

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

Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego



The 1948 Sun Cafe Falcons Softball Team: Kneeling (left to right): Brothers Yoto, Sam, Akira "Jumbo" and Shin Takeshita; Ben Honda. Standing (left to right): Al Obayashi (sponsor), Harry Kowase, Walt Fujimoto, Isamu "Willie" Okamoto, Kats Tanizaki, Al Obayashi Jr. (bat boy standing in front of Kats), Hidetoshi Akiyama, Stanley Tsunoda, Swiss Nishiyama, Masami Honda (manager).

A MOMENT IN TIME: Classic Photos from the IAHSSD Archives

by Yukio Kawamoto

The **Sun Cafe** softball team played in the San Diego City fast pitch softball league sometime in the late 1940s. The origins of the team go back to 1940 when a group of young Nisei men and boys formed a team called the **Falcons**. **Akira "Jumbo" Takeshita** recalls that a group of guys from **Fish Camp** and vicinity led by **Yas Nakamoto** was forming a softball team to play in the San Diego city softball league. Yas asked him to join the Falcons as the pitcher. Jumbo was 14 years old at the time but experienced as a pitcher for both the Coronado Jr. High School team, the **Orange Cleaners** in the Coronado Jr. softball league, and San Diego Buddhist Church's **Boy Scout Troop 72** team.

Jumbo said that when he first played softball for his junior high team, he pitched underhand. His team went to Escondido to play another junior high team and he saw their pitcher pitching windmill style. He thought, "Wow, that's pretty good." He adopted the style and went on to become an outstanding pitcher with all kinds of stuff on the ball.

On the Falcons team at the time besides Jumbo and Yas Nakamoto were Min Hatada, Harry Kowase, Satoshi "Lefty" Okamoto, Willie Okamoto, Sam Takeshita, Mas "Fatty" Tsuida, Nob Sakaguchi, Kikuo Takahashi, Tom Arata, Osa Himaka and Tets Himaka, with Kunio Sakaguchi as scorekeeper. Later on, Toru Asada, an outstanding catcher, joined the team. The older players went around collecting donations to buy equipment and that's how the team got started.

(Continued on Page 5)

VOL. 14 NO. 4	WINTER 2005
IN THIS IS	SUE:
A Moment in Time	39-20-20-20-20-20-20-20-20-20-20-20-20-20-
Dates to Remember	
JAHSSD 13th Anniversary In Memorian	
President's Message	
MEMBERSHIP NEWS	The second secon
In Gratifude	5
CAUGHT DOING SOMETHING NIC	
2006 JAHSSD Directors N	AMES 6
JAHSSD's Newest Board M	
We Get Letters	
CHANKO NABE	
HOME COMMITTEE REPORT HOLIDAY WISH LIST	
Don't Miss "Camp Dance".	
Celebrations!	
Mazegohan	CARL DE LA TEMPERATE
MS-ING MS DONORS	
Dr. Randall C. Phillips	
KCC-JEE Essay Contest	Annual Company of the
COMMUNITY SNAPSHOTS	
My Hero "Nana"	14
CLARA BREED BOOK LAUNCH .	The second second
REV. ICHIBEI HONDA	
Welcome to New Advertiser Honors Our Nikkei Veterans	And the second second second second
KIKU GARDENS DEDICATION	Control of the Contro
Preserving California's Japa	
JOURNEY TO THE U.S., PART X	
"ONLY THE BRAVE" PACKS THE	
FROM THE JAHSSD ARCHIVES	
JCC SENIOR LUNCH PROGRAM	21
"Mohaveland" Available Ag	A PROSECULAR CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF T
FOREWORD TO "MOHAVELAND"	22

DATES TO REMEMBER

DEC. 11 – Mochitsuki (all day) and Obon Again Shop Holiday Sale (10 am~2 pm), Buddhist Temple of San Diego (BTSD). Mochi sales: 619/239-0896

DEC. 15 - JAHSSD Holiday Party (5:30 pm)

DEC. 18 – Christmas Program & Children's Pageant:
"The Little One" (10 am), Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ (POVUCC); caroling at Kiku Gardens (1 pm). 619/276-4881

DEC. 18 – Sunday School for all ages (9 am), Japanese
Worship Service (9:15 am), English Worship Service
(10:30 am), Sunday School Christmas program:
"Three Wise Men and a Baby" (7 pm), S.D. Japanese
Christian Church (SDJCC)

DEC. 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelighting Service (6 pm), candle-lighting & carols, sermon. Nothing Is Impossible, POVUCC

DEC. 25 – Christmas Day Service (10 am), sermion: "What Now?" POVUCC

DEC. 25 – Christmas Day Sunday School for all ages (9 am), Japanese Worship Service (9:15 am), English Worship Service (10:30 am), SDJCC

DEC. 31 - New Year's Eve Service (7:30 pm), BTSD

DEC. 31 – New Year's Eve Bell-ringing Ceremony sponsored by BTSD (11:30 pm), Shelter Island Friendship Bell.
 619/239-0896, Free and public welcome, dress warmly

JAN. 1, 2006 - New Year's Day Service (10 am), BTSD

JAN. 1 - Communion Service (10 am), POVUCC

JAN. 14 – San Diego Multicultural Festival (11 am-4 pm), MLK Jr. Promenade, downtown. Free

JAN. 15 – Ho-Onko Service (10 am), New Year Party (12 noon), BTSD, 619/239-0896

BTSD, 619/239-0896 JAN. 16-17-18 – Honda Tours bus to Las Vegas, 858/278-4572

JAN, 21 – JAHSSD Board meeting (8:15 am), BTSD Sangha Hall

JAN. 21 – Buddhist Book Club (10 am), BTSD Buddhist Education Committee. 619/239-0896

JAN. 28 – "CAMP DANCE: The Music and the Memories" (2 pm), preshow taiko performance and refreshments, Southwestern College Mayan Hall. 858/277-8808

JAN. 29 – BTSD-POVUCC Annual Buddhist/Christian Exchange (10 am), POVUCC

FEB. 5 - Communion Service (10 am), POVUCC

FEB. 11 – Buddhist Book Club (10 am), BTSD Buddhist Education Committee. 619/239-0896

FEB. 12 – Nirvana Day Service (10 am), BTSD

FEB. 19 – "Mixed Faiths: Raising Kids in a Two-Faith Household" (1 pm), BTSD, public welcome.

Call 619/239-0986 to confirm date and time

FEB: 23 – "Dear Miss Breed" national book launch, details TBA MAR. 13-14-15 – Honda Tours bus to Las Vegas, 858/278-4572

JAHSSD 13th ANNUAL MEETING HONORS PAST, LOOKS AHEAD

by Vernon Yoshioka

We had a great time at the 13th Annual Meeting of the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego, held at the Buddhist Temple Annex Hall on October 15. The meeting theme was *Mirai*: The Future. **Gwen Momita**, JAHSSD Vice President, was the chairperson for this grand afternoon luncheon, and she really put together a memorable event.

Unfortunately, the invited speaker, **Dr. Ruth Okimoto**, was unable to attend due to an urgent health problem, but she has expressed a desire to speak at one of our future meetings. So, on short notice, we turned to **Robert Ito**, Chair of the **JAHSSD Home Site Committee**, to update us on the current encouraging status of our search for a new home. Recalling his keynote speech last year when he challenged the Society to step up its commitment to the preservation of our local JA history, Robert congratulated JAHSSD for rededicating itself to its mission and making strides towards achieving our eventual goal of finding a permanent home for the Society's collection.





Keynote peakers Robert Ito and Linda Canada

In addition, **Linda Canada**, a member of the Home Site Committee with experience in museum cataloging and storing, gave us a preview of what will be involved when we do find a new home. Both speeches were just excellent. Robert also had the pleasure of announcing that the Society has found and leased a new temporary storage space in Spring Valley. This means our precious collection of photographs, artifacts, and documents will be brought together so that we can begin to catalogue and preserve our history in a manner that will make it more easily accessible to the community, writers and researchers. In the past, we relied on **Don and Carol Estes** to oversee the collecting, preserving, and storage of the bulk of our possessions, for which we can always be grateful. The leasing of the storage space now allows many dedicated individuals to come together to maintain this important collection.

The group of about 120 members and friends had a good lunch, won a lot of door prizes, were uplifted by the speakers, and helped us to raise some money for our future endeavors. We met the new minister of the **Japanese Christian Church**, **Ichibei Honda**, as he led us in the Invocation and Benediction. A lively treasure hunt game helped us identify some of the people captured in photographs in our collection.

The high point of our program was the recognition of the late **Donald Hamilton Estes** as our 2005 Kansha Awardee. **Mich Himaka** recalled some of the many contributions Don made to both the Society and to San Diego through his lifelong interest in and dedication to the local Nikkei community. Mich then introduced **Carol Estes** and members of her family to receive this honor in Don's absence. *(Continued on Page 3)*

Matthew Estes, who now resides in La Mesa with his wife, **Rajam Estes**, accepted the award on behalf of the Estes family. Also present were **Kumao Estes** of Seattle and members of the Hasegawa family.



Matthew. Carol and Kumao Estes with the Kansha Award

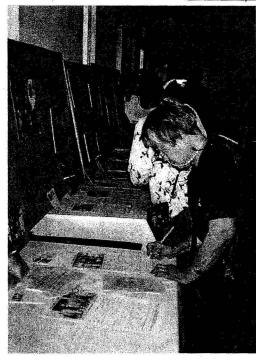
Elizabeth Yamada announced the publication of a new book, *Dear Miss Breed*, by Joanne Oppenheim, which is due out in February 2006. This is the true story of the San Diego Librarian who encouraged her Japanese American students when they were incarcerated during World War II by writing them letters and sending books. Many of these handwritten exchanges, now preserved in the Smithsonion National Museum, were written to Miss Breed by San Diegans like Liz Yamada. Oppenheim worked closely with **Don Estes**, representing JAHHSD, who facilitated local introductions and arranged for use of JAHSSD archival materials for the book. *[Editor's note: Read about the Dear Miss Breed book launch here in San Diego on Page 14.]*



Bruce and Sharon Asakawa and Liz Yamada try to identify people in the photo exhibit

The When's Lunch? Bunch, under the leadership of Hisae Batchelder, made a lot of nice items for sale, which really benefited our treasury—thank you! And in a very pleasant surprise, Robert and Edna Ito donated a new computer system and cataloguing software to the Society to enable us to begin working at the new storage space right away—thank you! Thanks also to the Buddhist Temple of San Diego for co-sponsoring our event in their beautiful social hall.

