

FOOTPRINTS

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

The Newsletter for the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego



By the end of the 1920s, there was a thriving Nikkei colony of ten households on the island. The office of the Japanese Consul in Los Angeles reported over 50 adult Japanese working at various occupations in Coronado. (Continued on p. 5)

VOL. 13 NO. 1

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A MOMENT IN TIME:

Classic Photos from the JAHSSD Archives

by Don Estes

Coronado, that small gem across the bay from bustling rough-and-tumble San Diego, has had a Nikkei presence for just a shade over 120 years. In point of fact, the first identifiable Issei resident of San Diego County was "**Charles**" **Tanaka**, who came in 1887 to work on the construction of the Hotel del Coronado. Tanaka later moved from construction to making charcoal, and finally into the grand hotel's kitchen where he eventually became a cook.

Other Issei whose names are now lost followed Tanaka to Coronado to build the hotel and then move on to other occupations. Around 1904, **George Turner Marsh** built a Japanese Garden on the Silver Strand across from the Hotel del Coronado. The garden was replete with footpaths, which wound through summer houses, rustic shelters, a theatre, and teahouse. An Issei named "**Kay**" **Kodaira** quit his job as a busboy at the Hotel del Coronado and went to work for Marsh as a gardener. Kodaira later recruited other Japanese from around California to help maintain the garden and in doing so may unwittingly have been responsible for training the men who were going to be some of San Diego's first Japanese gardeners.

On January 4 and February 18, 1904, two storms pummeled Coronado's shoreline, destroying Marsh's Japanese Garden. Shortly after the storms, Marsh began working in conjunction with **John D. Spreckels** to build a new garden. The new garden would be open to the public until 1938 when the Copley family bought the property.

Coronado resident **Mrs. Haruyo Hatada** lived and worked at the garden in the 1920s, as did **Mrs. Shizue Koba**.

DATES TO REMEMBER

MARCH 3-5 – Inamori Foundation Kyoto Laureate Symposium

MARCH 6 – Buddhist Temple of San Diego (BTSD) BEC

Lecture by Rev. Tetsuo Unno (7 p.m.), free

MARCH 7 – BTSD Spring Ohigan Service (10 a.m.),

ABA Chow Mein Fundraiser (12 noon), \$5

MARCH 7 – OVUCC Communion Sunday Service and

Healing Service (10 a.m.)

MARCH 11 – Japan Foundation presents East Current Concert

Koto & Shakuhachi (6 p.m.), UCSD, \$6, K-12 students

free. 619/233-6873, jssdt@sbcglobal.net

MARCH 20 – VFW Post 4851 Fund Raiser Steak and Shrimp

Dinner (5 p.m.). Take out from 4:45 p.m. \$15. Order

tickets from the VFW Post 4851

MARCH 27 – OVUCC Women's Luncheon (12 noon), Marie

Callenders on 70th St.

MARCH 28 – BTSD-Vista Buddhist Temple Exchange (10 a.m.)

MARCH 28 – SDJCC, Sushi demo by Yumi Slinkard (12 p.m.)

APRIL 4 – OVUCC Palm Sunday (10 a.m.)

APRIL 4 – VFW Post 4851 Easter Egg Hunt (1-3 p.m.),

Morley Field, Balboa Park

APRIL 8 – SDJCC, Sunday School Easter Party (10 a.m.)

APRIL 8 – OVUCC Maundy Thursday Service (7 p.m.)

APRIL 9 – SDJCC, Good Friday Service (7 p.m.)

APRIL 11 – OVUCC Children's Easter Egg Hunt (8:30-9:30

a.m.). Full Breakfast hosted by Men's Fellowship (8:30-9:30),

Easter Sunday Service (10 a.m.)

APRIL 11 – SDJCC, Easter Sunrise Service (6:30 a.m.),

Easter Breakfast (7:15 a.m.), Easter Worship-Japanese

(9:15 a.m.), Easter Worship-English (10:30 a.m.)

APRIL 11 – BTSD Hanamatsuri Service (10 a.m.)

APRIL 18 – BTSD Annual Benefit Rib/Steak/Chicken

Luncheon (12 noon), eat in or take out, 619/239-0896

APRIL 24 – 35th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage,

www.manzanarcommittee.org; www.nps.gov/manz/home.htm

APRIL 24-25 – Vista Buddhist Temple Hanamatsuri Bazaar,

noon-6 p.m., free, 760/941-8800

APRIL 25 – SD JACL Scholarship Awards Luncheon (12 noon),

Tom Ham's Lighthouse Restaurant

MAY 2 – Haru no Matsuri: Spring Musical Celebration (4:30 p.m.)

Japanese Friendship Garden, \$25 donation, 619/232-2721

MAY 8-9 – Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Festival,

Balboa Park (President's Way at Park Blvd.), 858/565-6698

MAY 9 – OVUCC Mother's Day Service (10 a.m.)

MAY 15 – Imperial Valley JACL Friendship Dinner, Barbara

Worth Country Club, Holtville

MAY 16 – OVUCC All-church potluck farewell for Harold and

Kuniko Kuhn after Sunday service

MAY 16 – BTSD Fujimatsuri (Gotan-e) Service (10 a.m.)

MAY 31 – Interfaith JA Community Memorial Day Service,

Mt. Hope Cemetery (9:30 a.m.), Cypress View

Mausoleum Service (8:30 a.m.), Ft. Rosecrans (11 a.m.)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Vernon Yoshioka



Have you ever wondered how fortunate you are to live in San Diego and the Southern California area? I was thinking that a lot of circumstances and people have been instrumental in creating who I am and what I do. These of course include family and friends, times and places, thoughts and beliefs, and decisions and actions. In other words, we don't live in isolation, but share an interesting interchange with others. Sometimes we need to step back and look at where we have been, in order to discover who we are. We search the past for our roots, our ethnic heritage, and our culture. Much of this can be found in a category that is referred to as our history.

Our history as Japanese Americans, Americans of Japanese descent, or Nikkei, is very unique. It colors the way we think, what we believe, and how we act. It has influenced the way we have been treated, the possibilities that were available to us, and the way we have raised our children.

Of course, not everyone has been affected in the same way, thus there are numerous stories to be told. Most of us are not very good at writing, but there are a few good storytellers that we can relate with. It is a very good thing to have a place to share our thoughts, our deeds, and beliefs.

The Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego is just such a place. Our own place, where we can openly share many of these things. This is our place, where some of our treasures can be displayed to others who have similar experiences. Each story is unique, because in similar circumstances, each individual has made a personal decision on what action to take. We hope that you will take the time to record your own story, and share it with others through our organization. There are many younger people in our community who are looking for answers, just as many of us older folks did in years gone by. Help us to make it easier for them to find their stories.

With all this in mind, I will indulge myself as President and close on a personal note of thanks. In 1960, he greeted and welcomed me into San Diego and the Ocean View Congregational Church (now known as Ocean View UCC). In 1965, he was at my wedding, and later asked Shinobu and me to be the Godparents of his son. In 1970, he convinced me to join the San Diego JACL Board of Directors. In 2000, he talked me into serving on the JAHSSD Board of Directors. To a friend who has greatly influenced and enriched my life, I want to publicly thank Donald H. Estes, the San Diego Japanese American Community Historian.



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BOARD MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The following individuals were nominated to the JAHSSD Board of Directors for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2004: **Karen Kawasaki, Debra Kodama, Christina Pierson (new), Joyce Teague, Rev. Jim Yanagihara (new).**

The term of the following individuals expires on December 31, 2004: **Bob Batchelder, Jeanne Elyea, Susan Hasegawa, Michio Himaka, Naomi Himaka, Vernon Yoshioka.**

The term of the following individuals expires on December 31, 2005: **Nancy Cowser, Don Estes, Noriko Inoue, Gwen Momita, Ben Segawa.**

The following individuals were nominated to serve a one-year term as Society officers: **Vernon Yoshioka—President, Mich Himaka—Vice President, Bob Batchelder—Treasurer, Gwen Momita—Secretary, Don Estes—Historian, Naomi Himaka—Membership.**

The JAHSSD membership is encouraged to contact any Board member with suggestions for or concerns about the Society. Their telephone numbers are listed on the address page of this newsletter.

JAHSSD WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

by Gwen Momita

JAHSSD is happy to introduce our new board members: **Christina Pierson** and **Rev. Jim Yanagihara.**

Christina was born and raised in Southern California. She is a Certified Medical Assistant and Community Relations Director with Sharp Chula Vista and Grossmont Hospitals, with emphasis on Ear, Nose and Throat/Senior Citizen forums. Christina has a delightful young son, **Christopher.** She enjoys being with family, participating in Ocean View UCC events, as well as JACL and other community organizations.

During her youth, Christina vacationed every summer in Chula Vista with her cherished grandmother, **Asako Kobayashi Horita.** During these visits, Grandma shared colorful stories of growing up here in the downtown Japanese community once known as "Fish Camp." These early memories instilled in Christina a desire to learn about and to preserve the history of San Diego's Japanese community, and to "honor...the dedication of a people rich in culture and strength."

Jim Yanagihara, known fondly to many as Gopher, was born, raised, and educated in San Diego. His war years were spent in Poston III Internment Camp, followed by a short stay in Utah.

Jim's lifetime work has been dedicated to the Buddhist ministry. During his years of learning at the Institute of Buddhist Studies in Berkeley, Jim met and married **Patsy Tanaka** of Fowler. Together they traveled to the Ryukoku University in Japan, where their son, **Dale (Boku),** was born. Jim was ordained in 1970, and returned to the U.S. to begin his ministry. For 29 years, Jim and Patsy faithfully served in many temples throughout the State of California, including Gardena, San Jose, San Luis Obispo/Guadalupe, and Watsonville.

Jim was fascinated by the Nikkei history of the communities he served. This fascination heightened the desire to know more about his own *furosato* San Diego.

We are delighted to have both Christina and Rev. Jim on our Board. We look forward to, and are grateful for, the new energy and insight they bring us.

LIZ YAMADA NAMED "WOMAN OF THE YEAR" BY NATIONAL GROUP

by Mich Himaka

Elizabeth Y. Yamada was named The Charter One Hundred "Woman of the Year" for 2004 at the professional women's organization's annual holiday party held Dec. 7, 2003. Membership in The Charter One Hundred is by invitation only for women who have contributed to their community through philanthropy and activities.

The wife of prominent Nikkei landscape architect **Joe Yamada,** Liz has been active in numerous national cultural, arts and civic organizations as well as organizations in California and in San Diego.

Liz was formerly a partner in the landscape architect firm of Wimmer, Yamada and Caughey, which designed a number of highly visible landscape projects in San Diego, including the Embarcadero Marina Park, the original UCSD master plan, and the Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista.

Her volunteer work involved working with the Family Literacy Foundation; the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation in Washington, D.C.; the Japanese American National Museum Board of Governors; the San Diego Foundation Board of Governors; the UCSD Board of Overseers; and the board overseeing the redevelopment of the former Naval Training Center. Liz is also serving as The Charter One Hundred's recording secretary this year.

In citing Liz's many accomplishments, the organization said, "Liz is a very deserving recipient of this prestigious award. Liz has a B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley (where she was Phi Beta Kappa) with a California Secondary Teaching Credential and taught for many years at her high school alma mater, San Diego High School."

