

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

The Newsletter for the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego



Umeko Kawamoto, holding her Kansha Award, is surrounded by members of her family

THOSE WHO SERVE SALUTED AT ANNUAL MEETING

by Gwen Momita

he 11th Annual Meeting of the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego was held October 18, 2003, at the Buddhist Temple of San Diego. The theme this year was "Service." More than 170 members and friends were in a festive mood as they joined together to pay tribute to those who have served our country and communities in so many ways.

Our affable emcee, Michio Himaka, invited all to peruse the photographs of young Nikkei in the Armed Forces as well as the uniforms they wore, the equipment they used, and medals they won in a special display coordinated by Don Estes.

The business part of the annual meeting was conducted by President Vernon Yoshioka, who gave an overview of the year's activities and introduced the current board members.

Special guests included Ron Kelley, Senior Policy Advisor for Supervisor Greg Cox; Rev. Norma DeSaegher of Ocean View United Church of Christ, who gave the ever since she was a youngster. She is a native benediction; and members of the Ensenada-Japan Society.

It was an honor to have Mr. Bob Wada as our keynote speaker. Bob, president of the near Fifth and Island. Umeko credits her late hus-Japanese-American Korean War Veterans Association based in Los Angeles, has spent band, Harry, for getting her involved in commuhis life in service to others. With his winning smile and easy manner, Bob related several nity service. Once she got started, there's been humorous tales about growing up in Camp. However, his presentation soon turned seri- no holding her back. Umeko is a faithful volunteer ous. As he reflected on the stark realities of war, Bob noted the sacrifices of servicemen at the Buddhist Temple, as well as the VFW, the and women throughout history. He concluded by reminding us to be "thankful every day for those who gave their lives for our freedom and who earned the title Veteran." His talk United Church of Christ. was heartfelt and very well-received.

Following the delicious bento lunch, Mich introduced the 2003 Kansha Awardees as graciously accepted the Kansha Award saying, outstanding citizens who know the true meaning of service.

Mrs. Umeko Mamiya Kawamoto has been involved with the Japanese community rewarding."

VOL. 12 NO. 4	WINTER 2003
IN THIS	ISSUE
THOSE WHO SERVE SALUTED	: Annual Meeting 1
Dates to Remember	2
President's Message	
Upcoming in Spring Iss	uE2
In Memoriam	
RECENT JAHSSD BOARD	Actions3
Corrections to Fall 2003	3 Issue3
CAUGHT DOING SOMETHING	Nice4
In Gratitude	4
Membership News	AR OF SELECTION OF THE PARTY OF
Poston Restoration Conf	erence5
35th Annual Manzanar	APPROPRIATE TO A PROPERTY OF A
My Mother's Great Adve	
STADIUM GAVE BIRTH TO I	
A VISIT TO THE J.A. MUSE	
JAHSSD Supports Loca	
CHANKO-NABE	
THE PECAN SANTA	the transfer of the property of the second state of
A Moment in Time	
A Menu from Yutaka's C	CHARLES ENGLISHED TO SERVICE OF THE SECOND OF
"Nikkei Night Before Ch	
HOLIDAY GREETINGS	THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF THE
SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISES	
JAHSSD MEMBERSHIP A	The state of the s
Advertisement Order Fo	
DEMOCRACY UNDER PRESSUR	E Order Form23
计分类 医多种性病性的	

San Diegan who grew up in the Downtown area Japanese Friendship Garden, and Ocean View

With her loving family in attendance, Umeko "It's giving back and helping others that's so (Continued on Page 3)

DATES TO REMEMBER

Ongoing thru JAN, 25 - "Sculpture in Silk: Costumes from Japan's Non Theater," San Diego Museum of Art, www.sdmart.ord. Fee

Ongoing thru FEB. - Origami display, Mingei Int'l Museum, Balboa Park, 619/239-0003; Fee

Ongoing thru FEB. — Exhibit House display of permanent collection Japanese Friendship Garden: 619/232-2721

Ongoing thru MARCH - "Minger of Japan-Legacy of the Founders." Mingei Int'l Museum, Balboa Park, 619/239-0003. Fee

DEC: 5 & 6 - Balboa Park December Nights, Japanese Friendship Garden (4~9 pm)

DEC: 7 - Bodhi Day Service, December Shotsuki (10 am); Chow Mein Fund-raiser, Obon Again Shop holiday gift sale (12 pm), Buddhist Temple of S.D., 619/239-0896

DEC. 7 - Zenbu Cranium Party (1 pm), BTSD, 619/527-7855 Group-play of the fun board game. All welcome. Free

DEC. 14 - Mochitsuki (all day), BTSD, 619/239-0896

DEC. 20 - Mochitsuki (7 am - 3 pm), Japanese Christian Church (SDJCC). To reserve in advance, call 619/234-5627

DEC. 21 - OVUCC Christmas Program (10 am)

DEC: 21 - SDJCC Japanese Speaking Christmas Worship Service (9:10 am) English Speaking Christmas Worship (10:30 am) Sunday School Christmas Program "The First Leon" (7 pm)

DEC. 24 - OVUCC Christmas Eve Service (6:30 pm)

DEC: 24 - SDJCC Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (7 pm)

DEC. 31 - SDJGC New Year's Prayer Service (7 pm). Udon Fellowship (8 pm)

DEC. 31 - BTSD Year-End Service (7:30 pm)

DEC. 31 - BTSD Shelter Island Bell-Ringing (11:30 pm)

JAN 1 - BTSD New Year's Day Service (10 am)

JAN. 4 - SDJCC New Year's Worship Service (10 am)

JAN: 4 - BTSD General Membership Meeting & Potluck (11:30 am)

JAN: 10 - "Japanese Vocabulary for Arts and Culture" (10:30 am). Japanese Friendship Garden: 619/232-2721 Fee:

JAN: 18 - BTSD New Year Party

JAN: 18 - OVUCC Partnership Pulpit Exchange (10 am)

JAN. 24 - Nikkei Filmfest to benefit VFW, Southwestern College Mayan Auditorium (1:30 pm) \$15; seniors \$3.