At our meeting, we learned a lot about where we will be going and what the journey will be like, but with the realization that getting there will also take a lot of work and time. Many volunteers will be needed to



Ruth Voorhies puts her good memory to use by listing people in several of the photos on display. The photo exhibit took advantage of the annual gathering by calling on attendees to identify as many people and locales as they could.

accomplish this transition. We hope some of our membership will step forward and devote a few hours each month to the tasks at hand.

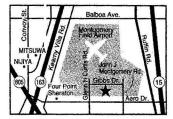
The future also involves finding and funding a permanent home for our history, an actual museum where this history can be displayed and made available to researchers. We will need the help and commitment of everyone to make this dream a reality.

OKAZAKI CHIROPRACTIC



MICHIHIRO OKAZAKI, D.C. 8665 Gibbs Dr., Suite 140 San Diego, CA 92123

(858) 514-8320



Mon-Wed & Fri: 8:30am -7:00pm Sat: 8:30am -2:00pm Thu & Sun: Closed

SENIOR DAY every first Tuesday of the month: Free adjustment for 65 and older

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.

KIKU KAWAMOTO ~ September 13, 2005

DR. RANDALL PHILLIPS Dec. 3, 1924 — Sept. 18, 2005

SPC. MIKE T. SONODA, JR. July 1, 1971 ~ Sept. 22, 2005

ARTHUR YUKITOSHI COOK Nov. 9, 1968 - Oct. 7, 2005

TANYA TSE July 24, 1974 ~ Oct. 11, 2005

MARY TAMAGIKU HAMAKAWA MORRIS Sept. 1 - Oct. 9, 2005

MARY JANE HORII KATSUMATA June 3, 1922 ~ October 28, 2005

HIROKO ITO March 12, 1922 ~ Oct. 29,2005

ROY YOSHIO YAMADA Feb. 5, 1917 ~ Nov. 26, 2005

JOANNE MIDORI KIMURA YOUNG Feb. 15, 1955 ~ Nov. 25,2005

YASUKO NICOLAS July 22, 1931 ~ December 1, 2005

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mich Himaka

A house—well, a warehouse anyway—is not exactly a home, but it will do for now.

We have leased a place we can call our own, a place where we can store the thousands of artifacts, photos, books and memorabilia that you have donated to us. A place where we can begin cataloguing those items and make ourselves a real museum-like organization. A place with an office with a real desk and chairs, where our board can meet occasionally, set up a coffee machine.

Our new site is at 10463 Austin Drive, Ste. F, Spring Valley.

Following the loss of our historian, Don Estes, it became a necessity for us to move those items Don had collected (and stored over the years at his home) into a facility where we could house and catalogue the items for our own future use. It became a necessity that we give back Carol Estes her home so she could go on with her life.

The new place gives us an office and a storage facility. We might even begin holding our meetings there but for now, we will probably ask the Buddhist Temple of San Diego to allow us to continue meeting at their Sangha Hall.

To prepare for the move, we have already purchased used office furniture, filing cabinets, chairs and desks.

Robert Ito, who headed our Home Site Committee to find us a location, has donated a new computer and programs for our use. Bruce Asakawa and Po Kaneyuki have made donations toward the purchase of a scanner. Others have made monetary donations already to help us get

set up in the new facilities.

Volunteers have signed up to help us catalog and the list each item in our collection and they can be sure that we will call on them.

I have to admit, I was one of those who were wary of taking this step because of the high cost of renting any kind of space anywhere in San Diego County. I worried that the meager funds we had collected during the 15 years of our existence would be insufficient to cover the cost of such a move. But I was encouraged by the response to the news of our move from the membership at our annual meeting in October.

Maybe I was wrong. I hope so because we've taken the step now and we can't look back.

With this move into the storage phase of acquiring a home site, we've got to look forward to the next phase of getting a permanent home.

The Chinese American community has their museum on Third Avenue in the old Chinatown section of the city. Members of the Chinese Historical Society have told us that it would be only natural for our organization to some day find a location near theirs because our Japantown was so close to theirs. Who knows? Maybe someday it could happen. The Chinese community had a major advantage though. They received funds from the Chinese government to get started.

Taking the theme from the title of our newsletter, *Footprints*, we will take one step at a time.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

ьу Naomi M. Himaka, Membership Chair

A warm welcome to those who have joined our organization since our last edition of *Footprints*. The new members are **Akira and Helen Takeshita**, **Paul and Helen Shimizu**, **Henry and Grace Koide** and **Jeff and Kathy Sakai**.

The following are gift memberships: Aiko Kida (mother) gift from Larry Kida; Larry Shimamoto (uncle) gift from Gwen Momita; and Madeline M. Clogston (daughter) gift from Chieko Moriyama. We are pleased to have all of you as members of our Society.

We also thank members **Robert and Edna Ito** and **Dale H. Kusumoto** and **Kazi Ishii** for upgrading to Life Membership.

Thanks to the following members for renewing their memberships: Sam S. and Nori I. Komorita, Eric Segawa, Chieko Saito and Jiro Saito. Also Iona Batchelder, Virginia Loh and John Bucher (all gifts from Bob and Hisae Batchelder).

We also thank the following for their recent renewals: Mike and Mary Segawa, Eunice Yamane, Edythe Harada, Mary Yamamoto, Nancy Cowser, Kikuye Koga, Chie Roxanne Takehara, James and Yuri Yamate, Rev. Jim and Patsy Yanagihara, James S. Matsumoto, Sachio and Irene Yamamoto, Osa and Setsuko Himaka, Mitsuye Yamamoto, Toshiko Kawasaki, Karen Kawasaki, Grace Igasaki, Masayoshi and Grace Tsuida, Charles and Jane A. Ogino, Steve and Aki Tomiyama, Shig and June Yamashita, and Mary Iguchi.

Our appreciation to the following for their recent renewals: Michiko Okuma, George and Chieko Masumoto, Yukiko Sugiyama, Ken and Akiko Matsumoto, Marilou Seki, Rose N. and Harvey A. Itano, Susumu and Tami Matsumoto Satow, Chikaye Mary Itami, Mary Doi, Masako Matsuhara, Emiko Obayashi, Eiji Kiya, Chieko L. Moriyama, Fred Katsumata, Kenn and Karin Kashima, Peggy Tsurudome, Shizu Watanabe, Roy and Aiko Muraoka, Kimiye Tachiki, Jane Takeshita, Fred Y. Nakatani, Joseph and Florence Enomoto, Miki Honda, Ralph and Avis Honda, Robin T. Shimasaki, Sakiko Kada, Shizue Maruyama, Frank and Jean Boyd, Mitsuo Tomita, Les and Allyne Tachiki, Ray Kuniteru and Theresa Imiko Mayeda, Ruth Y. Okimoto and Marvin Lipofsky, and Ford and Terri Omori.

In those days, softball was a highly popular sport in San Diego with participation by many Nisei softball teams. Among them were teams from the **Buddhist Church Boy Scout Troop 72**, **Japanese Congregational Church**, Lemon Grove, Chula Vista, and Nestor.

The City softball league held preseason double elimination tournaments to determine the level at which teams would be placed. The highest level was double A, then single A, double B, and single B.

In the first game of the 1940 preseason tournament, the Falcons were pitted against **Campbell Machines**, one of the top double A teams of the era. The Falcons were routed in that game. In the second game of the tournament, this time against a top single A team, they held their own but lost in the close game. As a result, they were placed in the double B league. The team didn't win the league in 1940, but they were competitive. The Falcons played again in the 1941 season.

Unfortunately, WWII and evacuation interrupted, and the 1941 season was to be the last one for the Falcons until after the war. The Falcons had great support of the Japanese community. In fact, the head of the city recreation department told the Falcons that he liked to see them play because whenever they played, the league collected the most money in the donation box that was passed around during games.

Jumbo reports that the team was pretty much intact when San Diegans were evacuated to Santa Anita. He recalls that the Falcons were the best team playing in Santa Anita. An all-star team was formed to play against the Falcons. The all-star team included some outstanding college players—a varsity baseball player from UCLA, another player from USC, other college players, and also a player who went on to star as a back on San Jose State's football team. In the game, the Falcons prevailed by a close score.

After San Diegans were relocated to Poston, however, team members went their own ways, playing for block or club teams or relocating to other camps or areas. **The Mutineers** were one of the club teams that played softball in Poston.



1943 photo of the Mutineers softball team in Poston III. Kneeling (left to right): Ben Honda, Jumbo Takeshita, Torao Nakagawa, Sam Takeshita, Paul Ozaki Standing (left to right): Sando Shinmoto, Hidetoshi Akiyama, Howard Ozaki, Willie Okamoto, Walt Fujimoto

When Nikkei families returned to San Diego following World War II, a Nisei softball team was again formed and resumed play in the San Diego City Softball League, this time under the sponsorship of Sun Cafe. Walt Fujimoto remembers that he played for Sun Cafe in the summer of 1948 when he was on summer vacation from college. After a couple of years, the team reverted to the name Falcons and continued to play in the city league.

Tom Honda recalls that he played for another Nisei team in Chula Vista during the post-war years. The team was led by **Johnny Yamamoto**.

We invite anyone who played softball for the Falcons, Sun Cafe or any other Nisei softball team to send in their recollections to the Editor of *Footprints*.

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.

ANONYMOUS In memory of Don Estes

FRANCIS TANAKA, M.D.

MR. and MRS. MICHIO HIMAKA In memory of John Takemoto and Mary Jane Katsumata

MR. and MRS. TOM YANAGIHARA

PAUL KANEYUKI

RONALD IKEJIRI

KIYOKO TAKEMOTO In memory of John Takemoto

> FRANCIS WADA In memory of Jay Sato

MIDORI FUJINO In memory of Don Estes

A. WATANABE In memory of Don Estes and Jay Sato

> MR. and MRS. OSAO HIMAKA In memory of John Takemoto

JOSEPH ENOMOTO

In memory of Don Estes

ROBERT ITO KEYLOCK, LLC.

ELAINE BOWERS

LINDA CANADA

POSTON 1 FAMILY REUNION

WHAT? NO HOLIDAY GREETINGS IN THE NEWSLETTER THIS YEAR?



