Centenary Methodist Church in Los Angeles. Attending from San Diego were **Don Estes**, **Mich Himaka**, **Dr. Debbie Kawahara**, **Yukio Kawamoto**, and **Reverend Jim Yanagihara**.



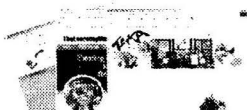
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## GLANCING BACKWARDS, MOVING FORWARD

by Gwen Momita

It was a celebration attended by family, friends, and community figures. On March 22, 2003, **Ben Plummer** was awarded scouting's highest honor at an Eagle Court of Honor hosted by his family and Troop 885. Ben, a high school senior, is the son of **Lee and Joy Plummer** of Bonita.

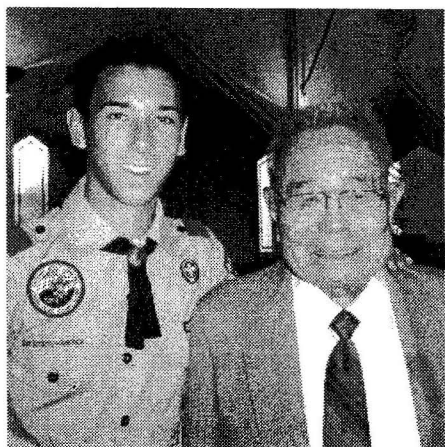


*Congressman Bob Filner with Ben, Joy and Lee Plummer*

Several years ago, Ben lost his loving grandmother, **Sophie Shimamoto**. Sophie dedicated her life, not only to her children and grandchildren, but also to the children of Ocean View United Church of Christ. She served faithfully for countless years as Treasurer and Music Director for the Christian Education Department. In her honor, Ben devoted his Eagle Scout project to remodeling the Sunday School Nursery. Recently, he unveiled a plaque in memory of his grandmother at the Church Dedication Ceremony.

In attendance at both the Dedication and the Eagle Court was **Mr. Moto Asakawa**. The Eagle Court Ceremony brought back fond memories for Moto. On June 16, 1935, he became the first Japanese American in San Diego County to receive the Eagle Scout Award. In addition, Moto was awarded the Distinguished Eagle Scout medal in 1989 for his outstanding entrepreneurial contributions to the community. He recently celebrated his 88<sup>th</sup> birthday, and is a member of both JAHSSD and the Ocean View United Church of Christ.

It was indeed a special day for both Ben and Moto...a time to glance backwards with pride at the past, and to look ahead



with anticipation to the future. With active pioneers like Moto to lead the way, young citizens such as Ben can move forward with confidence and, in turn, make their turn in leading future generations by example.

*Ben Plummer and Moto Asakawa*

## 11th POSTON III REUNION: A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL

by Jeanne Elyea and Mich Himaka

They came from far and near. They came by car, bus and plane. They came for the 11th Poston III Reunion held March 24-26 in "Lost Wages" and hosted by the Central California contingent of former Poston III internees at the Golden Nugget Hotel-Casino.

Almost 500 of us were in attendance, including a number of former San Diegans. This group included **Tom Arata**, who has attended a number of previous reunions; **Paul Arakawa**; **Satoshi (Lefty) and Mary Okamoto**; **Haruyo Cleo (Hirai) Yabu\***; **Jim and Helen (Kawamoto) Urata**; **Midori Koba Koga**; **Jim and Ryo (Sugaya) Hashiguchi**; **Richard (Babe) Karasawa**; **Jim Tajiri**; **Michi Date Eguchi**; **Yo Takehara**; **Ruth Sato Fukuchi**; **Edythe Hirase Harada**; **Futoshi Hirai**; **Bob Hirai**; **Misako Mayumi Honda**; **Thomas and David Kikuchi**; **Josie Hirai Nishida**; **May Segawa Nitta**; **Frances Watanabe Wada**, and a number of others we probably saw and didn't recognize.

On behalf of those who attended, we thank the Central Cal committee for all the hard work that went into planning the event. It must have taken a few trips to get it worked out. For that, we thank you. The committee was headed by **Sammy Nakagawa**, **Franklin Abe**, **Herb Abe**, and **Ada (Nishida) Yamamoto**. No doubt there were others who worked hard and we thank them all. The next reunion is scheduled in 2005 to be hosted by the Northern California contingent, namely the San Jose group. There was talk of having the reunion in Las Vegas again.

The program schedule included a Monday night mixer/buffet, a Tuesday afternoon golf tournament, a Tuesday night banquet, and a Wednesday morning brunch. **Rev. Jim Yanagihara** opened the banquet giving the invocation and the **Rev. Dr. Paul Nagano** closed it giving the benediction. Entertainment was a program of World War II songs by **Toru Saito**, golf awards by **Dr. Akira Tajiri**, a nickname game hosted by **Midori Koba Koga**, and a raffle hosted by **Herb and Rose Abe**.

Former San Diegan **Doug Urata** got up during the banquet and toasted his parents, also former San Diegans **Jim and Helen Haruko (Kawamoto) Urata**, congratulating them on celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary. We join him in offering our congrats to the Uratas. (We don't think the parents expected him to be there. At least, he wasn't on the list of attendees.)

If we're not mistaken, the nickname game was won by a table of former and present San Diegans that included **Parker Tsuida Uda**, **Grace Tsuida**, **Masato Asakawa**, **Masaharu (Fatty) Tsuida**, **Mr. and Mrs. Paul Arakawa**, **Robin and Laura Shimasaki**, **Yo Takehara** and **Richard (Babe) Karasawa**. They shared a \$100 prize between them. The way Grace tells it, they won because she was the only one who knew who "Gopher" was. And Masato was "Gopher's" neighbor in Poston III Block 330.

Second place went to our table, that included **Motoo and Angie Tsuneyoshi**, **Jeanne and Bill Elyea**, **Jim Yanagihara**, **Mari Tanizaki**, **Naomi and Mich Himaka**, and **Jim and Ryo Sugaya**. We shared a \$50 prize, or just enough to feed a nickel slot machine for 10 minutes' play.

