

FOOTPRINTS

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

Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego



JAPANESE AMERICAN VETERANS MEMORIAL DEDICATED MEMORIAL DAY 2005

by Joyce Teague

In Mount Hope Cemetery, on the sunny but blustery morning of May 30, **Mitsuru Amano** and **Tsune Kaneko** pulled away a cloth to reveal the gleaming new **San Diego Japanese American Veterans Memorial** to the applause of 400 guests gathered for its unveiling.

Situated in the so-called Old Japanese section of the cemetery, the simple but stately rectangle of polished black granite faces north. The inscription engraved on its surface reads:

*Dedicated to all Americans of Japanese ancestry
who defended their country
for the right to be called Americans*

Decorated with the colorful insignias of all branches of the military, the memorial is believed to be the only one in the United States dedicated to American veterans of Japanese descent who have served their country not only in combat, but also in peacetime.

The event was hosted by the **Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego (JAHSSD)** which spearheaded the project. The dedication was held in conjunction with the annual interfaith service conducted jointly at the cemetery by the **Buddhist Temple of San Diego (BTSD)**, **Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ (POVUCC)**, **San Diego Japanese Christian Church (SDJCC)** and the **Asian Pacific VFW Post 4851**.

Tents set up along the paved road in front of the Old Japanese section shaded some of those seated in folding chairs facing the monument. Event co-chair **Ben Segawa** welcomed the standing room-only crowd which included representatives of the U.S. Congress, the California State legislature, and many of the people who had contributed to the memorial project, including veterans who proudly wore caps or jackets designating their military affiliation.

Videographers and reporters who had conducted interviews (*continued on Page 2*) and

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- JULY 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 26 – Bon Odori dance practices (Sundays: 10:45 am, Tuesdays: 7:30 pm), Buddhist Temple of San Diego (BTSD). Free and public welcome
- JULY 16 – Gytaku (fish printing) class (10 am), Japanese Friendship Garden. Two-hour class is free for kids to Grade 6 with an adult regular admission. 619/232-2721
- JULY 23 – JAHSSD Board meeting (8:15 am), BTSD Sangha Hall
- JULY 23 – Imperial Valley Buddhist Cemetery Service (8:30 am) Info: 619/239-0896
- JULY 23 – "Dharma for Dummies," Buddhist lecture by Rinban Bob Oshita of Sacramento Betsuin (7 pm), BTSD. Free and public welcome
- JULY 24 – Mt. Hope graveside service (8:30 am), Mt. Hope Cemetery; Hatsubon Service (9 am), OBON SERVICE (10 am), Hospitality (12 noon), BTSD
- JULY 29 – JSSDT Beer and Sake Festival (6 to 9 pm), Maritime Museum's Ferryboat Berkeley. \$20 JSSDT member, \$30 nonmember. Info: 619/233-6873
- JULY 30 – Bon Odori: Festival of Joy (5 to 9 pm), BTSD
- JULY 30 – JAHSSD Exhibit: "San Diego's Nikkei Fishing Industry" (5 to 9 pm), BTSD Annex Hall. Free
- AUG 15 – Fall *Footprints* submissions deadline
- AUG 20 & 21 – BTSD Rummage Sale (Sat: 8 am-2 pm & Sun: 8 am-12 noon)
- AUG 27 – JAHSSD Board meeting (8:15 am), BTSD Sangha Hall
- AUG 28 – 4th Sunday Intro to Buddhism Class (9 am), BTSD. Free and public welcome
- AUG 28 – BTSD 10th Annual Golf Tournament, Riverwalk Golf Club. Info: 619/239-0896
- SEP 11 – BTSD 2005-06 Dharma School year begins
- SEP 17 – JAHSSD Board meeting (8:15 am), BTSD Sangha Hall
- SEP 23 – San Diego City College presents a tribute to Prof. Don Estes, tentatively set for 3 pm. Check www.jahssd.org for update in September

SAVE THE DATE!
JAHSSD Annual Meeting
and 2005 Kansha Awards
~ OCTOBER 15 ~

MIS-STEAKS: We Keep Cooking 'Em Up!

On Page 22 of Spring 2005 *Footprints*, "Fong Fong: A Fond Farewell" turned out to be premature. The sale of the restaurant fell through, so the **Wong Family** continues to serve up tasty Hawaiian-style breakfasts at 3755 Murphy Canyon Blvd. The lesson here: NEVER, EVER say it's over till the Fat Lady—yes, that would be your Editor—sings!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mich Himaka

Moving on.

After most catastrophic events, cold as it may seem, the idea for a group or a nation that has fallen victim to such an event is to keep moving on.

Four years after 9-11, the nation is moving on. New York City is still recovering but moving on.

The Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego suffered its own catastrophic event on May 7, 2005, with the sudden loss of our dear friend and historian, Donald Hamilton Estes. At age 68, he was too young to leave us. Without a doubt, as I have repeatedly told anyone within hearing distance, Don was the heart and soul of our organization.

He knew more about our community than anyone else.

He was our ambassador of good will.

He was not one to go to the mountain top and shout to everyone about our Nikkei community, but he did it in his own quiet way.

That he was heard was evident at his memorial service held at the Buddhist Temple of San Diego on May 11 when a crowd we estimated at over 300 people turned out to bid him farewell. People from all walks of life, from all over the world, turned out to pay him tribute—students he taught at his first job at La Jolla High School, students he later taught at San Diego City College, those he lectured at other universities, Boy Scouts and scouting leaders from his long association with scouting in San Diego County, people he helped in many ways during his many travels throughout the world, and friends—all people whose lives he touched in many different ways.

For those who were unable to attend, it can be said that Rev. Jim Yanagihara officiated over the Buddhist service with the assistance of Rev. Akira Hata and Rev. Yushi Mukojima and with participation of a multi-denominational cast. It was Don's last wish to have Rev. Jim officiate over the service, but he would have enjoyed the fact that people from all of our community's churches participated.

It was a fitting tribute that Don had brought all of us together in that way.

His passing is a tremendous loss, not only to the JAHSSD but to our entire community and all of our organizations.

No one person will be able to replace him as our historian. At least, for now. Therefore, I have asked our Board to form a historian's committee to serve in Don's capacity for the time being as we move on.

We might be seeking new board members to come aboard to help us in this endeavor.

And that is our effort at moving on.

Rest in Peace, Don.

But you have left us a large pair of shoes to fill.

VETERANS MEMORIAL DEDICATION (continued from Page 1)

prior to the program for use on local news broadcasts, now aimed their cameras at the podium.

The invocation by **Rev. Jim Yanagihara** was followed by the presentation of colors by the 1st District Color Guard VFW led by **Capt. Edward (Lalo) Naranjo**. **Commander Lou Gutzman** of VFW Post 4851 then led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the National Anthem sung by **Yuri Kaneda**, **Tae Udo** and **Sharon Kataoka** accompanied by **Linda Kida**, **Sharon Kunugi** and **Jodi Takei Peterie**

In his remarks to the crowd, event co-chair **George Furuya, Jr.** said that this inaugural dedication was the community's opportunity to honor all of its veterans of Japanese descent, men and women who had served in all branches of the armed forces during times of conflict

VETERANS MEMORIAL DEDICATION continued from previous page

peace. Noting that many Nikkei veterans sadly were no longer alive to receive our gratitude, Furuya said "their memories and spirit" had "guided us to this historic day." Building the memorial, he said, meant a permanent place in San Diego to pay respects to veterans.

Congressman **Bob Filner**, whose district encompasses the memorial site, declared the day "Japanese American Veterans Day" and presented JAHSSD with a flag which had flown over the nation's Capitol. Field Representative **Bob Jackson** of California's 36th Senate District presented JAHSSD with a flag which had flown over the State Capitol. Also present were **Andrew Zingale** representing Assemblywoman **Lori Saldana**; and **Todd Gloria**, District Director for **Susan Davis**.

On display were letters of commendation from President **George Bush**, Mayor **Dick Murphy**, City Councilman **Brian Maienschein**, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, U.S. Senator **Dianne Feinstein**, and State Senators **Denise Moreno Ducheny** and **Dennis Hollingsworth**.

A floral wreath was presented by **Min Sakamoto**, representing the Veterans Memorial Committee, and floral bouquets were offered by **Breven Honda** (BTSD), **Eric Fujikawa** (POVUCC), and **Kou Okura** (SDJCC). "Taps," played by trumpeter **Christopher Taticzek**, brought the dedication program to a close.

During the interfaith service which followed, inaugural floral presentations were made to the memorial by **Ralph Honda** (BTSD), **James Yamate** (SDJCC), **Dr. Yuri Kaneda** (POVUCC), **Kottie Uyeji** (VFW Post 4851), **David Kawamoto** (SD-JACL), **Roy Muraoka** (Japanese Coordinating Council) and **Michio Himaka** (JAHSSD). **Motoo Tsuneyoshi** MCed the service, which was conducted by **Rev. Makoto Okura** (SDJCC), **Rev. Norma DeSaegher** (POVUCC), and **Revs. Akira Hata**, **Yushi Mukojima**, and **Jim Yanagihara** (BTSD).

Following the service, attendees enjoyed a mini-bento put together by **Ichiban Restaurant of Hillcrest** and other refreshments provided by JAHSSD's auxiliary group, the **When's Lunch? Bunch**.

Ongoing was a veterans' sign-in, an attempt to record the whereabouts of San Diego's Nikkei veterans. The **San Diego JACL** is planning to host an appreciation luncheon for them this fall and wants to locate as many as they can.

History of the Veterans Memorial

The idea for the memorial came from **George Furuya, Jr.**, inspired by the memory of his late father, **George Furuya, Sr.**, who had enlisted in the Army during World War II while interned in Poston Relocation Camp. He served in the **442nd Regimental Combat Team** during World War II and fought in both France and Italy. The 442nd was the most highly-decorated unit in United States history, yet his father rarely spoke of his wartime experiences.

