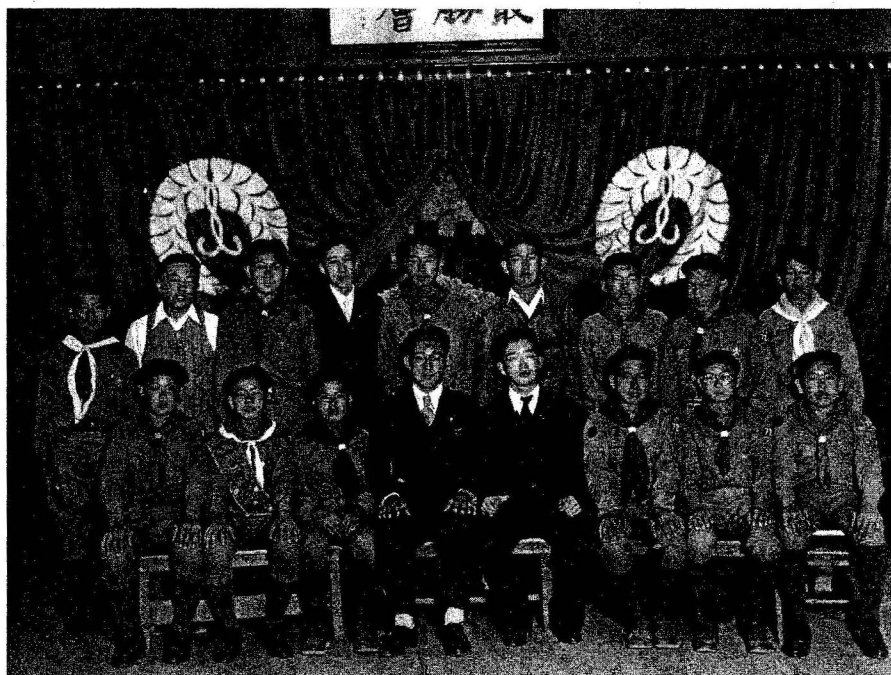


FOOTPRINTS

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

Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego



BOY SCOUT TROOP 72, circa 1935

Front Row: Min Hatada, Sam Kuratomi, Takeyoshi Ohara, Asst. Scoutmaster Masami Honda, Scoutmaster Azusa Tsuneyoshi, Takenori Ohara, Kuni Kawamoto, Kiyoshi Nakagawa. Second Row: Masa Koba, Leo Hashiguchi, Nob Takashima, Masashi Tanaka, Tom Tsunada, Nob Honda, Hide Takeshita, Kiyoshi Nakamura, Haruki Koba. Photo donated to JAHSSD by Akira Takeshita

A CLASSIC PHOTO FROM THE PAST

by Yukio Kawamoto

Troop 72 was formed in the early 1930s, sponsored by the San Diego Buddhist Church (now the Buddhist Temple of San Diego), with **Azusa Tsuneyoshi** as scoutmaster.

The Boy Scouts in the troop were for the most part from families who were members of the Buddhist Temple. The scout room was in the basement of the temple, which today is used for storage. In the center of the room, a large compass was painted on the floor and during the once-a-month meetings, the scouts sat in a big circle around the room.

The most memorable thing that **Sam Nakamura** remembers about being in the troop is when a skunk invaded the room during a meeting. Sam recalls that **Tak Asakawa** was the only one brave enough to chase the skunk out and he got sprayed for his troubles. **Mas Asakawa** remembers that Tak really stunk when he got home and the smell stayed with him for a while. This happened before I joined the troop, but I remember the powerful skunk odor when I went to Japanese School at the church on the weekend following that meeting.

Mas Asakawa and I joined the troop together around 1938 when we were 12 years old. I was not a very good scout. I never earned a merit badge, didn't get past Tenderfoot (the lowest scouting rank), and didn't help old ladies cross the street.

Mas recalls that he earned the rank of first class. In those days, Mas was quite small and his brother, Tak, was really tall. There was some kind of big scouting activity at Balboa Stadium and Mas and Tak paraded around the stadium as a kind of Mutt and Jeff. (Cont. on Page 3)