Liz currently serves on numerous boards and committees, including The Charter One Hundred board, the Naval Training Center Arts and Culture Foundation, the Japanese American National Museum board of governors, San Diego State University Department of Professional Studies and Fine Arts Advisory Committee, vice chairperson of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, the San Diego Foundation, and the UCSD Board of Overseers. She also is a past member of the San Diego City Arts and Culture Commission and the San Diego Parks and Recreation Design and Review Board.

"Most awards are a surprise and for me, the 'Woman of the Year' honor was one I had not even considered," she said.

"So thank you for acknowledging my contributions which, though not major, have been steadfast in my love of our community with the hope that each of us can help to improve the quality of life for everyone."

Congratulations, Liz, on receiving this great honor. We also thank you for putting forth the cause, not only of Asian women in the community, but our Nikkei community by serving in the many capacities you have in the San Diego community as a whole.

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CAUGHT DOING SOMETHING NICE

What would we do without each of you—our members and friends? In every issue of *Footprints*, we like to recognize and express our gratitude to the folks who helped us out during this past quarter.

Ray Mayeda of Torrance, whose uncle was the pioneer San Diego Issei photographer **Masashi Shimotsusa**, has donated to our collection another historic photograph of pre-World War II Nikkei living in Coronado. Ray's wife **Theresa** really helped us out by producing a beautiful sketch of the photograph, which Ray and his friends then used to identify most of the people in the photograph. Ray was also kind enough to write for this issue an article on pre-World War II Nisei who attended Coronado High School. As always, thanks Ray.

Early last year, **Rio Imamura** sent us his remembrance of the late **Clara Breed**, the San Diego librarian whom he came to know during the almost-two decades he lived and worked in San Diego for **Kyocera International, Inc.** His story finally appears in this issue. Rio is a JAHSSD Charter Life Member who receives and reads his copy of *Footprints* in Kitakyushu, Japan, where he and his wife now reside. Thanks very much, Rio!

Mary Itami, who has also donated a number of photos to our archive in the past, has again donated a very fine photograph of pioneer Issei farm laborers in Chula Vista that dates from the second decade of the Twentieth Century. We continue to appreciate Mary's strong support.

Speaking of photographs, **Jeanne Marumoto Elyea** has donated to our collection two pre-World War II photographs of the South Bay taken on her family farm. Thank you Jeanne, we appreciate all you do for the Society.

We had a surprise call from **Lisa Duclo** who is an exhibit preparator at the San Diego Museum of Art. Through the good offices of Lisa, her boss **Paul Brewin**, and the Museum of Art, we received a dozen hand-crafted stands that had been used in the museum's recent exhibit of Noh robes. We'll be using the stands for our kimono and yukata collection. Our appreciation to the **San Diego Museum of Art**.

The reference library of the Society is richer by the donation of two books we have recently received. **Tom and Betty Hashimoto** of El Cajon kindly donated a copy of *Confinement and Ethnicity: An Overview of World War II Japanese American Relocation Sites*. Published by the Department of the Interior in 1999, the work has already risen to being a classic report on the camps, which we are pleased to add to our collection.

Thanks also to **Mas and Marsha Hashimoto** of Victorville for donating a personalized and autographed copy of **Jack Matsuoka's** new book, *Poston Camp II, Block 211*. Jack, a well-respected cartoonist, is perhaps known to many as the editorial cartoonist for the National Japanese American Citizens League's newspaper, *Pacific Citizen*.

Another of those phone calls we love to get came in late January when **Emi Obayashi** and **Marylou Seki** offered to donate a large number of historic photographs, negatives, and paper ephemera that dated back to the time of **Mr. Uichiro Obayashi** and his wife **Suye**. A stand-out item in a collection of outstanding pieces is the framed license issued to **Suye Obayashi**, allowing her to practice midwifery in California. The certificate was issued July 11, 1918. There are members of the community still living who were delivered by Mrs. Obayashi. Our grateful thanks for this wonderful donation.

Helen Uyetanaka, aunt of JAHSSD member **Aki Tomiyama**, has generously donated two U.S. Army wool blankets that were issued to **Nobutaka Ikamu**, Aki's paternal grandfather, as his family was re-

leased from Tule Lake. We thank them for the addition of these valuable artifacts to our collection, and thank Aki for getting these items to us.

Our thanks also go to **Linda Canada** who has donated a beautiful wedding kimono that was presented to her when she visited Japan in 1989. It is the outer robe of the traditional wedding ensemble with embroidered wedding motifs. The robe is a welcome addition to our collection. You may remember that Linda was a great help to us when we presented our exhibit, "The 100 Year Road" at the Museum of San Diego History in 1996.

Acknowledgment of all the people who assured the success of the **First Annual Nikkei Filmfest**, held January 24 at Southwestern College, deserves a separate space! (In fact, see separate article and sponsor list on pp. 10 and 20.) We sincerely thank members of our Board, who took the lead in ticket sales, selling many more than our original allotment.

JAHSSD members and friends who helped at the January 24 screening were: **Mich and Naomi Himaka**, **Chiz Imoto**, **Debra Kodama**, **Jilly Kodama**, **Stacy Momita**, **Christina Pierson**, **Christopher Pierson**, **Ben Segawa** and **Ruth Voorhies** (ushers); **Nancy Cowser**, **Dale Inahara**, **Gwen Momita**, **Christina Pierson**, **Karen Tani**, **Joyce Teague** (lobby); **Bill and Jeanne Elyea**, **Bill Teague** (parking); and **Debra Kodama**, **Jilly Kodama**, **Jeanne Elyea**, **Gwen Momita**, and **Vernon Yoshioka** (information and video sales).

The following friends at **Kiku Gardens** prepared and served the tasty refreshments at the post-screening reception: **Kyoko Meinhardt**, **Fusako Trinkle**, **Misako Parrent** and **Hiro Sawasaki**.

Other helpers at the reception were **Chiz Imoto**, **Jeanne Elyea**, **Ruth Voorhies**, and **Mich & Naomi Himaka**. **Paper Pushers Editorial Services** and **LuAnn Lee** donated the beautifully-decorated and delicious nut-crust sheet cake baked by LuAnn. We'd also like to thank Kiku Gardens' office staffer **Lily Warner** who fielded Filmfest questions and handled phone reservations.

E.Y.I.: LOCAL API MEDIA

Publishers **Barbara Yorobe** of the bi-monthly news magazine *AsianReader* and **Len Novarro** and **Rosalynn Carmen** of the twice-monthly newspaper *Asia the Journal of Culture and Commerce*, have welcomed contributions from members of our organization since they each began putting out their papers over a year ago. Both publications routinely publicize our events as well as those of other local J.A. organizations and consciously seek to include stories of interest to the Nikkei community.

A leap from ethnic-specific newspapers printed in various native languages, these two relatively "new kids on the block" aim to serve and inform the entire English-speaking Asian Pacific Islander community, an ambitious task. As a result, you'll find stories on people and events you won't find anywhere else—except maybe in *Footprints*!

As examples of their commitment to both working with and informing our community, Rosalynn Carmen of *Asia Journal* has become a JAHSSD member. *AsianReader* now advertises in *Footprints*. The February-March issue of *AsianReader* features an interview with **Ruth Takahashi Voorhies** timed to coincide with the Day of Remembrance observance. A profile of your own *Footprints* Editor is set to appear this month in *Asia Journal*.

Pick up a copy of these free publications and expand your world. They appreciate and deserve our support. See *AsianReader's* ad on p. 2 for contact information. To find a list of where and when you can pick up *Asia Journal*, go to asiamediasandiego.com or call 619/521-8008.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Naomi M. Himaka, Membership Chair

After almost six years as our membership chairman, **Yukio Kawamoto** has stepped down and handed those chores over to me. Following in his footsteps will be very difficult, but I've promised to give it a try. For his patience in trying to teach me the ropes, I thank him very much. I can tell you right now that this is not an easy job. Thank you, Yuki, for your loyal service to the organization.

Meanwhile, our membership continues to grow. We welcome and thank our newest Life Members, **George Jr. and Gail Furuya**.

Welcome also to our recent new members: **Tak and Ruth Fukuchi**, **Rev. Akira Hata**, **Kinji Iwasaki**, **Jeanie A. Kashima**, **Theresa Imiko Mayeda**, **Janet Ochi-Fontanott**, **Shirley Ochi-Watson**, **Sophia Takeda**, **Yoto Takeshita**, **Kay (Miyashita) Yamamoto**, and **Saori Yusa**.

Tak and Ruth Fukuchi's memberships are a gift from **Steve Sato**. **Rev. Hata's** membership is a gift "with gratitude from an anonymous Dharma Friend." **Shirley Ochi-Watson's** membership is a gift from **Janet Ochi-Fontanott**. **Sophia Takeda's** membership is a gift from **Amy Kaneyuki**; **Yoto Takeshita's** membership is a gift from **Sam and Pat Takeshita**; **Kay Yamamoto's** membership is a gift from **Kiyo Uda**; and **Kinji Iwasaki's** membership is a gift from **Bob Batchelder**.

Renewing their memberships are: **Sakiko Kada**, **Mitsue Tanaka**, **Ray Kuniteru Mayeda**, **Ruth Y. Okimoto** and **Marvin Lipofsky**, **Don Choji Hibi**, **Takashi Mayumi**, **Art and Judy Hibi**, **Florence Yamashita**, **Mitsuo Tomita**, **Rose Y. Watamura**, **Michael Okuma**, **Jean Okazaki**, **Richard and Susan Namba**, **Charles and Jane Ogino**, **Jon Kawamoto** and **Carrie Ware Kawamoto**, **Ford and Terri Omori**, **Miki Honda**, **Holly and Ronald Hiding**, **Chizuko Shinzaki**, **Fred Y. Nakatani**, **Shirley Omori**, **George and Sakiko Sekiguchi**, **Michiko Okuma**, **Kuniko Nishimura**, **Fusa Shimizu**, **Roy and Aiko Muraoka**, **Sud (Ruth) Morishita**, **Mary Iguchi** and **Kimie Kaneyuki**.

Also renewing their memberships are: **Robin Shimasaki**, **Roy and Susan Yonekura**, **Ken and Judy Miyamoto**, **Harold and Kuniko Kuhn**, **Tetsuo and Sasako Himaka**, **Kiku Kawamoto**, **Louise Iguchi**, **Grace Seki**, **Tomi Morimoto**, **Yoshio Matsumoto**, **E. Liz Suhama**, **Martin Lloyd and Emiko Ito**, **Joseph and Noriko Correia**, **Vernon and Shinobu Yoshioka**, **Osa and Setsuko Himaka**, **Kenji and Carol Ii**, and **Taka and Beverly Sawasaki**.

Additional renewals: **Kathleen and Robert Lui**, **Chiyo Nakagawa**, **Taye Hashiguchi**, **Takeko Wakiji**, **Audrey Mizokami**, **Joe and Elizabeth Yamada**, **Isamu (Ed) and Michi Akamatsu**, **Connie Taniguchi**, **Kenneth and Katherine Koba**, **Iwao and Mary Ishino**, **Ann Tsuchiyama Carlin**, **Frank and Tami Kinoshita**, **Don and Hanako Konishi**, **Fudo Takagi**, **Isamu and Pauline Nakamura**, **Todd Himaka**, **Jeanette M. Dutton**, **Machi Uchida**, and **Kikuo and Beni Takahashi**.