All in all, we all had a great time. **Micki Honda** made the transportation arrangements for a busload of San Diegans who attended. And we understand that **Pauline and Sam Nakamura**

provided everyone with enough bento food to feed the bus load! Unfortunately, there weren't enough going from San Diego to fill a second bus, but we tried. A number of us flew in to Las Vegas, including Jeanne and Bill, Mari, Jim, Naomi and Mich, and **Sakiko Kada** on the same flight. We were met in Las Vegas by former San Diegan, **Carolyn Kada**, Saki's daughter, now living in Montana.

Our little group basically stuck together for the whole trip gambling, participating in slot tournaments, gambling, eating, gambling. (Jeanne gave up breakfast for slots!) We can't speak for others, but our little group had a rip-roaring good time. And if laughter truly is the best medicine, we may never, ever get sick again!

*\*We are sorry to report we learned that Cleo passed away a month following the event. Our condolences go out to the Yabu family.*

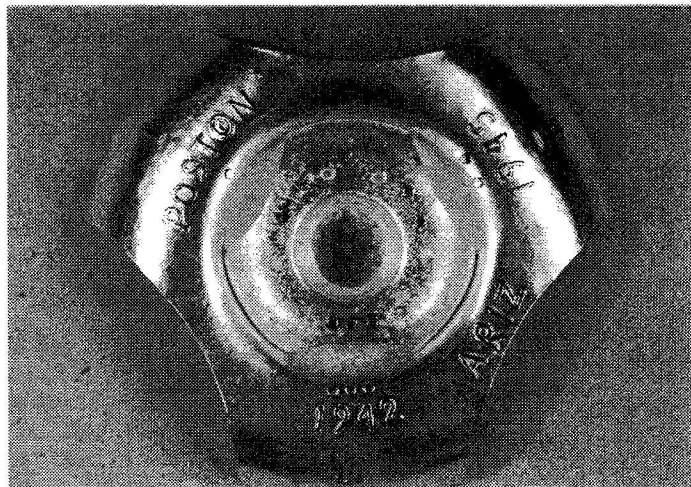
## COMMEMORATIVE ART DONATED TO JAHSSD by Don Estes

**James Makoto Tajiri**, former San Diegan, Poston internee and artist, has donated a sterling silver candle holder/incense burner memorializing Poston Camps I, II, and III. The gift was presented by the artist to JAHSSD at the recent Poston Camp III Reunion held on March 24-26, 2003 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

According to James, the combination candle holder/incense burner was designed and fabricated to be a tangible reminder of the past existence of a place called Poston, Arizona. During World War II, Poston was one of ten American internment camps, euphemistically called "relocation centers," which were the unwelcome home of some 120,000 Japanese Americans.

Based solely on their ethnic connection to a country then at war with the United States, these Americans, mostly U.S. citizens, were evicted en masse from their West Coast homes and, without any due process of law, incarcerated for up to three years by their government.

Poston was made up of three smaller camps: I, II, and III. In all, the complex housed over 17,000 men, women, and children.



The piece was forged from a 16-gauge flat sterling silver disk six inches in diameter. Using silversmithing techniques, the disk was then hammered into a basic bowl shape and then turned over with the bottom of the bowl becoming the top. The top was then hammered into a concave form onto which a candle may be placed;

## CELEBRATIONS!

### Community Milestones of Note

The Ocean View United Church of Christ congregation is proud of its latest high school graduates: **TAMARA CARRERA**, Bonita Vista; **ADAM DUNCAN**, Monte Vista; **ADAM KASSAB** who earned his G.E.D.; and **JEFF YAMAUCHI**, Valhalla. Ocean View is also proud of **BEN PLUMMER**, who earned his Eagle Scout badge.

Class of 2003 graduates active at the Buddhist Temple are: **ALI FURUYA**, **ERIN KONISHI**, **COURTNEY OKUHARA**, **DEREK SHIMIZU**, **LUKE SUMIDA**, and **BRYAN SCHELL**.

University-level standouts were: **KRISTIN KOSAKA** (Master's of Education with a specialty in Special Education), National University; and **STEVE KOSAKA** (B.A. in Graphic Design with a Minor in Marketing Management), Cal Poly Pomona.

Congratulations to **TODD and YUKI KATAOKA** who had a baby boy, **RIKI**, on February 26! He weighed 6 lbs., 12 oz. and was 18-1/2 inches long. The proud grandparents are **RICK and SHERRY KATAOKA** and **DICK and GRACE TAKEUCHI**.

Congratulations to members **AGNES BENSON** and **MARGARET IWANAGA-PENROSE** who were honored by the Catfish Club in a Salute to San Diego's Pioneering Women, April 25 at the U.S. Grant Hotel. They shared the spotlight with 15 other outstanding women in the community.



**EMI ODAYASHI** (seated in white) celebrated her 88th birthday March 9 at the Shelter Pointe Hotel & Marina with family and friends from across the country. **GRACE TSUIDA** reports that Emi enjoys reading *Footprints*, so we're pleased to include this family photo from her special celebration. Emi has two daughters, a son, 9 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren!

or, into which ashes from incense might fall. Each side was sawed at three places, creating three legs for the piece. Soldered onto each leg are one of the Roman numerals "I, II, or III" in recognition of the three camps of Poston.

Other gold letters formed from gold wire are soldered to the top surface. They read: *Poston, Ariz, 1942, 1945*. To hold a candle or incense in place, a round silver insert is provided to fit into the concave top.

**James Makoto Tajiri** was interned at Poston Camp III from 1942-45. He graduated from Parker Valley High School (Poston III) in 1944. He served with the United States Army for 20 years, retiring as a lieutenant colonel. He holds a BCS in Accounting from Roosevelt College in Chicago and an M.A. in Art from San Jose State University.