JAN. 25 - OVUCC Service/Annual Congregational Mtg /Potluck (10 am)

JAN: 28 - Chinese New Year at the S.D. Opera, Golden Hall

Tickets: 858/274-4898 or Jennifer Gamez@sdopera.com

FEB. 7 thru MAR: 7 - The Clouds, The Ocean And Everything Inbetween, S.D. Asian American Repertory Theatre (AART) Playhouse on Plaza, 888/568-2278

FEB. 20 - 2nd Annual Golf Tournament, Japan Society of San Diego and Tijuana, Torrey Pines (8 am tee-off), 619/233-6873

UPCOMING IN SPRING 2004 ISSUE

Due to the large number of Holiday Greetings this year, some stories intended for this issue will appear instead in Spring 2004:

- "Journey to the United States: The Akiji Watanabe Story," Part VI
- "Dear Miss Breed" by Ryo Imamura
- "Southern Blue Page," Part II by Susan Hasegawa
- Snapshots from the 11th Annual JAHSSD Meeting
- We Get Letters; Celebrations!

We will also list the current membership of JAHSSD.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Vernon Yoshioka

Fires! The big historical event for 2003 must surely be San Diego's recent firestorms, which ravaged thousands of acres in our County and cities. Some lost their lives, hundreds of houses were destroyed, and everyone in our communities was affected. Our concern and sympathy go out to the



Terry Shimamoto and Dennis Otsuii families, who lost their homes.

At the Ocean View UCC, it was more than the chicken barbeque smoke that got to us this year during our 53rd Annual Bazaar. It was great to see so many people turn out at that event, even under the threat of the fires. We have a great community, as proven by the response to the needs caused by these fires.

Shinobu and I went out to El Centro on November 1 and 2 to support the guarterly meeting of the Pacific Southwest District Council of JACL. It was significant in that, to my knowledge, it was the first PSWDC meeting hosted by the Imperial Valley JACL Chapter.

President Jason Johnson and the chapter did an excellent job of hosting. We had hoped to see a lot of old friends, but because of the fires, they were helping in San Diego at that time. Part of the trip attraction was to see the Golden Acorn Casino on Saturday. We missed out due to a late start, but we did stop in on the way home. We were able to attend the dinner and social at the Chinese Palace on Saturday evening.

The meeting went well and new officers were elected for the PSWDC to the District Board, including Chris Reefe from San Diego.

One highlight of this trip was a chance to make a short visit to the Pioneer Museum in El Centro. What a fantastic place, in such a beautiful building, and they even had an F-14 Navy Fighter jet outside with displays of farming equipment.

The Museum is located at State Highway 111 at Aten St., about eight miles, south and east, from Downtown El Centro, The Japanese Pioneer section was very nicely done, including a terrific documentation of the internment. This place is a must-see if you are ever in the Imperial Valley.

What does a historical society do and why should I join?

Our JAHSSD is involved in numerous activities: searching for a museum site, supporting the Asian Pacific Island Heritage District as it defines old San Diego, presenting talks at schools, leading the preservation efforts of the Poston Relocation Center, collecting artifacts, cataloging the artifacts in our collections, creating exhibits and displays as requested, responding to inquiries from researchers around the world, and just generally recording the history of the Japanese American community as it happens. All this in addition to producing the best community newspaper in San Diego.

Many people were reminded during the fires that old mementos and pictures are very important and should be preserved. Make sure your records are in a safe place, and make copies of the old pictures. Please help us record the history of our San Diego Japanese American Community by donating a copy of your pictures to JAHSSD.

If you are a new or occasional reader of this newsletter and support our mission and activities, I urge you to become a member and join us in our preservation efforts.

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.

TOMIE COLE ~ July 19, 2003 TATSUO MAMIYA ~ August 30, 2003 YAEKO HAMABATA ~ Sept. 12, 2003 SUMIKO K. SABINA ~ Sept. 18, 2003 STEVEN KEN YAMAMOTO ~ Sept. 30, 2003 TOYOKO YONEKURA ~ Oct. 1, 2003 EMIKO LINHARDT ~ Oct. 14, 2003 SUE H. (HIRAI) ITO ~ Oct. 16, 2003 IAMES SHIGERU NISHIDA ~ Oct. 21, 2003 SALLY SUHAMA HOULETTE ~ Oct. 24, 1003 ARCHIE RUSGALA ~ Oct. 24, 2003 BEN TAKAO TSURUDOME ~ Oct. 24, 2003 JAMES SHOHARA ~ Oct. 26, 2003 SOLANGE SHOHARA ~ Oct. 26, 2003 RANDY SHOHARA ~ Oct. 26, 2003 LOUISE TSURUKO OSAKI ~ Oct. 27, 2003 Brig. Gen. IRVINE KIYOSHI YOKOYAMA ~ Oct. 27, 2003 IUDY NAOMI FUIISAKI ~ Nov. 1, 2003 NICHOLAS JOSEPH COLATARCI ~ Nov. 8, 2003

RECENT JAHSSD BOARD ACTIONS

Capital Building Fund Established

SUMIKO KATSUMI TYE ~ Nov. 11, 2003

KATHERINE S. DOI ~ Nov. 16, 2003

DANIEL YAMAGUCHI ~ Nov. 18, 2003

At its November board meeting, the directors of the JAHSSD voted to establish a capital building fund for the Society.

Recognizing the need for a designated building fund, the Board of Directors voted unanimously to direct our treasurer Bob Batchelder to establish such a fund to receives monies to be directed towards capital building projects.

Bylaw Change

The Board of Directors also voted to amend the Society bylaws relative to the number of seats on the board.

Acting on a recommendation by the Society's Nominating Committee, with the required 72-hour notice, and after a motion, second and discussion, the directors voted to increase the number of members on the board from 15 to 18.

The size of the board has been 15 since the Society was founded eleven years ago when our membership was just over 40. Now with a membership of over 400 and growing, it was felt that increasing the number of directors would facilitate bringing in representatives from other areas of the county and community constituencies.

The motion was adopted unanimously.

THOSE WHO SERVE SALUTED continued from p. 1

Our second Kansha Award recipient has also been giving back and helping others for decades. **Mrs. Kiyo Kimura Ochi** is also a native San Diegan. Her early years were spent helping out on the family farm. After internment at Poston, Kiyo returned to San Diego, got married, and began her career in finance. Kiyo has been active in the San Diego Gardeners Association, as well as the Friendship Garden and Kiku Gardens. She has also spent many years serving the JCC and the San Diego JACL.