A MOMENT IN TIME continued from p. 1

In a 1974 interview, **Zenbei Iwashita** remembered that most of the people working at Hotel del Coronado were from Kagoshima-ken. In the interview, he stated that the people working at the hotel lived around here [Coronado]. **Mr. Yuda** lived close by. Maybe you know **Haruyuki Koba**? The Kobas used to live on Margarita inside of the bay. The **Takeshitas** lived on Guadalupe. **Motoo Tsuneyoshi** used to live down on "G" Street. People from Kagoshima dominated the Japanese population here. Most came from the Kajiki area.

In 1940, the Japanese Consulate reported that there were 16 households on the island, but with the outbreak of war, all that was to change.

Shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, local Japanese families drew up and signed a resolution, which they presented to the City Council.

The text read:

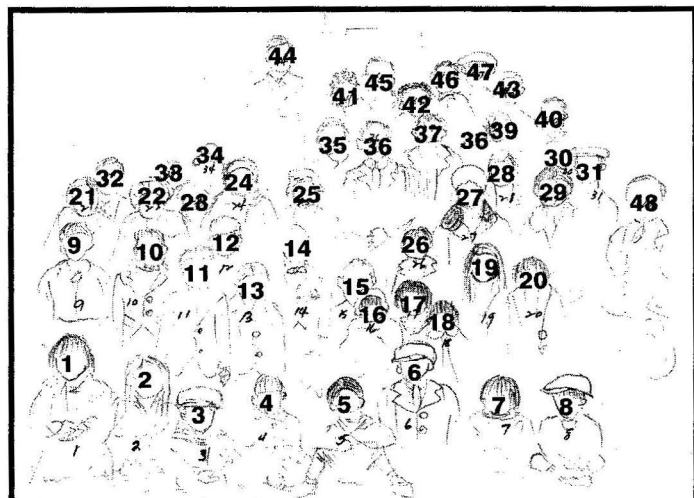
Whereas, we being resident aliens of the country and community for the greater part of our lives, and being parents of American citizens, do hereby pledge our resources, our children, and our lives towards the victorious conclusion of the war upon the Axis nations.

Furthermore, we pledge our wholehearted support towards civil ian defense, Red Cross and all city, county and national agencies devoted to national unity and defense.

The resolution was signed by: **Masanori Tom Koba**, 962 Margarita; **Ikuyo Takeshita**, 685 Guadalupe; **Masaichi Tom Tanaka**, 769 "J"; **Zenbei (James) Iwashita**, 662 Margarita; **Kunitomo (George) Mayeda**, 131 Orange; **Keitara Karamoto**, 614 Third Street; **Harry Tateyama**, 1156 Isabella; **Sadahiko Takeshita**, 1109 1/2 "F"; **Benson Iwata**, 2036 Logan Avenue, San Diego; **Iwaguma Tsuneyoshi**, 640 "J"; **Mrs. Francis Mayeda**, 765 Alameda; **Harusuke Harry Hori**, c/o Hotel del Coronado; **Mrs. Haruyo Hatada**, 275 "C"; **Shigeru Sugita**, P.O. Box 281, Coronado; **Masahiko Koba**, 464 "H"; and **K. Katsumata**, 534 Island Avenue, San Diego.

Later, students at Coronado High School made a flag with the names of over 200 of its graduates who had joined the armed forces. Among the names were those of **Katsumi Koba**, **Haruki Koba**, **Masa Koba**, and **Yo Koba**.

Today the Japanese garden is gone, but a few of the pioneer families still live or own property in Coronado.



*With the assistance of **Midori (Koba) Koga**, a long time resident of Coronado, **Ray Kuniteru Maeda** and his sister **Yoko (Mayeda) Hashima**, identified the following individuals in the Moment in Time article, using the overlay above:*

1. [?] Fukushima 2. Mary Nagano 3. Akira Takeshita 4. Yoshito Koba
5. Takeshi Koba 6. [?] Fukushima 7. Midori (Koba) Koga 8. Sam Takeshita
9. Unknown 10. Hide Takeshita 11. Masa Koba 12. Haruki Koba 13. Katsumi Koba
14. Satoru Sato 15. Masanori Koba 16. Mary Koba 17. Moriko (Mayeda) Ikegami
18. Yoko (Mayeda) Hashima 19. Fusako Tsuneyoshi 20. Taeko Takeshita
21. Mrs. Matsumoto 22. Mine Takeshita (Centenarian) 23. Mrs. Nagao
24. Sada Tsuneyoshi 25. Shizue Koba 26. Ray Kuniteru Mayeda 27. Yoshi Mayeda
28. Mrs. Shirao 29. Mrs. Takeshita 30. Shinobu Takeshita 31. Ikuyo Takeshita (Centenarian)
32. Eizo Tateyama 33. [?] Fukushima 34. Mr. Fukushima
35. Unknown 36. Tokuzo Sato (Centenarian) 37. Kunitomo Mayeda 38. Kazue Koba
39. Ine Koba 40. Mr. Matsumoto 41. Kana Ono 42. Unknown
43. Iwaguma Tsuneyoshi 44. Mr. Takeshita 45. Mr. Nagano 46. Louis Fujii
47. Masahiko Koba 48. Mr. Tsumagari

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.

Avonnel L. Hayashi ~ October 2003

Albert Ichiro Saito ~ November 23, 2003

Elma Oda ~ Dec. 2003

Yoshiko Takenaga ~ December 4, 2004

Kimiko Boss ~ December 18, 2003

Kunio Anraku ~ December 23, 2003

Masako Bryson ~ January 6, 2004

Lucy Mitsuko "Micko" Kodama

January 11, 2004

Roy Kusumoto ~ January 18, 2004

Tadanobu Honma ~ January 19, 2004

Takako Yamanaka McCully ~ January 25, 2004

Shigekazu Matsushita ~ January 27, 2004

Florence Fumiko Ueno ~ Jan. 27, 2004

Jackoline Ann Shigehara ~ January 30, 2004

Carol Hisami Inouye ~ February 3, 2004

Kyoko McIntyre ~ February 15, 2004

PLANS FOR NIKKEI VETERANS MEMORIAL MOVE AHEAD

At the October 2003 Annual Meeting of the JAHSSD, Vice President Michio Himaka announced that an exploratory committee had been established to develop a plan for the design and location of a San Diego Nikkei Veterans Memorial.

The committee, co-chaired by **George Furuya** and **Ben Segawa**, has been meeting since May 2003. As planning has moved ahead, leaders of other community groups, including the San Diego JACL, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4851, and the Japanese Coordinating Council, have been kept informed of the committee's progress.

As design planning and funding strategies are refined, the committee plans to produce and distribute an informational brochure detailing the project for the general public. As presently envisioned, the monument would be located in the old Japanese section of San Diego's Mount Hope Cemetery, with dedication to take place in either May or November 2005.

442 UNIFORM DONATED

by Don Estes

On February 1, 2004, JAHSSD gratefully accepted the donation of the World War II uniform worn by **Harry Tamotsu Kowase** from his wife, **Mari Kowase**, and their daughter, **Donna Kowase McGuire**. Accepting the uniform on behalf of the Society was JAHSSD Secretary **Gwen Momita** and board member **Ben Segawa**.

Harry Kowase was born in 1918 and grew to adulthood in San Diego. As the United States prepared for war, Harry, at age 22, was drafted into the Army and ordered to report to Camp Roberts which is located north of the city of Paso Robles.

Trained as an infantryman, he was sent as a replacement to the **442nd Regimental Combat Team** then fighting in Europe. After shipping out, Harry saw action in both Italy and France.

Arriving in Europe, Harry was assigned to the 442's Second Battalion, "E" Company, Second Platoon, Second Squad. **Frank Wada** of Spring Valley, who was then serving in "E" Company, recalls that Harry arrived with other replacements including another San Diegan, **Harry Kawamoto**. Frank's first view of the two new men was across the company mess line. In short order, the three men became close friends.



Harry Kowase,
circa 1943

The "Ike" jacket that Harry wore carries two rows of ribbons including the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with three battle stars; the American Campaign Medal; The American Defense Medal; the World War II Victory Medal; the Good Conduct Medal; and the Purple Heart Medal awarded for wounds received in action at Bruyeres, France. The ribbons are capped by the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Harry Kowase's uniform is a tangible symbol of the service and sacrifice made by Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II. JAHSSD is proud that the Kowase and McGuire families have entrusted its preservation and use to our organization.

On behalf of the Society and the Nikkei community, we express our grateful thanks.

~ Contributing to this story were **Frank Wada** and **Ben Segawa**. ~



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BEFORE THE WAR

by Ray Kunitaru Mayeda

Coronado is a small town in southern San Diego County that faces the Pacific Ocean. Its population (28,700 in the year 2000), includes a number of wealthy families and high-ranking Naval officers.

I estimate that in the early 1910s, the Issei started working in Coronado and many became gardeners. When they married, their new wives often operated home laundries. The number of Nikkei living in Coronado did not experience a proportional growth when compared to the rest of the population in the period prior to World War II. The total number of Nisei attending Coronado High School (CHS) ranged annually from four to ten in the period 1936 to 1942. Despite their small numbers, the Nisei at CHS performed impressively in many aspects of high school life.

To support this belief with specific examples, I recently undertook a detailed review of the activities of Nisei attending CHS by surveying school annuals for the years 1936 through 1942. A summary of my review follows:

Haruki Koba was a superb athlete. In his senior year (1939), he earned varsity letters in football, basketball, track and tennis, and was selected to the All Metropolitan League football (as a quarterback) and basketball second teams.

Four other Nisei, **Minoru Hatada**, **Al Fugiyu Mayeda**, **Masa Kobayashi**, and **Hide Takeshita**, won varsity letters in football. In their senior year (1940-41), both **Minoru Hatada** and **Al Mayeda** were also selected to the All Metropolitan League football second team.

In his senior year (1940), **Minoru Hatada** was awarded other varsity letters in basketball and track.

"B" basketball lettermen were **Masa Koba**, **Yoshito Koba**, **Katsumi Koba**, **Sam Takeshita**, **Akira Takeshita**, and **Hide Takeshita**.

"B" and "C" track lettermen were **Katsumi Koba**, **Yoshito Koba**, **Sam Takeshita**, **Akira Takeshita**, and **Ray Kuni Mayeda**.

CHS records set by Nisei athletes in 1939 were: **Haruki Koba**, varsity high jump: 5 feet 10 1/2 inches. **Katsumi Koba**, "C" 100-yard dash: 10.5 seconds. **Katsumi Koba**, "C" 120-yard low hurdles: 14.1 seconds.

These were in addition to the Metropolitan League "C" record: **Yoshito Koba**, "C" broad jump: 20 feet 2 3/8 inches. **Katsumi** and **Yoshito Koba** and two others, "C" (4x100 yard) relay: 46.9 seconds.

In 1941, **Yoshito Koba** set a "B" CHS broad jump record of 20 feet 11 inches.

A measure of the strength and competition that the Nisei athletes faced can be seen in the fact that CHS was the Metropolitan League champion in the following sports in which these Nisei lettered and excelled: 1941 Varsity Football, 1939 and 1940 Varsity Basketball, 1939 Varsity Track (three-way tie), 1941 "B" Basketball, 1940 "B" track.

Other noteworthy items gleaned from the CHS annuals: In 1939, **Masa Koba** was elected the most popular boy at CHS in his senior year.