## 2003 MS WALK: BOB'S BUDDIES TEAM FAR EXCEEDS GOAL

On Sunday, April 6, 2003, the 22 intrepid walkers who made up this year's **JAHSSD Bob's Buddies Team** hiked along San Diego Bay from Seaport Village to the Coast Guard Station and back for a total of five kilometers. A few of the more hardy team members walked to Harbor Island and then returned to Seaport Village, completing the 10 kilometer course.

This year's team, co-captained by **Mich Himaka** and **Don Estes**, set a goal of raising \$5,000 for Multiple Sclerosis research. Working all-out, the team made the Gold level of fundraising by turning in a grand total of \$7,012, surpassing their goal by over \$2,000! Our top fund-raiser was **Hisae Batchelder**, whose efforts placed her in the Top 50 fund-raisers for the 2003 MS Walk.

We invite you all to join us next year for the 2004 MS Walk. If you can't walk, we invite you to support our team with your tax-deductible donation to fight Multiple Sclerosis.

A great vote of thanks to all of you who helped us go so far over goal in 2003. The folks who made our success possible are listed below. If we have omitted any donors, we apologize and request that you please contact either Don at 619/280-9418 or Mich at 619/660-9865 about the oversight. We want to make sure everyone who contributed to our success gets full recognition.

### 2003 Pledges to Bob's Buddies

Gordon and Linda Aoyagi ♦ Bruce and Sharon Asakawa ♦ Bob and Hisae Batchelder ♦ Ece Batchelder ♦ Kira Batchelder ♦ Jessie Burrows ♦ Masako Calinari ♦ Jocelyn Cerrillo ♦ Ron Church ♦ Joe and Nancy Correia ♦ Nancy Cowser ♦ Ponce and Mary Duran ♦ Bill and Jeanne Elyea ♦ Claire Estes ♦ Don Estes ♦ Toshiye Estes ♦ Glenn Fukuma ♦ Sho and Karlene Fukuma ♦ Maria Gomez ♦ Bea Handy ♦ Mickey Harrison ♦ Gene and Arlene Hasegawa ♦ Leslie Hasegawa ♦ John Hashiguchi ♦ Mich and Naomi Himaka ♦ Miki Honda ♦ Carrie Huddleston ♦ Barbara Ikejiri ♦ Claudia Johnson ♦ Mike Jury ♦ Sakiko Kada ♦ Gale Kaneshiro ♦ Jeanne Kashima ♦ Frank and Sumi Kastelic ♦ Rudi and Toni Kastelic ♦ Kei Dan Floral Designs ♦ David and Carol Kawamoto ♦ George and Naomi Kobayashi ♦ Yuki Kawamoto ♦ Kanji Kuwada ♦ Virginia Loh ♦ Mary Lugo ♦ Chiyoko Masumoto ♦ Dixie McCurdy ♦ Howard McLemore ♦ Susan Moribe ♦ Sam Nakamura ♦ Ken Nishii ♦ Itoko Nojima ♦ Earl and Louise Osaki ♦ Susan Roeder ♦ Toshiko Rudd ♦ Ben and Grace Segawa ♦ Tom and Aya Segawa ♦ Wakako Seligman ♦ Bruce Sherman and Susan Hasegawa ♦ Ken Shima ♦ Masako Shima ♦ Bubbles Shimasaki ♦ Arlene Shimizu ♦ Emi Shimizu ♦ Abe and Judy Shragge ♦ Chris and Pam Springer ♦ Joanie Stames ♦ Les and Allyne Tachiki ♦ Justine Tachiki ♦ Connie Tachiki ♦ Mari Tanizaki ♦ Bill and Joyce Teague ♦ Telegraph Canyon ARCO ♦ Telegraph Canyon 76 ♦ Mas and Grace Tsuida ♦ Angie Tsuneyoshi ♦ Motoo Tsuneyoshi ♦ Kiyo Uda ♦ Raymond and Florence Uyeda ♦ Ruth Voorhies ♦ Dana Wakiji ♦ Takeko Wakiji ♦ Alice Warner ♦ Corky and Joyce Warton ♦ Sandy Wilkerson ♦ Larry Yamada ♦ So Yamada ♦ George Yamamoto ♦ James and Yuri Yamate ♦ Patsy Yanagihara ♦ Tom Yanagihara ♦ Joe Yaw ♦ Roy Yonekura ♦ Tak and Ketty Yoshikawa ♦ Vernon and Shinobu Yoshioka



*Above (from left): Hisae Batchelder, Don and Carol Estes, Bill Elyea, Bob Batchelder, Mich Himaka, Naomi Himaka, Kia Batchelder, Duane Siefers, ?*



*Below (from left): Mits Kawamoto, Hisae, Justine Tachiki, Bill and Jeanne, Kira*



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## JOURNEY TO THE UNITED STATES: The Akiji Watanabe Story, Part IV

by Fran Wada

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

### Journey to South America

The young members of the Rikkokai strongly believed that as people created by God, they should be able to travel freely on this earth, which was also created by God. Many went without hesitation to South America where they were more readily accepted for entry than in the United States. Because of Rikkokai's role in assisting these young men, the organization was criticized as immoral for sending "stowaways" to the Americas. In order to counteract this criticism, Chairman Nagata felt it was important to go to South America to record and make known the work and progress of these members.

Chairman Nagata was unsuccessful in obtaining financial support for this trip from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tokyo, but he managed to get just enough from other sources to his enable passage to San Francisco. But once there, he could not go any further, nor return home. He sought the counsel of a Mr. Banko Matsumoto who, upon hearing the story, immediately gave chairman Nagata the sum of \$1,000, which was a lot of money in the early 1920s. (Continued on p. 13)



Left (from left): Tom Honda, Yoko Honda, Rei Maruyama, Tae Udo



Center, third row from top (from left): Rei, Duane, Tae, Gwen Momita

Below (from left): Kira, Duane, Don, Susan Hasegawa, Bruce Sherman



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## We Get Letters

Hi Don:

How are you—I have an article and a picture you might be interested in for the JAHSSD.