That's because we decided to place them all in the "Camp Dance" program! Get your copy and read all your community greetings at the show on January 28!

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.

JAHSSD joined the Japanese Friendship Garden and the Japan Society of San Diego and Tijuana in providing volunteers to help at the memorial service for the late Dr. Randall Phillips, San Diego's Honorary Consul General of Japan, on October 3. We thank Mich and Naomi Himaka for supervising our group, which greeted the many attendees and directed them to the service site. Our gratitude to Linda Canada, Jeanne Elyea, Carol Estes, Noriko Inoue, Yuki and Mits Kawamoto, Jim Yanagihara and Vernon Yoshioka for helping the Phillips' family.

Overseeing the annual meeting is traditionally the responsibility of the Vice President, and rookie veep **Gwen Momita** came through for us big time! We also thank **Linda Canada**, **Carol Estes**, **Susan Hasegawa** (coordinator), **Naomi Himaka** and **Joyce Teague** for planning and preparing the photo exhibit and the Scavenger Hunt, and Gwen for providing the prizes for the Scavenger Hunt. Thanks to our stalwart Board members who handled set-up the night before and provided most of the raffle prizes.

Carol Estes, Dottie and Mas Asakawa and Grace and Mas Tsuida also donated prizes for the raffle. Tom Yanagihara brought a beautiful sago palm and Ichiban Restaurant of Hillcrest gave us several gift certificates to raffle off. The When's Lunch? Bunch spent months creating dozens of wonderfully crafted gift items which they sold at the meeting and later presented funds raised to the Society to purchase office supplies. Leslie Hasegawa donated her lovely handcrafts to the sale, too. Extra big thanks to all who stayed to clean up and put things away after the luncheon.

Dr. Ruth Okimoto of Berkeley was scheduled to be our keynote speaker but she had to undergo surgery unexpectedly a few weeks before the meeting. We are glad she is doing well now and look forward to inviting her back to update us on all the work which continues on the Poston Restoration Project. Kudos to **Robert Ito** and **Linda Canada** for agreeing to tag-team the keynote address in Ruth's absence.

We also thank the **Buddhist Temple of San Diego** for co-sponsoring our annual gathering and making their Annex Hall available to us.

Robert and Edna Ito generously donated a new Sony Vaio computer and Fuji monitor at the meeting, as well as the specialized software we need to start cataloguing the thousands of items in our archives. What a tremendous gift—thank you so much!

Responding immediately to Robert's invitation to help out the Society with helpful equipment for our office space was **Bruce Asakawa**, who donated a scanner; and **Po Kaneyuki**, who handed President **Mich Himaka** \$100 towards the purchase of new software.

As we prepare to move into our storage space (dubbed the Austin site) in Spring Valley, we thank **L-3 Communications** and the **Estes family** for donating additional office furniture. We also received a large corkboard no longer needed by the **Buddhist Temple Dharma School**.

Society member **Frank Koide** presented the Society with a beautiful shadow box he created of tuna fishing barbs and lures. The artful presentation includes at its center a copy of a lithograph depicting Nikkei tuna fishermen at sea hauling in a big catch. We thank Frank very much for this display which we will use at exhibits about local fishermen.

Member **Shinkichi Tajiri**, a resident of Baarlo, Holland, has sent us two DVDs of his life and work. They include a 2001 Dutch television documentary titled, "Tajiri's Labyrinth," and a short video Shinkichi made of his 80th Birthday Retrospective Exhibition in Nijmegen, Holland, in 2003-04. Thank you to Shinkichi for these samples of his life's work.

JAHSSD was asked to provide a brief introduction to internment at the "Only Skin Deep" film program at the Museum of Photographic Arts (MOPA). **Susan Hasegawa** gave a short but info-packed overview at the Nov. 16 screening of "Rabbit in the Moon," the 2002 documentary about Japanese American draft resisters during World War II. Also in attendance to offer support were **Ben and Grace Segawa** and **Joyce Teague**. Thank you, all!

Special contributors to this issue include Yukio Kawamoto, Anna Tatar of the San Diego Library, Vernon Yoshioka, and Dr. Frances Tanaka and his grandson, Austin Waller. Thank you all so much.

We also want to mention those who helped with sorting, consolidating, packing of the archived materials housed at the Estes residence over the last several months. They include: Carol Estes, Sumi Kastelic, Susan Hasegawa and Linda Canada. Cameron Quevedo and Richard Frias of Boy Scout Troop 53 tirelessly hauled countless boxes of items in preparation of the move. Yay, Scouts!

Susan Hasegawa and S.D. City College made scores of empty boxes available. On moving day, Linda Canada, Sumi Kastelic, David Mahl, Naomi Himaka, Jeanne and Bill Elyea, Grace Segawa and Bob Batchelder were our worker bees. Clean-up day at the storage site involved Bob, Naomi, Mich, Grace, Linda, Ben Segawa and Patsy and Jim Yanagihara.

Lastly, a huge thank you to the dynamic members of the **HOME Site Committee** who have been working doggedly on our behalf since its formation about a year ago. The input of individual members have been tremendous, but in particular we point out **Robert Ito** for previewing dozens of potential sites, eventually finding us a storage facility and negotiating the lease on our behalf; and **Linda Canada** for taking on the task of organizing and coordinating the actual move. An **Anonymous Donor** most generously underwrote the cost of the professional movers. Thanks to these tremendous efforts, everything owned by JAHSSD is now safely warehoused at the new Austin site.

What a year this has been—of enormous loss, of tremendous accomplishment, of renewed commitment to our community's legacy. Couldn't have made it through without each and every one of you.

Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year to all our members, supporters and friends!

2006 JAHSSD DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS NAMED

At its last meeting of 2005, the JAHSSD Board of Directors reelected the following people for a three-year term on the Board beginning January 2006: **Noriko Inoue**, **Ben Segawa**, **Nancy Cowser** and **Gwen Momita**.

Standing Board members whose three-year terms will expire in December 2006 are Joyce Teague, Rev. Jim Yanagihara, Karen Kawasaki, Debra Kodama and Christina Pierson.

Standing Board members whose terms are set to expire in December 2007 are **Bob Batchelder**, **Susan Hasegawa**, **Michio Himaka**, **Naomi Himaka**, **Vernon Yoshioka** and **Jeanne Elyea**.

Linda Canada, who has been serving on the HOME Site Committee since its inception last year, joins the Board as a director for a three-year-term beginning in January 2006.

All officers will retain their current positions including President **Mich Himaka**, our fearless leader. Phone numbers of our Board members are always listed on the back of the newsletter. They invite your comments and suggestions for improving and growing our organization.

JAHSSD WELCOMES NEWEST BOARD MEMBER

At the JAHSSD meeting last November, **Mich Himaka** nominated **Linda Canada** to fill a three-year position on the JAHSSD Board of Directors and she was voted in unanimously.

In the past year, Linda's involvement with the **Home Site Committee** has helped guide the Board to a formal collections policy and offered invaluable practical advice regarding our collection during this difficult period of transition for JAHSSD. Along with **Sumi Kastelic** and **Susan Hasegawa**, she helped sort and prepare JAHSSD materials for removal from the Estes home to the new storage facility. She also oversaw the moving effort for our entire collection.

Linda jokingly calls herself a "recovering lawyer," having practiced law for 20 years before turning to her real passion, local history. Professionally, she is a consulting historian, and her work includes being a curator of exhibitions, writing for local publications, and conducting research on historic homes and businesses. Girl Scouts and the San Diego Historical Society are chief among the organizations to whom she volunteers time. We are so lucky to have Linda in our ranks!

Linda is married to **Edgar (Eddie) Canada**, an anesthesiologist at Children's Hospital. They live in University City.



Linda Canada (left) curated the Port of San Diego's photographic retrospective celebrating Seaport Village's 25th anniversary last October. Also viewing the panels are Linda's mother, Georgine Foster, and her sister, Lorna Underwood

WE GET LETTERS



Joyce:

Re photo on page 9 of Fall 2005 issue of *Footprints*. The boys in the photo are (left to right): Po Kaneyuki, Babe Karasawa and Yo Takehara, all members of JAHSSD. The photo was taken probably in 1943 during an outing to the Colorado River (not in the swimming pool as the pool was not completed before Yo Takehara left camp). Po does not remember who took the photo.

Yuki Kawamoto San Diego Dear Mich & Board & Home Committee:

It was a wonderful program you put together to recognize Don. If he could speak to us, he'd be mystified as to why you were honoring him. He never looked at what he was doing as anything out of the ordinary. As a historian, he saw a need to preserve our people's history and that's just what he did.

Our family is very grateful for the honor you bestowed on him.

Carol Estes South Park

Dear Joyce,

Many thanks to you and the Japanese American Historical Society for sponsoring a table at our gala. I hope you all enjoyed the evening, especially the tribute to Don. Please convey my gratitude to the entire Board of Directors.

Best regards, Dave Tuites, Executive Director Japan Society of San Diego & Tijuana

Dear JAHSSD.

I just enjoyed seeing the different farm labels of Japanese Americans in San Diego County. I was especially happy to see my family's label on your website. There is one correction: my grandmother's name was Fusae not Fasae. Thank you for your informative website. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely, Nancy Mukai Toma Okinawa, Japan

Editor's note: We're glad you found our website. Thank you for the spelling correction which our Webmaster took care of right away.

Hello Joyce,

We really appreciate your dedication and zealous support for SDAFF! Because of your help, our Japanese/Japanese American programs were some of the best-attended programs in the festival! Thank you again for all the work that you did. You really contributed a lot to the success of the festival! Support from organizations like yours really make my work that much more rewarding.

We hope to have you and your organizations be co-presenters again at the 7th annual festival. Thank you again and I hope to see you at one of our many events throughout the year!

Duke Tran Community Outreach Coordinator San Diego Asian Film Foundation

Dear Joyce,

It was great meeting you and your husband at the San Diego Asian Film Festival. Thank you for including the SDAFF screening of our short film, "Pawns of the King," in your newsletter. We deeply appreciate your assistance in promoting our film. Because we're independent filmmakers, we rely on community support to help us spread the word about our film.

Best wishes, Ming Lai, Producer/Writer/Director Alhambra, California

Editor's note: "Pawns of the King" imagines two former WWII soldiers—a Japanese Zero fighter pilot and a 442nd RCT infantryman—who meet years later over a game of chess. For more information, go to www.pawnsoftheking.com. Ming's current project is "Wall of Nanking," about the aftereffects of the 1937 Japanese invasion of Nanking.