In 1941, **Ray Kuni Mayeda** was elected the student body treasurer for CHS. In 1941 and '42, he was a member of the CHS scholastic honor society, the California Scholarship Federation (CSF). Likewise, **Mieko Tanaka** and **Kazue Koba** joined him as members of the CSF in 1942.

Notwithstanding the fact that the parents of CHS Nisei were gardeners or home laundry operators who worked and served affluent Coronado residents prior to World War II, there appeared to be no overt discrimination against them, as the Nisei were well accepted by their CHS classmates.

The Nisei who attended Coronado High School prior to World War II were not mediocre students, and proved themselves outstanding in athletics, excellent scholastically, and very popular.

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

Jeanne Elyea

Lois Jong-Sakai

Masami Honda

Dr. Frank and Mrs. Sumiyo Kastelic

Joanne Oppenheim

Chizko E. Saito

Kiyo Uda

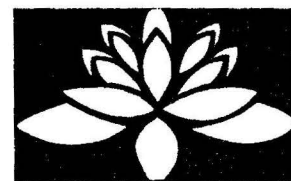
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AMERICANISM: Defining Citizenship in the Southern Blue Page (the second of two parts)

by Susan Hasegawa

In a 1936 essay contest sponsored by the American Legion, Point Loma High School student **May Sakamoto** won the first prize with an essay entitled "Americanism." Sakamoto described Americanism as a "deep loyalty and love of country in our hearts, not only because we are American citizens, but because we are attached to American ideals and government."

She went on to highlight Nikkei contributions to American society, including Nisei forming international clubs on school campuses and Issei actions of loyalty towards their adopted country through military service. Issei veterans of World War I had formed a "Japanese American Legion, the Perry Post." It was probably named after U.S. Commodore Matthew Perry, who "opened" Japan to the West in 1853-1854. Sakamoto pledged her unwavering patriotism to the United States and described the Nisei as a "mediator of two civilizations."

Nisei coming of age during the 1930s were creating their own definition of what it meant to be an American. Through the education system, Nisei learned about civics and government, but how this translated into their everyday lives and the evolving Japanese American community unfolded in the pages of the *Southern Blue Page*, a community-based newspaper serving the San Diego and Imperial Counties.



Typical Nisei youth during the period *Southern Blue Page* was in print

The paper highlighted the growing activism of San Diego Nisei who were involved at the national and local level of Japanese American politics. In the Summer of 1936, the San Diego Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) sent **Pol Nakadate** to the National Convention held in Seattle and he returned with a scathing report to the local cabinet. The local chapter in turn called for greater accountability of national finances and objected to the "expenses for national president traveling, the ex-secretary because details of the work of the officers were not explained." The San Diego cabinet issued an ominous threat to "drop out" if relevant information was not distributed in a timely manner from the national office. San Diegans such as **Pol Nakadate**, **George Ohashi**, and other cabinet members were outspoken in their criticism and demanded monthly financial statements at both the national and local level.

The issue of Nisei dual citizenship, Japanese and American, was a hot topic for the local JACL. President George Ohashi and other cabinet members pushed for Nisei to become totally American and give up their Japanese citizenship. All children of Japanese citizens were also considered citizens of Japan and had dual citizenship. Japan changed its law in 1924 so that Issei parents had to register their infant within 14 days of birth in order to obtain Japanese citizenship

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for the child. Furthermore, Nisei with dual citizenship could renounce their Japanese citizenship with the appropriate paperwork.

A June (1936) issue of the paper announced: "Mr. Y. Nakadate secretary of the local Japanese Association asked the members [JACL] wishing to cancel citizenship of Japan to bring their birth certificates and papers pertaining to immigration." Since dual citizenship was a factor in branding the Japanese American community as disloyal during World War II, it was prescient that young leaders urged citizens to cut official ties to the nation of Japan.

Concurrent to the local chapter attempts to influence national JACL policy, members focused on increasing membership and encouraging Nisei to vote. A statement in one article noted "not more than 12" Japanese American citizens were registered to vote in 1936. Nisei leaders realized the importance of voting as imperative in the political process. The local JACL organized regional membership campaigns and concentrated on Encinitas-Vista in April. By November 1936, JACL President George Ohashi was credited with recruiting over a hundred new members and assisting people in canceling their dual citizenship.

The New Year's edition of the *Southern Blue Page* was filled with the traditional congratulatory messages and numerous celebrations. The closing paragraphs of May Sakamoto's winning essay expressed the following on the domestic situation and foreign policy: "Even though America is menaced by unemployment, and other perils besides the ones we have now, there is always the strong under-current of Americanism which overpowers them and keeps the country from fears of any kind of civil war."

She went on to add: "Although America is not in the League of Nations, she has enough will power from the mass of people to stay out of war and maintain peace. The thing which keeps America out of war is, I believe, the strong and independent international policy of the American government."

May Sakamoto's youthful optimism for peaceful international relations would soon be shattered as Japan and the United States advanced down the road to war. In spite of Nisei attempts to carve out a Japanese American presence that focused on "Americanism," the American public would only see the Japanese part during World War II.

CHANKO-NABE

by Joyce Nabeta Teague

...will reappear with the Summer 2004 Issue as a special column all about HAMYU, complete with your stories about why you like (or hate) eating the smelly stuff, family recipes, and most importantly, where you can find the salted oily fish these days needed to make steamed pork hamyu! Do you have a HAMYU story or recipe to share? A photo of your family at Nanking, Far East, or another Cantonese eatery where HAMYU was on the menu? A theory about how this poor-man's dish became so popular among the Nisei community? E-mail me at events@jahssd.org or send me stories in care of the JAHSSD P.O. box.

In the meantime, savor the tasty debut of Mich Himaka's new column also named after food, *Mazegohan*...

MAZEGOHAN

by Mich Himaka

My "boss" and our editor, Joyce Teague, has been on my butt for months telling me that I had to write a humor column for this publication. Now, to me, humor is all relative—my wife, my kids, my brothers and sisters, my friends—you get the idea. What tickles my funny bone may not tickle yours. The only humor writers I can think of would be people like Bill Cosby and Bob Hope, and maybe Mark Twain and Will Rogers.

But I'm going to need help, like having some readers call me with their funny stories. So this won't be only my humorous observations but yours, too. Keep me in mind and call me. Here goes...

Why am I calling this thing *Mazegohan*? Well, if Joyce can title her column after some foodstuff, why not me? Besides, some of this stuff may not be all humor. I may have some serious things to write about sometime. I'll try. And if I miss a deadline as I have in the past, *tough*. I spent more than 30 years meeting deadlines. It's time I got a break.

We drove through an ATM drive-through recently. While waiting for my money to spit itself out, I noticed something on the machine and began laughing.

Naomi asked, "What's funny?"

"Look at that," I said. "This machine has Braille on it."

I thought, I sure would not want to be a passenger in a car driven by a blind person. Not that there is anything wrong with their driving. They certainly can't be any worse than some drivers I've observed. And those drivers were sighted! (*I warned you! My funny bone may not be the same as yours!*)

Speaking of food, there was the time I spent a summer working with a San Diego Gas & Electric Co. weeding crew. A bunch of us traveled from station to station clearing weeds away from the fences. Mama usually made my lunch and often times, she would make a bento for me.

We sat down for lunch this day. For some reason, I sat myself several feet away from the others. She had all the food in plastic containers and I had no idea what was in them. The first thing I opened. BIG MISTAKE! It was a good thing I just lifted the corner. It was enough.

One of the guys sitting a few feet away, sniffed the air and said out loud: "OKAY! WHO DID IT?" The others moved away from each

other not saying a word, just assuming one of them did it. I quickly closed the container and kept on eating. Takuwan just does not sit (*Joyce, please make sure there is no "h" in there*) well with some people.

~ ~ ~

And then there is the story my friend, Rev. Jim told me about when he worked at his cousin's Modern Food store in L.A.:

A Japanese man came in and bought a piece of takuwan which was sold out of a barrel. The yellow peril (no racial intent meant here) was wrapped up in butcher paper and then rewrapped in several sheets of newspaper for the man. He took the package and got on a bus.

About a block later, the bus driver stopped his vehicle and kicked the old man and his wife off for being offensive to other riders. Rev. Jim had to drive the poor couple to their home across town to Pasadena.

And then there was Naomi's cousin and Grandma Okamoto, who would leave the dinner table when someone opened a jar of the stuff. In case you were not aware, Takuwan was the name of a Buddhist priest during the time of the legendary samurai—no, not Tom Cruise—Miyamoto Musashi. Rev. Jim, who also was not alive during that time, said the priest invented the daikon goody as a means of survival.

And finally, there was the time Nephew Don was tailgating at a Chargers football game with other relatives from his wife Debbie's family. He told his brother, Gordon, and me not to buy our usual hotdog as a pre-game lunch because he would fix us up a plate of goodies from their tailgate.

As we sat in our seats in anticipation of all the good stuff, part-way through the game, Don came up and handed each of us a large, heavy container of food and said, "Eat up!"

Gordon and I peeked in to see what we had and immediately closed it up. Fortunately, the air went UP and not sideways because the first thing we noticed were tiny clumps of yellow stuff in the corner of the container. We put them back into the double plastic bags Don had brought them in and we stepped out to buy our usual hotdog.

It all tasted great, once we got home. Except our sons took one whiff and said: "WHAT'S THAT SMELL?"

They just don't know what's good, do they?



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CELEBRATIONS!

Community Milestones of Note

■ **Lynda Yoshikawa**, a graduate student in clinical psychology at Alliant International University (formerly United States International University), has been awarded JACL's Chiyoko and Thomas Shimazaki Memorial Scholarship for 2003. Lynda was a participant on the "Legacy of Japanese Internment" panel presented by the JAHSSD last April at the Sycuan Reservation.

■ Congratulations to **Yutaro Daniel Osaka** of Boy Scout Troop 585 who was recently awarded his Eagle Scout Badge in a ceremony at All Hallows Catholic Church in La Jolla.

■ **Sara Kashima** and **Kevin Chang** were married in Berkeley, California, in January. Sara's parents are **Jeanie Kashima** and the late **Tetsuyo Kashima** of San Diego. Kevin is the son of **Jim and Ruby Chang**. The couple were united at the Berkeley Buddhist Temple where Sara's grandfather had served as minister prior to World War II.

■ **Martha Longenecker** of the Mingei Museum was honored by the Consul General of Japan as a recipient of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette on December 9, 2003.

■ The Buddhist Temple's **Fujinkai (Buddhist Womens Assn.)** will host a March birthday party for **Misako Kawasaki** in celebration of her 105th birthday!

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.

NIKKEI FILMFEST EARNS \$3,700 FOR VFW CAPITAL BUILDING FUND

The first of what may be an annual series of films by or about Nikkei (people of Japanese descent) took place the afternoon of January 24, 2004, at Southwestern College's Mayan Hall. **Nikkei Filmfest 2004** presented three critically acclaimed films which stunned, moved, and even educated the audience of approximately 300 who braved cold, gray weather to attend the event.

Two of the films had been part of the San Diego Asian American Film Festival just a few months prior, but not many people had even been aware of those screenings. The Nikkei Filmfest gave more people the opportunity to appreciate these fine films, as well as meet the films' young writer/directors, who were guests of the festival, and hear first-hand their inspiration for their storytelling.

The films were Canadian **Jari Osborne's** *Sleeping Tigers: The Asahi Baseball Story*, **Dean Yamada's** *The Nisei Farmer*, and **Lane Nishikawa's** *When We Were Warriors*. Osborne and Yamada were on hand to introduce their films. Nishikawa, who had generously given the Filmfest permission to screen his film gratis, was meeting with **Sen. Daniel Inouye** about his current project, *Go For Broke*, and unable to attend the Filmfest.