The picture: Miyako Restaurant, possibly taken when they first opened up. I found this picture in my brother Mark (Manuel) Yamaguchi's photo album. It brings back memories doesn't it?

The article: Sam and Pat (Goto) Takeshita are old San Diego residents. I thought this was noteworthy. I think Pat's father had a produce market on 12th Street before World War II.

Take care,  
Jane Yamaguchi Takeshita

Hi Don:

We received the Footprints newsletter yesterday. Thank you for presenting the article entitled, "A Moment in Time" about my uncle Masashi Shimotsusa. It was very well written. However, I noted a few errors.

"Formally" should have been "Formerly."

Mr. Tokuzo Sato is directly behind Mrs. Yoshi Mayeda, not directly behind his wife. Ray's father, Kunitomo Mayeda, is standing behind his sister, Mrs. Toki Shimotsusa.

I was surprised at some of the detailed information on the location of the photo studios and about Mr. Sato's hotel.

I'm going to send a copy of this newsletter to Masanatsu, my cousin, in Tokyo.

Thanks again,  
Ray Mayeda

Dear Mich:

Jeanne [Elyea], Ben [Segawa], and Don [Estes] gave an outstanding presentation on May 1 to a capacity audience. The questions and answers were so interesting and we were not able to cover all of the topics in the time we had. I'd like to schedule a repeat visit for the fall in the H. Lee House, opposite the Parsonage in Civic Center Park, Lemon Grove, on October 9th at 7 p.m. Don kindly gave us a copy of your excellent video so we now have a copy for that night.

Also about fifty percent of our membership needs evening events due to work schedules. We would follow the presentation with refreshments. Please let me know whether October 9 will work for the group. We will be printing a brochure listing events and sending it out this summer in preparation for this fall.

Thanks for all your help—you have a marvelous organization.

Helen Ofield, President  
Lemon Grove Historical Society

Hello JAHSSD:

I just started my position as the new Asian Pacific Outreach Coordinator for the Farm Service Agency with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. I am very interested in reaching out to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.

I would be most appreciative if you have any information regarding subject above.

Thank you,  
Maria Flores, 202/690-3631  
Maria.Flores@usda.gov

Hi, Everybody:

Every Monday morning, we begin school with a flag ceremony—there is a pledge for the Panamanian students, the Panamanian national anthem is played, then the national anthem of a different country is played, then it finishes with announcements for the week.

For the national anthems, students stand in front to represent their country. The photo is from the ceremony when the Japanese anthem was played and we had an attache from the embassy join us. Our PR person invited me to come to the front and join the Japanese group. It was a nice honor to be included, but it felt a little strange for people to think of me as Japanese. I feel so much more connected to the U.S. national anthem. My students asked me about it later, and some of them could relate—many were born in Panama and have lived here their entire lives, even though they and their parents hold passports from other countries.

Being at an international school and interacting with many non-Panamanians outside of school (Panama is such an interesting melting pot) has made me really think about culture and patriotic attachment in a different way. I am so impressed with my students who can speak 3-4 languages, and switch back and forth between languages so effortlessly. Of course, they get such a kick out of my efforts to speak Spanish. They mostly giggle and say, "Aay, teacher, you have to learn to speak faster if you want to talk to Panameños!"

I'll be in San Diego from June 16-July 8. I would love to see you if you will be in the Southern California area. I can't believe almost a year has already gone by since I have lived in the States. Wow. Hope to see you soon.

Besos,  
Karen Kawasaki

Dear Membership Chairman,

Enclosed is the check for my renewal of *Footprints* and a gift membership for my sister in Chicago...

Of all the periodicals and newsprints I get about San Diego, I enjoy the *Footprints* best—wonderful job!

Sue Tsushima  
Los Angeles



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(JOURNEY TO THE UNITED STATES continued from p. 11)

With the money, Chairman Nagata and my father were able to go to New York. There they purchased a camera for \$250 and then boarded an English ship bound for Rio de Janeiro. My father was very good with the camera, so their plan was to publish a photo-journal, called *Japanese in South America*, and later another book, entitled *Traveling in South America*. By the time they completed this trip, they had visited Brazil, Argentina, Peru, Chile, Panama, Cuba and Mexico. A copy of the larger first book was shown to the Emperor Taisho and well received. The second book was published by the Tokyo Publishing Company, and in the year that it was published it was ranked sixth among the top ten best sellers in Japan.



Kesaye Takeguchi Watanabe and daughter Fran, September 14, 1929

Another reason my father went to South America was to write a series of articles for a newspaper, called *The New World*, detailing their travels as well as reporting on their visits with the Japanese pioneers who had migrated to Brazil and other South American countries. Apparently at that time there were several such colonies of Japanese immigrant farmers throughout South America and Mexico. All told there were about twenty-five articles about their journey.

When he arrived in Rio de Janeiro in June of 1920, he wrote that he was moved by the magnificent scenery. And he must have truly enjoyed capturing the beautiful landscape with his camera throughout their trip.

My father with Chairman Nagata traveled from country to country by boat, train and horse. He wrote about crossing the snow-covered Andes Mountains by horseback in August, and about traveling across Brazil, on horses to a large farming community, a trip of 60 miles which took three days because of difficult

terrain. In this colony, they found 500 Japanese families, of whom 120 families were from Nagano Prefecture. Crops raised were rice, sweet potatoes, and cotton. Although their land was the least fertile in the area, these farmers were optimistic about their future. "They were well fed," my father wrote, "but they 'want to make more money' they said with a big smile. Everyone seemed committed to live there forever."