It was not until after his father's death in 1998 that Furuya Jr. found his father's Purple Heart and other medals in a shoe box in the back of a dresser drawer. This discovery haunted him, and he eventually attended a reunion of 442nd veterans in Hawaii and talked to those who had known his father. He learned that his father had been wounded twice in action. He heard many stories of the unit's bravery and camaraderie which his father had never spoken of.

Furuya found that San Diego County did not have a place to honor its Nikkei veterans. Furuya envisioned a monument which would recognize the sacrifices and contributions of Japanese Americans who served their country in all branches of service in both war and peacetime.

In the Spring of 2003, Furuya approached JAHSSD for its help in the creation of such a monument. JAHSSD formed the Japanese Americans Veterans Memorial Committee, co-chaired by Furuya and **Ben Segawa**, which built on Furuya's idea. The City of San Diego donated two

ideally-situated plots in the Mt. Hope Cemetery. Landscaping, flagpoles, and urns for floral offerings were included in the design.

The Committee estimated \$25,000 was needed to pay for the memorial and this goal was reached soon after an invitation was extended to the public for contributions. It was apparent the community agreed there was a need for such a memorial. Subsequent donations will be used for anticipated repair and upkeep of the monument into the future.

This unique memorial now stands as a place to pay tribute to the brave men and women who have served their country to preserve the freedoms we enjoy. It also is a testament to the inspiration of one, the persistence of a handful, and the generous gifts of many.

~ Photographs of the dedication are on Pages 12 and 13 ~

SPEECH at the DEDICATION of the J.A. VETERANS MEMORIAL

George Furuya, Jr., Co-chair of the Japanese American Veterans Memorial Committee, made these remarks at the dedication of the memorial

Dear Honored Guests, Friends, and Special Honorees, our Veterans:

It is my privilege this morning to be a part of this dedication to pay tribute to the Japanese American Veterans of San Diego. Today is a special day in which we honor all of our veterans. To recognize their courage, loyalty and sacrifice they have made: men and women, who have served in all branches of our U.S. armed forces during all wars and peace time.

The remarkable history of our veterans began with the Nisei who served during World War II 60 years ago. The Nisei were, and are, apart of the generation which Tom Brokaw wrote, "The Greatest Generation." Their legacy includes the heroism of the 100th Battalion, known as "The Purple Heart Battalion"; the 442nd Regimental Combat Team with their "Go For Broke" spirit, awarded more medals in United States military history for its size and length of service; and the Military Intelligence Service (MIS), a unit that General MacArthur said, "saved millions of lives and ended the war in the Pacific by years."

The legacy continues with our Korean War Veterans, who fought in the bitter cold of Korea to protect others who could not defend themselves; our Vietnam Veterans, who served in the hot, humid region of Southeast Asia; and now our Gulf War, Afghanistan and Iraq Veterans in the deserts of the Middle East.

Sadly, many of our veterans are not with us today. But their memories and spirit have inspired our community to create this beautiful memorial, and with this memorial we shall not forget them.

We sometimes say there are no heroes anymore, but we have everyday heroes present among us, men and women who did extraordinary deeds during the most difficult of times. For those heroes among us, we salute you, we embrace you, we shake your hands, and we are deeply indebted to you.

May this monument be a lasting testament to our Japanese American Veterans of San Diego and may it be a reminder for future generations about honor, loyalty and sacrifice for our freedoms and the right to be called Americans.

JOURNEY to the UNITED STATES

The serialized story about San Diego Issei **Akiji Watanabe**, researched and written by his daughter, **Fran Watanabe Wada** of Seattle, will resume in a future issue of the newsletter. We apologize to the author and our readers for the break in continuity.

DONALD HAMILTON ESTES

August 22, 1936~May 7, 2005

by Mich Himaka

On May 7, 2005, JAHSSD founding executive board member and historian, Don Estes, died from unexpected complications of bypass surgery at UCSD Medical Center. He was 68. On May 11, 2005, a memorial service was held for him at the Buddhist Temple of San Diego. Over 300 people came to pay their respects to Don and offer their condolences to Carol and her family. JAHSSD President Mich Himaka served as chairman of the service. This is the text of his opening remarks and life history.

On behalf of Carol, Matthew, his soon-to-be bride Rajam, Kumao and Cynthia—thank you for taking time from your busy schedules and traveling near and far to pay final respects to Donald Hamilton Estes.

Don's passing at age 68 on Saturday, May 7 was a shocking and devastating loss not only to the family but, just as equally, to our entire Nikkei community. We will all feel the effect of this loss soon enough, if it hasn't sunk in already.

Don Estes was his own man, you all know that. The fact that his memorial service tonight is being held in this Buddhist Temple should be proof enough. A Christian his entire life, it was Don's final wish to have his friend, Rev. Jim Yanagihara, conduct this memorial service in this temple under Buddhist protocol with the temple's approval. Don, it is done.

Okay, where do we go from here? I think it would be Don's desire that all of us—individuals and organizations he served with—close ranks and work together to carry on his "let's do it" attitude.

I first encountered that attitude in 1992 when the Historical Society formed with an initial group of about 15. Today, we number almost 500 members. Don's being a director had much to do with it.

Then in 1996, we got a request from the San Diego Museum of History to put together an exhibit reflecting San Diego County's Nikkei experience. Don said, "Let's do it." He was director, curator, coordinator, chief cook and bottle washer for "The Hundred Year Road: Japan to San Diego" exhibit. It ran for eight months, longer than originally scheduled.

Don said "let's do it" in 2001 when former internees of the World War II Poston III Relocation Center in Arizona asked that we host another reunion—our third here. He took charge of the exhibit again and our visitors again were overwhelmed by items and pictures Don had put together for them.

And when the representatives of the Colorado River Indian Tribal Council in Parker, Arizona, attended the reunion and offered their help, resources and clout to restore the original Camp I site, Don said, "let's do it."

He said "let's do it" when it came time for us to try and find a home for our organization last year. He said "let's do it" when the chance to put on the "Camp Dance" musical program in San Diego came along last month.

Don won't be here to see those three projects completed but I'm sure they'll get done. But we will miss his directing us.

I do regret, however, that Don will not be with us this coming Memorial Day, May 30, when we dedicate and unveil a monument that is the community's tribute to all our veterans of the past, present and future wars, and include veterans married to Nikkeis like Don.

That monument was dear to his heart and Don's last completed "let's do it" project. He will be there in spirit because he worked so hard on it.

Don Estes was more than just a historian of our community. He took our people by the hand, pulled, pushed and shoved us into that small flashlight beam of a spotlight that we all tried so hard to avoid.

It's been like that for us since World War II when we survived the humiliation of living in the Santa Anita horse stables, military spotlights following us as we walked to the latrine with our toilet paper roll in hand and back to the stable when we were finished.

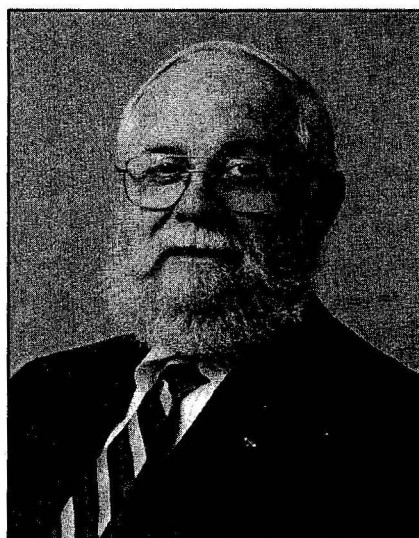
Trying to duck that spotlight helped us to maintain a low profile.

In pushing us into the spotlight, Don was telling us: *Be proud of your heritage. Be proud of the WWII record our fathers, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts and cousins established fighting in the European and the Pacific Theaters of war, not only with the 442nd RCT, but with other units as well.*

He said be proud of all we have accomplished within the overall San Diego community despite that low profile we prefer.

Don did his part spreading the word about our community. When we shared speaking engagements at schools, colleges and civic organizations, Don told others of all our community's accomplishments—things the rest of us were not comfortable talking about.

Yes, Don Estes was more than a historian for our community, he truly was a friend. He was one of us. And we are forever in his debt.



Donald Hamilton Estes

was born Aug. 22, 1936, in Central City, Nebraska, the first of two sons born to Donald Hamilton Estes and Maysal Replogle Estes. The family moved to San Diego in 1939 and eventually settled in the North Park area where he lived for 65 years.

He attended Jefferson Elementary School, Roosevelt Junior High and graduated in 1954 from San Diego High. He earned his Bachelor's and

Master's Degrees in Education from San Diego State University and went on to a 43-year teaching career, seven of them at La Jolla High and the rest at San Diego City College.

Don's extended service with the Japanese American community began in 1967 when he joined the San Diego Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, a noted civil rights organization. He was a director and served two terms as chapter president, edited its newsletter for 20 years and was chapter historian for the last 15 years.

Don also served on the Japanese American National Museum's scholarly advisory board based in Los Angeles, the Japanese Friendship Garden of San Diego's executive board, and was a founding director and historian of the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego. Don was the heart and soul of the organization.

In addition to those community activities, he was affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America since 1948 when he became a Cub Scout. He went on to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout and gained numerous honors for his scouting activities.

Don is survived by his wife, Toshiye Carol Estes; son Matthew and his fiancée, Rajam; son Kumao; and daughter Cynthia Torres.

Other members of his extended family include his sisters-in-law Sumiyo Kastelic, Claire Estes, Joanne Hasegawa, Leslie Hasegawa, Patricia Hasegawa, brothers-in-law Michael Hasegawa and Gene Hasegawa; their spouses; and six nephews and nieces.