Ron Kelley with Hideo and Kiyo Ochi

Accepting the award on her mother's behalf, **Holly Hidinger** said Kiyo "was surprised and very grateful."

The presentation to our third recipient, **Harold Kuhn**, has been postponed till next year's annual meeting. Harold was at a long-planned reunion and unable to attend this celebration.

Ron Kelley presented the Kansha recipients with a letter of commendation from San Diego County Board of Supervisors.

The contributions of outgoing Membership Chair, **Yukio Kawamoto**, were also acknowledged by both our President and the MC. Yuki, a founding member of the Society, has served on the board since its inception with the support of his wife, **Mitsuko**, also an active and dedicated Society member. Yuki's handcrafted Kansha Award plaques are a treasure in themselves.

The program closed with a brisk and generous raffle prize drawing with many fun prizes given out by **Jeanne Elyea** and her helpers.

As the JAHSSD looks to a new new year, we are reminded that service to others can take many forms. May we continue to "serve"—each in his own way—to make our communities and our country a better place for all.

CORRECTIONS to the FALL 2003 ISSUE

- In the "Community FYI." the information given on ordering Fred Hosaka's book Shortchanged in America is outdated according to his son, Wayne Hosaka Mr. Hosaka passed away some years ago. All copies of his book were sold and no reprinting is planned.
- In the "Caught Doing Something" photo caption, **Duane Siefers** name is misspelled:

The Editor apologizes for and regrets the errors

CAUGHT DOING SOMETHING NICE

What our Society has become in 11 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 *Footprints*, we like to recognize and express our gratitude to folks who have helped us out.

We want to thank Society member and retired San Diego librarian **Rhoda Kruse** for her donation of Nikkei-themed books to our library. Rhoda is a master book sleuth who unerringly ferrets out and purchases Nikkei classics at used book sales, and donates them to our collection. Thank you, Rhoda, and please keep up the good work.

In September and October, our Society had the opportunity to exhibit artifacts from our collection at the **Bonita Historical Museum**. We thank the museum's board of directors for offering us five weeks of exhibit space to tell the story of the Nikkei experience in the South Bay. **Vicky DeLong**, the museum's director, was especially helpful with the exhibit and opening reception which was attended by an enthusiastic group of over 75 people. Thanks, Vicky, it was great working with you and your team of volunteers.

Any successful exhibit is the result of the labors of many volunteers. The anchor of our Bonita exhibit was the camp room designed and constructed by Frank Wada. Frank turned out his able crew to get the room up. They were: Hank Wada, Laureen Wada, Kaureen Kobayashi, Glenn Kobayashi, Janet Kobayashi, Bill Elyea, Jeanne Elyea, Les Tachiki, Ben Segawa, and Don and Carol Estes.

Our experienced and dedicated exhibit installation and tear-down crew included Naomi and Mich Himaka, Mits and Yukio Kawamoto, Grace and Ben Segawa, Gwen Momita, Mike Jury, and Carol and Don Estes. A special vote of thanks to Carol who also provided a homemade Japanese lunch for everyone.

Adding to the appeal of the exhibit was the quality of the items on display. Our exhibit at Bonita was further enhanced by the loan of artifacts from Jeanne and Bill Elyea, Akiko and Ken Matsumoto, Ray Mayeda, Tom Nakada, and Jay and Mari Sato. Thank you all, collectively and individually, for all your efforts in creating and supporting a highly successful exhibit.

Another sign of the health of our Society came at this year's annual meeting where 170 members and friends gathered at the Buddhist Temple of San Diego. The beautiful Kansha Award plaques presented this year are handcrafted for us by **Yukio Kawamoto**.

We want to acknowledge and thank our engaging guest speaker, **Bob Wada**, who drove down from Los Angeles to inspire us with his story of Nikkei service in World War II, the Korean War, and Vietnam. Bob very generously donated his honorarium to our newly-established **San Diego Nikkei Veterans Memorial Monument Committee**.

Our thanks and sincere appreciation also go to the **When's Lunch? Bunch** who worked long hours to create all those beautiful gifts seen at the meeting. The ladies sold \$1,500 worth of handcrafted items which they donated to the JAHSSD. The When's Lunch? Bunch earmarked \$750 of their donation for the Society's oral history program.

As always, we are deeply indebted to our members and friends who supplemented our collection of artifacts at the annual meeting exhibit which honored Nikkei veterans. Loans from Mari Kowase, who provided her husband Harry's complete 442nd uniform; Jim Matsumoto, who loaned photographs and documents; Mitzi Tanaka's loan of her husband Bert's Silver Star Medal, along with photographs and supporting documents; and Frank Wada's extensive photo, newspapers, World War II souvenir and memorabilia collection. Don Estes

planned the exhibit and oversaw its mounting. All these contributions helped make for an outstanding display for our guests.

We thank **Ron Kelley**, representing the County Board of Supervisors District One, who presented each Kansha Awardee with a Letter of Commendation. We also wish to recognize the attendance of a delegation from the **Japanese Association of Ensenada**, Baja California, headed by Señor **Yukio Nishikawa**. Señor Nishikawa is chairman of an all-Mexico Nikkei Conference to be held in Ensenada next July and to which we are all invited. Watch for details in the Spring Issue.

Special recognition and thanks to **Keidan Floral Design** for the lovely table center pieces; **Ichiban Restaurant of Hillcrest** for door prizes and their continuing to support our organization by keeping the cost of our luncheon obento reasonable; **Bill Elyea**, who once again made sure that 150-plus obento lunches got from Ichiban to the luncheon on time and intact; and to **Tommy and Sumi Yanagihara** for their continuing support.

As always, we thank the **Buddhist Temple of San Diego** board and membership for co-sponsorship of this event and use of their Annex.

Two individuals among many stand out: **Mich Himaka**, our star master of ceremonies, and **Jeanne Elyea**, our behind-the-scenes director who makes sure everything comes together for our members and guests.

Finally, our thanks to the members of the JAHSSD board and their families who spent a lot of extra hours planning and producing the program, taking care of the registration, working the kitchen, serving the obentos and tea, providing door prizes, setting up and tearing down the hall, and cleaning up, leaving the Annex ready for its next activity.