In one entry, my father wrote, "It would take six months to cover extensively what we would like in Brazil alone. It would take a whole year just to travel in South America. Given that fact, our short trip of four months does not allow us to visit any country in depth. But reporting on some of the prospects that the Japanese people here have accomplished has value, and it is the only thing we can do so far."

He continued, "Our trip opened communication with South America and I wish our government had similar good communication with the U.S. Although we cannot expect many positive things, at least at this time we can be a liaison between our country and South America."

My father finished this trip in November 1920 and returned to Japan after first visiting the U.S.

~ To be continued next issue: *Brides from Japan* ~

## ELSIE TOSHIKO NOGUCHI HASHIMOTO, 1917-2003

The following is a eulogy given by Dr. Donald Estes at Mrs. Hashimoto's funeral service last April.

**Elsie Toshiko Noguchi Hashimoto** was born on November 8, 1917, in Tokyo, Japan. 1917 was a Snake Year in the Japanese Zodiac calendar. It is said the best marriage for a Snake Year person is a partner born in the Year of the Ox.

At the ripe old age of one year, Elsie and her mother sailed from Yokohama for San Francisco to join her father who was farming in Northern California. After graduation from high school, Elsie attended Azusa Pacific Bible College, planning to become a Christian Missionary. While attending school, she met the love of her life, **Harry Yasushi Hashimoto**. Harry was born in 1913 in—you guessed it—the Year of the Ox.

Harry and Elsie were married September 20, 1940, in Modesto, after which the happy couple established their first household in the San Fernando Valley where Harry served the San Fernando Holiness Church. A year and a half later, Harry and Elsie were on their way to a concentration camp at Amache, Colorado.

In 1943, Elsie, then eight months pregnant, left camp by train for Chicago where Harry, who had already departed Amache, had gone to prepare the way for his wife's arrival. It was a war-time train, crowded with military men and civilians. Elsie stood the whole trip. No one—not a single person—offered her a seat, and she said she would be damned if she was going to ask. So this lone, pregnant, Japanese woman stood all the way to Chicago.

In Chicago, her daughter **Sharon Mitsuko** was born and Elsie became not only a mother, but a working mother at that.

Most ministers and their families lead a pretty peripatetic existence, and in 1951, the family moved to the Evergreen Baptist Church in Los Angeles. Nine years later, Harry was called by the Ocean View United Church of Christ in San (cont. on p. 14)

## My Mother's Great Adventure, Part I

by Sidney Shiroma

*Sidney Shiroma is a native of Oahu, Hawaii, of Okinawan heritage. His grandfather came to Hawaii in the early 1900s. After high school, Sidney attended Brown University in Rhode Island where he majored in history. He taught for a time before eventually joining W.W. Norton Publishing Company as a college textbook representative. He now resides in Rancho Bernardo and has started his own publishing business, Birkdale Publishers (www.birkdalepublishing.com). This is the first of a two-part reminiscence by Sidney about his mother.*

When I was a senior in high school, my mother knew I was applying to mainland colleges. I didn't even apply to the UH, the University of Hawaii, as a safety. For me there was no turning back. I never discussed it with her or dad. I just assumed that if I got in somewhere and got enough financial aid, they would let me go.

Mom thought I wanted to go away to college to get a good education, which was true. But the real reason I wanted to go away to college was I wanted an adventure. I never told her this. As long as we didn't get into trouble, she didn't pry into our thoughts. She just wanted us to be happy. I didn't think my mother could understand something as frivolous as wanting an adventure. There was nothing frivolous about my mother.

My mother didn't drink or smoke. Late in life she stopped drinking coffee. Instead, she drank a mild Japanese tea called *genmai cha* during brief respites in between a long day of housework. *Genmai cha* is made from the stems and mature leaves of the tea plant. It has popped brown rice kernels which look like small popcorn. When my mother served tea to guests she never filled the tea cup more than half way. I didn't learn this until after my mother died. My aunt told me whenever she drank tea she always thought of my mother. She told me it was bad manners to fill a tea cup to the top. It should be filled two-thirds at most. She said she would always watch how my mother served tea to guests. She would always fill the tea cup exactly half way.

Mom had a sweet tooth. She always carried some lemon drops wrapped in tissue in her purse. On hot afternoons, she would sometimes sit outside on the porch and treat herself to half of a vanilla popsicle. She would always eat just the half. I never understood why popsicles were made with two sticks in them unless they were made specifically for people like my mother. Not surprisingly, at mealtimes our family always used just half of a paper napkin, torn down the middle at the fold.

My mother for as long as I can remember got up before 5:00 every morning. Her daily ritual began with a half an hour of prayer while the rest of the house is still asleep. This was the only time mom had for herself. But we were never far from her mind. On cold mornings, she often came into the room I shared with my brother and reached under the covers to feel our feet to make sure we were warm enough.

As a social outlet, she attended a regular church gathering the first Friday of every month. Everyone who attended the gathering brought something to eat. My mother usually made *undagi*, Okinawan donuts. I don't know the recipe for making *undagi* as my mother would not give me the recipe for any deep-fried foods. She said cooking with hot oil was too dangerous for me.

Traditionally, *undagi* were made by grabbing a handful of dough and squeezing out a dollop from the butt of one's palm into a vat of hot oil. Unappetizing imagery aside, my mother

renounced this method because she said handling the dough too much made the *undagi* tough. Instead she would spoon out a ball of barely mixed dough and ease it into the hot oil. Her *undagi* were always crunchy on the outside and fluffy and light on the inside.

~To be continued next issue~

(ELSIE HASHIMOTO cont. from p. 13)

Diego. Harry would later serve the Encinitas United Church of Christ, become a public school teacher, counselor and race relations specialist, and after his retirement become the first resident manager for Kiku Gardens.

During this period, Elsie continued work and eventually became a textbook buyer for Aztec Shops Bookstore at San Diego State. It was also during this period that Elsie went through an Americanization course and became an American citizen.

Many will remember Elsie for what I can only call her passion: matchmaking. Without question, Elsie was the most dedicated and wildly successful matchmaker I have ever known.