Thank you, Don Estes. You are missed.

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.

GRACE SEKI ~ March 9, 2005

JOE YOSHIOKA ~ March 14, 2005

KIMIE RAND ~ March 30, 2005

TOSHIO HAYAKAWA ~ April 11, 2005

TSUYOSHI MURAKAMI ~ April 14, 2005

KATSUMI J. TAKASHIMA ~ May 3, 2005

DONALD HAMILTON ESTES ~ May 7, 2005

HATSUKO IULA ~ May 14, 2005

ELWOOD YASUSHI ITO ~ May 25, 2004

JUNKO CUSHMAN ~ May 25, 2005

YOSHIKO A. COUGH ~ May 25, 2005

MISUE YATO ALONSAGAY ~ June 4, 2005

KAZUYO T. HARLAN ~ June 6, 2005

VICTORIA SAKATA ~ June 10, 2005

TAKASHI ENOMOTO ~ June 24, 2005

CAUGHT DOING SOMETHING NICE

In each issue of *Footprints*, we like to recognize and thank those members and friends who have gone out of their way to provide our Society with that effort that has made our organization so successful.

First of all, we thank Charter Life Member **Ruth Voorhies** for donating a wonderful scrapbook of evacuation memorabilia that she collected from the April 8, 1942, evacuation from San Diego to the Santa Anita Assembly Center (read that "horse stable days") to our move and stay at Poston Camp III, Ariz., during WWII.

Ruth's collection includes Poston Chronicle news articles concerning San Diegans; mess hall buttons from the Red Mess, Blue Mess and the Green Mess; work time cards that she collected from friends working in Santa Anita; dance cards and tickets for events in Poston; and currency sent to her by GI friends serving in both occupied Germany and Japan. The collection includes a business card for **Harry's Cafe**, which her father, **Harry G. Takahashi**, operated out of 510 Fifth Ave., San Diego. The card notes his place had "special booths for ladies," "meals 25 cents and up," and says the cafe is "The Best Clean Place to Eat." Also included in this gift are original menus from Harry's Cafe as well as menus from the famous **Wong's Nanking Cafe**, which at one time was called the oldest restaurant in San Diego.

Our gratitude to **Joanne and Adele Yoshioka**, who donated fishing equipment and memorabilia that their father, the late **Joe Yoshioka**, had used or collected during his long career as fisherman, navigator and boat skipper. Among the items are the all-brass steering wheel from his boat, *Southland*; a photograph of the *Southland*; the prized sextant he used on his trips to sea; a number of fishing videotapes; a reel of fishing movies Joe had collected, as well as a splicer and projector we can use to show the movie; and other special items. The Society truly

appreciates these gifts. (Some of them will be on display at the JAHSSD fishing exhibit at the Buddhist Temple's Bon Odori on July 30.)

Thanks very much to **Hatsune Mukai** for donating a photograph taken in Poston III titled, "The Christian Church group." Some familiar faces peer out from the photo, including **Bill Vetter**, **David Arata** and **Midori Kamiura Fujino**. We hope to display this (and other untitled photos in our archives) at future functions to get help naming those pictured.

A belated thank you to **Elizabeth Yamada** for loaning us her collection of Poston *Hi Times* and *Spotlight* newsletters written for the high school and junior high school classes. They were school journalism class publications put out while we were in camp. Thanks also to **Dennis Shimamoto** for helping us purchase and set up the new loud speaker system that was used for the first time at the Veterans Memorial Monument dedication. Because the system was purchased with the idea that any community organization could use it for their own functions, Dennis is also helping us by putting together a booklet of instructions so that organizations who want to use the system will know how to work it.

We thank the volunteer crew that folded, sorted and mailed out the Spring issue of *Footprints*, including the late **Don Estes**, **Jeanne Elyea**, **Rev. Jim Yanagihara**, **Mits and Yuki Kawamoto**, **Gwen Momita**, and **Naomi and Mich Himaka**.

On March 26, the Society mounted a pictorial exhibit of San Diego's Nikkei history at the inaugural **Japan Fiesta** at the Sports Arena. The event was built around an arena football exhibition game between the San Diego Riptide and the Japan All-Star Samurais. **Don Estes** put together the exhibit for us. It was installed by **Don and Carol Estes**, **Bill and Jeanne Elyea**, and **Yuki and Mits Kawamoto**. **Jeanne**, **Debbie Kodama** and **Christina Pierson** hosted the information table and handed out membership brochures and past issues of *Footprints* newsletters during the event. Clean-up crew included **Jeanne**, **Debbie**, **Christina**, **Yuki** and **Mits**. The exhibit received a lot of traffic and some very nice comments.

Andy Hata of the Japan Fiesta took time to attend the Board of Directors meeting in May to thank JAHSSD for its participation and also to offer his condolences to the Society on the loss of Don.

The historic dedication of the **San Diego Japanese American Veterans Memorial** at Mt. Hope Cemetery on Memorial Day was the culmination of two years of planning by the **Veterans Memorial Committee** which was formed by the JAHSSD in April 2003. That this wonderful project was wholeheartedly embraced by the community is testament that we had a need for such a memorial in San Diego.

George Furuya, Jr. and **Ben Segawa** shared chairing duties of the committee, members of which are mentioned elsewhere in this issue.

Other individuals and the donors who helped make the memorial possible were listed in the dedication program booklet. Those who were not acknowledged in the booklet include: **Yuri Yamate**, along with the



A handful of the many volunteers at the Memorial Day dedication

CAUGHT DOING SOMETHING NICE continued from previous page

When's Lunch? Bunch, who provided baked goodies for the refreshments; **Allyne Tachiki**, **Justine Tachiki** and **Linda McLemore** for picking up the mini-bentos; **Bill Elyea** and the **Mount Hope Cemetery staff** for helping direct the traffic; and members of the Buddhist Temple's youth group, the **Junior YBA**, who served as ushers: **Brent Fuchigami**, **Nathan Hidingier**, **Elysa and Trevor Kinoshita**, **Kevin Lee**, **Isaac Martinez**, **Christina Samons**, **Jamie and Bryant Shimizu** and **Erik Sumida**. **Naomi Himaka** made sure small but important details were taken care of, such as a beautiful cloth covering for the unveiling ceremony. We sincerely thank all of our participants and volunteers that day and, of course, the entire community for their support in making the memorial a reality.

May was a busy month as well for our speaker volunteers. Our gratitude to **Yuki and Mits Kawamoto**, **Ben Segawa**, and **Rev. Jim Yanagihara** who spoke about their internment experience at Abraxis High School in Poway. **Mich Himaka**, **Rev. Jim Yanagihara** and **Yuki Kawamoto** gave a talk at the Asia Pacific Islander Forum at the Chinese Museum on May 21. And **Mich** and **Ben** represented JAHSSD at the May 25 meeting of the Kearny Mesa Kiwanis Club. Thanks very much!

We also want to thank the busy **When's Lunch? Bunch**, **Miki Honda** and board members and spouses for preparing refreshments for the reception following our friend **Don Estes'** memorial service on May 11. The Estes family was very appreciative.

Lastly, regular readers of "Caught Doing Something Nice" should know that **Don Estes** had been the main contributor to this column since its inception over 10 years ago. In fact, the column was his idea and he came up with the name for it. It was always a concern of his that there was proper acknowledgment of those who support the Society, not only with their gifts of photographs and artifacts, but also of their precious gifts of time and service.

It should come as no surprise that, had all of his own contributions been formally noted, Don's name could have filled this column each issue. His thoughtfulness and generosity, particularly when it came to our Society, was without limit. He had already prepared a story for this issue of *Footprints* far in advance of publication (see story in next column). And among the items **Carol Estes** found recently at home was a bag of prizes Don had set aside for the JAHSSD annual meeting's raffle in October.

That was our Don. We miss him.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Naomi M. Himaka, Membership Chair

A warm welcome to our new members who have joined our organization since the last edition of *Footprints*.

Our new members are **So Yamada**, **Tom Arata**, **Kikuno Tanabe**, **Akira & Joan Loveridge-Sanbonmatsu**, **Tom Arata**, **Mark T. Abe**, **Tak & Ruth Sugimoto**, and **Craig & Sharon Nakamura**. Mr. & Mrs. Nakamura's memberships are gifts of **Mrs. S. Nakamura**.

We also welcome **Morgan Fisher & Margaret Honda** (son-in-law and daughter of the late **Masami Honda**), **David D. Smith, Ph.D.**, and **Richard & Misako Roussin** as new Life Members.

We thank members **Setsuo & Jan Iwashita** and **Janet Fujikawa** for upgrading to Life Membership. Thanks also go to **Linda & Edgar Canada** for upgrading their membership to a Corporate Annual Membership. We are pleased to have all of you as members of our Society.

We are grateful to the following members for renewing their memberships: **Isamu & Pauline Nakamura**, **Henry & Mary T. Yamada**, **Kiyo**

Uda, **Jay & Mari Sato**, **Fudo Takagi**, **Jeanette M. Dutton**, **Joseph & Noriko Correia**, **Ann Tsuchiyama Carlin**, **Earl Osaki**, **Jeanie Kashima**, **Masako Shima**, **Harry & Misako Honda**, **Gene & Elsie Shimamoto**, **Kiyoko Kitagawa**, **George K. & Karen Shinzaki**, **Beni Takahashi**, **Umeko Kawamoto**, **Tom H. & Elizabeth Ozaki**, **Machi Uchida**, **Henry Mukai**, **Elizabeth Hatashita**, **Shinkichi Tajiri**, and **Kimie Fukamizu**.