CHANKO NABE

by Joyce Nabeta Teague

Late-Night Ramblings of the Punch-Drunk

We certainly know a lot of people who love going to Las Vegas to gamble, and perhaps you are among them. Though everyone knows the odds of coming back home with more than you spend are very much against you, and of winning a big jackpot even higher, time after time our friends make Vegas their vacation destination and happily spend hours and hours playing table games or plunking countless quarters into slot machines.

Since my father's retirement almost 20 years ago, he and my mother have enjoyed a periodic junket to downtown Vegas to play their favorite video poker machines in favorite casinos, ever hopeful they will hit the coveted royal flush. Over the years, my father has actually hit a royal several times, so he has reason to expect that the same happy scenario will eventually repeat itself, and he enjoys trying to get lucky again.

Studies on people who consider themselves lucky have shown they are optimistic opportunists who are subconsciously on the look out for an advantage, and therefore they are more likely to find them.

Not me. I seek out the machines which will entertain me for the longest period of time while the folks around me are doggedly trying to hit the big one. Since I really have no expectation of winning, I'm not ever disappointed. And I usually don't bring home anything except extra poundage from the buffets. WINNAH! WINNAH!! WINNAH!!!

Instant Gratification

We are Americans, dang it. We want what we want when we want it. And we don't want it now, we want it yesterday!

One of my favorite stories about frustrated instant gratification comes from our friend Lucile Cheng who, though almost 80, is the total opposite of a technophobe. She seeks out and embraces new technology, especially if it is of the miniaturized and cute variety which can be folded up compactly. Her highest praise is, "Isn't it darling?"

Lucile was our first friend to have an electronic address book, a Palm Pilot, a tiny digital camera, and so on. She's always on the lookout for the Latest Well-Designed Little Gadgets That Do Clever Things. These items are extensions of her own cute, darling and clever little self.

Years ago, Chevrolet launched its subcompact model, the Neon, with a simple full page ad you may remember. It showed the front of the new Neon with its "smiling" grill, and the tiny word "Hi" at the bottom of the page. That was it. No sleek or sexy hard sell.

When Lucile saw the ad, she instantly bonded with the car. It had a great name. It was small. It was friendly. It even spoke to her. It was darling! She wanted to go right out to the dealership to purchase one.

Lucile's slightly more pragmatic boyfriend, Mike Sunshine, accompanied her so she might have a partner during the typical car-buying negotiations, to make sure she would not be taken advantage of nor talked into anything, and to assure she would get the best possible deal on the car.

After they had gone on a test drive and were seated in the sales office, the salesman informed them that the color Lucile wanted would not be available for several weeks.

So great was her disappointment that she fell forward and began banging her forehead on the desktop crying, "I want it! I want it! I want it!"

"Needless to say," Mike told us later, shaking his head, "there went any chance to negotiate anything!"

Bidding Adieu to a "Fowl" Year

The Year of the Chicken has been a rough one for losing people we have known for many years...or those whom we had really only known a short while, but who made such an impression that it seems they have been part of our lives for a long time.

They were all good and generous men whose loss we still mourn: Don Estes, Mas Honda, Hideo Ochi, Randy Phillips, Jimmy Takashima, Joe Yoshioka, and my dearest "Uncle" Sud, Sadao Uyeno of Whittier.

I also offer my deepest respects to the memory of Mrs. Misao Kawasaki, perhaps the last of the Issei founders of the Buddhist Temple, and a modest person of great talent.

Though gone, each continues to enrich our lives.

HOME COMMITTEE WINTER REPORT

At October's annual meeting, **Robert Ito** and **Linda Canada** made a presentation on the status of the plan for "finding a home." Committee members Robert, Linda, **Sumi Kastelic**, **Ben Segawa**, and **Elizabeth Yamada** have worked hard over the past year, and at the annual meeting Robert was able to announce that the Board was in lease negotiations for a site in the Rancho San Diego area.

Anticipating the move, **Carol Estes**, Sumi, and Linda have been busy organizing and packing materials that have been stored for years in various rooms in the Estes home. In addition to materials donated to the Society and collected by **Don Estes**, Carol has donated several furniture items and ten filing cabinets that will be welcome additions to the new site. We have also received many donations of office equipment, the most important being a new computer and state-of-the-art collections management software donated by **Robert and Edna Ito**.

Due to the amount of materials we have stored in three main locations (Estes home, Buddhist Temple storage container, and Jeanne Elyea's storage containers), professional movers will be used. We expect that all items stored in these three places can be moved in a single day, which is expected to be November 28.

Moving into the new space, which is called the Austin site because of its location on Austin Road, is Phase One of the process developed by the Home Site Committee and approved by the Board.

The next step will be assessing the feasibility of developing a permanent museum. Part of this assessment will involve determining the availability of financial support from within the community as well as from grants and foundations. The Home Site Committee has been expanded by the addition of **Bob Batchelder** and **Debra Kodama** from the JAHSSD board, and will soon begin work on fund development.

It is very exciting that we have been able to achieve such a great amount of work in such a short amount of time. If you have questions about the archives, the move, or the continued work of the Home Site Committee, call Robert at (858) 560-5205 Ext. 101, or email him at rpito@itogirard.com.

JAHSSD MEMBERSHIP KEEPS ON CIVING!

With the holidays here, please consider giving a JAHSSD gift membership to your children, relatives, or friends. They will receive four informative issues of Footprints, and the Society certainly benefits, too!

CELEBRATIONS! Lady, lady! Look Who's Eighty!

There were many 80th birthday celebrations this year among our members and friends. Sure wish we could acknowledge them all, because hitting The Big Eight-Oh is quite a milestone indeed!

Heartiest congratulations go out to: **YUKIO KAWAMOTO**, who was thrown a great party at Tom Ham's on November 19 by his wife **Mits**, kids and grandkids; **FRED AND RITSU NABETA** of El Cajon, who celebrated their 80th birthdays this year with not one, but two trips to "Lost Wages"; and **SACHI NISHIDA**, who was thrown a surprise party by her family at The Prado Restaurant on December 10.

Also in this truly *elite* group in 2006: **HEDI AKIYAMA** ☆ **MAS "BRUCIE" ASAKAWA**

WALT FUJIMOTO ☆ SAKIKO KADA TAK NAKANO ☆ SANDO SHINMOTO AKIRA "JUMBO" TAKESHITA ☆ GRACE TSUIDA

KIYO "PARKER" UDA ☆ KOTTIE UYEJI ☆ SAB UYEJI
If you or a family member celebrated an 80th birthday in 2005,
drop us a note so we can acknowledge it in the next issue.

A HOLIDAY WISH LIST FOR THE AUSTIN SITE



Do we have any Santas out there? Now that we have a great working/ storage space in Spring Valley where Society volunteers will be helping us catalog our collection over the next several months, we came up with a Holiday Wish List of items that will greatly help us accomplish this ongoing task. Please contact any Board member if you can donate anyof these items to the JAHSSD:

Library-type cart with two shelves—at least 18 inches wide Rubbermaid trash cans with lids and wheels (2)

Blue bin for recyclables (1)
Sturdy wastebaskets (3)
Vacuum cleaner or shop vac—
canister type with nozzle tools

Lamp—floor type with high intensity light
Cordless phone
Folding chairs, office chairs

Folding chairs, office chairs
Wall clocks (2)
Blank CDRs



Rolls of paper towels, trash can liners



We can also use more ANGELS: volunteers who can spend a couple hours each month helping at the site with shelf building, filing, sorting, cataloguing, photo ID, light office tasks, and so on.

Need a ride there? Let us know.

We have so much work ahead of us, and our membership is our greatest resource.

DON'T MISS "CAMP DANCE". COMING IANUARY 28

by Gwen Momita, Camp Dance Chair

A very special event is coming to San Diego in January. Sponsored jointly by the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego and Southwestern College of Communication and Arts, it is called CAMP DANCE: THE MUSIC AND THE MEMORIES. This live program, performed by the Grateful Crane Ensemble, will be held on Saturday, January 28, 2006, at Southwestern College's Mayan Hall.

The two-hour performance of delightful choreography and popular songs will take you back in time to the 1940s when the swingin' sounds of the Big Bands spun on 78s while our country was at war. For all, it was a time of uncertainties and mixed emotions. For families of Japanese descent living on the west coast, it was also a time of upheaval, as many were uprooted from their communities and sent to relocation camps in remote desert and mountain regions across the U.S.

Whether your parents and grandparents actually experienced life in camp, your family underwent different wartime challenges, or you just love great swing music, this program will touch your hearts and minds, as it is ultimately a testament to the human spirit within all of us.

I hope you and your family will join us for this special event. We will tap our toes together as we dance into the desert night.

CAMP DANCE: THE MUSIC AND THE MEMORIES

Southwestern College Mayan Hall
900 Otay Lakes Road, Chula Vista
January 28 ~ 2:00 pm
Pre-show entertainment by Shokenji Taiko
Light refreshments will be served
General admission \$25
Seniors (60+) \$20 Students \$15
Limited seating, Tickets: (858) 277-8808

JUNE YAMAMOTO of INSTANT SIGNS Wishes JAHSSD a WONDERFUL NEW YEAR!



MAZEGOHAN

by Mich Himaka

Having been given the honor of serving as master of ceremonies for the funeral of the late **Takeno Hayashi**, I looked over my opening statements and wondered, *Are we missing something significant here? Are we witnessing perhaps the passing of San Diego's last pre-World War II pioneer Issei?*

I hurriedly scribbled out a new beginning:

"One by one our Issei population dwindles. It won't be long before they are all gone. How many are left? I don't know but as you can see, by the number of people here today, there remains a great deal of respect for our elders for they suffered much and still endured."

I wondered more after the funeral and asked myself, Do we have any more Isseis, who lived here before the outbreak of WWII?

So I ask the few who are out there reading this quarterly drivel, do you know if there are any more Isseis who lived in San Diego before WWII began who might be living here or elsewhere?

If so, I would like to know because we all owe them a debt of gratitude and I would certainly like to honor them in some small way.

Send me the name, address and telephone number of the individual or a family member who might be able to help me. Or e-mail me a message at keidan@cox.net with the information.