IN GRATITUDE

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

Anonymous

Yoshiko Kuyama Shizue Maruyama Emiko Obayashi Joanne Oppenheim (in the name of Itsuzo Endo Higashioka). Margaret Ishino Richard "Babe" Karasawa Ellen Aiko Kubo Chiyo Kusumoto Nakagawa Louise Ogawa Ben Segawa Ellen Yukawa Spink Elizabeth Kikuchi Yamada Joe Yamada Minoru Sakamoto Lois Fong Sakai Francis Tanaka, M.D. Ruth Takahashi Voorhies Bob Wada

Bob Wada Tom and Sumi Yanagihara Betty Yano

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Yukio Kawamoto, Membership Chair

Our membership continues to grow. New members who joined recently are: Robert Jr. and Teruko Brown, Joseph and Florence Enomoto, Harvey Itano, Dr. Yuri Kaneda, Fred and Mary Jane Katsumata, Theresa Mayeda, and Christina Pierson.

Renewing their memberships are: Frank and Jean Boyd, Nancy Cowser, Mary Doi, Kumao Estes, Matthew Estes, David Fujikawa, Sue Gerrish, Yoko Hashima, Don Choji Hibi, Osao and Setsuko Himaka, Masami Honda, Ralph and Avis Honda, Grace Igasaki, Miyoshi and Emi Ikeda, Chikaye Mary Itami, Rose Itano, Hiroko Ito, Sakiko Kada, Toshiko Kawasaki, Eiji Kiya, Helen Kodani, Kikuye Koga, James Matsumoto, Masako Matsuhara, George and Chiyoko Masumoto, Shizue Maruyama, Ken and Akiko Matsumoto, Linda McLemore, Chieko Moriyama, Kiyo Matsumoto.

Also renewing their memberships are: Ray Kuniteru Mayeda, Kiyoshi Nakamura, Glenn and Keiko Negoro, Oliver and Michi Nishimura, Emiko Obayashi, Dr. Ruth Okimoto and Marvin Lipinsky, Shig Oto, Kazuko Pintang, Susumu and Tami Satow, Laura Shimasaki, Mike and Mary Segawa, Pam Springer, Yukiko Sugiyama, Kimiye Tachiki, Les and Allyne Tachiki, Rev. A. Arthur and Kazumi Kay Takemoto, Jane Takeshita, Mitsue Tanaka, Steve and Aki Tomiyama, Masaharu and Grace Tsuida, Peggy Tsurudome, Kenneth Uyeda, Shizu Watanabe, Sheila Yagura, Mary Yamamoto, Mitsuye Yamamoto, Sachio and Irene Yamamoto, Shig and June Yamashita, James and Yuri Yamate, Alice Yano.

We thank all of you for you continued support. With Christmas and the holiday season upon us, please consider the gift of Society memberships to your relatives and friends.

POSTON RESTORATION CONFERENCE SETS SIGHTS

On Thursday, October 23, 2003, a group of 33 individuals from as far away as the San Francisco Bay area and Sacramento, met on the Colorado River Indian Reservation near Poston, Arizona. The conference was made a reality through support from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program, The National Trust for Historic Preservation, The Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT), and private individuals. The Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego acted as the nonprofit sponsor and fiscal agent.

The purpose of the conference was to fashion a shared vision for the establishment of an educational facility utilizing existing camp structures at the site of Camp I near the Poston Monument that would tell the story of the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) and the World War II Nikkei internees who were held at Poston.

Discussions were held October 23–25 on how best to initiate and fund the **Poston Restoration Project** which has been under discussion since the Poston Camp III reunion in 2000. Attending were members of the **CRIT Tribal Council**, residents of the reservation, and representatives of the Nikkei internee community, the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office, National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Parker Unified School District, and the University of Arizona.

Guided by professional facilitator **Tomi Nagai-Rothe**, the group experienced three intense days of frank discussions involving planning and strategy sessions which included field visits to the site of the proposed demonstration project at Camp I.



Poston Restoration Conference participants

By Saturday, working committees with meeting schedules had been established and the ground work for moving to the next stage in planning, funding and recruiting of volunteers for the enlarged project were determined. It was also decided to publish a second Poston Restoration newsletter to be distributed to interested individuals and groups.

Representing JAHSSD and Camp III at the conference were **Don Estes**, Professor of History; **Susan Hasegawa**, Professor of History; **Debbie Kawahara**, Professor of Psychology; **Ruth Okimoto**, CRIT Liaison to the Nikkei Community; and **Ben Segawa**, Camp III Representative.

35th ANNUAL MANZANAR PILGRIMAGE PLANNED IN APRIL

The **Manzanar Committee** has announced the 35th annual Manzanar Pilgrimage will be held April 24, 2004, to coincide with the grand opening of the **Manzanar National Historic Site Visitors Center and Park Headquarters**. Former Manzanar Camp internees will honored at the event.

Manzanar is located about 200 miles north of Los Angeles on Highway 395. During World War II, it housed 10,000 internees of Japanese ancestry, the majority of whom were from L.A. County.

Now under the jurisdiction of the **National Park Service**, Manzanar was established as a National Historic Site by Congress on the 50th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066, which authorized the military to remove 110,000 people of Japanese descent living on the West Coast, two-thirds of whom were American citizens.

The nonprofit, all-volunteer Manzanar Committee plans to self commemorative T-shirts and notecards to raise funds to support the annual pilgrimages. Contributions may also be sent to the Committee at 1566 Curran St., Los Angeles, CA 90026.

For additional information, visit www.manzanarcommittee.org or e-mail sueko@msn.com.

In a related announcement, the **National Park Service** has called off plans to restore the baseball diamond at the **Manzanar National Historic Site**. With preliminary approval only 14 months earlier by NPS Acting Regional Director **Arthur Eck**, a diverse group of volunteers raised the required funding and assembled a full crew to restore the baseball diamond themselves as soon as the green light was given. Many of these volunteers had grandparents who played on the original diamond, behind barbed wire, 60 years ago. However, Manzanar site superintendent **Frank Hays** stated that the National Park Service had decided against recommending the restoration of the diamond.

MY MOTHER'S GREAT ADVENTURE, Part III

by Sidney Shiroma

This is the third of four parts about Sidney's Okinawa-born mother. A native of Oahu, Hawaii, Sidney is a publisher residing in Rancho Bernardo (www.birkdalepublishing.com). We thank him for sharing his mother's story.