We also thank the following for their recent renewals: **Tsutomu & Rosie S. Date**, **Tyler & Peggy Tanaka**, **Toshiko Kawasaki**, **Sakie Kawahara**, **John S. & Kiyo Takemoto**, **Richard & Helen Takashima**, **Glen & Roslyn Masumoto**, **George & Betty Wakiji**, **Rev. Norma Nomura DeSaegher**, **Larry Kida**, **Chiz A. Imoto**, **Terry & Sachiko Nishida**, **Chiyeko Yagi**, **Ritsu & Fred Nabeta**, **Bruce & Sharon Asakawa**, **Joe & Terry Mizufuka**, **Dick Jensen**, **Michiko Eguchi**, **John & Jill Damrose**, **Holly & Ronald Hidingier**, **Karen Hart**, **Thomas T. & June Hamada**, **Hideko Shimasaki**, **Joe Karamoto**, **Dr. Azusa & Haruko Tsuneyoshi**, **Dell Shitara**, and **Mary Marumoto**.

Additional thanks to the following for their recent renewals: **Frank & Janet Koide**, **Tad & Fran Wada**, **Ben Kitahata**, **Tim & Junko Kajita**, **Sumio & Fumiko Nakamoto**, **Toshi Miyashita**, **Christy G. Vikander**, **Grace & Hiroshi Sawasaki**, **David Fujikawa & Dr. Yuri Kaneda**, **Tim Asamen**, **Hiroshi Kubota**, and **Dr. Joe Takehara**.

JAHSSD RECEIVES MAJOR DONATION

by Don Estes

The Abe Family of Plymouth, Minnesota and Arlington, Virginia has informed the JAHSSD of their intention to donate to JAHSSD the records, papers and artifacts of **Tokunosuke Abe**, Issei pioneer, fisheries entrepreneur, and political activist.

In an e-mail to the Society, **Matt Abe** writes, "My mother and our family are interested in donating any artifacts related to my grandfather's fishing company, that you might be interested in acquiring. This collection includes ships records, financial records, correspondence, newspaper clippings, photographs, movie film and periodicals."

Tokunosuke Abe, descended from an old Iwate-ken samurai family, immigrated to the United States in 1907. Later he graduated from Woodbury College with a degree in business and accounting. Returning to Japan, he married **Tama** and returned to the United States to settle in San Diego. The couple's two sons, **Toshio** and **Hayao** were born in San Diego.

Working first for **Masaharu Kondo's M.K. Fishing Company**, Abe later incorporated the **Southern Commercial Company** in 1931 with one ten-ton boat and three employees. Within five years, he increased the operation to 25 boats and over 200 employees, making his company the largest fishing fleet under private management in Southern California.

From 1919 until 1940, Abe was a leader in the statewide fight to protect Issei commercial fishermen from becoming the victims of discriminatory, anti-Japanese state fishing legislation. In *T. Abe v. Fish and Game Commission*, the California Supreme Court upheld the right of Issei to obtain commercial fishing licenses.

Tokunosuke Abe died in San Diego on January 3, 1941, of a massive stroke. The family has informed the Society that they are interested in seeing these papers and artifacts relating to the Nikkei history of San Diego preserved for future study.

The JAHSSD is deeply grateful to **Mrs. Mary Abe**, **Mr. Matt Abe**, **Mr. Mark Abe**, and **Mrs. Jo Toy** for this important gift to the Nikkei community.

MAZEGOHAN

by Mich Himaka

You old timers remember those old newsreels of "Time Marches On!" The month of May was one of those sweet and sour months.

At the beginning of May, we lost the backbone of our organization, **Don Estes**. A horrific blow, a tough loss for all of us.

Then came Memorial Day, a memorable occasion for all of us, one that would have Don so proud for having played a big part in making our Veterans Memorial Monument a reality.

A crowd of more than 400 people turned out for the dedication and unveiling of the monument. A dedication ceremony was combined with the annual Memorial Day Interfaith Service, which has been hosted by the **Asian Pacific Islander VFW Post 4851**, the **Buddhist Temple of San Diego**, the **San Diego Japanese Christian Church** and the **Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ** for these many years.

The weather was near perfect. The crowd was excited. A new loudspeaker system was in place and working. And the program went on with hardly a hitch.

The monument was unveiled by **Mitsuru Amano** and **Tsune Kaneko**, representing their families in memory of their brothers, **Yutaka Jack Amano** (Korea) and **Shuji Julio Kaneko** (Vietnam), the only two known local Nikkei who have died on the battlefield to date.

It was a proud moment for everyone. It had to be an especially proud moment for our committee chairman, **George Furuya, Jr.**, who first brought his idea of a monument to our board.

The first two donations for the project came to us from **Aiko Owashi** and **Mr. and Mrs. Mike Kinoshita**. For that distinction, we reserved them special seats in the audience, although Mike and Yasuko soon gave up the seats to seniors who were attending.

It had to be a proud moment even for those hardened veterans from World War II who stood, accepted the recognition from everyone present, and saluted the flag as it was hoisted atop the new, 20-foot flag pole in place behind the monument.

"I was so proud to be a part of this committee that worked on this project," said **James Yamate** (Army-WWII). James was one of those who hustled to raise funds that made the monument a reality.

The other veterans on the committee were **Min Sakamoto** (Army-WWII), **Roy Muraoka** (Army-Korean War), **Rev. Jim Yanagihara**, (Army-Korean War), **Ben Segawa** (USAF-Korean War), **Bob Batchelder** (Navy-Vietnam), **Don Estes** (Army Reserves), and yours truly (Air Force-Korea).

But while the spotlight shined on the veterans, a big part of that spotlight should also have shown on non-veterans who helped make this event memorable. I especially would point out one **Joyce Teague**, our *Footprints* editor and the person responsible for designing, laying out, editing and producing the souvenir program that each donor and individuals in attendance received. I didn't see one booklet left at the site after it was all over. That speaks volumes as to what people in attendance thought of it. Our organization today would be nothing without Joyce and the newsletter she produces for us on a quarterly basis. Her husband, **Bill Teague**, also deserves some applause for allowing his wife to do her hard work for us.

But we could not have realized the monument without one group of individuals—all of you, the community members who stepped up when asked and donated the funds. Some of you have even donated a second time, and some are still sending their donations to us.

For that, we thank you. Everything that is sent to the monument will be used for upkeep and to make any anticipated future repairs.

Stand up and take a bow. You deserve it.

JOE YAMADA'S FIRM REACHES 50

This year, **Wimmer Yamada and Caughey** celebrates its 50th year as a major San Diego landscape architecture firm. Cofounded in 1954 by **Joseph H. Yamada**, a graduate of U.C. Berkeley, and his colleague **Harriett Wimmer**, the firm's projects have included the Scripps Institute of Oceanography, Sea World Phase I, the UCSD Campus (1960–80), and Embarcadero Marina Park. Recent projects include the Olympic Training Center, Del Mar Grandstand and Turf Club, Pechanga Casino Expansion, Santa Luz Golf Course and the Qualcomm Campus.



Joe Yamada was one of the first Asians to serve as an appointee on land use-related boards and committees for the City of San Diego. As Chair of the Design Review Committee for the City's Park and Recreation Board, he helped establish a role for the landscape architect in public and civic land planning. He has consulted for many Port District projects and was awarded Fellow in the American Society of Landscape Architecture (ASLA) in 1979 in both

design excellence and service to the profession.

His wife, **Elizabeth Kikuchi Yamada**, was also a member of the firm, serving as administrator and partner for almost 20 years. **Patrick W. Caughey** is now owner and president of the firm.

KYOCERA INTERNATIONAL, INC. to RECEIVE AWARD at JFG Event

The **Japanese Friendship Garden** will honor **Kyocera International, Inc.**, on Saturday, August 20, 2005, during the sixth annual **Festival of the August Moon** in the Garden. Kyocera's support and dedication helped make possible the initial construction of the Garden, which this year will recognize Kyocera with the **Niwa Award** "for promoting sustainable growth by providing solar energy around the world for well over the past 30 years."

The presentation will be made by President of the Friendship Garden Society, **Tom Yanagihara**, at the annual festival which is expected to attract over 300 JFG members and guests. The evening program includes an al fresco dinner, musical performances, and a silent auction. The event is from 4:30–9:00 pm. Tickets for members are \$40 per person; non-members are \$50 per person. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Garden's expansion project.

The Festival of the August Moon is among a number of fundraising and cultural events that the Garden will hold for its expansion project. Currently, the Garden sits on two and a half acres. Upon completion of the expansion project, the Garden will cover eleven acres, which will make it the largest public Japanese-style garden in the United States.

Located in the heart of Balboa Park, the mission of the Japanese Friendship Garden "San-Kei-En" is to create a Japanese-style garden environment with educational programs that will promote understanding of the Japanese culture among people from diverse ethnic backgrounds and cultures.

IN GRATITUDE

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

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Mr. & Mrs. KIN KANAGAKI
KAYOKO OCHI

For the LA Veterans Memorial:
BETTY T. TORIO
Mr. & Mrs. HIIZU UYEJI

In Memory of MICHAEL KAWAMOTO:
Mr. & Mrs. MICHIO HIMAKA
Mr. & Mrs. YUKIO KAWAMOTO

In Memory of MASAMI HONDA:
THE HONDA FAMILY
Mr. & Mrs. HAROLD KUHN

In Memory of KIYOSHI NAKAMURA:
SANAMI WAKAMURA

In Memory of DONALD ESTES:
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MARY ABE
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DAVID WESTON
DOROTHY WILLIAMS

CHANKO-NABE

by Joyce Nabeta Teague

BONBU CLUB TURNS 20

The Year of the Rooster marks a milestone for a small group of my friends: the 20th anniversary of the Bonbu Club.