The idea for the film festival was conceived last December by **Steve Sato**, General Manager of **Kiku Gardens Corporation**, who wanted to find a way to bring the Nikkei community together for a social event to raise funds for the **Asian Pacific VFW**. He also wanted the effort to engage community groups which do not normally work together, so he invited the participation of the **San Diego Chapter of**



Steve Sato (center) with filmmakers Dean Yamada and Jari Osborne

the JACL and JAHSSD. A planning committee was formed, consisting of Steve, **Karen Tani** of JACL, and **Gwen Momita** and **Joyce Teague** of JAHSSD. **Duane Siefers** also participated in the initial meetings.

Considering the limited time to publicize the benefit, create interest in the films, and sell as many tickets and sponsorships in advance as possible, it is impressive the net proceeds for the event exceeded \$3,700. In February, Karen presented **Commander Benny Hanaike** of **Asian Pacific VFW Post 4581** with a check in that amount earmarked for their Capital Building Fund.

A week after the event, the Filmfest committee met to evaluate the public's response to the films and the event itself. Reception by the audience was overwhelmingly positive and attendees enjoyed the films immensely. The committee decided to begin selection of the next set of films with the intent of making another community organization the beneficiary. So stay tuned for info on **Nikkei Filmfest 2005!**

For those who expressed disappointment they had been unable to attend the screenings, please see below for information on ordering individual videos. Find more photos of the Fest on pp. 20 and 21.

VIDEO/DVD PURCHASE INFO

We've had several inquiries from people who either missed the Nikkei Filmfest and still want to see the films; or who want to purchase a copy either to show others or use as a teaching tool.

Sleeping Tigers: The Asahi Baseball Story by **Jari Osborne** is not yet being marketed as a home video by the National Film Board of Canada, but interested parties can call 1-800-542-2164 and order a copy. The cost is \$39.95 + \$6.50 shipping and handling.

Dean Yamada's *Nisei Farmer* is now available on VHS for \$10 (which includes shipping and handling). Mail check or money order to: Dean Yamada, P.O. Box 1526, Monterey Park, CA 91754.

Dean says he also plans to make the film available on DVD by April. Those who order the videotape can receive the DVD for an additional \$5 once it becomes available.

We're still checking on availability of **Lane Nishikawa's** *When We Were Warriors* and will include information in the Summer Issue.

The Japanese National Museum (JANM) in L.A. has announced an April release date for the DVD titled, *Eyewitness: Photojournalist Stan Honda, September 11, and the Japanese American Experience*. It will be available on their online store (www.janmstore.com) along with *Moving Walls*, the book by **Sharon Yamato** featuring **Stan Honda's** photos. For updates from the JANM Store, send e-mail to museumstore@janm.org and ask to be added to their e-mail list.

MEMORIES FROM THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

by Mitsuko Kawamoto

Last year I requested materials from the National Archives in Washington, D.C. I had heard that they would send you information about your internment years for a copying fee. Being curious about what type of information they had about me, I sent in the required fee. In several weeks, an envelope came containing a variety of personal information and school papers, including test results and samples of my writing skills.

The following autobiography was included in the package and was written as a classroom assignment when I was in the fourth grade at Poston III Elementary School. The grammar and spelling needs improvement but it is presented here as I wrote it then (of course, the writing was done in longhand).

An Autobiography

I was born in 1934. I was born in San Diego. I am 9 years old. My birthday is June 3rd. I live in the country.

When I was 5 years old I went to Kindergarten. A girl named Carole was in the same grade. We knew each other very well. We always played together. So we had lots of fun. When were in the first grade our teacher's name was Miss Carl she was a good teacher I liked her very much. Then when my birthday came I was 7 years years old so we went to the second grade. Again we had a good teacher. Our teachers name as Miss Russel.

Then we heard that we had move. First we moved Sanita Anita. After came to Poston Arizona. We had school. The same girl named Carole is in same room.

At first we had to bring our chairs to school I liked school very much. Our teacher's name was Miss Sasaki and Mrs. Flynn. They were good teachers too. Now our teachers name is Miss Starkey Miss Fujino and Miss Sasaki.

Mitsuko Mayumi

The friend, Carole, mentioned in the above writing, is the former **Carol Kushino** whose name is now **Carol Li**. She relocated to Chicago after camp, but returned to the San Diego area four or five years ago.

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JACL/NSU TO HOLD HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

On Saturday, April 10, the San Diego Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League and the University of California San Diego's Nikkei Student Union will join to host the first-ever JACL/NSU High School Leadership Conference. The conference will be held at UCSD and registration for participants is free.

The theme of the conference is Inheriting Tomorrow, which the organizers say is particularly relevant for today's Japanese-American youth. "At a time when our civil rights are being tested and diversity and understanding are taking on renewed importance in our schools, the conference will present these students with the opportunities to prepare for the challenges that the future presents. Thus helping them to prepare for Inheriting Tomorrow."

The Japanese American Citizens League, established in 1929, is the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization. The JACL has 112 chapters nationwide with over 24,000 members.

The UCSD Nikkei Student Union is one of the largest Japanese American collegiate student organizations in the country. Since its formation in 1988, NSU chapters have sprung up at colleges and universities throughout California making it one of the most influential Japanese American student organizations in the state.

Both organizations are asking the Nikkei community to help inform students about the JACL/NSU High School Leadership Conference.

"Our hope is to get known Japanese American and Asian Pacific Islander American Students who have leadership potential to take part in this conference," says **Russell Ozawa**, who is co-chairing the conference. Ozawa invites any questions or ideas on how to identify interested students.

Informational brochures and applications are being made available through contact points like the local JA churches. For further information, contact Ozawa at 858/558-1316 or e-mail him at rozawa@ucsd.edu.

JUDGMENT WITHOUT TRIAL NOW AVAILABLE

In writing his latest book, *Judgment Without Trial*, **Dr. Tetsuden Kashima** was motivated by unanswered questions about his father's wartime experiences.

Dr. Kashima is the son of the late **Rev. Tetsuro Kashima**, who served the **Buddhist Temple of San Diego** as its resident minister after World War II, 1948-1953.

The book uses new research, diaries, official communications, and interviews to prove the U.S. government had been considering the incarceration of leaders of the Nikkei community long before the bombing of Pearl Harbor. It also focuses on the lesser-known Justice and War Department camps that held internees from the continental U.S., Alaska, Hawaii, and Latin America.

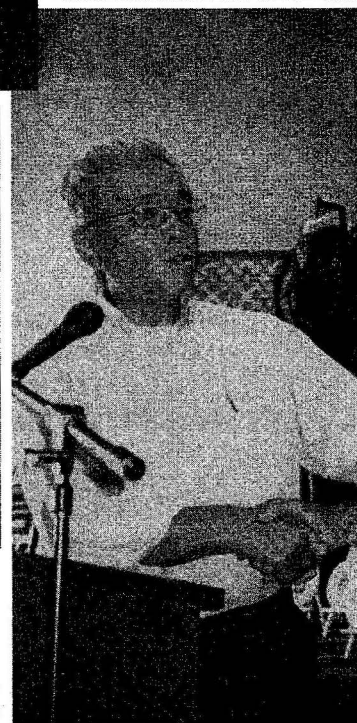
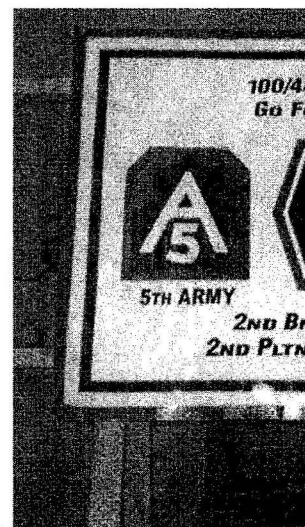
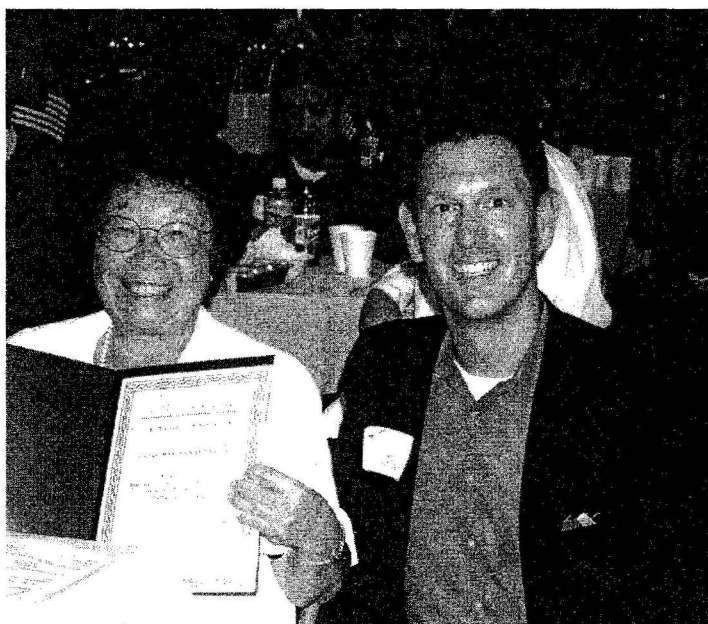
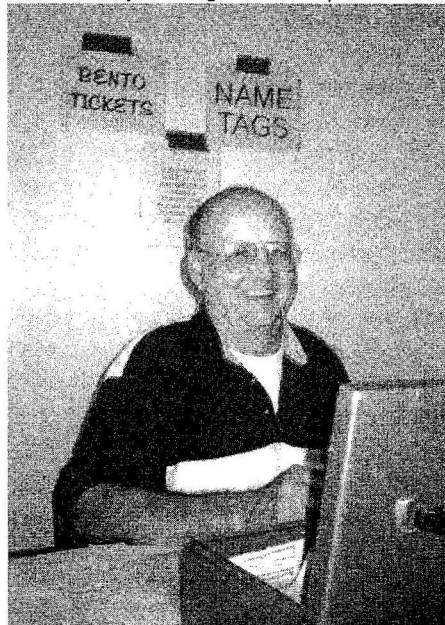
Now a Seattle resident, Dr. Kashima is currently Professor of American Ethnic Studies at the University of Washington. He has also studied and written extensively about American Buddhism. *Judgment Without Trial* is available at bookstores and online at amazon.com.