If you were single and came to Elsie's attention—watch out! First you were invited to dinner. The next thing you knew, you were being asked to "help" someone out with a task that only you could take care of, and before you knew it, you were engaged and married. Elsie once estimated that she was responsible for matching up almost two hundred couples in her lifetime.

Always aware of her social responsibility, Elsie, on August 5, 1981, testified before the Presidential Commission on the War-time Relocation and Internment of Civilians in Los Angeles. It was at those hearings she said something we all need to periodically be reminded of, especially now.

Elsie said of internment, "Most of us failed to mention our experience for close to 40 years, because to this day our emotions still overwhelm us....We must now expose ourselves so that no innocent person will ever again be submitted to this crippling experience."

Later in life, she was active on the board and in the work of the San Diego Area Agency for the Aging. She is remembered there by the staff as an ever-elloquent and persuasive voice for the unrepresented elderly.

Elsie passed away quietly in her sleep on April 5, 2003. But not before seeing her granddaughter **Tashia** and her holding the hand of her great-grandson **Nicholas**. She also was able to see photos of her newest great-grandson, **Samokai Kenneth Moto Asakawa, Erik** and **Stephanie's** newly-born son.

## CHICAGO'S JAHS FINDS ITS NICHE IN THE WINDY CITY

by Joyce Teague

On a recent visit to Chicago, I talked with members of the Chicago Japanese American Historical Society to see how their organization functions and what programs it has been involved with in the years since CJAHS and JAHSSD came together for the REgenerations Project back in 1996. (The Japanese National Museum and the Japanese American Resource Center of San Jose were the other REgenerations partners.)

I first met **Mary Doi**, **Alice Murata**, and **Sandra Yamate** during the intensive three-day oral history workshop presented by JANM in Los Angeles, June 1997. Mary was the Regional

Coordinator, Alice the Regional Scholar, and Sandra served as one of the interviewers for the Chicago team. The purpose of the workshop was to teach us the techniques needed to prepare for, videotape, audiotape, transcribe, and format the ten regional interviews each team had been asked to document for the project.

The Chicago group had not wasted any time, and was already in the process of recording dozens of interviews with Chicagoans about their post-World War II experiences. As only ten of these were to end up in the Regenerations collection, I wondered what their Society had done with the many others stories they had recorded and how they were being used.

Much of the material collected is being archived by the Chicago Japanese American Service Community (CJASC), which is a social services agency serving the Nikkei community. All the interviews they did were eventually transcribed and now housed in the archives. In addition to providing material for researchers and artists seeking resource materials, they are the inspiration for educational exhibits mounted by the Society.

Board members of the Historical Society meet monthly at Heiwa Terrace, a retirement community much like Kiku Garden here in San Diego. Mary Doi says their board, while small, is the most active component of their society. "It's a handful of the same people doing a lot of things," she explains. Many people who are involved with the JASC also work with CJAHS. "Of course, we are always trying to figure out ways to involve younger people in the Society."

Because CJAHS has no permanent home to call its own—that is, a museum space—they have chosen to co-sponsor large projects like exhibits and presentations with firmly established arts and cultural organizations like the Chicago Historical Society, the Field Museum, the Art Institute, and the Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art. These collaborations help CJAHS reach a huge and diverse audience which a small "storefront" location somewhere in the city might not always do.



Mary Doi with Joyce Teague  
at CMCA

Mary says that working with groups like the Museum of Contemporary Art and the Asian American Jazz Festival not only allows CJAHS to educate the public, but also brings a Nikkei audience to venues they might not ordinarily visit. The educational experience works in both directions.

The first major collaboration was in the mid-90s with the Field Museum. The subject was the strength and diversity of Japanese-American women. Since then, CJAHS has curated or acted as advisors on community and national projects, providing the Japanese-American component on a wide range of topics and issues. Mary says also that CJAHS has moved away from focusing mainly on internment and is constantly finding other stories about the rich Nikkei experience to bring to the public.

The Society's upcoming project will be the first major exhibit of which they are the sole sponsor. It is about the role the Chicago Nisei Athletic Association played not only in forming community, but in building character.

Last year, **Alice Murata** produced a pictorial book, *Japanese Americans in Chicago*, which was inspired by the REgenerations

Project. Many of the photographs and stories in the book were those uncovered during the oral history project.

**Sandra Yamate**, one of the REgenerations interviewers, was recently recognized by the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association for her work as director of the American Bar Association's Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity to develop opportunities for minority attorneys. She was also honored for her publishing business, Polychrome Press, which specializes in children's stories about the Asian American community.

*[To read about the REgenerations Project, go to: [www.janmonline/lifehist/regen.htm](http://www.janmonline/lifehist/regen.htm). You can access all 40 of the oral histories transcribed for the project, including those of San Diegans by JAHSSD and those of Chicagoans by CJAHS. You can order Alice Murata's book, Japanese Americans in Chicago, at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). For children's titles like Thanksgiving at Obaachan's and Bon Odori Dancer, find Polychrome's book list at [www.polychromebooks.com](http://www.polychromebooks.com).]*

## THE JAPANESE ASSOCIATION OF ENSENADA, 1930 to 2003

by Sakae Kato

*We are pleased to publish this article from our sister society in Ensenada, Baja California, and hope more will follow. Contact was established through our Web site ([www.jahssd.org](http://www.jahssd.org)) and the efforts of Noriko Inouye. We look forward to future cooperative efforts between our organizations.*

The Asociación Japonesa de Ensenada (Japanese Association of Ensenada) is a nonprofit organization established around 1930 by Japanese immigrants who lived in Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico. Initially it was composed of Issei farmers, abalone divers, fishermen, and merchants who had come to Mexico between 1918 and 1940. The main purpose of the organization was to encourage Issei immigrants to help one another as they settled in this new land. For example, when a recently arrived Japanese immigrant or family arrived in Ensenada, the Association would provide them with a place to stay.