Bonbu Club began as several (mostly Sansei) boomer women getting together one fall evening for dinner in 1985 at El Torito Restaurant in La Mesa. Most of us were acquainted because we had children attending the Buddhist Temple's Dharma School on Sundays. After a fun Dharma School camping weekend involving our families, June Yamamoto and Keiko Negoro arranged the get-together to extend the feeling of camaraderie we thirty-something mothers had experienced at the campout. It was also an excuse to have a rare night out without kids or spouses.

Those who met that evening—now referred to as The Originals—were June, Keiko, Miyo Hill, Susan Moribe, Pat Sumi, Aki Tomiyama and me. Keiko and Miyo are San Diego natives. They and Aki had grown up participating in temple youth activities. The rest of us are transplants from other areas who had brought our children to the temple to meet other Buddhists.

That first dinner quickly became a once-a-month eating adventure. We chose a different ethnic eatery every time and took turns selecting new ones. Then after dinner, we'd retire to someone's house for dessert and gab.



The Originals on their first retreat (left to right): June Yamamoto, Joyce Teague, Keiko Negoro, Susan Moribe, Pat Sumi, Miyo Hill, Aki Tomiyama, Pasadena 1986

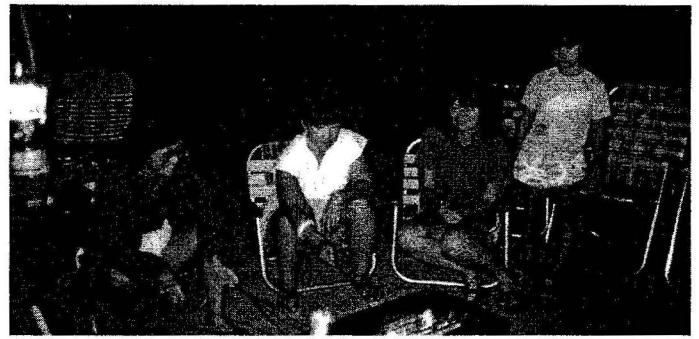
These gatherings were full of joking and laughter. We also began arranging fun family outings to expose our kids, all roughly the same age, to new activities. The kids got along beautifully as a big extended family, so we got together often.



Bonbu Club kids at a Mission Bay playground (left to right): Kiyoko Gotanda, Kevin Hill, Brian Hill, Suzanne Negoro and Jaime Teague (upside down), 1987

The name "Bonbu Club" was never meant to suggest exclusivity. It was, and is, really just a Buddhist in-joke. "Bonbu" is a Buddhist term which means "fool"—someone's who's oblivious to or unaccepting of the realities of the world. Ignorant. Unenlightened. *Bonbu*.

Since we acknowledge enlightenment is something most of us will not attain in this lifetime, it's a safe bet to assume we are all *bonbu*. Which pretty much makes Bonbu Club the largest *nonexclusive* club in the world. Proof? Look around: see anyone enlightened nearby? Not! So you, me—*billions*—are members of Bonbu Club!

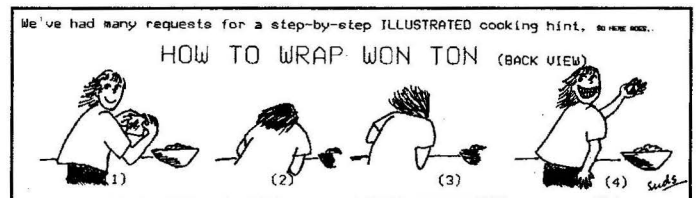


Toasting marshmallows at Skinner Lake campout in 1986 (left to right): Blanche Shigeoka, Susan Moribe, June Yamamoto and Stefanie Yamamoto

You could say in choosing this name, we were embracing our ignorance, which is the first step to self-awareness. But really, we were just delighted to have a group of simpaticos to have fun with. I designed a T-shirt with a tiny duck about to be consumed by a huge Hiroshige-style wave, and invited anyone to purchase one at cost, eventually selling over 100 to people who *liked* the idea of belonging to a club where everyone was a member—whether they realized it or not!

Bonbu Club News

That first year, I began hand-lettering a two-sided sheet of jokes, drawings, rubber stamp art, invented news and outright lies, called *Bonbu Club News*. By the fourth issue, tired of writing everything out, I switched over to a strange portable typewriter called a Type-O-Graph which I am convinced only two people owned: my brother and me. The Type-O-Graph used a standard keyboard and four small ballpoint pens in different colors which would with furious speed *draw* each letter. It could write sideways, in spirals, and in three different sizes of squarish type. With this odd machine, I put together what I now realize were several largely unreadable issues of bad puns, cartoons, bogus ethnic recipes (like Kim Chee Jello and Kintoki Mint Juleps), and nonsense columns and features attributed to other Bonbu, but all written by yours truly. Your *Footprints* Editor has come a long way, Bonbu baby...



A "cooking hint" from the October 1986 Bonbu Club News illustrating how to fold wonton, as viewed from the back

About the time they quit making replacement pens for the Type-O-Graph three years later, I produced the last issue. There were 16 in all. They are *undoubtedly* collector's items, and I expect to get *real rich* by selling copies on E-Bay someday!

Growing Together

Bonbu Club quickly became a support group. We talked about parenting, shared problems and triumphs, and discussed things like how to make the temple a friendlier place to visitors. A lot of brainstorming happened in the wee hours over a bowl of senbei or a Marie Callender's cream pie! Eventually most of us, along with a handful of our spouses, became active in temple activities through the Dharma School.

CHANKO-NABE continued from previous page

Over time and in a natural progression, our age group began assuming more responsibilities at the temple, overseeing the Dharma School, joining the Board of Directors, chairing fund-raisers, and so on. In 1994, Susan Moribe became the first Sansei and the first woman to serve as temple president. Glenn Negoro and Bill Teague (the first non-Nikkei president), followed.

Life Happened...

Over the past two decades, some of our members were broadsided by life-changing events that challenged their endurance. One lost her husband in a tragic car accident. One went through a contentious divorce. Two survived breast cancer. Husbands have suffered heart disease or stroke or been out of work. And many of us have lost one or both of our parents. We have done our best to support one another during these times.

But we've also watched one another grow and change—some going back to school to earn bachelors and masters degrees, accepting new responsibilities, changing careers, becoming leaders in our community, constantly seeking knowledge and, well, becoming less *bonbu*.

Most of our children are now adults with homes of their own, some married and some of them, of course, living in other parts of the country. A few of them have even made us grandparents!

The gals going out for monthly dinners has grown and fluctuated over time. Friends, relatives, out of town visitors, and women new to the temple have joined the informal dinners. These days, a core group of about 12 women continue to meet several times a year for Friday dinners, occasional specialty shopping excursions, or a weekend "retreat" in the mountains for relaxation and rejuvenation. This year, in honor of our 20th anniversary, we spent a weekend in L.A. to dine out, museum-hop, visit a friend's gravesite and take her mother to lunch, and so on. A cabin stay in Idyllwild is planned for this fall.



20th Anniversary B.C. retreaters at L.A. County Museum of Art (left to right): Jeanie Kashima, Gale Kaneshiro, Keiko Negoro, Aki Tomiyama, June Yamamoto, Sue Moribe and Miyo Hill, April 2005

In Memory of Pat

In 1997, we lost one of the Originals, Patricia Hideko Sumi, to liver cancer. Pat was a devoted mother and a compassionate and caring person who always placed the welfare of others before her own. Mind-bogglingly cerebral but modest and good-humored, she has only recently been acknowledged as one of a handful of influential Asian American civil rights activists during the Vietnam War years, a life she spoke little of during the long period of domesticity we knew her.

Pat is survived by her wonderful children, Tetsuji (Tex) Gotanda, a computer engineer who lives in Fullerton; and Kiyoko Gotanda, a former ballet dancer who is now a pre-med major in Montreal. In this season of Obon, when our thoughts turn to those who have influenced us, we dedicate our 20 years of friendship to their mother's memory.

BUDDHIST TEMPLE WELCOMES NEW RESIDENT MINISTER

by Ralph Honda, Operations Manager
Buddhist Temple of San Diego

On May 11, 2005, a new chapter began for the Buddhist Temple of San Diego with the arrival of Rev. Yushi Taishi Mukojima, its new resident minister.

Born 33 years ago in Kyoto, Rev. Mukojima grew up in Fukui, Japan. He comes from a family rich in the Jodo Shinshu (Pure Land) tradition: his father is the head minister of the family temple in Fukui. The temple is one of many that were started by Rennyo Shonin over 500 years ago.

Rev. Mukojima was educated at Ryukoku University where he received his Bachelor's degree in Buddhist History. He received his Tokudo ordination in August of 1994; Kyoshi in September of 1997; and Kaikyoshi in December of 1998.

Prior to his move to the United States, Rev. Mukojima served the Buddhist Churches of South America for two years at the Sao Paulo Betsuin in Brazil.

He began his career with the Buddhist Churches of America in November 2001 as resident minister of the Seabrook Buddhist Temple in New Jersey. A year later, he was transferred to Visalia Buddhist Temple in Central California where he served until his recent assignment to San Diego.

Rev. Mukojima brings with him energy, youthful enthusiasm, and the knowledge, spirit and desire to share the Buddha Dharma (Buddha's teachings) in our community. He speaks English with proficiency but encourages everyone to speak to him in English so he can continue to improve his second-language skills.