SNAPSHOTS from the 11th ANNUAL

Right: 2003 Kansha Award recipient Umeko Kawamoto was presented a Certificate of Recognition from San Diego County by Senior Policy Advisor Ron Kelley

Right center: Go for Broke banner in the Service of Country display

Below:
"Bento" Bill Elyea wrangles the Reception Table

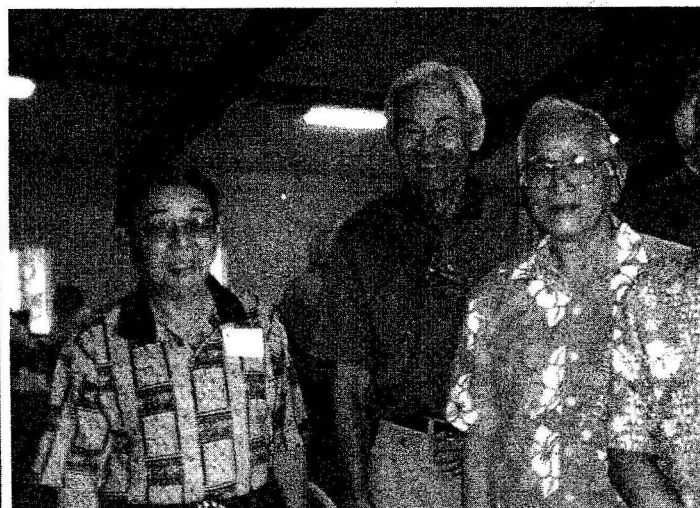


Above: The Kitchen Krew included new Board member Christina Pierson, Jeanne Elyea, Mits Kawamoto and Nancy Cowser
Left: Gwen Momita and Raffle Queen Jeanne Elyea

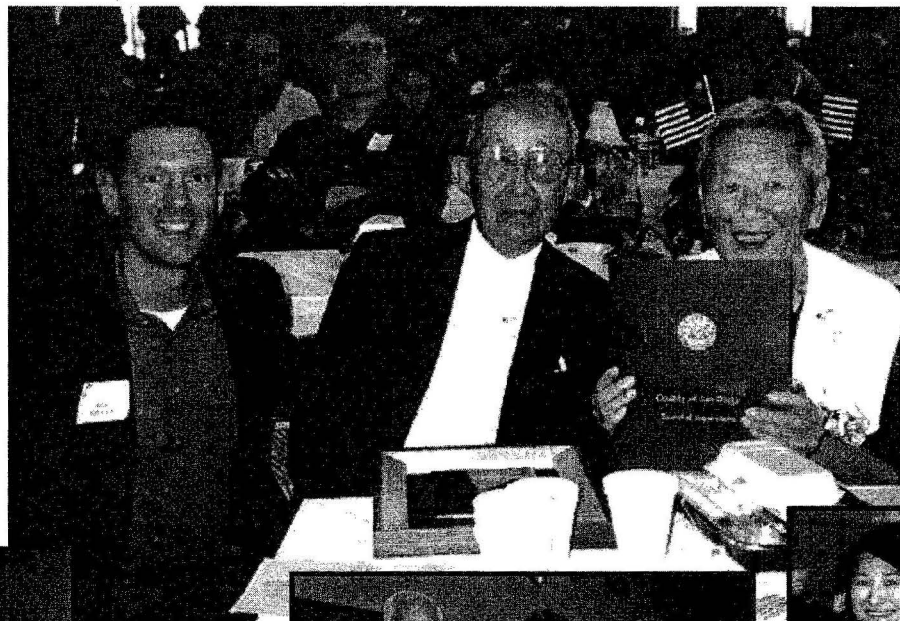
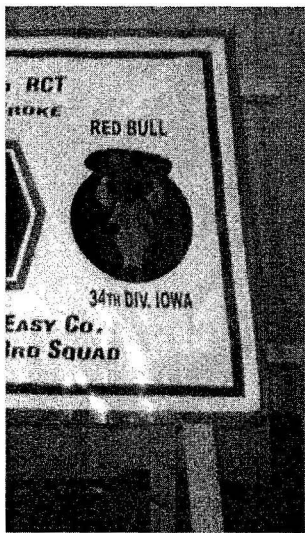


Below: Program folders
Joyce Teague, Sakiko Kada and Naomi Himaka

Right: M.C. Michio Himaka thanks
Keynote Speaker Bob Wada



GENERAL MEETING: "SERVICE"



Left:
Ron Kelley congratulates
Hideo and Kiyo Ochi on
Kiyo's recognition by the
San Diego County Board
of Supervisors. Kiyo also
received the Kansha Award
for 2003

Below:
Pastor Norma DeSaegher
and Shinobu Yoshioka



Right: Ben and
Grace Segawa with
Bob Batchelder



Left:
Yuriko Nogata, Mary Suyenaga and
Ayako Otsuji came to show their
support of the Kansha Award
recipients

Below: Carol Estes helped set up the
exhibit honoring Service to Country

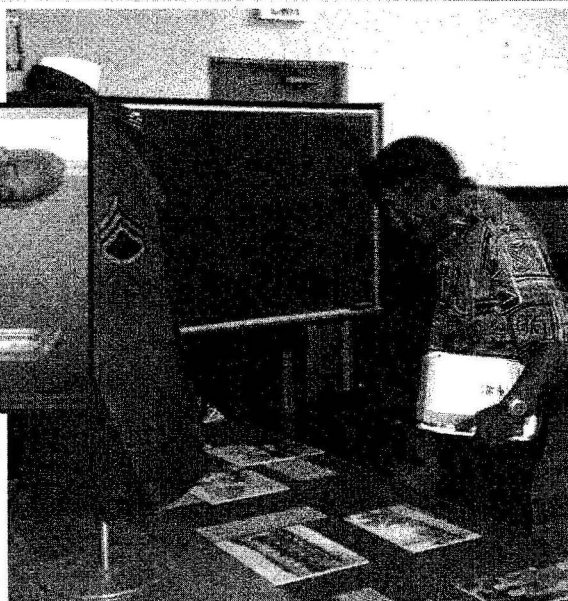


Above: Mich Himaka with craft
sales help Justine Tachiki
and Hisae Batchelder

Left: Hunks "R" Us--
Mas Asakawa, Po Kaneyuki,
Yuki Kawamoto and Taka Sawasaki



Left: Sam Nakamura studies
photos displayed in the exhibit



A Photo from the JAHSSD Archives...



Poston Camp III Hanamatsuri, celebrating Buddha's birth, April 1944. The group shown with the ministers may be Sunday School teachers. Note the handmade "hanamido" adorned with fresh flowers at center.

*This moment in San Diego Nikkei history
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WE GET LETTERS

Dear Don:

Thank you for taking the time to research your files for information on my husband's family and their internment at Poston, Arizona, during World War II, as well as making copies of the flyers regarding the evacuation.

Attached is a small donation for the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego. Again, thanks for your assistance.

Sincerely,
Lois Fong Sakai, Poway

Dear Don:

Hard to believe, but I have completed the first working draft of the book for Scholastic about Clara Breed and her relationship with her young Japanese American friends during WWII. It has been an amazing journey and I have never met so many generous people who have shared their stories and expertise with me in shaping a story that I trust will honor Clara Breed and "her children."

Please accept this gift to the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego in the names of the following people who shared their stories about Miss Breed and their memories of a time that must not be forgotten, so that it will never happen again.

Richard "Babe" Karasawa, Margaret Ishino, Ben Segawa, Louise Ogawa, Itzuzo Endo, Ellen Aiko Kubo, Ellen Kukawa Spink, Chiyo Kusumoto Nakagawa, Elizabeth Kikuchi Yamada, Joe Yamada, Patty Higashioka.

I want to thank you for the information and helpful leads you gave me from the outset.

Sincerely,
Joanne Oppenheim, New York City

Hi Noriko:

This is a copy of a message I've sent members of our board. I just thought you would like to know.

Hi Sandy, Nora and Harold. What do you think? It was so nice of the Japanese American Historical Society to put us as a link on their website. I gave them the information on the brochure and one of our recent mailings. Noriko Inoue uploaded it the website with this swell design.

Thank you Noriko and friends from the JAHSSD.

Professor Teresa (Terry) Thomas
Southwestern College Friends of Odawara

Dear Don:

Thank you for sending the copy of Democracy Under Pressure. *It's a great job!*

I enjoyed the exhibit at the Bonita Museum. It was amazing how much information was on display in such a small area.

Best wishes,
Audrey Mizokami

Hi Joyce:

I enjoyed your Chanko Nabe column on inari sushi. I don't know if the way Mrs. Hatauye made them was a Wakayama-ken kind of thing (when I was born, our family lived in Fish Camp where probably 90 percent of the families were Wakayama-ken people), but before WWII I remember that my mother always made the rice filling for inari sushi with lots of stuff mixed in like maze gohan. You hit the nail right on the head about Mrs. Hatauye—she was such a sweet lady. My mother was a good friend of hers and sometimes I would pick Mrs. Hatauye up to take her to church. She was always so pleasant and appreciative.

Yuki Kawamoto

Everyone:

Thank you, thank you, thank you for the card, the scribe, and the gift certificates to Rockler Woodworking and to Home Depot. It was totally unexpected and more than I deserve, but nevertheless very much appreciated. I thoroughly enjoyed the years I spent on the board and I hope I contributed in some way to the success of JAHSSD. A greater group of "can do" people to serve with couldn't be found. Above all else, Mits and I treasure your friendship and the friends we have become while serving on the board.

You can still count on us to help out whenever and wherever we can. Mits and I will take you up on your offer and show up at your meetings from time to time.

Thanks again for all you have done.

Yuki

To Joyce Teague:

Thank you for your email. Yes, I'm receiving your newsletter regularly and enjoy reading. I know Ben Segawa, Don Estes, Honorary Japanese Consul [Randall] Phillips. In fact, I met Randy last November when the Minato Gakuen, the Japanese language school in Sweetwater, celebrated its 25th Anniversary and there I presented to him my mini-CD travelog which you said you possess right now.

You are asking how long I stayed in San Diego. It's from 1973 to 1994. So 20 years plus. I was Corporate Secretary at Kyocera International, Inc. at Balboa Ave, Kearny Mesa.

...You are asking also about my short article re Clara Breed...Clara and I worked one time together for the Japanese Garden Society, Balboa Park. Elizabeth Yamada in La Jolla told me that a book about Clara is being authored by a famous woman writer. I wonder if it has been published and I would appreciate any information about the book as I wish to order a copy myself.

Thank you again for your interest in the Clara story. Please feel free to print [it] any way you like. The same goes with the mini-CD travelogs if you like.

Rio Imamura
Kitakyushu, Japan

Hello Mr. Yoshioka,

We are so pleased that the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego is a Community Partner for Chinese New Year At The Opera. We are deeply appreciative of your support!

We would be so grateful if you could email your membership to promote the event...and I look forward to meeting you in person.

Kindest Regards,
Jennifer Gamez
Associate Director of Marketing
San Diego Opera Audience Development

Hi Joyce,

I'm so glad the Nikkei Film Fest was success. I had a really great time and can't think of a better way to have celebrated my dad's 70th birthday. The cake was a really nice touch.

Thank you again for organizing the screening. It was truly an honor to share it with the Japanese American community in San Diego. I hope we can do it again with my next project.

Best regards,
Dean Yamada
Monterey Park

(LETTERS continued on p. 17)

PHOTOJOURNALIST STAN HONDA COVERS THE GLOBE

by Joyce Teague

Last December, photojournalist **Stan Honda** and his wife **Ann Levin** were in San Diego to visit Stan's father, **Masami Honda**, who resides at Kiku Gardens.

A native San Diegan who now resides in New York City, Stan stopped by the Buddhist Temple of San Diego where he and his sisters, **Maya** (then known as **Amy**) and **Meg**, had attended Sunday School as children. There, he spent several hours taking photos at the annual Mochitsuki. He chronicled the entire mochi-making process from rice-steaming to pounding to hand-shaping into little round cakes to be cooled and bagged for sale. (The next day, his photos were available online to news outlets worldwide. *The Los Angeles Times* carried one of the photos featuring young **Marc Konishi** labeling rice into wicker baskets.)

Stan, a JAHSSD Life Member, took a short break from aiming his camera lens at the busy mochi makers to talk about his life since leaving San Diego.