My mother was born on the island of Maui in 1920. When she was five, the family moved back to Okinawa. Most of the Japanese immigrants to Hawaii came with the intention of going back home when they had saved enough money. Few actually made the trip back home. Most of the Japanese immigrants worked in the cane fields. Back then they were paid 75 cents a day. Mom said her mother made extra money by taking on various cottage enterprises. She sold tofu to the other Japanese families living in the camp. They were able to live off of the money her mother made so they never had to touch the money her father made working in the cane fields. With this money they were able to return to Okinawa.

As a young girl my mother contracted rheumatic fever and I think almost died. The illness damaged her heart valves so that the heart muscle had to work extra hard pumping blood. Scarred by poor health, marriage in Okinawa would have been out of the question. When she was eighteen, she got a letter from her older brother who had just immigrated back to Hawaii. He asked mom to join him in Hawaii. Mom must have realized that this was her only chance for any kind of life. When I asked my mother why she left home to come back to Hawaii she replied shaking her head, "I thought to myself, I'm not going to stay around here." So at age 18 she immigrated back to Hawaii.

I can only wonder how Obaachan, my grandmother, developed the strength to allow her children to set off and start their own life. Allowing her children to go back to Hawaii to start a new life was tantamount to a permanent break of physical contact. But Obachan seems to have had a strong spiritual bond with her children that was not dependent upon physical proximity and was unbroken even by death.

When I lived in Tokyo, I met my cousin, Ryoko, the daughter of my mother's youngest sister. Her mother had died while she was still a child so Ryoko was raised by our grandmother. Before Okinawans switched over to the more modern Japanese practice of cremation of the dead, they used to lay out the body of the dead in the family mausoleum. Even today, in the Okinawan countryside you can see little concrete cottages doting the hillside. After an appropriate amount of time had passed, the family exhumed the body, cleaning off the bones of the deceased and placing them in a large earthen iar.

Ryoko told me when they exhumed the remains of her mother, she could vividly remember seeing our grandmother cleaning off the skull of her dead daughter. I knew without Ryoko saying anything that this ritual of devotion was carried out with a heart filled with love, undiminished by any feeling of horror or revulsion.

When my mother returned to Hawaii, some relatives helped her settle into her new life. They knew my mother had been seriously ill and were very concerned. They weren't sure whether she would be able to get on and had thought about sending her back. Perhaps they thought that coming to Hawaii on her own was impulsive, even frivolous. It was only years later after mom had died that my uncle told us that soon after she arrived in Hawaii, she went to see a doctor. The doctor confided in my uncle that my mother would unlikely live past forty and shouldn't have any children.

My mother lived to be 66 and had three children late in life.

~ Concludes next issue ~

STADIUM GAVE BIRTH TO SOME GREAT MEMORIES

by Ralph Honda

Ralph, a Society member, is a Scoreboard Editor for The San Diego Union-Tribune. His reminiscence about Qualcomm Stadium first appeared in the newspaper's "Staff Voices" column last October. We thank him for permission ro reprint it here.

For more than 35 seasons, I watched hundreds of games at the home of my beloved Padres. I called it my playground away from home.

Despite the fact the Padres have been in the bottom echelon of the standings for many of those years, the hometown nine is the team that I grew to love, with a passion. And the place where I watched my team play was San Diego/Jack Murphy/Qualcomm Stadium.

I can remember when Friars Road was a two-lane road—and farm land, dairies and rock guarries covered Mission Valley.

My dad would take me to ballgames in the cozy confines of Westgate Park to watch the Class AAA Padres of the Pacific Coast League. The 9,000-seat ballpark once stood where Fashion Valley shopping mall is today.

At the end of the 1967 season, the Padres departed Westgate Park and headed east to a new state-of-the-art, multipurpose 50,000-seat stadium.

My first Padres game at San Diego Stadium was in 1968. Although I do not remember the Padres opponent or the final score, my most vivid memory was the vast number of empty seats.

Then, in 1969, the Padres went major league. I was in attendance for the franchise opener on April 8. I stood up and cheered when second baseman Roberto Peña, who the season before played for the PCL Padres, was the only player I recognized. I had heard of Ollie Brown, Dick Selma and Tony Gonzalez. But Peña was the only player I actually saw play before 1969. He was my original Padres hero.

If there ever were a "signature scene," it would have to have been the view looking east out of the horseshoe stadium. The serenity of east Mission Valley, Cowles Mountain and beyond was breathtaking. Sitting in the upper deck, one could enjoy the panoramic beauty the stadium had to offer.

There used to be 12 flagpoles posted beyond the outfield wall. Six on each side of the scoreboard. The poles represented the NL West and East divisions. Before each ballgame, fans could check the flagpoles and view the division standings at the start of the day. The beauty and nostalgia were lost when the stadium was enclosed.

The moment I will always cherish occurred Aug. 30, 1999. The Padres were hosting Sammy Sosa and the Chicago Cubs.

My wife was expecting our first child. Her due date was Aug. 31. We had tickets for the game, and I was hesitant about attending. My wife was determined to go.

"What if you go into labor in the fifth inning?" I asked.

"Don't worry," she said. "Everything will be just fine. Let's go enjoy ourselves."

My wife cheered every good Padres play and was even louder when the Cubs made an out. While she was having a great time, I sat there worried that we were going to have our child delivered on the Club Level instead of a maternity ward.

In the sixth inning, Padres second baseman Quilvio Veras hits a double, driving in two runs to tie the game. My wife, along with the rest of the crowd, was ecstatic, I was miserable.

At the end of the inning my wife turned to me and said, "I'm feeling more movement from the baby."

I suggested we leave immediately. I was overruled.

The Padres ended up winning 8 to 4. For me, it was a sigh of relief. As we were walking out to our car, my wife cried out, "I think it's time!" That was it. We headed directly to Sharp Mary Birch Hospital.

Our son was born the next day. Three weeks later, we introduced him to his first ball game.

My family was in attendance last Sunday when en era closed another chapter in Padres history. During the game, I kept score and reminisced. As the game neared its conclusion, I could not find a dry eye around. Mine included.

At 5:11 p.m., it was over.

As we departed, my son turned and looked toward the edifice and said, "Goodbye, Qualcomm Stadium."

Next season, Ralph, his wife Avis, and four-year-old Breven will watch the Pads from the stands in brand-new Petco Park. We look forward to someday reading Breven's own reminiscences of the baseball moments he's now enjoying.