Maybe a memorial to our other real heroes, our parents and grandparents? If not this year, sometime in the near future? Just a thought.

Mrs. Hayashi was 97 years of age when she passed away on Sept. 7. There are a number of Niseis who are in their 90s, like Mrs. Nobuko Sato, Mrs. Florence Yamashita and Mrs. Masako Shima but I am told that they are Niseis.

Let me know if you know of anyone anywhere. Thank you...

Another favor to ask. If anyone has a collection of the San Diego JACL's Borderline newsletters going back as far as the 1960s, **Carol Hasegawa Estes** would appreciate it very much if that individual would be willing to turn them over to us.

She is interested in collecting articles her late husband, **Don Estes**, had written for the newsletter to compile as an anthology.

Again, please let me know if anyone has such a collection. Thank you...

On a somber note, my little circle of friends will be saddened to learn that an old friend has passed away. It's even sadder to learn that we find this out 10 years after the fact.

Jimmy Iwao Kido, who lived in Block 330 in Poston III during our WWII incarceration, died in 1995, we learned by way of John Kida, son of James and Katsumi Kida.

James, **Rev. Jim Yanagihara** and I had been trying to contact Jimmy in San Jose, where we knew he had settled following his Navy service during the Korean War. Rev. Jim and I last saw him about 40 years ago in San Jose and had dinner with him.

I tried to call him last year after getting a telephone number from my niece, **Eileen Katayama**, who lives in San Jose. But the individual at the number said there was no Jimmy Kido there and hung up.

Having only recently learned of his passing 10 years ago, I can understand his widow might be upset.

Thanks to John Kida, I plan to log onto the Internet and find out more if possible about Jimmy and maybe have another column in the next issue.

After learning of Jimmy's passing, I talked to **Steve Sato** and learned that Jimmy's young brother, **George Kido**, passed away some 15 to 20 years ago!

At any rate, I hope I can get our old friends together and raise a glass of sunshine in memory of both Jimmy and George.

Both were among the "nicest guys." Rest in peace.

SOME MS DONORS WERE DEFINITELY "MS"-ing IN ACTION

Somehow in the Fall Issue of Footprints, a good number of our MS Walk sponsors of JAHSSD Bob's Buddies team were missing from our Thank You list. We humbly make amends by gratefully if belatedly acknowledging those left off the previous listing. THANK YOU TO:

Misako & Harry Honda, Karen & Larry Hart, Sharon & Dave Bristow, Barney & Carolina Olson, Robert & Dorothy Brown, Tsune & John Hashiguchi, Kaz & Ruth Kiyono, Kikuko & Richard Takashima, Mits & Yuki Kawamoto, Robert & Karen Kawamoto, Jon & Carrie Kawamoto, Ruth Fujimoto, Steven Fujimoto, Lisa Leinhaupel, Cindy Takeuchi, Roy & Terri Arakawa, Blythe & John Van de Ven, Susan & Richard Namba, Carol Cohn, Cynthia & Bob Shintani, Deb & Ken Kodama, Steve Sato, Norma & John DeSaegher, Frank & Marian Johns, Glenn & Barb Hashiguchi, Tom & Tae Udo, Vernon & Shinobu Yoshioka, Judy & Dennis Shimamoto, Coreen & Bruce Fujinami, Midori & Yeaji Fujino, Dale Kusumoto, Kazi Ishii, Elaine Morinaga, Dale Coe, Vivian Kimura, Duane Siefers, Dale Shimamoto, Jagan Narayanan, Jean & Jerry Byma, Adrien Lanuss, Betty Leigh, Nancy Baldry, Helen Strauser, Barbara Wait, Elizabeth Davis, Denise Felton, Sylvia Ohanesian, Renata Schneyer, Pat & Charleen DeWitt, Judy Mastell, Lois Roche, Shirley Price, Karen & Tom Shea, Pat & Art Walshe, John Tschample, Daria Zachar, Leslie Yamamoto, Barbara Provo, Alice Yamamoto, Terry & Naoko Smith, Bill & Nancy Weller, Elizabeth Le, Jennifer & Mike Hogsett, Ginny Kavanaugh, Arnold & Geri Friedman, Jerry & Kimberley Herman, Dawn & Greg Harms, Monica & Larry Bobka, Paul & Janice Davis, and Janson Communications

ROY S. YONEKURA

Certified Public Accountant

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DR. RANDALL C. PHILLIPS Dec. 3, 1924 ~ Sept. 18, 2005

by Mich Himaka

San Diego's Japanese American community suffered yet another major loss of a close friend with the passing of Dr. Randall C. Phillips, Honorary Consul General of Japan. He died in San Diego on Sept. 18, 2005, at the age of 80.

Dr. Phillips was a familiar figure at many of the community's functions throughout his terms as Honorary Consul General, which began in 1995. Most notable was his annual participation in the Buddhist Temple of San Diego's annual Bon Odori Festival, where he danced through the evening wearing his colorful happi coat. Dr. Phillips attended as many of the practice sessions as he could to assure that he would not embarrass himself. He never did.



Mike Inoue, who chaired the memorial service, stands near a portrait of Dr. Phillips

A standing room-only crowd attended a memorial service celebrating his life on Oct. 3 at the Japanese Friendship Garden in Balboa Park. Numerous luminaries were present, including the Hon. Yoshio Nomoto, Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles.

The memorial service, titled *Bridge of Friendship*, mirrored exactly what Dr. Phillips offered the San Diego County community as a representative of the Japanese American community: a hand of friendship to all ethnic groups.

Representatives of various organizations from throughout the county attended the service and lauded Dr. Phillips as a true friend to all communities. His passing ended a long and distinguished career which included many responsibilities, not only in the Consular Corps. Dr. Phillips served as president of the Consular Corps of San Diego from 1998-99 and as senior vice president emeritus of Alliant International University. He was an ordained Methodist minister, a 33rd Degree Mason, a 32-year member of Rotary International, a trustee of the Sister Cities International, chairman of the Japanese Friendship Garden, honorary director and chief advisor of the Japan Society of San Diego and Tijuana, and former president of People to People International.

In recognition of his work with the Japanese community, Dr. Phillips received numerous honors, including the Order of the Rising Sun and God Rays with Rosette from the Emperor of Japan in 1998.

In 2002, Dr. Phillips was honored by the local Japanese American community, receiving a Kansha Award from the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego for his service to the community over the many years. He also received the Reischauer International Education Award of the Japan Society of San Diego and Tijuana in 2003.

A native of Santa Maria, California, Dr. Phillips attended the

University of Southern California and the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration.

As an ordained Methodist minister, he served several large churches in the Los Angeles area. In 1978, he joined the faculty of the United States International University as an administrative vice president. In 1985, he was appointed the university's senior vice president, holding that position until he retired in 1993 when he became senior vice president emeritus.



Dr. Phillips' family seated in front of guests at the Bridge of Friendship service

In 1995, the government of Japan, acting upon the recommendation of the foreign ministry, appointed Dr. Phillips the Honorary Consul General of Japan in San Diego.

In that position, he instituted a new policy of openness and energetic involvement with the Japanese American community. He made it a point to become a member of all the Japanese organizations in San Diego County and with obvious interest and enjoyment, attended as many meetings and activities as his busy schedule allowed.

Through his active involvement as Honorary Consul General, he strove to advise, assist and support numerous Nikkei organizations and individuals. He demonstrated that he wished not only to assist people but to build bridges between them.

Without a doubt, Dr. Phillips will truly be missed by our community. Dr. Phillips is survived by his three daughters and their families, Ruth and Scott McKercher of San Diego; Janet and Peter Kessler of Orlando, Florida; and Melinda and David Moore of Mesa, Arizona; his six grandchildren; and his friend and companion of many years, Mary Ann Sowards. Our deepest sympathy to each of them.

KOBE COLLEGE CORP ANNOUNCES ESSAY CONTEST, GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The KCC Japan Education Exchange (KCC-JEE) has announced an essay contest for high school students. Winners will receive a FREE one-month trip to Japan, complete with home stay, language study and the possibility of earning college credit in the summer of 2006.

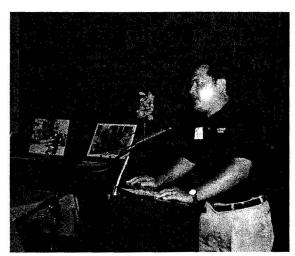
The trip is sponsored by the OMRON Foundation. Essays must be postmarked by February 3, 2006.

KCC-JEE also offers a year-long Graduate Fellowship Program in Kobe, Japan. Applications for this program are due January 10, 2006.

For more information or to request an application, please visit www.kccjee.org, contact the KCC-JEE office at (800) 659-4919, or e-mail kobecollegecorp@prodigy.net.



13th
ANNUAL
JAHSSD
MEETING
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OCT. 15



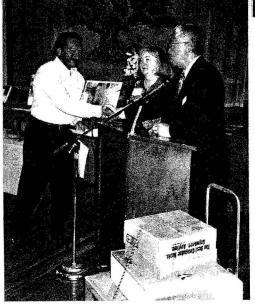














OMMUNITY SNAPSHOTS





JAPAN SOCIETY GALA OCT. 10







(JACL
Veterans
Appreciation
Luncheon
next
issue!)









A Young Voice: MY HERO "NANA"

by Austin Tanaka Waller

Austin is the nine-year-old son of Don and Laura Waller of Chula Vista and the grandson of Dr. Francis Tanaka. His essay about his grandmother, Pat Tanaka, was one of 50 finalists chosen from over 1,000 submitted to the Papa's Heroes Essay Contest sponsored by Legoland and Papa John's Pizza in October of this year. Austin's proud grandfather, Dr. Tanaka, kindly forwarded us the essay with this note: "Nana passed away October 18, 1999, just two weeks before her 65th birthday. Austin and my wife, Pat, were inseparable. How do you tell a young child his favorite "Nana" had passed away? The day after the funeral, I took Austin out in our back yard in Bonita. It was just at sunset and the clouds were reflecting the sun's rays as if it was a way to heaven. I pointed to the sky and said, 'Nana is now in heaven with God and will not come back. But she will be watching over us.' For months afterwards, whenever Austin came over to Bonita, he would run outside and say, 'Hi Nana,' and run back into the house. This is the Nana that he remembers fondly. Austin did not win the \$1,000 award, but has won an even greater prize in our hearts."