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- OCT. 1 – MUSIC & FOOD FESTIVAL** (11 am–4 pm), Buddhist Temple of San Diego. 619/239-0896, www.btsd.net
- OCT. 7 – JAHSSD 14th ANNUAL MEETING & 2006 KANSHA AWARDS** (11 am–1 pm), BTSD Annex Hall. Program free, bento lunch \$18
- OCT. 12–19 – S.D. ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL**, Ultrastar Hazard Center in Mission Valley. www.sdaaff.org
- OCT. 21 – FALL FESTIVAL** (11 am–3 pm) featuring food, fun, market, crafts, silent auction, drawing, kid zone, and more, Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ. Free admission, public welcome. Info: 619/276-4881, povucc@sbcglobal.net
- OCT. 24 – JOHN YATO** watercolor demonstration (7–9 pm), 7847 Dunbrook Rd., Ste. D, San Diego, CA 92126. Free, but seating limited, RSVP required. 858/613-0600, www.yatoart.com.
- Oct. 28 – JAHSSD DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO WALK** (9 am–12 pm). Walking tour of the old Japanese section of downtown ending with optional PYO lunch at the historic Sun Cafe. Free and public welcome, but limited to 20 people. Reservations: Yuki Kawamoto, 619/286-8203
- Oct. 29 – FALL BACK FESTIVAL** (11 am–4 pm), Third & Island in the Gaslamp Quarter. Free activities for youngsters to celebrate diversity. Look for JAHSSD-sponsored origami booth.
- NOV. 5 – AKI NO MATSURI: Fall Festival** fundraiser (1–4 pm) featuring 14 food stations, entertainment and children's crafts, Japanese Friendship Garden. \$25 member/\$30 nonmember/\$10 child 12 and under. 619/232-2721
- NOV. 9 – JAHSSD EXHIBIT: "Nikkei Youth Culture: Past, Present, Future" opening reception** (5–7 pm), San Diego Museum of History. Exhibit will run through March 5, 2007. Admission: \$5 adult/\$4 senior-students-military/\$2 kids 6–17/kids 5 and under free. Info: 858/457-9676
- NOV. 18 – JAHSSD BOARD MEETING** (8:15 am) and deadline for holiday greetings and submissions for Winter Issue of *Footprints*
- NOV. 19 – THE MIKADO** (3 pm), Point Loma Nazarene University Music Dept. \$10 reg. admission/\$8 seniors for this matinee only. For other dates, mention you are a JAHSSD member and save \$2 per ticket. 619/849-2325
- DEC. 1–2 – DECEMBER NIGHTS**, Balboa Park
- DEC. 31 – YEAR-END BELL RINGING CEREMONY** (11:30 pm), Shelter Island Friendship Bell, hosted by the Buddhist Temple of San Diego. Free and public welcome. 619/239-0896
- JAN. 11, 2007 – JAHSSD's DEMOCRACY UNDER PRESSURE SCREENING AND PANEL DISCUSSION** (6–8 pm), San Diego Museum of History, Balboa Park. Free program and public welcome
- FEB. 15, 2007 – DAY OF REMEMBRANCE: "You Can Go Home Again, But..."** lecture by Susan Hasegawa (6 pm), San Diego Museum of History, Balboa Park. Free and public welcome

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mich Himaka

Thank you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Perhaps it is an indication that our organization is doing some good things that our community feels it is necessary to preserve our history.

The early response to our plea for help has been most gratifying. Our initial tally shows you have given from your hearts with more than \$16,000 to date.

The other night, I received a telephone call at home from a former public official and a good friend of our community to tell us that we are on the right track to spread the word about our Nikkei community.

He also urged closer ties with the **Chinese American Historical Society** and I told him that we have often worked with them in the past and plan to continue our relationship with them in the future. He said we can look forward to a most generous contribution from him in the mail and I believe him. He's supported us in the past.

It's that kind of response that makes our fundraising effort most gratifying, just like the kind of response we got during the **Veterans Memorial Monument** fund drive two years ago.

I know how difficult it is for our members—especially senior citizens who make up most of our membership—to make this contribution, with several bigger, major fund drives in progress in our community.

One member made a one-time donation with a note saying he was not sure if he would be around to complete a three-year pledge. He passed away shortly after we received his contribution.

Still others reached down as far as they could to make their contribution, apologizing that it was all they could afford at this time but urging us to keep up the work we have done to date.

Our Board promises that we will do that as best we can keeping an eye on the future of the organization to find a "home," a place where we can show what our members have contributed.

If you have misplaced the pledge information we sent to our members and friends, call us and we will be happy to send you another one.

We hope you will be able to help keep us on track.

Some of our members responded to our call after visiting our Austin Drive site in Spring Valley at our open house in August. Our archivist **Linda Canada** explained what she and her crew of volunteers have been doing to catalog our collection of photographs, documents and artifacts, and apparently did a masterful job of convincing the visitors that we are making progress. Those who visited the site had nothing but praise for Linda and they came away impressed with what she has done.

If you haven't visited the site, please do so. Linda usually is there.

DEBRA M. KAWAHARA, PH.D.
LICENCED PSYCHOLOGIST

10455 POMERADO RD.
SAN DIEGO, CA 92131

PHONE: 858.268.9064
CA. LICENSE #PSY 15540

HOME SITE COMMITTEE REPORT

This committee continues to meet monthly to work on evaluating alternatives for a permanent home for our collections.

The chief accomplishment of the committee since our last report was creating the **Three-Year Plan** for funding for the archives, which was approved by the board this summer.