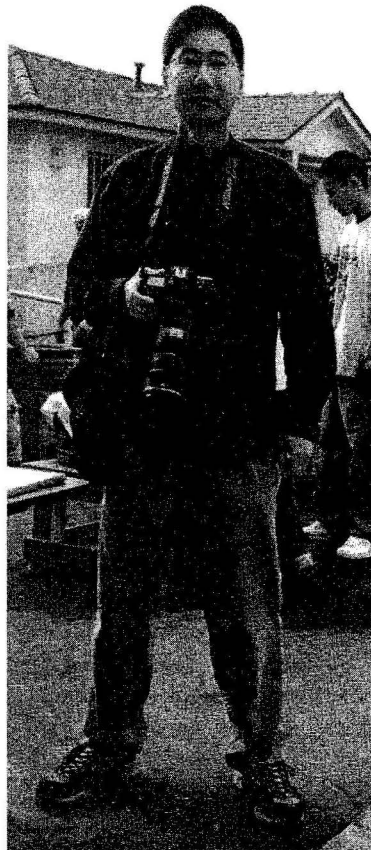
He and his sisters were born to **Masami and Ruth (Kodama) Honda**, and grew up in North Park, attending San Diego City schools. Stan eventually graduated from UCSD, discovered his calling capturing newsworthy events on film, and worked locally for both *The Los Angeles Times* and *San Diego Union* as a staff photographer.

Stan moved to New York about 15 years ago where he worked 5½ years as a *New York Newsday* staff photographer. As a freelancer, he has provided photography for the *National Post of Canada* and *Toronto Globe and Mail*, as well as several corporate clients. He now works mainly for Agence France-Presse (AF-P), an international wire service based in New York.

As of this writing, Stan is on assignment for AF-P, accompanying the U.S. Army's Fourth Division on its duty tour of Iraq, Kuwait, Turkey, and possibly Germany. Masami says that Stan is scheduled to land back in the U.S. with the Fourth Division in Ft. Hood, Texas, the second week of March, after which he'll be able to return home to New York. He will have been overseas for six weeks. This will complete his second stint in Iraq since the U.S. waged war there last year. During his assignments away from home, Stan keeps in touch with family by phone and e-mail.

Stan's vocation has allowed him to experience—as well as photograph and describe—widely different events both at home and abroad. His photographs and commentary on the attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, were featured last Fall at the Japanese National Museum's presentation of *Eyewitness: Photojournalist Stan Honda, September 11, and the Japanese American Experience* in Los Angeles. He was working a few blocks from ground zero and his photographs of that tragic event and its aftermath were quickly broadcast around the world.

Eyewitness, produced by the Frank H. Watase Media Arts Center, also featured photographs Stan took during recent visits to nine internment camp sites where Japanese Americans were incarcerated during World War II. (His own parents first met at Poston Camp III.) JANM wrote, "The juxtaposition of these images poignantly reminds viewers of the parallels between the treatment of Arab Americans in the aftermath of 9/11 and the experiences of Japanese Americans in 1941."



A DVD version of *Eyewitness* should be available online through the JANM Museum Store in April. You can also find Stan's work in **Sharon Yamato's Moving Walls: Preserving the Barracks of America's Concentration Camps** which documents the 1994 project to recover an original barracks from Heart Mountain (Wyoming) Internment Camp for display in Los Angeles.

For ordering information on these works, see "Video/DVD Purchase Info" on p. 10. An online search on Stan's name in Google will also yield many examples of his award-winning photographs. And don't forget to read the photo credits in your newspaper!

Stan Honda at Mochitsuki, Buddhist Temple of San Diego, December 2003. Derek Shimizu is among the mochi pounders in the background

MANZANAR PREMIERES NEW WEBSITE PRIOR TO APRIL 24 GRAND OPENING

On February 19, Manzanar National Historic Site premiered a totally redesigned and expanded website at www.nps.gov/manz/home.htm. The redesign project dramatically enhances Manzanar's presence on the World Wide Web, offering virtual visitors a comprehensive site highlighting Manzanar's past, present, and future. In addition to covering multiple eras of Manzanar's history, the site includes information on visit planning, events, site management, education programs, volunteer opportunities, and natural and cultural resources.

"The new website is an important part of our overall program and another step towards Manzanar being a fully operational unit of the National Park System," said Superintendent **Frank Hays**. "We launched the site on February 19 in recognition of the annual Day of Remembrance. On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, giving the U.S. Army authority to remove over 110,000 Japanese Americans and resident aliens from the West Coast."

On Saturday, April 24, 2004, the park and the Japanese American and local communities will celebrate a major milestone: the grand opening of the Interpretive Center and Park Headquarters in the adaptively restored Manzanar High School auditorium. The Interpretive Center will include 8,000 square feet of exhibits, two small movie theaters, park offices, and a bookstore operated by the new Manzanar History Association.

Events on April 24 begin with the 35th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage sponsored by the Manzanar Committee, a Los Angeles-based education group. The Pilgrimage event begins at 11:00 a.m. at the Manzanar cemetery and will include a performance by taiko drummers,

MANZANAR GRAND OPENING continued from previous page

speeches, and an interfaith religious service.

The NPS Grand Opening celebration begins at 1:30 p.m. at the auditorium. The program will include remarks by dignitaries from the Japanese American community, the National Park Service, and political representatives, as well as a performance by **Mary Nomura**, the "Songbird of Manzanar." The hour-long ceremony will be followed by a performance of the Bishop Big Band performing popular music from the 1940s. Refreshments will be provided by the Lone Pine and Bishop Chambers of Commerce.

On Friday, April 23, the Eastern California Museum and the Independence Chamber of Commerce will host a reception from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Eastern California Museum in Independence.

Manzanar National Historic Site was established in 1992 to provide for the protection and interpretation of the site's historical, cultural and natural resources. The site is located 6 miles south of Independence, 9 miles north of Lone Pine; approximately 230 miles northeast of Los Angeles, off U.S. Hwy 395.

For further information, call (760) 878-2932 or 878-2194 or visit www.nps.gov/manz. (Source: NPS press release)

WE GET LETTERS continued from p. 15

Hello Everybody and Feliz Año Nuevo!

I hope you are all well and enjoying 2004. I have been so busy the past month that it seems as though time is speeding up. During my Christmas break, I hosted several San Diego visitors and played tour guide. Seven friends and a new baby visited me here in Panama, and it was so much fun taking them to my favorite places.

My first visitor, Yvonne, arrived December 23, so it was great to not spend Christmas by myself even though I really missed spending the holiday with my Dad and Grandma....Then, the Tu/Lu/Passaretti group departed and Susie and Bruce arrived—and we joked and laughed our way through jungles, beaches and dolphin-encounters. I hadn't laughed so hard in a really long time! Then, the Cox family arrived... I loved being able to spend time with friends—I didn't go home for Christmas, HOME came to me! I am truly blessed to have such wonderful friends. Their visits also helped me to appreciate the tremendous beauty of Panama and the warmth of the Panamanians. I am really going to miss this country when I return to the U.S.

Un abrazo desde Panama,
Karen Kawasaki

Dear Professor Estes:

We have been using your video and teacher's guide as a teaching tool during our teaching sessions. During the past two years our student count for each year has been around 2,000. We find it as an excellent and timely teaching aid because of the present situation with the American Muslims and American Arabs.

We wish to reorder six videos with the accompanying teachers guides of *Democracy Under Pressure*.

Just recently Dr. Ruth Okimoto joined our committee as a consultant for the Jack Matsuoka project. She mentioned how supportive both you and Professor Susan Hasegawa were in the Poston Preservation project. Our best regards to you and Susan for a creative 2004.

Please plan on visiting us during your next trip to Northern California.

Sincerely,
Ken Iwagaki
Japanese American Museum of San Jose

JOURNEY TO THE UNITED STATES:

The Akiji Watanabe Story, Part VI

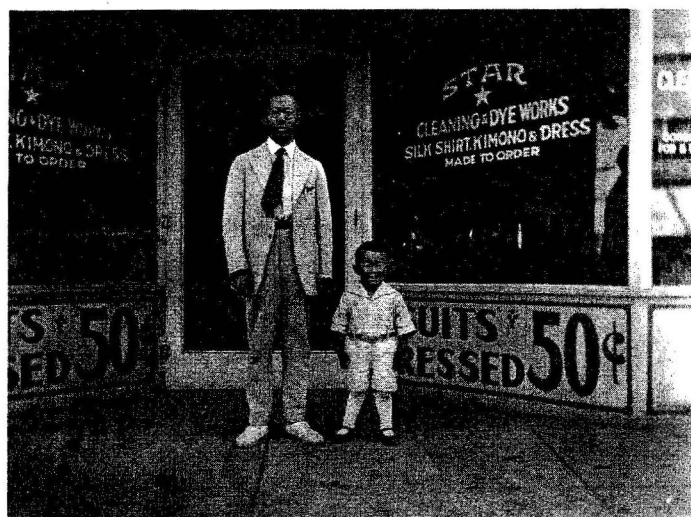
by Fran Watanabe

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

During their early years in the United States, my parents lived primarily in Southern California. Most of those years were spent in San Diego and later in Chula Vista, south of San Diego.

My parents first worked as domestics, preparing and serving meals and taking care of the households of wealthy families. They continued until they had saved enough money to go into a business of their own.

In 1925, they bought the Star Cleaners and Dye Works, a laundry and dry cleaning business located at 1325 Market Street in San Diego. My mother attended Keister Sewing School and put the knowledge gained towards seamstress/alteration work at the cleaners.



George Watanabe and son Arnold in front of Star Cleaning and Dye Works

Although my father's name was Akiji Watanabe, somewhere along the way he took the name "George." The first document that I have on which this name appears is on a property guarantee paper dated July 1913. This name he used all through the rest of his life.

As is the case with most immigrants of whatever nationality, my parents dreamed about living in a home of their own home. I believe they rented their first house at 151-19th Street in San Diego where my brother Arnold Kiyoshi was born. In 1926, they moved to a larger house at 1970 Irving Avenue, and this address was the site of my earliest childhood memories. Then in 1936, my family moved to Chula Vista just south of San Diego where we lived until we were forced to leave California in April 1942.

The Christian faith was important to my parents. They became active members of the First Japanese Congregational Church located a block from the cleaners at 431-13th Street in San Diego. Reverend Kenji Kikuchi was the minister and served as an officer or a deacon at the church. While I have no active recollections about attending Sunday School there, I am quite certain my brother Arnold and I were weekly attendees, as my mother was one of the teachers.

(JOURNEY continued on p. 18)

MY MOTHER'S GREAT ADVENTURE, Part IV

by Sidney Shiroma

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

My mother got a job as a maid and attended night school to learn English. I remember her telling me that she would stand in front of a mirror to practice pronouncing words in English until her jaw ached. Although she didn't have a thick Japanese accent, she was never entirely comfortable in English and except for looking through the newspaper to see what was on sale at the supermarket and clip coupons, most of her reading was in Japanese.

In the years that I was away in college, my mother only wrote me two letters in English. I found out later from my sister that my mother agonized over these letters, frequently consulting my sister for help with grammar and vocabulary.