A VISIT TO THE JAPANESE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF SAN JOSE

by Yukio Kawamoto

During our visit to the Bay Area in September, our son, Jon, his wife, Carrie, and their two daughters, Mia and Carly, took us to a great little museum, the Japanese American Museum of San Jose (JAMsj), located in the Japantown section of San Jose.

The museum began in the early 1980s as a research project on Japanese American farmers in the Santa Clara Valley. The family histories, vintage photographs, and other archival material collected for the project became the basis for the establishment of what eventually evolved into the Japanese American Museum of San Jose. The museum is housed in a remodeled residential building which a predecessor organization was able to purchase through a donation by a generous donor.

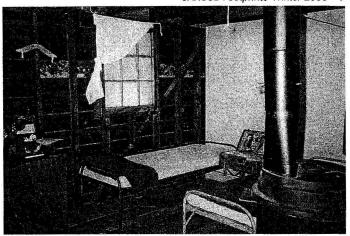
Various rooms in the museum are devoted to exhibits such as: Prewar San Jose Nihonmachi; prewar and war-time Japanese American baseball; the 442nd Regimental Combat Team; the Military Intelligence Service; assembly centers and internment camps; and the Community Youth Service (a sports and dance organization). Two buildings behind the main building house an exhibit of turn-of-the-century farm equipment used by Issei agricultural pioneers in the Santa Clara Valley area.

The current featured exhibit is called "1942: Luggage from Home to Camp." The exhibit displays six suitcases that their owners took to camp and tells the story of what they took to camp and their experiences during and after WWII.

David M. Sakai, owner of the one of the six suitcases: "I had six days to get ready. My destination was the Santa Anita Assembly Center. I took two suitcases—a tan leather one my family had purchased in Salinas and a woven one bought in Yanai, Japan. I also had a small valise for toiletries, which I put along with my clothes inside the leather suitcase. In the other, I packed my diaries, playing cards, postcards, letters, fountain pens, my family album, and a second album of my college friends."

The exhibit is displayed in a replica of a typical camp barracks apartment, complete with army cots, army blankets, cloth partitions, and camp-made furniture.

I thank Aggie Idemoto, Vice President of the JAMsj and our docent guide, for a most interesting and exciting tour. Aggie was our own



Barracks display in "1942: Luggage from Home to Camp"

Susan Hasegawa's counterpart in the REgenerations Project for the San Jose area.

I encourage anyone visiting the San Jose area to stop in at JAMsj and take a look—it will be well worth your while.

The museum's address is 535 North Fifth Street, San Jose, CA 95112. Their website is www.jamsj.org.

Visiting the JAMsj rekindles JAHSSD's long-held dream of one day having a museum of our own. Any deep pockets out there?

JAHSSD SUPPORTS LOCAL EFFORTS, INCLUDING NIKKEI FILMFEST

- JAHSSD has joined Kiku Gardens Corp. and the San Diego Chapter of the JACL in co-sponsoring the NIKKEI FILMFEST on Jan. 24, 1:30 p.m. at Southwestern College's Mayan Auditorium. Three prize-winning films will be featured: Sleeping Tigers: The Asahi Baseball Story about the World War II Canadian baseball team; Nisei Farmer, a short film by Dean Yamada; and Shadowplay, an animation about the aftermath of the Hiroshima bombing. Sleeping Tigers won the Best Documentary Prize at the 2003 Asian American Film Festival. Tickets (\$15; \$3 for seniors) are available from Society board members. Proceeds from this event will benefit the National City VFW.
- JAHSSD is among several organizations aboard as Community Partners of "Chinese New Year at the Opera" which will take place January 30, 2004. The evening event includes a gala reception in Golden Hall preceding a performance of Puccini's *Turandot* by the San Diego Opera. Tickets for the performance range from \$60 to \$125; admittance to the special reception is included. Ticket and event information will soon be available through a link at www.jahssd.org, or by contacting Jennifer Gamez at 858/274-4898.
- In collaboration with General Manager **Tomoaki Ono** of the monthly *Lighthouse San Diego Magazine*, JAHSSD is providing the magazine a regular full-page feature highlighting San Diego Nikkei history. **Don Estes** is supplying the articles and selecting photos from the Society's archives to illustrate them. Mr. Ono says the *shin-lssei* population living and working in San Diego is interested in our community's stories. Our membership application is also included.

Lighthouse is produced by Asahi Shinbun, which puts out regional bi-weeklies aimed at the U.S. Japanese-speaking population. You can obtain your free copy at places like Mitsuwa and Nijiya Markets. Visit their web site at US-Lighthouse.com.

CHANKO-NABE

by Joyce Nabeta Teague

Walnuts and Covered Wagons

Over the years, I've learned that people who grew up eating *inari* sushi sometimes had a family nickname for the mound of su (vinegar)-flavored rice wrapped in the brown, sugar-and-soy-simmered fried tofu pouch. In our family, we call them walnuts. Others have fondly called them footballs, covered wagons, inarees, tofu balls, and even rabbit pellets! (Well, that would have to be one giant Japanese rabbit...)

I'm guessing because rice was cheap but the age expensive, and with seven mouths to feed, my mother tended to pack a generous amount of rice into the little age pouches so each one was a well-rounded mound. Thus the nickname "walnuts." Later when my siblings and I made inari with my Grandma Uyeno, she was aghast at the amount of rice we were stuffing into the age. She said the tofu skin should not be stretched thin, but remain slightly puckered and moist-looking. Still, a family loves whatever type they are accustomed to—whether big or skimpy, be they called walnuts or covered wagons, inari sushi has been a much-loved part of New Year's Day and other special gatherings for many Nikkei families.

The best *inari sushi* I ever ate was made by my brother-in-law Craig's maternal grandmother, Kura Hatauye. A short, slight lady with a brown wrinkled face and smiling, crinkly eyes, she was friendly and talkative and always seemed quite happy to be among other people, no matter what the occasion. I'd be standing in the hallway of the Buddhist Temple before the start of a service when I'd feel this tug on my sleeve, turn around and look down (and I'm 5' 1", so looking down on another adult is rare for me) to find Mrs. Hatauye, telling me something in Japanese which I rarely understood 100%, and to which I mostly nodded and said, "Oh? Uhuh, uhuh, uhuh..." as if my bobbing head would somehow increase my poor comprehension of whatever she was telling me so earnestly.