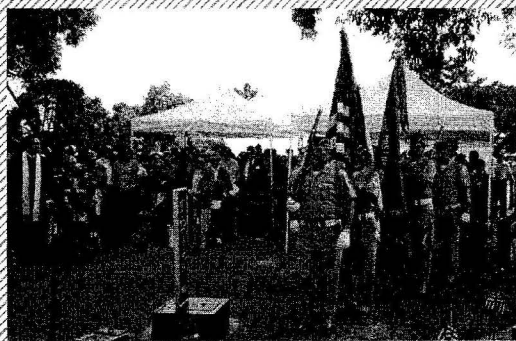


Mika and Yushi Mukojima at their welcome party, May 15, 2005

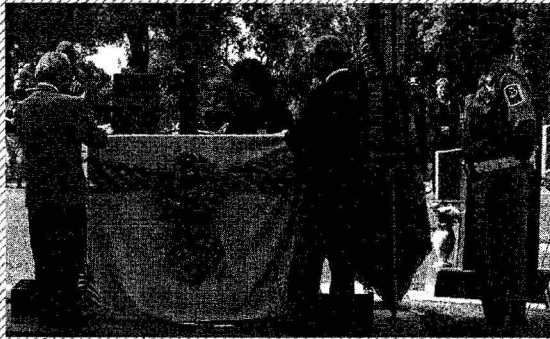
He and his lovely wife, Mika, are newlyweds, married just last August in Japan. This delightful couple have already ingratiated themselves at our temple with their friendliness, sincerity and directness. I am sure San Diego's Nikkei community will enjoy getting to know them as well.

Editor's note: About 200 people welcomed Rev. and Mrs. Mukojima with a luau-themed luncheon in the Buddhist Temple's Annex Hall on May 15. The party was catered by Da Kine Restaurant and included island music arranged by guitarist Gary Himaka and ukulele player Susan Moribe, AKA the BTSD Board President. The four lovely, grass-skirted, coconut bra-sporting "Coconut Cuties" who danced a welcome hula were Ron Tokunaga, Mike Ong, Ken Muraoka, and the author of this profile.

Dedication of the Japanese American



The photos in this spread were taken by Bob Batch



er, Yuki Kawamoto, Gwen Morita and Joyce Teague

Left: Members of the Japanese American Veterans Memorial Committee (L to R): Roy Muraoka, George Furiya, Jr., Ben Segawa, Jeanne Elyea, Naomi Himaka, Rev. Jim Yanagihara, Nancy Cowser, James Yamate, Min Sakamoto, JAHSSD President Michio Himaka and Bob Batchelder. Missing: Don Estes

WE GET LETTERS

Dear Joyce,

I have been meaning to write to thank you for the moving tribute you paid to my father, Mas Honda, in the most recent issue of *Footprints*. I have read it several times, and each time, I have been touched by your thoughtful reflections about my father's commitment and contributions to the Nikkei community. Many thanks, Joyce!

Sincerely,
Amy Honda

To our friends at the JAHSSD:

The Nikkei Student Union at UCSD would like to express our deepest gratitude for your generous support of our graduation banquet this year. It is with the continued support of the community that our organization continues to thrive.

Thank you very much, and we hope to work together in the future!

Sincerely,
Haruka Roudebush, Outgoing President
UCSD NSU

hi editor,

i just received the spring 2005 edition of *footprints* here in holland and was very surprised to find a picture of myself on the top (middle) on pages 12-13. the photo is from around may 1943 when i was attached to company a 442nd rct, camp shelby, miss. having just arrived from poston 3, arizona where i volunteered to escape prolonged confinement.

i don't mind having the picture printed but am just curious as to who is 'bill vetter, c. 1944' and how he managed to get this photo. if he was also in co. a at that time i would be happy to correspond with him.

i'm happy that the print quality of *footprints* has improved since a couple of years ago. best wishes to your staff.

sincerely,
shinkichi tajiri, holland

Editor's response: The photo in question is indeed of Shinkichi Tajiri, not Bill Vetter! As for the origin of the photo from our archives, although it is unmarked, it probably came from the collection of someone who was at Camp Shelby the same time you were. We were happy to provide you with a copy!

Farewell and Salute to Professor Donald Estes:

On behalf of the Japan Society and personally, I extend my deepest sympathy to the family of Don Estes. At too young an age by San Diego standards, Don died on May 7.

Don was one of many San Diegans who serve their communities in a variety of ways. He and I first met 25 years ago - before and while we served on the Executive Board of the San Diego County Council of the Boy Scouts of America. I believe my service was good. Don's service, as in most things he pursued, was simply great! He provided leadership and set examples at all levels—from his own Eagle Scout work to vital Scoutmaster leadership to an array of Council-wide service.

For over three decades Don became and served as San Diego's preeminent historian of Japan-San Diego affairs. From scholarly writing to engaging lecturing to long standing service, he earned a unique place of honor in our remembrance and celebration of San Diego's Japan-American community and history. From his many museum and academic contributions to other achievements, we need to remember, acknowledge and thank him. His long-term service with the JACL, including his two terms as president is a most noteworthy example of his commitment to and accomplishments in Japan-American affairs.

To Don's family we extend our heartfelt sympathy. To the countless memories of Don and his life of accomplishment and service, we again say thank you so very much.

Sincerely,
Dick Davis, JSSDT President

To all members of the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego,

My name is Kiyoko Nishikawa, a third generation Nikkei of Ensenada (Baja California, Mexico). I found today on the web site of the San Diego Tijuana Japanese Society about Professor Estes. I would like to express my family's condolences to the family of Mr. Estes and to all members of the JAHSSD.

My father, Yukio Nishikawa, met Prof. Estes some years ago at some Boys Scouts binational camping; also my uncle Katsuo (who passed away years ago) met him when he was writing about Kondo Masaharu. And I have been doing some research about Japanese in Baja California for about nine years, and the work of Prof. Estes has been one of the first inspirations of my work. I'm very [grateful to him] for all his contributions to the knowledge of the Nikkei history of the Japanese fisherman in Baja California (Mexico).

I never met him face-to-face, but I had some contact by e-mail and he encouraged me to keep researching about the Japanese in Baja by sending me some of the articles he wrote. My dream was to make an article together [with Don] of the Japanese fisherman in Baja California.

I'm sure he is in a better place right now. And that he now knows that he will be remembered as the first researcher of the Japanese migration to Baja California.

Sincerely,
Kiyoko Nishikawa

Editor's Note: Regrettably, we don't have enough space to include all the kind messages of appreciation and condolence Board members received about Don. He was fondly remembered by colleagues and associates, former students, fellow teachers, and his many, many friends.

The ESTES Family

extends our appreciation to the many individuals
and organizations who remembered and recognized

DONALD HAMILTON ESTES—

his life, his wonderful relationships with family, friends,
and colleagues, and his many contributions to education, scouting,
and especially the Japanese American community in San Diego.

We are very grateful for the love and support
we have received, and for the generous donations to
the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego
in his memory. We offer special thanks to the following:

The doctors and staff of UCSD Medical Center,
The Buddhist Temple of San Diego,
"When's Lunch? Bunch" for the Memorial Reception,
The Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego

WELCOME, NEW ADVERTISERS!

With this issue, we welcome three new advertisers: **EASTLAKE CUSTOM PICTURE FRAMING**, **OKAZAKI CHIROPRACTIC** and **INSTANT SIGNS OF SANTEE**.

Deborah Sato, a native San Diegan, opened her Chula Vista business just eight months ago. She had been making custom frames as a hobbyist for years and decided to turn her love into a business. She says visitors to her shop really get into the process of creating a design for whatever it is they wanted enhanced. She has a huge array of framing choices and will help you find the perfect presentation for that special photograph or piece of art.

Michihiro Okazaki D.C., a Japanese native, came here to study, fell in love with San Diego and decided to open his practice here. He is pleased to support JAHSSD. Dr. Okazaki offers a nice community service: the first Tuesday of every month is Senior Day when he gives a free adjustment for anyone 65 and older. His office is really tucked away near Montgomery Field off Aero Drive, so check out the map on his ad.

Instant Signs of Santee is owned by **June Yamamoto** who has lived in different parts of the U.S. and Japan, but settled in Lakeside with her family in the 1970s. She makes vinyl banners and signage of all types and sizes for windows, vehicles, and just about anything else that needs lettering. She can also incorporate a logo or artwork into the signage. Instant Signs is easy to find, located at the end of Highway 67 at the Wintergardens exit.

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IMPERIAL VALLEY JACL FRIENDSHIP DINNER

by Debra Kodama

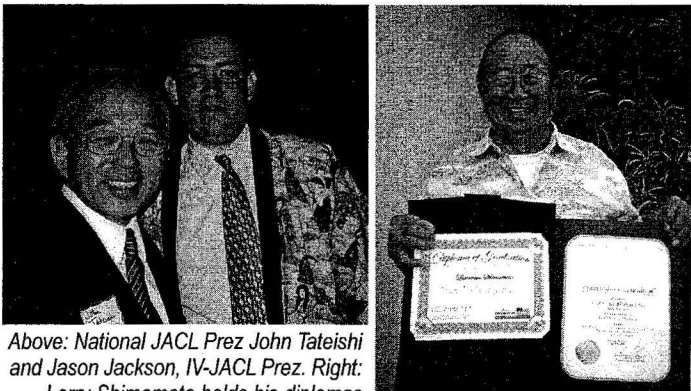
In bright purple graduation gowns and mortar boards, they climbed the stairs of the stage. Some of them stepped slowly, others quickly. Each one determined to claim what was theirs: a high school diploma from an Imperial County high school that was earned over 60 years ago, but denied because of Executive Order 9066.

On April 30, 2005, in a hall on the Imperial County fairgrounds, over 375 people gathered at the **2005 Imperial Valley JACL Friendship Dinner** to meet old and new friends, enjoy special live performances, and attend a most unique graduation. Through the efforts of **Operation Recognition** (see addendum at end of article), 21 diplomas were awarded to Imperial County Nikkei who would have graduated from area high schools between 1942 and 1945, had they not been sent to internment camps during World War II.



Graduates (left to right): Larry Shimamoto, Oscar Kodama, Sam Miyamoto

Unfortunately, many of graduates were not able to attend, such as **Sho Horibe, Haruyo Kubota, and Frank Miyamoto**, who have all passed away. However, several graduates were able to attend and were part of an emotionally-stirring ceremony. Among the graduates who were present that evening were **Oscar Kodama, Larry Shimamoto** (designated valedictorian for the graduates), and **Keiko Hosokawa**.