When the Second World War began, the Japanese who lived in the coastal and frontier zones of Mexico were forced to relocate to camps administrated by the Mexican Army which were located in the center zone of Mexico at the Distrito Federal (Mexico City) and at Guadalajara. Because of World War II, the Association was unable to operate from 1941 to 1946.

At the close of the war, less than half of the Issei who had lived in Ensenada chose to return. Those that did return re-established the Japanese Association. Later, in the 1950s, local Nisei women founded the Yuri Club, a young women's social organization founded for fun and fellowship. Later, Nisei men joined in and it was soon agreed by all that they should establish a Nisei Club, an organization where the local Nikkei could meet socially and also work at the same time for the benefit of the Ensenada Japanese community.

Some years later, as the Issei generation began to age and eventually pass away, the leadership of the organization was passed to Nisei women and men who took charge of the Japanese Association of Ensenada. Since then the Association has had its ups and downs, but from 1990 to this year (2003) the organization has been growing steadily.

*(Continued on p. 17)*

## CHANKO-NABE

by Joyce Nabeta Teague

### A Visit to Chicago

Every spring for the past several years, my mother has flown to Illinois to spend a month with her sister, Mutsue Morishige, who lives with my cousin Jerry Morishige and his wife Jane in a pleasant suburban community outside Chicago.

This routine got its start when my grandmother, Hatsue Uyeno, was still living. She had lived with Auntie Mutsue and Uncle George in Chicago for decades. But some time after my mother took an early retirement from her job at the Broadway, it was decided Grandma would spend half the year with my parents in El Cajon. This allowed her to escape the harsh Midwest winter months while giving my aunt and uncle the freedom to travel or do as they pleased till Grandma returned to Chicago in the spring. Mom would fly back with her in April and Auntie would escort Grandma to San Diego in November.

Because of this annual arrangement, Grandma's west coast grandchildren and great-grandchildren had the chance to know this quiet and generous soul before she died.

After Grandma's passing in 1991, my mother continued to fly to Chicago in April to spend time with the Morishiges, significantly, when Auntie suffered a disabling stroke; when Uncle George became ill and passed away; and more recently when Auntie needed help both packing and unpacking her belongings with the Morishige family's big move from Chicago to the 'burbs.

Approaching 80 years, both ladies have become lighter, frailer versions of their youthful selves. When Mom steps outside the Morishige house on a blustery day, she seems in danger of being whooshed away by Chicago's famous wind. Each of them requires some help getting around these days—cane, walker or wheelchair—so recently my own sisters and I decided to take turns accompanying Mom to and back on her annual trip—just as she and my aunt had for Grandma—which gives us an excuse to visit our cousins and spend a few days sightseeing in the fabulous Windy City.

Mom always enjoys spending time with Mutsue who, like herself, is a fun-loving and generous spirit who loves to laugh. They recount memories of their childhood spent in the Downtown neighborhood of Los Angeles and the Nachi Falls-Tenma area of Wakayama; of grammar school and church friends; of Japanese School in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo; and of moving on separate paths towards maturity and independence as teenagers in both Manzanar and Tule Lake Camps.

Towards the end of the war, my Aunt met and married Uncle George and left California for good. They settled in Chicago and raised their children there. Mutsue and Ritsu did not see one another again till 1956 when their father developed leukemia and all three sisters—including their Japanese sister Katsuyo, born in Japan and left to be raised by a relative in Wakayama—were reunited for Grandpa's funeral.

A few years ago, Mom began putting together a scrapbook of those times the sisters had shared together prior to marriage. It is filled with sepia-toned and black-and-white photos, many of which came from Grandma Uyeno's small cache of photos after she passed away. From the moment the first page is opened, evocative stories of yesteryear pour forth. Names and places and incidents are nudged from memory. When Mom and Auntie Mutsue are together, they spend all day and sometimes well into the next morning quizzing one another about

people and past events, and especially laughing over Mom's youthful tomboy antics.

While Jerry and Jane are at work, the two sisters are not able to venture far from the house. They watch Japanese videos of soap operas, mysteries, musicals, and horribly-overacted *chambara* (samurai melodramas) sent from Japan by Auntie's good friend Ineko, rating the enjoyable ones and fast-forwarding through the lame ones. They indulge in chocolates and little treats brought home by



Ritsu (center) and Aunt Mutsue (right) reminisce with Mom's scrapbook as cousin Gregory Morishige records their comments

thoughtful Jane. They find endless things to giggle over and tease one another about. It's really wonderful how much fun they make together, these two now generally sedentary souls.

Several times a day, rain or shine, they let Auntie's beloved little dog K.C. out to do his thing in the back yard. K.C.—who's about the size, shape, and color of a loaf of sandwich bread with legs—makes a circuit of the fenced grass and yaps furiously at anyone who happens not to be my Aunt or my cousin Jane. This includes total strangers *and* Mom *and* me, and even my cousin Jerry. But K.C. displays his greatest annoyance at the sight of Auntie's good-humored and solicitous grandson Gregory, who stops by weekly to do his laundry. Unfortunately for him, the washer and dryer are located in Auntie's section of the house and the dog cannot be avoided. You'd think Greg was a skulking dog-catcher from the terrible racket K.C. creates when he catches sight of poor Greg approaching with his bag of dirty clothes!

Jane described K.C. lovingly as *saiko*, meaning "exalted one" or "top dog" in his case—to which Mom added a rhyming and equally descriptive English word, dubbing him PSYCHO SAIKO. Mom and Auntie crack up mightily at the silly bilingual pun.

By the time we were to return to San Diego, Mom and Auntie had discussed what they might wear at Gregory's wedding, slated for this September in Chicago. Whatever outfits they decide on, I already know they will look radiant with joy and happiness.