When I began studying Japanese in college, my mother began writing to me in Japanese, taking care to use only *kanji* she thought I would recognize. Growing up, she would often speak to us in Japanese though we would always answer in English. I don't know why I never tried to speak Japanese as a child, but that's pretty typical among Sansei children. Was it a subconscious attempt to carve out some personal space I wonder? A kind of linguistic treehouse. We were sent to Japanese language school after regular school, but it was understood that this was just to keep us out of trouble.

When I was 18 years of age, I left Hawaii to attend college on the mainland. When I told my mother I got into Princeton she smiled pleasantly and said, "That's nice." She didn't seem especially excited or surprised. In fact, I'm sure that in her heart she would have preferred that I attend the local community college. I knew she was proud that I went to Princeton, but not overly so.

I didn't apply to any West coast schools. Many West coast schools had a large contingent of students from Hawaii. They even had Hawaii clubs. I didn't want to go to a school that had a Hawaii club. I wanted to be on my own. I wanted an adventure. I wanted to see snow. I wanted to pick an apple off the tree. I wanted to see if a person's tongue could really get stuck to a mailbox in freezing weather. I wanted to live among strange people who wore shoes inside the house and showered in the morning.

But my adventure was a safe one. I could call home when I was lonely or have my parents send more money. I got regular care packages, often filled with food I never really liked much when I was back home in Hawaii and although difficult to find in New Jersey, I found I didn't like any better. I brought a rice cooker which I occasionally also used to cook hot dogs or to heat up some rum for bananas flambé. I once almost set fire to the wooden bar which Skip, one of my roommates, had built, when I overheated the oxidizing rum and it burst into an overly robust flame. In spite of the lingering smell of singed arm hairs, the rum-soaked bananas still tasted good over ice cream.

I never thought that my mother could have had similar dreams when she was eighteen. I only now realize what a great adventure her life turned out to be. Her death-defying feat was not confronting a harsh, unforgiving wilderness or making peace with war-like savages, but living with a heart weakened by a childhood illness. She left home a sheltered girl of eighteen of uncertain health. She gambled that she could make a life for herself in a strange land. Her triumph was witnessed by an audience of four, a husband and three children.

JOURNEY to the U.S. continued from p. 17

No doubt due to my parents' interest in education, many of their Caucasian friends were teachers or at least associated with schools. As part of my parents' interest in building friendship between the United States and Japan, in 1934 they organized a sightseeing tour to Japan for a group of San Diego educators. Arnold and I also went on this trip which left by ship from San Pedro and then to San Francisco before heading West toward Hawaii. There a Nisei teacher joined the tour group.

It took two weeks to cross the Pacific. Landing in Yokohama, Japan, the group visited Tokyo, Kamakura, Kyoto, Nara, Osaka, Kobe, Hiroshima and Miyajima. From Miyajima, my father took the teachers on a side trip to Korea, Manchuria and China. During this time Arnold and I went with our mother to stay with my parents' families in Nagano and Niigata Prefectures. Upon his return from China, my father rejoined the family for our trip back to San Diego. Unfortunately, I do not remember anything about this trip, except how seasick I was on board the ship.

Next installment: Gakuen Days in Chula Vista

A DAILY MENU FROM YUTAKA'S BLOCK 33 COOKBOOK

From late 1942 through Spring 1943, Yutaka Kida worked in the mess hall of Block 330 at Poston III. While there, he carefully maintained a record of the menus for the block. Here are his Breakfast and Dinner menus for January 25, 1942, with a recipe for Sweet Potato Pie.

BREAKFAST

Apple
Cornmeal
Cream Ham on Toast
Dry toast - Coffee - Jam

DINNER

Fried Mackerel
Lemon Butter
Au Gratin Potato
Fruit Salad
Cream Dressing
Sweet Potato Pie
Bread - Jam - Tea

SWEET POTATO PIE

14 qt. milk
3# sugar
3# cornstarch
salt
5 gal. cooked sweet potato
2 T.spoon cinnamon, clove, nutmeg

DEAR MISS BREED

by Rio Imamura

Rio Imamura joined JAHSSD as a Charter Life Member during his 20-plus year tenure beginning in 1973 as Corporate Secretary of Kyocera International in Kearny Mesa. Since his return to Japan in 1994, Rio has led a most active retirement of travel and community service, returning to the U.S. often where his children have chosen to live. Visit Rio's website, www.riosword.net.

Her name was Miss Clara Breed. I came to know her from the board meetings of Officers of the U.S.-Japan Friendship Garden Society, a nonprofit organization that developed the Japanese Friendship Garden in Balboa Park, San Diego. I was delegated the honor to represent my employer, one of the local major donors to the garden.

Clara had been called in occasionally to substitute as Secretary when the regular Secretary was unable to attend. She was a graceful woman. I commended her on the quality of minutes she produced. That's the time before computers. She smiled and thanked me.

In 1994, the year of my retirement, I returned to Japan with my wife, respecting my wife's preference to live in Japan. Our children live in the U.S., so we have made it a rule to visit the U.S. and our children and grandchild every year. On one of those visits, I read Clara's obituary in the local paper, which included her photograph.

Clara worked for the San Diego Library her entire life. She became Chief Librarian and at retirement was honored with various awards from the City. To my great surprise, the paper reported that many Japanese Americans attended her funeral service.

The story dates back to 1941, the attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese, and the beginning of World War II. Clara had met many Japanese-American children at the library. She was in charge of handling books at that time. She noted that these Japanese Americans were diligent children with good manners. She liked them very much.

When these children were sent to the concentration camps, she asked them to write to her and she would send them books. The children thanked her for the books, adding notes about their camp lives, hardships, problems, and anxieties for the future. Their letters were rather like an American version of the Diary of Anne Frank.

Clara answered every letter she received and tried to coordinate between the libraries close to the camp sites. She wrote to the State Department to reconsider the treatment of Japanese Americans in the camps. She tried hard to get visitation to the camp sites to see "her" children. She was a person with an iron will who turned

her ideas into action!

It occurred to me that there was most likely one of Clara's children among the Officers of the Japanese Friendship Garden. I phoned around and found Beth, wife of a Japanese-American landscape architect. Beth was eight years old when the War broke out and she, along with her sister, corresponded with Clara. Beth's family lived in the Santa Anita Horse Racing stables until they were relocated to Poston, Arizona.

Beth introduced me to Ted, the eldest boy among the captive children [in her family]. Ted, 16 years at the start of the War, had enlisted in the Nisei Troops* from the camp. He was saddened at Clara's death. He said he owed her a great debt of gratitude for the many things she did. Ted and others helped to classify the [Clara Breed] letters and sent them to the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles.

In the summer of 2002, I visited the newly-built Japanese American National Museum in Little Tokyo, downtown Los Angeles. I found Clara's photo in the Who's Who information, together with sample letters to Clara from the children in the camps. Visitors have access to typewritten letter files upon request. It probably takes more than an hour to review them all; it is a thick file.

I would like to introduce a sample:

Dear Miss Breed,

Thank you for sending William Saroyan's Human Comedy.

I'm glad you liked the doll I handmade for you . . .

Two things I can't take in Poston. The sand storms and the heat! Many people here have rashes to treat . . .

The other night I had a dream. I had permission to go back to San Diego. The moment I got out at the station, I was in a candy store . . . You are standing behind me. I bought 5 pounds of chocolate . . . and I was asking you . . . Would it melt before I could go back to my house?

* Despite the bitter experience of internment, almost all the Japanese in America expressed only a desire to prove their loyalty. Moreover, 8,000 Nisei—children born in the United States of Japanese parentage—enlisted in the armed forces, such as the infantry of the much-decorated 442nd Regimental Combat Team. In all, 8,000 Japanese Americans joined the armed services despite the loss of their civil liberties at home. The 442nd Combat Team received citations for bravery in 1944.

DEMOCRACY UNDER PRESSURE

Video and Teacher's Guide

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

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

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

In 2000, JAHSSD distributed *free* videos and guides to all public and private secondary schools and colleges in San Diego and Imperial Counties. The video is also in circulation in the San Diego Public Library system. See it; share it. *Order form is on Page 23.*

THANK YOU

to the Generous Community Sponsors
of the 2004 NIKKEI FILMFEST:

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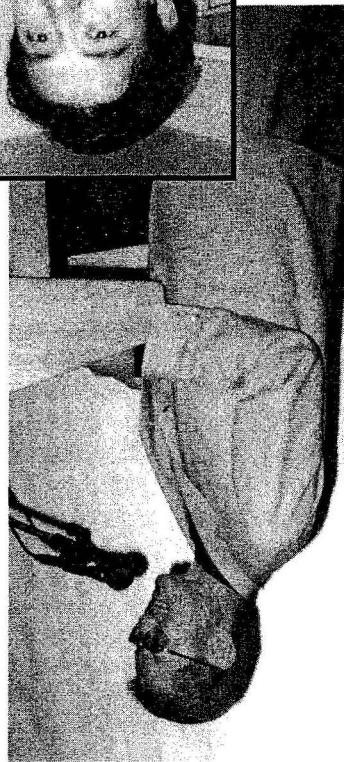
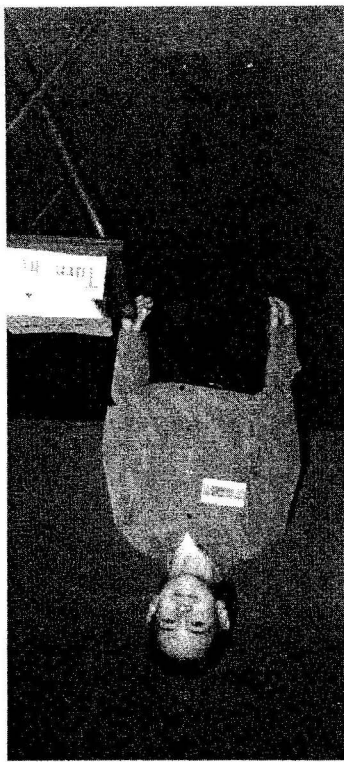
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In Memory of Osamu Tamura
Dr. Francis Tanaka
G. Yamamoto
Tom & Sumi Yanaqihara



SNAPSHOTS from the 2003 NIKKEI FILMFEST



Clockwise from upper left: Filmfest audience in Southwestern College's Mayan Hall; Lobby helpers Nancy Cowser, Joyce Teague, Christina Pierson; Audience members; LuAnn Lee's theme-decorated cake; Reception at Kiku Gardens; Dean and Jari; Nancy Cowser with ushers Debra and Jilly Kodama and Ben Segawa



Page 20, clockwise from upper left: M.C Steve Sato welcomes audience members; Jari Osborne and Dean Yamada introducing their films; Ticket taker Christopher Pierson

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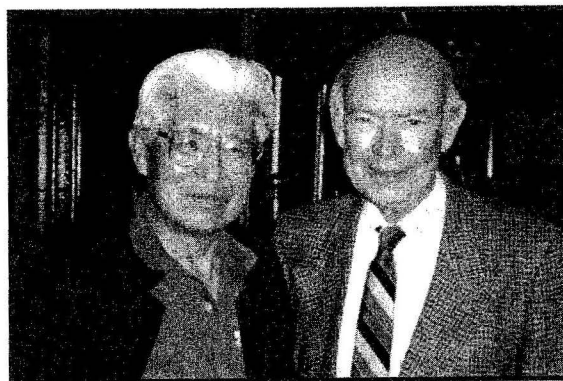
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See *We Get Letters*, p. 15
and *Dear Miss Breed*, p. 19



HARRY KOWASE, circa 1943

See 442 Uniform Donated, p. 6