The Editor thanks Austin and his parents for permission to print his essay; and his "papa," Dr. Tanaka, for sending it to Footprints.

My hero is my grandma, Nana. She is a really outstanding lady. She was born in Fresno, California. She lived on a farm where they grew grapes to make raisins. Nana knew how to work hard. She would pick the grapes in the hot sun without having complaints. She even knew how to drive a tractor.

When she was little, her family was put in a concentration camp during the war because they were Japanese. All Nana could take with her was one suitcase. She was scared because she was having to leave everything behind. Nana looked at the positive side of things and didn't complain.

She became a nurse and met my papa at a hospital. He was a doctor. They got married and had six children. It was a lot of hard work for Nana because Papa was busy working all the time. When the kids were all in school, she went back to work as a teacher's assistant with gifted children.

When I was born, I was Nana's first grandchild. She helped take care of me and made me feel special. Nana always bought the best toys that I loved. She had a lot of energy so she played with me constantly. I remember when she drew pictures with me. She was a great artist. We went to lots of places together like Sea World, Legoland, Las Vegas, Big Bear, Disneyland, the park and many more places.

My best memory of Nana is going to her house where she would make me fried rice. Then we would go outside and do chalk drawings, go on the swing, and blow bubbles. Nana would laugh at the bubbles and say that they were "drooling." Then she would say, "The bubbles are going to heaven."

Nana died of cancer but I still remember her. She never showed that she was in pain but instead she showed happiness. Nana always made people happy. I will never forget her smile and laughter.

CLARA BREED BOOK TO BE LAUNCHED IN SAN DIEGO

by Anna Tatar, Library Director

Many of you know the poignant story of Clara Breed, the first professionally trained children's librarian at the San Diego Public Library, and her friendship with the young people of Japanese ancestry she served at the library.

A new book by Joanne Oppenheim will be published in early 2006 entitled *Dear Miss Breed* that chronicles the correspondence between Ms. Breed and the children who were sent to internment camps during World War II. It's a very moving work and shows how Ms. Breed became a connection for many of the children to the outside world they had been forced to leave.

Her correspondence and gifts were very important to the children. In remembering her internment, Elizabeth Kikuchi Yamada recently wrote, "Every book that Clara Breed sent me was an affirmation that we were not the enemy, the "non-alien"—but American citizens. Every book was more than stories that enlightened, instructed, and/or entertained. Every book was hope."

It should come as no surprise that we at the San Diego Public Library are very proud of Ms. Breed, who would go on to become the Library's director in 1945. We intend to honor her memory and accomplishments with special events surrounding the publishing of Ms. Oppenheim's book.

Please save February 23, 2006 to hear Ms. Oppenheim speak at the national launch of her book here in San Diego. Although still in the planning stages, we expect to have an exhibit, special events with the author, activities with school children and teens, and other programs. We acknowledge the part JAHSSD played in providing materials to Ms. Oppenheim during her research and I am grateful to the support of your organization in helping the Library with refreshments for this reception. We also look forward to working closely with the Japanese American Historical Society, Japanese American National Museum, Scholastic Inc., and other organizations to offer the public educational programs about this important part of American history.

Ms. Breed wrote two stories during the war for *Library Journal* about the injustice of the camps. She also wrote an article for *The Horn Book* journal that also criticized the federal program. While her articles may not seem controversial now, at the time of national hysteria following the attack on Pearl Harbor and the ensuing nationalistic fervor for the war effort, Ms. Breed's actions were very brave. She could have easily been the victim of public backlash, lost her job or worse. But she stood by her convictions and recognized not only the importance of speaking out but also of bringing some comfort to the families in the camps.

It's a testament to how important she thought the letters were that Ms. Breed saved all she received. They are now part of the permanent collection of the Japanese American National Museum and available for all to read.

The Library staff is so impressed with the research that was done for this book that we are nominating Ms. Oppenheim for the Beatty Award. This award, sponsored by the Book Wholesaler, Inc. and the California Library Association, honors the author of a distinguished book for children or young adults that best promotes an awareness of California and its people.

Dear Miss Breed is intended for young adults, but it is a very important book that should be read by people of all ages. I hope you will reserve February 23 for its San Diego launch.

JAPANESE CHRISTIAN CHURCH WELCOMES REV. ICHIBEI HONDA

by Mich Himaka

His recent appointment here as English-speaking pastor of the Japanese Christian Church is a homecoming for the **Rev. Ichibei Honda**.

A native of Tokyo, the Rev. Honda was the second child and first son born to **Hideyuki and Mitsuyo Honda**. He came to the U.S. (Phoenix) at the age of eight months where his father was sent by his Japanese company as a systems engineer in the early 1960s. His father enrolled in Arizona State University's graduate school of engineering and fell in love with the U.S.



Yunike and Rev. Ichibei Honda with their SDJCC welcome cake, September 2005

When he was five, Rev. Honda's family moved to San Diego. He spent his third through sixth grade years in Japan but returned here before he entered the seventh grade.

"Much of my life is tied to my faith in Jesus Christ," he says. "I remember experiencing an overwhelming sense of God's love at a Bible camp in Japan in 1976. However, it wasn't until I was at a (church) conference at Mt. Hermon in 1979, that I received Jesus Christ as my personal savior and Lord."

Rev. Honda was baptized at the San Diego Japanese Christian Church on April 12, 1981, sensing God's calling to be in the fulltime ministry.

"I was deeply involved with the SDJCC youth group during my years as a student at Hale Junior High and James Madison High School. It was during my years at the University of California at San Diego, that I began to explore the possibilities of missionary work in India."

After graduating from UCSD with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Urban Studies and Planning in 1985, Rev. Honda went to Japan to work. His employer sent him to Torrance to help start up a medical device manufacturing plant. During this time, he began attending the South Bay Free Methodist Church where he met his future wife, **Yunike Kawano**. They were married July 31, 1993.

"Continuing to seek opportunities to minister in India, I went to Eastern College near Philadelphia and graduated with a Master of Science degree in Global Economic Development in 1996. In autumn that same year, I was called upon to do simultaneous translation for Dr. Billy Graham at a San Jose crusade.

"It was through this experience that I felt God call me into an English-Japanese bilingual ministry," he said. "I joined the OMS Holiness Church of North America as a fulltime minister in July 1998 and was ordained as a minister of the Holiness Conference in July 2000."

Rev. Honda has been serving as senior pastor of the English speaking ministry at SDJCC since September.

"I love to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with whoever is willing to listen," he said.

Welcome again to San Diego, Rev. Honda. You will be a wonderful addition to our corps of ministers.



The Honda Family (left to right): Yunike, Keileina (3), Ichibei, Stephen (6), Jonathan (8) and Timothy (10).

WELCOME TO NEW ADVERTISER, DEBRA KAWAHARA

Dr. Debra Kawahara is a licensed clinical psychologist who offers psychotherapy and counseling services to children, adolescents and adults. She has extensive experience working with individuals suffering from depression, anxiety, romantic and family relationship concerns, cultural issues, stress from major life transitions, and behavioral management/parent training, particularly with Asian Americans.

Her approach to therapy is "to create a dynamic, goal-oriented collaboration with the client to explore and understand the biological, psychological, social and cultural factors" that may contribute to the client's distress.

Dr. Kawahara and her husband **Neal Nagata** are JAHSSD members. She has generously assisted with the Poston Restoration Project. Her professional affiliations include the Asian American Psychological Association, American Psychological Association, and Association of Women in Psychology.

DEBRA M. KAWAHARA, PH.D. LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST

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HONORING OUR NIKKEI VETERANS

by David Kawamoto, President, San Diego Chapter JACL

David's late father, Harry Kawamoto, served in the Army during World War II. At the Japanese American Veterans Appreciation Luncheon last November, Kawamoto explained why the local JACL was hosting the first-ever event honoring all veterans of Japanese descent.

It's really been my pleasure to volunteer with the JACL. I remember when we were working on the campaign for Redress. What a difficult task that was. Some described it as "the impossible dream." But it was a dream our community fought for and obtained. Looking back on that battle, I realize that it would not have been possible were it not for the 100/442 and all the other Japanese American veterans of World War II. Their valiant service proved to a nation that these Japanese faces were proud American citizens willing to volunteer to serve their country, the United States of America.

Most Sansei didn't learn of the internment and 442 until they were in college. I'm glad I volunteer with the JACL and the Go For Broke Foundation because they are both dedicated to telling this story: how in 1942, the U.S. Government took American citizens from their homes and locked them into concentration camps located in deserts and remote areas of the United States; how from these camps, young men volunteered for military service to prove their loyalty to the United States; how these Nisei soldiers served in a segregated unit of the U.S. Army and fought for our country with uncommon valor.

That same uncommon valor exhibited by our Nisei veterans continued as Japanese Americans served in other conflicts. That is why it was decided to honor all of our Nikkei veterans at this luncheon: because you are all so very deserving of our recognition and thanks.

I was going to say how you can't imagine my pride in seeing that picture of my father in his military uniform. But, in looking around this room, I can see on the faces of the children and grandchildren that they all share that feeling of pride. Not just because of the service and accomplishments of their relatives, but because of the pride that all of our soldiers brought to our community. That's why we're here today. To thank all of you and to let you know how very, very proud you've made us.



KIKU GARDENS DEDICATES GARDEN ADDITION

by Joyce Teague

On the sunny Saturday afternoon of October 15, 2005, Kiku Gardens Senior Housing was the setting of a special ceremony. Kiku Gardens and the children of **Masami Honda** invited residents and guests to the dedication of five new plots to the residents' flower and vegetable garden at the northwest corner of the facility.

The expansion was made possible by the **Masami Honda Fund**, which was established by Masami's children following his death in February of this year. Not only was Masami a charter resident of the Kiku Gardens, but he also served variously as General Manager, Assistant Manager, Night Manager, and volunteer extraordinaire throughout his long residence there.

"We really think of the garden project as coming from and giving back to Mas' community," daughter **Amy Honda** explained. "Many people contributed to the fund, and many other people sent koden to us. We felt very supported by all of these gestures of generosity and kindness, and we still do."

Because the seniors derive a lot of pleasure and satisfaction from working in and harvesting the garden, the Honda family felt increasing its workable area would be a meaningful way to honor their father's commitment to Kiku Gardens. The Fund (closed now that the project is complete) and contributions by the Honda siblings provided additional raised, workable plots with individual watering systems, allowing more people to raise flowers and vegetables.