Mrs. Hatauye had an unusually deep, gutteral voice that was startling coming out of such a tiny person. She would start off, "Joycesan," and even if I bent down very close to try to catch her words, I have to confess they sounded rather like a rumbling train.

This was no fault of dear Mrs. Hatauye, for she was perfectly understandable to her Japanese-speaking friends. But because my Japanese comprehension is so poor, I was lucky to get even the gist of her message. She and I had many encounters like this where I would nod my head and say, "Uhuh, uhuh, uhuh," till she would eventually laugh and pat my arm and seem satisfied she had gotten her message across to me. I hope it doesn't sound as if I'm making fun, for I truly enjoyed these one-sided and mostly incomprehensible "conversations" and remember them and her with great fondness.

Anyway, Mrs. Hatauye made an especially succulent kind of *inari sushi* where she mixed slivers of cooked shiitake mushroom, carrots, and who-knows-what into the vinegared rice. This mixture was gently patted into each juicy and perfectly seasoned *age* pouch, creating her version of "footballs." She'd make a plateful of these for her family's special occasions. Once in a blue moon, there might be a handful of leftovers which my sister Jeanne, also a fan of Baa-chan Hatauye's *inari*, would take out to my parents' place after dinner. I might have eaten at most a total of four or five of these little treasures over the years. But like I said, best I ever tasted.

Some time after Mrs. Hatauye passed away, I learned that neither of her daughters had learned how to make her special *inari sushi*. So

the beloved recipe in her head and created with her hands for so many years was lost when she died.

Back around the late 80s, my mother began making notes whenever Grandma Uyeno made a traditional dish Mom herself did not know how to make. For anyone who's tried to write down a recipe being described by someone who doesn't use recipes or measuring devices, it is a guessing game at best. But at least you have a starting point for your own cooking experiments to try to recreate a favorite flavor.

After a couple of years of similar note-taking, my sisters and I typed up a booklet of favorite Nabeta dishes for everyone in the family, including Mom's versions of the special once-a-year New Year's dishes called *setchi ryori*. There's also a detailed description of how to make Mom's much-loved walnuts. Now every child and grandchild will be able to make walnuts for his or her grandchildren.

Walnuts? One can only wonder what new names the grandkids of our progeny will come up with!

THE PECAN SANTA

by Mitsuko Kawamoto

A Christmas tree decorated with colorful ornaments made by children, the sounds of Christmas carols, candy-filled red net stockings, and a Santa Claus who distributed gifts were all parts of this Christmas scene. I remember the excitement in the air, the happy sounds of children as they opened their gifts.

My gift was a book of paper dolls, which I thought was wonderful! A short play of the Christmas story performed by a group of children entertained everyone. It was the day my ears first heard the sounds of these Christmas carols that I love even to this day: "Joy to the World," "Silent Night," "Away in a Manger," "We Three Kings," and many others.

Although this sounds like an ordinary Christmas party, it was far from it. The year was probably 1943—World War II was in progress. This party, held in the Block 327 mess hall of Poston Camp, was given to provide the children in the block with holiday cheer. Gifts donated by the Quaker organization were sent in to us from the "outside" world.

Our Christmas tree ornaments were made by us kids. My ornament was a Santa made from the whole shell of a pecan nut. It had a little red hat, a face drawn with ink, and a fluffy white cotton beard.

This is one of my favorite Christmas memories. I remember the generosity of Quakers who sent gifts to us in camp, so I try to donate gifts to needy children every year.

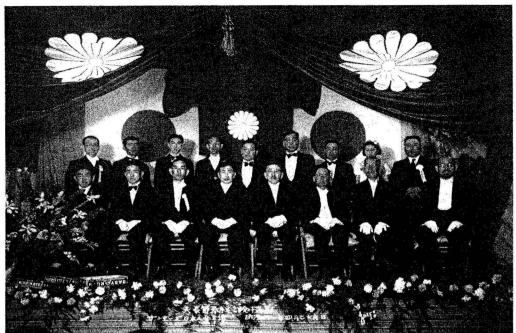
A MOMENT IN TIME: Classic Photos from the JAHSSD Archives by Don Estes

Dy Don Estes

They stare at us over a gulf of 67 years. Sitting and standing on the stage of what was then the San Diego Buddhist Church, looking not all that comfortable but still properly upright, wearing tuxedos or dark suits and white gloves. These were the leaders of local Nikkei community in 1936.

The occasion for the photograph was the local birthday celebration sponsored by the **San Diego Nihonjinkai** for the **Emperor Showa** (**Hirohito**). Every child attending the Emperor's party received a Baby Ruth candy bar, as the empty candy boxes on the left side of the stage testify.

Prior to World War II, virtually every community on the West Coast with a definable Japanese population, including San Diego, had a *nihonjinkai* or **Japanese Association**. Given the propensity for



reliance on group support and collective leadership found in Japanese culture, the emergence of these local organizations among the Issei is both understandable and normal.

Another imperative that resulted in the appearance of these *nihonjinkai*, particularly in California, was the increasingly anti-Japanese hostility that began to become apparent in the first decade of the 20th century and culminated in the World War II incarceration of all persons of Japanese ancestry on the West Coast..

It is clear from reading back issues of *The San Diego Union* that the local Japanese community had some organization as far back as 1887. The fact that members of the Issei community were invited to a reception for the officers and men of the *HIJMS Tsukuba*, the first Japanese naval vessel to visit San Diego, shows that even at that early period, the local Issei had some standing in the community. Subsequent visits by Japanese ships were always accompanied by receptions involving local Japanese businessmen.

It isn't until 1903, however, that there is any mention of a local Issei organization. In that year, the *San Diego City Directory* shows a "Japanese Club" and lists the club's president as **Joseph Sasemoto**. The same directory cites Sasemoto as a cook at the Public Health Quarantine Station on Point Loma. Joseph Sasemoto continues to be shown as president or sometimes manager until 1905 when the listings for the club disappear until 1907 when they reappear.

In 1909, *The San Diego Union* once again mentions the Japanese Club celebrating the birthday of the **Emperor Meiji** and that **Taju Ono** was the president with **T. Hayashi** as vice president. The club became affluent enough to hire a secretary between 1910 and 1913. During that period, the position was held by **Kiichi Eijima** whose name appears from time to time in *The Union*.