Above: National JACL Prez John Tateishi and Jason Jackson, IV-JACL Prez. Right: Larry Shimamoto holds his diplomas

While the presentation of diplomas was the highlight of the evening, there were several other memorable moments. For example, **Shokenji Taiko** of the **Vista Buddhist Temple** performed. In addition, **Patty Pomplun** presented her one-woman, multi-media performance of *Within the Silence*. Using "interactive drama techniques," she brought to life a young Japanese American woman who became an adult during World War II. And, of course, the evening would not have been complete without the annual live auction of **Larry Shimamoto's** famous homemade pies. The lively competition among bidders to win one of these delicious baked goods netted \$1500 for the Imperial Valley JACL scholarship fund. IVJACL was the sponsor of the evening's festivities.

This yearly tradition of the IV-JACL is a wonderful community event

that takes a lot of hard work by a few dedicated individuals to pull off each year. But, seeing all the joy, pride, and enthusiasm in the faces of the people who were there, the effort was well worth it.



Above (left to right): Yosh & Mary Sanbonmatsu, Dale Coe, Robert Shimamoto
Below (left to right): Cynthia Shintani, Tim Asamen, Mike Bush



Postscript: The California Diploma Projects

The **California Nisei High School Project** is a project of the **Japanese Cultural & Community Center of Northern California** in San Francisco. Because of the passage of AB 781, which became law in August 2004, individuals whose high school years were interrupted due to the forced removal of people of Japanese descent during WWII (1942-1945) are now able to receive their high school diplomas. The Imperial Valley commencement was the first scheduled ceremony for 2005.

For more information, or to learn how you can support this effort, go to www.canisei.org or call the JCC-NC at (415) 567-5505.

The committee operating under the **L.A. County Diploma Project** has extended the invitation to *any* Nisei who attended a high school in California between 1942-45. Nisei who attended high school in Central or Northern California but who now reside in Southern California may apply to participate in the L.A. County ceremony to be held on Sunday, August 21, at the Los Angeles Trade Tech College. Diplomas may also be awarded posthumously to families who apply.

For further information, call Iku Kiriya (310/326-0608) or Bryan Takeda (626/396-9927) or write: Los Angeles County Office of Education, Communications Department, 9200 Imperial Highway, Downey, CA 90242.

POSTON CAMP III REUNION HELD IN LAS VEGAS

by Yukio Kawamoto

The Golden Nugget Hotel in Las Vegas was the site of the 13th Poston III Reunion held on March 14, 15 and 16, 2005. Some 380 former residents of Colorado River Relocation Center Poston Camp III, and their spouses, children and friends gathered to reminisce, renew acquaintanceships and have fun. They came from as far away as England, Hawaii, Florida, New York, Illinois, etc.

The reunion was hosted by the San Jose group led by **Glenn Tsutsumi**. Included in the activities were a Monday night mixer, Tues-

POSTON REUNION continued from previous page

day night banquet and Wednesday morning breakfast. Some of the block residents and high school classes got together for individual reunions.

One of the highlights of the reunion was the performance of an abbreviated version of **"The Camp Dance: The Music & The Memories,"** by the **Golden Crane Ensemble**. The musical show took attendees on a sentimental journey back to the floor of the camp dance. Hearing music popular during the camp days brought back a flood of nostalgic memories to those in the audience. Among the performers was **Mary Kageyama Nomura**, the "Songbird of Manzanar." Although in her 80s, she still has a beautiful voice.



Camp Dance performers (seated, left to right): Haruye Ioka, and Mary Kageyama Nomura, the "Songbird of Manzanar"; (standing, left to right): Darrell Kunitomi, Kurt Kuniyoshi, Keko Kawashima

Many members of the JAHSSD were in attendance. Among them were **Tom Arata, Dorothy and Masato Asakawa, Elaine Bowers, Jeanne and Bill Elyea, Michi Eguchi, Mich Himaka, Misako and Harry Honda, Amy and Po Kaneyuki, Babe Karasawa, Mitsuko and Yukio Kawamoto, Tamiko and Frank Kinoshita, Ben Kitahata, Kikuye Koga, Midori Koga, Frank and Janet Koide, June Kushino and Shiz Maruyama.**



Mits Kawamoto (left) with Harry and Misako Honda

Right: Terry Mizufuku and Mas Asakawa

Below: Amy and Po Kaneyuki



Other JAHSSD members there were **Terry and Joe Mizufuka, Pauline and Sam Nakamura, Sachi and Terry Nishida, Ruth Okimoto, Tom and Ayako Ozaki, Steve Sato, Beverly and Taka Sawasaki, Bubbles**

Shimasaki, Robin Shimasaki, Jim Tajiri, Yo Takehara, Grace and Mas Tsuida, Kiyo Uda, Helen and Jim Urata, Sab Uyeji, Liz and Joe Yamada, Hank and Mary Yamada, So Yamada, Jim Yanagihara, and Sumi and Tom Yanagihara.



Left to right: Yo Takehara, Yuki & Mits Kawamoto, Miyoko Nakamaru, Jim Tajiri and Mas Asakawa

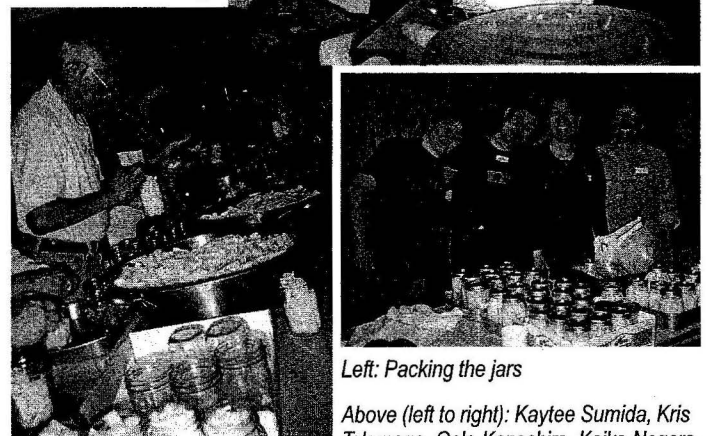
All in all, a fun and exciting time was had by all. Thank you, **Glenn Tsutsumi** and the San Jose group, for hosting another great reunion!

PICKLES, PICKLES EVERYWHERE!

On June 17, **Zenbu** hosted a Tsukemono Pickling Party & Potluck at the Buddhist Temple to make use of several lugs of daikon left over from the temple's Bazaar. Thirty people showed up to share a delicious potluck meal before spending the next several hours washing, peeling and slicing daikon, packing jars, boiling syrup, and thoroughly enjoying the experience. Over 150 jars were made by the participants, many of whom had never made tsukemono before.

Right: Tsukemono makers slice daikon.

From left: Yuki Kawamoto, Irene Yamamoto, Gale Kaneshiro, Ken Muraoka, Miki Honda, Floyd & Kaytee Sumida, Kris Tokunaga



Left: Packing the jars

Above (left to right): Kaytee Sumida, Kris Tokunaga, Gale Kaneshiro, Keiko Negoro

Zenbu (Japanese for "everything"), established in 2003, is a social adjunct of the temple and offers occasional educational/cultural/religious activities for members and friends of the temple. Send e-mail to zenbu@cox.net to be added to the group's contact list. You don't need to be a temple member to enjoy Zenbu activities.

PILGRIMAGE to MANZANAR

by Ritsu Nabeta

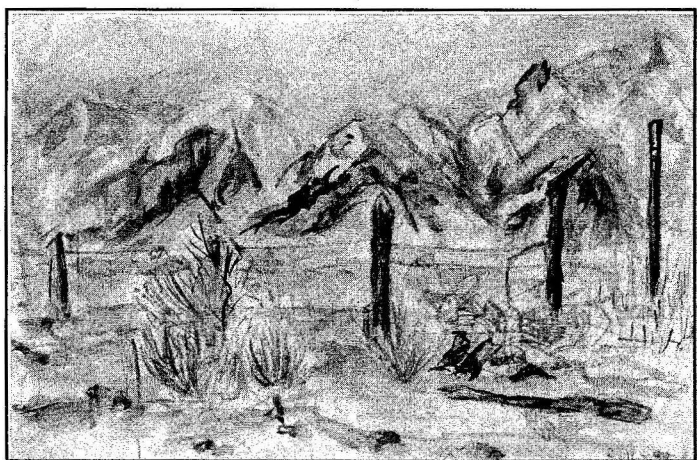
For 36 years, the nonprofit Manzanar Committee (www.manzanarcommittee.org) has sponsored a pilgrimage to the site of the Manzanar Relocation Camp, which is about 210 miles north of Los Angeles off Hwy. 395. Ritsu Uyeno and her family were interned at Manzanar before being transferred to Tule Lake as a "No-no" family. This was the first time for Ritsu and her husband Fred (a Poston Camp I internee) to join the pilgrimage, and the first time their daughter, Jeanne Inouye, had ever visited the site.

On April 2, 1942, my family boarded the train at the old Santa Fe Station in Los Angeles and headed out into the desolate desert area below Mt. Whitney—the tallest mountain in California—where we would spend the war years, 1942–45. My family was my parents, **Rikizo and Hatsue Uyeno**, my older sister **Mutsue**, then 19, and me, just 17. All of Japanese descent, Isseis and Niseis, aliens and citizens alike, were uprooted from our homes in Washington, Oregon and California, rounded up and housed in various camps throughout the country—supposedly to "protect" us from harm.