Speakers and Honda Family members at the Mas Honda Garden dedication (left to right): Wayne O'Neil, Gary Ishida (hidden), Amy Honda, Meg Honda, Morgan Fisher (behind Meg), Stan Honda, Amy Levin, Lily Warner, Steve Sato

Greeting guests were **Amy (Maya) Honda** and **Wayne O'Neil** of Somerville, Massachusetts; **Stan Honda** and **Ann Levin** of New York City; and **Meg Honda** and **Morgan Fisher** of Santa Monica. General Manager **Stephens Sato** and Assistant Manager **Lily Warner** facilitated the event. Sato, Warner and Kiku Gardens Board chairman **Gary Ishida** spoke about Masami's dedication to Kiku Gardens and its residents. Warner read a moving letter from **John Cygan**, who worked alongside Mas at Kiku Gardens for many years.

A bronze plaque was laid by Stan Honda in the center of the new area in recognition of his father's life and work at the residence. Amy, representing the family, expressed her appreciation for this living memorial to her father. She commented that after the loss of his wife **Ruth** and his eventual retirement from gardening, Masami managed to create a meaningful new life for himself at the Gardens.

(Continued on Page 17)





Kiku Gardens residents and other friends of Masami Honda gathered in his honor at the expanded garden dedication on October 15, 2005

Ms. Toshiko Springer, left, and her grandson admire the new plaque laid in memory of Masami Honda



During the ceremony, the family also acknowledged **Ms. Toshiko Springer**, a long-time resident of Kiku Gardens, who was Masami's dear friend and companion during most of his tenure there.

After the ceremony, the gathering enjoyed Momotaro tomatoes (grown in the garden), yellowtail sashimi and other tasty refreshments as **Kiyoko Takeda** provided koto music in the background.



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PRESERVING CALIFORNIA'S JAPANTOWNS

by Vernon Yoshioka

Earlier this year, Vernon joined the PCJ Oversight Committee representing the San Diego community. We thank him for submitting a report on the project.

The Preserving California Japantowns Project (PCJ) was created by the California Japanese American Community Leadership Council (CJACLC), a statewide organization. Newly funded by the State of California's California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP), PCJ is a year-long project to identify and catalogue those areas where the Japanese American communities gathered, lived and worked during the period of our early history.

CJACLC was instrumental in obtaining a large grant to help preserve the existing Japantowns in San Francisco, San Jose, and Los Angeles. This new project will try to identify historical places and buildings throughout the State that should be preserved to remember our JA history.

On Nov. 12, 2005, JAHSSD voted to endorse this PCJ Project and provide support in its efforts to gather information. I was invited to sit on the Oversight Committee for the project, and went to San Francisco on Oct. 24, 2005, to represent the interests of our area. Although our long-time historian Don Estes had collected the names of many places and families in San Diego County, there are many more still to be identified and documented.

We would be glad to receive any information about where our Japanese people lived, worked and played. The project will help us catalogue this vital information, and then share it with the rest of the State.

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

by Fran Watanabe

We continue the 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.

Starting Over Again, On the Outside

It was my mother's desire that the family leave this camp life as soon as it was possible. Around mid-1943, the government began to accept petitions for permanent release from camp, and many were granted as long as the evacuees, as we were called, had a sponsor and settled away from the West Coast since the war was still going on. Many young Nisei left to attend college in the Midwest or East Coast. Some colleges warmly accepted them as students although there were others which did not. Some of the older Nisei also left for outside employment, to prepare for their families' eventual departure from camp.

My mother felt that the sooner we could leave camp, the better it would be for all of us and would give us a chance as quickly as possible to re-establish ourselves into normal life. I know she wanted Arnold and me to continue our education under better conditions and was particularly concerned about my brother starting college as soon as feasible.

She also must have sensed that the longer one stayed in camp, there was the greater chance of difficulty in making a smooth transition back into society once the war ended and the camps eventually closed. (As it turned out, there are stories of some older Isseis who did not want to leave the camps when they closed in 1945 because for once in their lives, they did not have to work and someone took care of them. It is not that these formerly hard-working Isseis became lazy, but it is, unfortunately, the effect that being a so-called ward of the government could have in sapping the initiative and spirit of an individual. This, I believe, my mother wanted desperately to avoid.)

She wrote to the University of Chicago as well as Fort Snelling regarding possible teaching positions, but nothing came to fruition. My parents must have then discussed how they might gain useful employment to enable their departure from camp and carefully assessed their options. Since they had no money to speak of, they would not be able to open a business of their own. It must have been bitter for them to consider going back into domestic work, which they had done when they first arrived in this country together many years ago.

But this they opted to do, and a position was offered to them with the Lawrence Selz family in Highland Park, a suburb of Chicago. It was decided that my brother would work for awhile and go to college and I would enter high school. In this way we would resume our lives, on the outside.

In mid-September 1943, an Army truck with a small load of passengers rolled out from the gates, leaving behind the barracks and the barbed-wire fences in the swirl of dust. Family #4077 no longer existed. A new beginning lay ahead, far beyond the reaches of Poston Camp III and this Arizona desert.

From Camp to Suburban Life

You would think that I would have lots of memories about our train trip from the town of Parker, Arizona to Chicago. Yet, strange as it may seem, the trip is a blur for me. There are no remembrances of actually boarding the train, of how long the trip took, of what we saw along the way or even how I felt as we traveled eastward.

Was I excited at the prospect of starting a new life on the "outside"?



Or did I feel apprehensive or frightened?

Looking back in time, I believe I must have had some mixed feelings at this time. The sight of barbed wires and armed sentries in camp, though disturbing, were an everyday occurrence and in my youthful naiveté, I did not let it overshadow my daily life. I had finally felt relaxed with my "camp" friends, and a certain routine having been established in our lives lent a feeling of comfortableness. So to this 13-year-old, leaving this "security" and going out into the "unknown" must have been at least somewhat whelming and frightening, a numbing situation—and thus perhaps the reason for the lack of any vivid memories.

I am certain, though, that my parents felt relieved, even elated, that they were finally to leave the camp. Now they had the chance to start life anew. Although they knew they would have to start all over again as domestic employees, I am sure they felt the same sense of purpose and optimism with which they had first come to this country many years ago.

The reason I can say that is this: that all through the heartbreaks and hardships they endured during their earlier years in California and then the ultimate degradation by their forced move from their home into the relocation camps, never once did I hear them complain or express anger or frustration in front of us. Instead I recall how they endeavored to make the best out of whatever situation was presented to them with quiet dignity and sense of firm determination. The Japanese call these traits *gaman*—perseverance, to put up with, patience.

Now they were heading to Chicago, to make the hopes and dreams for themselves and their family come to fruition. A new beginning. A new life.

I don't know if our sponsor and employer Mr. Lawrence Selz himself met us at the train station, but I do recall my first sharp impression of being in his large modern office suite high above the city. We must have looked like ragamuffins among all the professionally dressed staff at this advertising agency. I remember feeling embarrassed and terribly out of place among the plush surroundings.

Being aliens, my parents had to report in with the Naturalization and Immigration Office in Chicago to advise them of their new address. My mother, because she had been incarcerated by the FBI due to her Japanese language school connection, had to register with the district parole board. These matters accomplished, our final destination was Mr. and Mrs. Selz's white brick home located on a large wooded lot in Highland Park, a suburb about 25 miles north of downtown Chicago. Arnold stayed in town at the YMCA and eventually got a job in the city at a vacuum cleaner repair shop just west of the Loop.

As soon as we were settled, my father began work as the cook and my mother the housekeeper for the Selz household, which included two young girls of elementary school age, Suzie and Laurie. My job was to help as needed with household chores and baby sit the girls periodically.

My parents' room was situated off the utility room between the attached garage and the kitchen. Prior to our arrival, the Selzes made Continued on Page 19

a nice room for me nearby in the attic. This room included a skylight-type window which let in a lot of light and fresh air, when opened. They furnished it with a sparkling new comfortable twin bed, nightstand, study desk, lamp and chair. Pull-down retractable stairs provided access to this room, and when not needed while I was in school, it could be raised out of sight. Our accommodations were "elegant" to our eyes, especially after having spent the previous one-and-a-half years in a horse stable and cramped barrack units.

The first order of business for me was to enroll in high school, which had already been in session a week or two. I believe I was driven to Highland Park High School to register for my classes as a freshman. I remember so clearly the frightened and lonely feeling I had on that day. Registration and the classes themselves produced no problems, but it was the lunch hour that I dreaded.

Knowing no one, I found an open spot at a long table and hesitatingly started to eat my sandwich. All around me I heard voices of the boys and girls in boisterous animated conversation. Then suddenly someone tapped me on the shoulder, and a gentle voice invited me to sit with her at a nearby table. A group of about four or five girls was motioning me to join them, and among them was a smiling Japanese face! I could scarcely believe my eyes! This was my first encounter with someone who was to become my life-long special friend.

Toyoko "Terry" Wakumoto was a Sansei (third-generation Japanese-American), formerly from Lompoc, California. She had left the Gila River Relocation Camp in Arizona that summer with her parents, who had found a job in Highland Park. Terry entered the high school in September also as a freshman.

The meeting was a turning point, and I was soon immersed in studies and typical teenage activities. My classes and teachers were interesting, I had a circle of friends and my grades pleased my parents. The weeks and months passed quickly.

Because the Selz's home was located in the outskirts of Highland Park and quite a distance from the high school, I had to walk about a mile to the bus stop, then ride the school bus for about an hour since I was among the first to be picked up in the morning. I remember how much I enjoyed the early morning walk as I made my way along the country road to catch the bus. It was peaceful, and for some time I couldn't help but contrast this solitude and the wide-open spaces to my former life in the crowded Poston camp in the Arizona desert.

During our first winter in Highland Park, I recall it started snowing while I was walking home from the school bus stop. The snow was coming down ever so lightly, but I was very excited since this was the first time I had ever seen snow. Just as I turned from the main road into the long driveway toward the house, I noticed for the first time the unique and delicate shape of each snowflake as it fell on my dark-colored jacket. It was just like the pictures I had seen in our encyclopedia! I ran to the house to tell my parents of discovery!

We lived at the Selz's home for about a year and a half. Terry and her friends formed the nucleus of my social life. I made good progress in school, and I was happy with my life in Highland Park.