On August 23, 1909, the maritime merchant training ship *Taisei Maru* arrived in San Diego for the first of many visits the vessel would make over the next 50 years. They were welcomed by members of the Japanese Club, **Minetaro Takeyama**, **Ginnosuke Yuasa**, **Shijiro Shiba**, and **Kiichi Eijima**.

In 1913, the San Diego Japanese Association was incorporated by the State of California. The first board of directors included K. Hatashita, Shigenobu Imamura, K. Koshiba, T. Okusu, K. Sasaki, H. Tanaka, Jiro Tani, S. Totsuka, Kanji Watanabe, Yotaro Yamaguchi, and K. Nakamoto.

The San Diego Japanese Association, like other *nihonjinkai*, were from their inception an extension of the nearest Japanese consulate. These organizations acted as an economic and political voice for the Issei community. In addition, local newspaper files shows they also served as a point of contact for the Caucasian business and political elite.

The San Diego Nihonjinkai took an active role in promoting the 1915 Panama-California Exposition among Southern California Japanese. During the Exposition, a large and well-attended Japan Day that was completely organized and run by the local nihonjinkai was held on the Exposition grounds. By 1916, the San Diego Nihonjinkai was affiliated with the Central Japanese Association head-quartered in Los Angeles.

One of the major roles for the local association was the issuance of certificates required for Japanese immigrants visiting Japan who wished to return to America. These certificates were also necessary when calling family members to the United States, including "picture brides." The *nihonjinkai* charged fees (*shomeiken*) for these services, part of which were remitted to the Consulate they were responsible to.

The *nihonjinkai* also took the leadership in mobilizing community opposition to the alien land laws, immigration exclusion acts, and the restrictive fishing legislation emanating from the national and state governments.

The mass detention of the West Coast Nikkei in 1942 was a terminal experience from which the *nihonjinkai* never recovered.



From late 1942 through Spring 1943, Yutaka Kida worked in the mess hall of Block 330 at Poston Camp III. While there, he carefully maintained a record of the menus for the block. Here is the menu for Thanksgiving dinner, 1942.

THANKSGIVING DINNER 5.45 P.M.
CELERY PICKLE
CREAM CORN SOUP
ROAST TURKEY CELERY STUFFING
GILBERT IGIBLET? GRAVY
CRANBERRY SAUCE I
CANDIED SWEET POTATOES.
GREEN PEA
FRUIT JELLY SALAD
PUMPKIN PIE
WHIPPED CREAM
TEA BISCUIT BUTTER

ADD TO EACH PERSON: 1 GRAPEFRUIT: 1 ORANGE, 1 PEAR, 1 APPLE, 1 FRUITCAKE BANNERS + VEHICLES + WINDOW LETTERING + MAGNETIC SIGNS AND MUCH MORE...

OF SANTEE WISHES YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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We wish everyone
good health
and happiness
in this holiday season
and for
the coming year.



John and Tsune Hashiguchi

Remembering Our Heritage, We Wish One and All a Joyous Holiday Season in Memory of

> Mr. & Mrs. CHOSUKE HIMAKA Mr. & Mrs. TOYOTARO OKAMOTO Mr. CARL KADA

Sakiko Kada Mich, Naomi, Keith and Daniel Himaka

CONGRATOLATIONS JAHSSD

During this joyous holiday season, we look back at the past year with thanksgiving for our blessings, and look forward with faith and hope that 2004 will be filled with peace and good health for all.

Our best wishes to the
Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego
for eleven years of invaluable contributions to our community.
By preserving our past, you guarantee our history
will be remembered for generations to come.

Ben & Grace Segawa

Michael & Mary Segawa Christopher and Kelsey

Randall Segawa

Rev. Eric Segawa

Ken & Debra Kodama Jillian and Garrett

Wishing the Membership

of JAHSSD

A Safe and Happy Holiday Season



Best Wishes,
Robert Humphrey and Family

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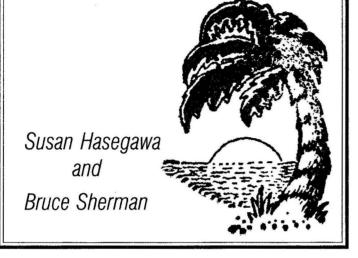
SEASON'S GREETINGS

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

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

Bill, Jeanne, William, Michael,
John, Breezi, and Charlee Elyea
Les, Allyne, Melinda and Justine Tachiki
Wende, Joe II, Joe III and Alex Tritcher
Linda, Roger and Coleen McLemore
Joyce, Tom, Tanya, Jimmy, Amy
and Nathaniel Kelly
Steve, Andrew and Mathew Marumoto

Mele Kalikimaka, Hauoli Maka Hiki Hou



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Shinobu and Vernon Yoshioka

SEASON'S GREETINGS



Best Wishes for a Happy, Healthy 2004 Kiyo Matsumoto

Happy Holidays!

We Wish You Every Happiness in 2004



Duane Siefers Gwen Momita



The
Fred Nabeta Family
Wishes All
A Happy, Healthy,
and Prosperous
New Year!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS to OREO BATCHELDER

(AKA Miss Kitty)



from your friend, JUSTINE TACHIKI



As we enter the Year of the Monkey

We wish you all

Health, Happiness and Prosperity.

Please remember always,

Ninjo ni kokkyo nashi

There are no boundaries to kindness.

Carol, Don, Matthew, and Kumao

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BEBEBEB

Holiday Greetings from the Kawamotos



Yuki and Mits Kawamoto



wishing you joy in the YEAR of the MONKEY



"Mizaru, Kikazaru, Iwazaru"

Bill & Joyce Teague
Asa & Jaime Enochs





SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL

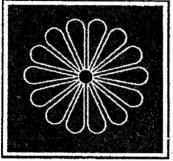
and may 2004
bring everyone—especially we
Monkey Year celebrants*—
much happiness, good health
and prosperity
throughout the year!

*Mich, Naomi, Keith and Daniel Himaka 2004 Woliday Greetings



Bob & Hisae Batchelder Masako Shima





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Season's Greetings
and Best Wishes
for a Wonderful 2004
from Your Friends
at Kiku Gardens

HAPPY HOLIDAYS and BEST WISHES in the COMING YEAR!



Japanese American Citizens League San Diego Chapter

To all of our longtime friends and gracious supporters from the community, have a wonderful holiday season and a healthy and very prosperous 2004!



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Veterans recently honored at Ocean View United Church of Christ



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