I came back from a week in Chicago with a "jones" for Garrett's Popcorn—the cheddar cheese and caramel flavors mixed together are the local favorite—and can't wait to get back to see that skyline, enjoy the urban art, munch some deep-dish pizza, and maybe catch a Wilco concert.

But mostly I want to see Ritsu and Mutsue reunited again. When they are together, I am reminded how even a life of unwished physical limitations can still be full of pleasure and grace.

(JAPANESE ASSOCIATION OF ENSENADA *continued from p. 15*)

Every year since the 1930s, one of the traditional events observed in Ensenada is the Mochitsuki at New Year. Other traditional events observed annually are: Hinamatsuri or Girls Day (since 1998), Mother's Day celebration, the summer Undokai (picnic), and an annual Christmas-New Year celebration.

Today, the main purpose of the Japanese Association of Ensenada is to promote an understanding of the history and Japanese culture among the Nikkei community. That's why our slogan, translated to English, is something like, "Our traditions among our generations." Although it has been difficult to accomplish this goal because of our limited budget, in October of last year we began a Japanese Language Learning School for children, and from February of this year, we added language classes for adults.

We have also sponsored other local cultural activities like a Japanese Cuisine Class and a "How to Make a Yukata" Workshop. We have also been promoting Japanese Culture among Ensenada's majority community by arranging performances of The Tsubaki Ensemble, a nonprofit cultural organization from Nagoya City, who dance and play old style, traditional Japanese songs. We also give demonstrations of the Japanese Tea Ceremony, and present exhibitions of Japanese martial arts and costumes.

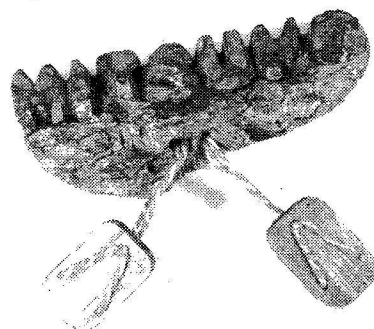
Today there are only four Issei still living in Ensenada, so we realize more than ever the importance of teaching the new generations of Nikkei or Mexican-Japanese about their culture and their Japanese roots. We consider this a great responsibility for the Japanese Association of Ensenada. It is also our responsibility to promote a general understanding of the Ensenada Japanese experience and their contributions to the entire Ensenada community.

That is why this year on May 25, we will be participating with other immigrant groups in Ensenada in a festival called "Ensenada de Todos. Suma de Culturas" (*Everyone's Ensenada: A Sum of Cultures*) that will be held in a place called Ventana al Mar (right next to the sea and to the Port of Ensenada, where there is a monumental Mexican Flag). This is a festival designed for fun, featuring food, music, and dance. The festival is free, but the food is sold by every immigrant community as a fundraiser. It begins at 11:00 a.m. and finishes around 5:00 p.m. It's a day to learn about the immigrants from other countries and other Mexican states who have come to live in Ensenada.

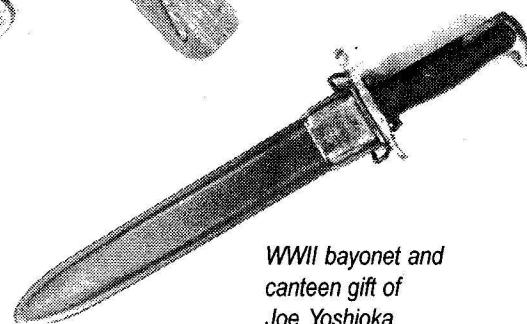
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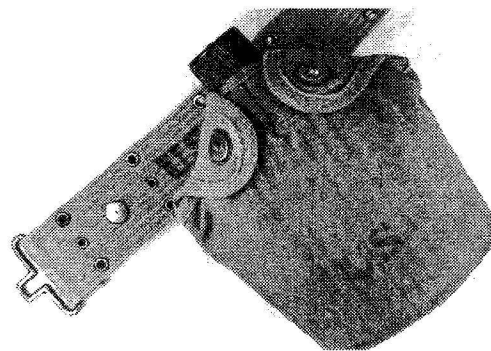
CAMP ART:  
Hand-carved bird  
gift of Vernon Yoshioka



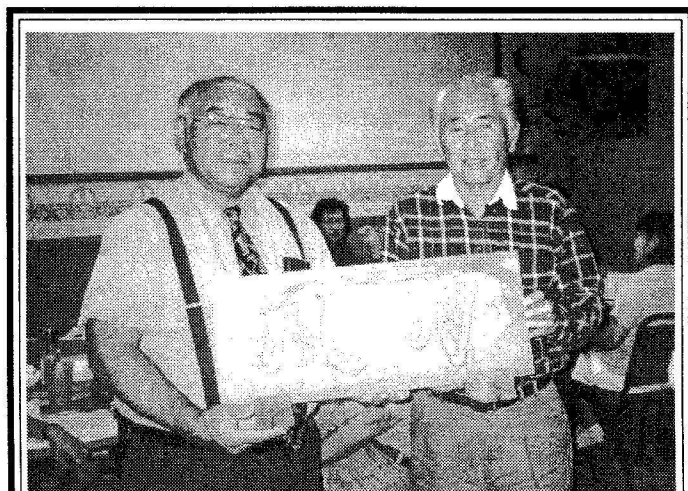
CAMP ART: Hand-carved  
pin with the name "Mitsuko"  
gift of Akie Tomiyama



WWII bayonet and  
canteen gift of  
Joe Yoshioka



Kida Farms  
lug label and  
the brass plate  
used to make it



Vernon Yoshioka (left) and Tom Yanagihara hold placard from the teahouse that stood for years as the House of Japan in Balboa Park. Tom witnessed the razing of the old structure and managed to save the sign from the bulldozer.



The Kida Family poses in front of the Lemon Grove Historical Society's exhibit which had featured the family's photographs and memorabilia

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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.

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*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.*



Kisaburo Nakagawa at age 32  
August 6, 1916