Next Chapter: To the North Shore

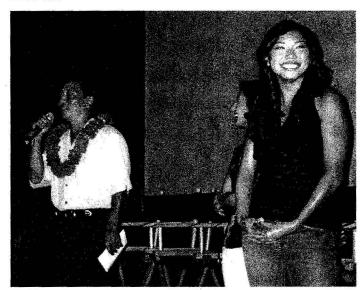
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SAN DIEGO DEBUT OF *ONLY THE BRAVE* PACKS THE HOUSE

Lane Nishikawa's full length feature directorial debut, *Only the Brave*, attracted a standing-room only crowd as the Closing Night feature of the 2005 **San Diego Asian Film Festival (SDAFF)** last October 6. The dramatic film, featuring a virtual Who's Who of current Asian American actors (including **Noriyuki "Pat" Morita** in one of his last screen roles), was screened to an attentive audience of 400 which gave the director and his cast in attendance a standing ovation as the end credits rolled.

Only the Brave is a recreation of the World War II rescue of the so-called Texas Lost Battalion, trapped behind enemy lines, by the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team, composed almost entirely of Japanese Americans. The four-day rescue of the 200 Texans came at the cost of 800 casualties suffered by the 100/442. Nishikawa's script plays up the irony of the soldiers sacrificing their lives on European battlefields even as their loved ones live in concentration camps back on home soil.



Filmmaker Lane Nishikawa recounts a behind-the-scene story to the film festivals' packed closing night crowd. The two actresses from Only the Brave were among several cast members present who said they were proud of their involvement with the labor-of-love film project

In a sometimes emotional post-screening statement, Nishikawa, a Hawaii native, explained that his retelling of the story was inspired by his father, **Jimmy Nishikawa**, who had served in the 442, albeit after the famous battle had taken place. The senior Nishikawa, a longtime employee of Kyocera here in San Diego, died of cancer earlier this year. He was able to view a videotaped version at home shortly before his death. Nishikawa's mother and other members of his family were in attendance at the SDAFF screening.

Only the Brave is currently being showcased in film festivals across the country as Nishikawa seeks a distributor for its general release.

Kyocera sponsored the film's screening, which was dedicated to Jimmy Nishikawa. JAHSSD was a community co-presenter of the film, along with the San Diego JACL and the UCSD Nikkei Student Union. Discounted group ticket sales for JAHSSD were handled by Zenbu, the Buddhist Temple's adjunct social group, accounting for 90 ticket sales. JAHSSD also presented a 2004 Japanese film, Crying Out Love in the Center of the World, a contemporary story about love, loss, regret and renewal. Zenbu sold 60 tickets for this film.

FROM THE JAHSSD ARCHIVES...



On November 3, 1956, Sumi Horiye and Tom Yanagihara were married at the San Diego Buddhist Church. In this photograph by Walter Bray, the bride prepares for the wedding with her mother, Shizuka Horiye, in the conference room, which doubled as the bride's dressing room for many years. The mirrored lacquered vanity set was used by young brides over several decades and is believed to predate World War II. The Yanagiharas' daughter, Carol Baker, used the vanity when she was married at the temple in the 1970s. The vanity was also used in the temple library and in the children's nursery. When the set was earmarked for the temple rummage sale in 2003, JAHSSD asked that it be donated to the Society instead.

This moment in San Diego Nikkei history is brought to you by:

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A typical meal at SDJCC will offer rice, tea and chopsticks in addition to Asian dishes like teriyaki chicken or chow mein. The program has been ongoing for several years and typically there are no open seats during lunchtime.



Part of the hard-working kitchen crew of volunteers that makes it all possible. They always wait till everyone is served before they sit down and enjoy their meal. Left to right: ?, ?, Yuri Yamate, James Yamate, John Ohira, Tom Segawa, Aya Segawa, Vernon Yoshioka, Shinobu Yoshioka, ? . Some community volunteers, like Umeko Kawamoto and Mildred Kawasaki (not pictured) volunteer their time regularly at several Nikkei-based programs.



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MOHAVELAND AVAILABLE AGAIN

In 1945, the Poston III Young Buddhist Association (YBA) published a book, *Mohaveland*, as a remembrance of life in the Colorado River War Relocation Center, Poston Camp III. The book is primarily a photographic record of Buddhist families and individuals who resided at Poston Camp III during World War II.

In 1997, the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego reproduced and reprinted the book and made it available to the public, but the supply eventually ran out. Recently, JAHSSD reprinted additional copies of *Mohaveland* and the book is again available for a donation of \$20 a copy, plus shipping and handling. The 70-page book has hundreds of photographs depicting camp life and its residents. It will be of great interest to former residents of Poston Camp III, their children and grandchildren, and to anyone interested in internment history.

To read more about *Mohaveland* and see some sample pages from the book, go to Page 22.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy, please fill out and mail in the form on on this page.

For more information, please call Yukio Kawamoto at (619) 286-8203, or e-mail him at yukkawa@cox.net.

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THE FOREWORD to MOHAVELAND

by Joyce Teague

On June 1, 1945, the **Young Buddhist Association** of the **Poston III Camp** in Poston, Arizona, published a 70-page book titled *Mohaveland*. This year marks 60 years since its publication.

"The name of this book is appropriately called Mohave Land, since our war-time home is actually situated in the Colorado River Indian Reservation, the home of the Mohave Indian tribe," reads the explanation at the front of the book.

Laid out much like a high school annual of the time, the $8\frac{1}{2}$ x 11-inch publication included hundreds of black and white photos of the camp, its surroundings, layout, organizations, activities, and as many images of camp residents as they could find, block by block, as individuals and in family groups. It is a valuable time capsule of camp life as it had evolved over three and a half years of families and friends living together in close quarters.

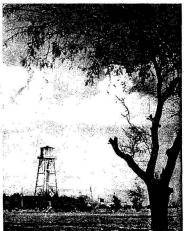
The youthful editors apparently attempted to include a photograph of anyone who had been part of Camp III, living or dead; whether they had relocated elsewhere or away serving in the armed forces. As such, *Mohaveland* is a valuable document. Staff borrowed cameras from "outside" and scrounged film and snapshots from friends both inside and outside of the camp.

On the cover and particularly on the beginning pages of the book, the stunning work of photographer **Paul Shintaku** depicts the dramatic terrain of the camp environs. Inside the book, groups which carried out the day-to-day services like school, administrative, cafeteria and postal services, stand in front of barracks softened somewhat over the years by surrounding trees and gardens planted by the residents. Smiling teenagers, sporting the hairstyles and fashion of the swing years, pose in portraits now over 60 years old.

Acknowledgments on the last page name Ichiro Okada as Editor with the assistance of Frank Tanaka, George Yada, Nobuyuki Korukawa, Fusa Ashida, Frank Saita, Masami Honda and Helen Yamakoshi.

The book was published in response to the government's gradual closing of the scattered internment camps. Friends and families who had lived in such intimate quarters now faced the prospect of resettlement and rebuilding their lives outside the barbed wire fence.

Mohaveland was meant as a memory book, and it is certainly that for Camp III internees. But to those who never experienced camp life, it offers valuable insight into the environment and lifestyle of those who did.





The dramatic back and front covers of Mohaveland, publication reproduced recently by JAHSSD. The photos are credited to Paul Shintani



Typical inside pages from the 1945 book, Mohaveland, an ambitious and important attempt at depicting camp life at the end of the internment period. Reproduced copies are available from JAHSSD (See Page 20). If you worked on this publication or know of anyone who did, please contact Footprints.

FOREWORD to MOHAVELAND

The Poston III Young Buddhist Association presents this pictorial book of our desert life in exile. It is the odyssey of the evacuees in the Colorado River War Relocation Center. It is the saga of the courage, fortitude, and faith of 110,000 Japanese and Americans of Japanese ancestry and how they overcame bitterness and despair into hopes and loyalty in the American way of life.

The reasons for our entry into this form of restricted liberty and substitute life need not be retold again, but it seems hard to believe that it can happen in a Democracy. But the facts are obvious for we thought as long as we were citizens and law-abiding people we would be immune to this treatment.

During the three and half years in interment, we have shared these sorrows, happiness, and hopes with many new friends from other parts of the Coast whom we have become to know intimately. All the resources, ability, and initiative were utilized toward the betterment of our home for the duration. We have made it enjoyable as possible under the circumstances.

Now, these friends are leaving us one by one and we feel lonesome and sad. After the West Coast Exclusion was rescinded, some have returned to hostile California while others have relocated to the more friendly States of the East. Here, may we say that the brilliant battle records of our 442nd Combat Team, and the support by many understanding national religious and non-religious organizations, certainly must be given their full share of the credit for our freedom.

Before we too follow them and resettle somewhere in the U. S., this book was proposed to remember our fellow evacuees and keep in record our life in Poston. There is only one regret which we must admit; the pictures in every instance [are] not complete, especially the evacuees. The limited time and the lack of sufficient films prevented us from publishing a more complete book. Of these shortcomings, we are aware. Please accept these pictures as representative of a cross-section of the evacuee population and our soldiers.

We fervently hope the sadness which comes with your parting can be consoled by turning each page of this pictorial book and recall the pleasant memories of days spent in Poston, under a much more favorable circumstance.

Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FOOTPRINTS STAFF:

Editors: Joyce Teague, Michio Himaka

Editorial Assistance: Bill Teague

Desktop Publisher: Paper Pushers Editorial Services
(paperpushers@cox.net)

THE JAPANESE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SAN DIEGO

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WHAT'S INSIDE THE WINTER ISSUE



PAGE 1. Softball was a big part of local Nikkei boys' lives prior to WWll PAGE 9: JAHSSD has a Holiday Wish List just so you can play Santal PAGE 14: Austin Tanaka Waller remembers his grandmother. Pat Tanaka in his essay about his hero PAGE 22 "Mohaveland" was published 60 years ago, but has become a valuable record of the past

JAHSSD is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the collection, identification, preservation and display of materials related to the Japanese American experience in the San Diego region. We view our function in the greater community as historical, educational and cultural. *Footprints* is JAHSSD's quarterly publication for its membership. Subscription is free with membership. We welcome your articles, stories, letters and comments. Send them to: FOOTPRINTS EDITOR, P.O. Box 620988, San Diego, CA 92162-0988, or send e-mail to: footprintseditor@cox.net.