The Uyeno family: father Rikizo, Ritsu, Mutsue, mother Hatsue, circa 1940. Before the war, the Uyenos were migrant farm workers who later managed a hotel and restaurant near the old Union Station downtown



Early morning before dawn on the 30th of April of this year, our daughter Jeanne drove us up to Los Angeles to board a bus at JACC (Japanese American Community Center) for the 36th annual Manzanar Pilgrimage. The three of us were the only ones from the San Diego area to ride the bus. The only person I recognized was **Paul Bannai**. He had lived in the same block as me—Block 5—a few barracks away. His sister was a grade below me at Manzanar High. I graduated in Summer 1943.



Mt. Whitney with barbed wire fence in the foreground. Mrs. Nabeta did this watercolor at Manzanar in 1943 at age 18

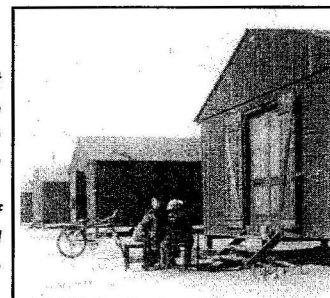
The trip took about 5½ hours. Because the bus was ahead of schedule, we stopped by the Manzanar Interpretive Center, housed in

the former camp auditorium. On display were photos taken at camp by the famous **Toyo Miyatake**, who had a studio in Li'l Tokyo. [Though cameras were forbidden, he had sneaked a lens into camp and built a camera.] We also looked at memorabilia of our lives in the internment center.

At the museum, I saw a picture of my barracks neighbor and friend, **Hikoji Takeguchi**. He had been shot by an M.P. as he gathered discarded lumber just outside the barbed wire to make furniture for his family. He had even asked for permission to pick up the lumber. I remember visiting him in the hospital with my mother. I wondered if he still had some of the bullets in his body. His friends finished the table he had been building for him. It was one of the objects on display. Seeing it made me remember that my mother was a daughter of a carpenter, so it was she, not my dad, who made the table and stools we used in camp.

The camp site is now devoid of any of the apple trees that once lined some of the fire breaks. The program was long. The day heated up as the many speakers talked, though the wind was relatively cool.

A typical barracks at Manzanar: a group seated outside the so-called Caucasian Dormitory, c. 1943. Photos courtesy of Ritsu Nabeta and Jeanne Inouye



I recalled the need for boots at the beginning [of our internment], when the roads were dry and the winds would blow into the dining hall, and tables and slat seats would feel gritty. Warned they might be needed, we had bought our boots at Karl's Shoes on Main Street in L.A. before evacuation. Thank heaven for the ingenuity of the residents who managed to water down the roads, planted vegetables for us to eat—something other than canned wieners and sauerkraut! And our cooks would prepare us food more familiar to our taste.



The author stands next to a panel at the Manzanar Interpretive Center about Hikoji Takeguchi, the teenager who was shot by an M.P. while picking up scrap wood just outside the camp

After the speeches were done, we moved to the monument. [Built at the entrance to the camp cemetery by internees under the direction of Rev. Shinjo Nagatomi in time for the Obon Service in 1943, it bears the calligraphy *i-rei-to* means literally, "soul-consoling tower."] There, representatives of the Shinto, Christian and Buddhist faiths blessed the monument and the pilgrims. We offered incense and prayed.

The memorial monument was impressive. Reverend Nagatomi's deeply carved calligraphy was newly-painted black. It humbled me to place my hands together and bow my head to those who passed away behind this barbed wire area.

After the service, people formed a ring and danced to the beat of a taiko drum. *Obon*—to placate those who lost their lives in the camp site. With this, the Manzanar Pilgrimage came to an end. It was indeed a solemn experience for me.

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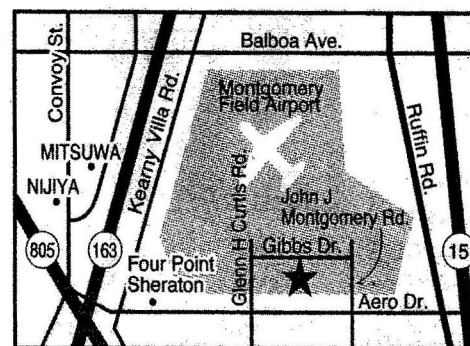
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CELEBRATIONS!

Community Milestones of Note

The grandparents known as the "Four Gs"—**Gerald and Gail Inoue** of Honolulu and **George and Gail Furuya** of Carlsbad—were thrilled at the birth of grandbaby **Mia Gail Chiyori Furuya** on April 18 in Honolulu. The proud parents are San Diego native **Craig Furuya** and wife **Jodi** of Mililani, Hawaii.

Another wee one, **Ava Harumi Yamamoto**, joined parents **Sharon Sasaki** and **Robert Yamamoto** and big sister **Zoe Toshie** on March 23 right here in San Diego. The proud grandparents are **LaVerne and Helen Sasaki** of Oakland and **Sachio and Irene Yamamoto** of San Diego.

The parents of the twins are:

Bryan and Melissa Koide, who reside in Virginia, brought their twin boys, Ian and Simon, to visit their grandparents, **Hank and Grace Koide**.



Grandpa Hank Koide
with Melissa, Bryan and
little Simon and Ian.
The photographer,
Vernon Yoshioka,
couldn't tell us which
baby was which!

Congratulations to **Evangelina Oka** of West Hills High and **Michael Shinzaki** of Westview High, recent recipients of the San Diego-JACL's **Tetsu Kashima Memorial Scholarship**, named in memory of **Tetsuyo Kashima**, who chaired the chapter's Scholarship Committee for many years. Both graduates received \$1000 awards and will be attending UCLA in the fall, Oka as a pre-med major and Shinzaki as a computer engineering major.

Also honored were **Haruka Kelley** of Pt. Loma High and **Erin Ochi** of El Cajon Valley High, who received \$750 awards. Both will be attending UC-Berkeley. **Nicholas Nakamura** of Clairemont High and **Angela Pietrantoni** of Helix High received \$500 awards. They will attend UC-Merced and Whittier College respectively.

The awards were presented at the 48th Annual Scholarship Awards luncheon last May by Scholarship Committee members **Carol Kawamoto** (chair), **David Kawamoto**, **Dr. Yuri Kaneda** and **James Yamate**.

Congratulations to **Jaime Yumiko Enochs**, an English teacher at San Diego High's International School, who received her Masters of Education in Learning and Teaching; and local actor **Chad Sakamoto** who received his Master of Arts in Leadership Studies; both at the University of San Diego in June.

Congratulations also to **Aya Ibarra**, Japan Society of San Diego and Tijuana's program director, who earned her California State teaching credential at USD this year.

Duane Siefers was just named "Employee of the Year" for Turner Construction, San Diego Business Unit. Great going, Duane!

Several JAHSSD members were recently nominated for the Second Annual Asian Heritage Awards for Achievement and Community Service, presented by *Asia the Journal of Culture and Commerce*. **Dr. Mitsuo Tomita**, Director of Medical Education at Kaiser Permanente of San Diego, was nominated in the Medicine and Health category. **Tom Yanagihara**, president of the Japanese Friendship Garden Society, was

nominated in the Cultural Preservation category. **Joe Yamada**, cofounder of **Wimmer Yamada and Caughey**, the landscape architect firm; and **Robert Ito** and **Roxanne Mariko Girard** (of **Ito Girard & Associates**), developers of affordable housing in San Diego, were nominated in the Entrepreneurship and Business Enterprise category.

The aforementioned **Wimmer Yamada and Caughey** celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. (See story on Page 8.)



Last but certainly not least, we send out best wishes to **Yoko and Tom Honda**, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary at the Japanese senior nutrition luncheon on June 22.

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PHOTOS FROM THE JAHSSD ARCHIVES



The dedication of the Japanese American Veterans Memorial at Mount Hope Cemetery on May 30, 2005, attracted people from throughout San Diego County, including this group of Civil War re-enactors who came to pay their respects. They were to later attend the memorial ceremonies at the cemetery for local veterans of the Civil War. *Upper photo:* Co-chair of the dedication event, Ben Segawa (third from the left), greets the re-enactors before the start of the dedication program (photo by Joyce Teague). *Lower photo:* This trio in colorful period costumes came prepared with their own seating (photo by Gwen Momita).

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JAPAN FIESTA MAKES DEBUT

JAHSSD was invited to host an informational booth at the first-ever Japan Fiesta which was held in conjunction with an arena football international exhibition game between the San Diego Riptide and the visiting Japan All-Star Samurais. The event took place March 26, 2005.

Coordinated by Andy Hata of the Sony Corporation, the Fiesta was an interesting interface of well-established Nikkei organizations, like JAHSSD and the Buddhist Temple, and *Shin Issei* (new first generation) businesses which cater almost exclusively to the Japanese-speaking



Mich Himaka accepts a
certificate of appreciation from
Andy Hata at the Society's
board meeting last May

population of new entrepreneurs, college students, and corporate employees and their families here on extended work visas.

Hata conceived of the idea as an opportunity for the local Japanese community and San Diegans interested in Japan to "get together and look, touch and feel different aspects of Japanese culture." He hoped the Fiesta would both reflect San Diego's long history of Japanese ties and demonstrate commercial and cultural "opportunities to create a new page

into the future." Shokenji Taiko, along with singers, dancers and martial artists, performed on the field in the game pre-show. The famous Sony robots performed during the half-time show.

San Diego Nikkei history, as depicted in photographs from JAHSSD archives, elicited many positive comments from visitors to the exhibit, most of whom were unaware of early Japanese American contributions to the local fishing and farming industries.

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DEMOCRACY UNDER PRESSURE

Video and Teacher's Guide

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

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

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

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

Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego

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San Diego veterans, most members of Asian Pacific VFW Post 4851, pose at the new JA Veterans Memorial on May 30, 2005. See cover story and additional photos on Pages 12 & 13

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