As our treasurer, **Bob Batchelder**, reported at the annual meeting October 7, donations to this program have exceeded \$16,000. This is an extraordinary outpouring of gifts from the community, and is a strong confirmation that the actions we are taking to preserve history are important!

Every dollar donated to this Three-Year Plan is a dollar that we don't have to take out of our savings account to fund the archives' operation. If you haven't yet made a pledge, please consider doing so. We are very close to reaching our goal of \$20,000 per year. Members of the Home Site Committee thank our donors for their incredible generosity.

LEADERSHIP AND TEAMWORK: JAHSSD'S 14th ANNUAL MEETING by Gwen Mornita

JAHSSD is preparing for another outstanding gathering at the Society's 14th Annual Membership Meeting and 2006 Kansha Awards and on Saturday, October 7, at the Buddhist Temple of San Diego.

This year's theme is KYORYOKU, or "Teamwork." Our much anticipated exhibit, this year designed by Board members **Susan Hasegawa** and **Linda Canada**, is entitled "Mochitsuki: Main Ingredients—Teamwork and Leadership." The exhibit, which opens in the Annex Hall at 10:30 a.m., will look at the teamwork that was necessary for the incarcerated San Diego Nikkei to make it through the internment years. In addition, the exhibit will touch on the youth who lived their formative years in camp, and who went on to become the leaders of today.

Our keynote speaker, **Takeyuki (Gaku) Tsuda, Ph.D.**, is an Associate Professor at the School of Human Evolution and Social Change at Arizona State University. Dr. Tsuda will expand on the theme by discussing the ethnic experiences of Japanese American youth in today's world. His insights on ethnicity and identity are sure to be thought-provoking and meaningful. (See a profile of Dr. Tsuda on Page 4.)

This year's **Kansha Awards** go to two exemplary individuals who know the true meaning of teamwork.

Moto Asakawa is a long time San Diegan who has contributed greatly to the growth of the Nikkei community through his service on numerous state and local boards and organizations. His leadership and vision have helped shaped our community, especially the **Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ**, where he has demonstrated his strength and commitment for more than 80 years.

Our other Kansha Awardee, **Roy S. Muraoka**, has shown unwavering dedication to numerous service organizations and has served on boards and committees throughout both the South Bay and San Diego Nikkei community. He is a longtime supporter of the **Buddhist Temple** and guides the activities of the **Japanese Coordinating Council**.

Both of our Kansha recipients appreciate the value of people pulling together for the benefit of all. (See Page 9 for profiles on Moto and Roy.)

Our annual meeting promises to be an exciting event with great food, a fascinating exhibit, informative lecture, a few surprises, and tons of door prizes! We look forward to seeing YOU as we visit with old friends, meet special guests, and honor Moto and Roy for their achievements.

A CLASSIC PHOTO continued from Page 1

Akira Takeshita was also a member of the troop. He remembers that every year, Boy Scout troops in San Diego gathered at the Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park for some kind of ceremony and that one year he and his brother **Sam** marched to the stage carrying the troop colors. He also recalls the Troop 72 softball team in which he was the pitcher and playing against the troop from the **Japanese Congregational Church** (now the **Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ**).

Some of the activities I remember while I was in Troop 72:

Camping: One summer, the troop camped for a week at the Tijuana Slough and that's where I was introduced to girlie magazines. Once or twice, the sisters of some of the campers came to cook dinner for us. I guess they felt sorry for us because none of us were very good cooks.

One spring vacation, the troop camped at Laguna Mountain. The only thing I remember about that campout was that it was freezing cold at night. I was so cold I couldn't sleep. Luckily, **Fred Hashiguchi** couldn't sleep either and had built a campfire. He and I sat around the fire and gabbed all night.

On another occasion, we camped overnight one Saturday at the Indian Village, headquarters for the San Diego Scout Council located at Upas and Park Blvd. where the Veterans War Memorial Building now sits. The Indian Village consisted of a series of pueblo buildings which I think were originally from the 1935-36 Exposition and then turned over to the scouts.

The boys in our troop were a little older than other boys camping there at the same time. As the night wore on, we were having a good time shooting the breeze; then someone came by asking us to quiet down because the other boys were trying to sleep.

Halloween: The **Hosaka brothers, Hank and George**, were members of the troop. Their family had a farm in Mission Valley and grew tomatoes. One Halloween, a bunch of us climbed into the bed of their truck and went around town throwing overripe tomatoes at various targets—people, houses, whatever. Not very Boy Scout like, but an awful lot of fun.

Parades: The City used to have parades down the middle of Broadway on a couple of holidays, probably the Fourth of July and Armistice Day (now Veterans Day). Boy Scout troops were assigned to stand guard along the parade route to keep the crowd back.

The couple of parades I remember, Troop 72 was assigned to patrol a block near where the Spreckles Building is located. When the end of the parade passed us, we would fall in and march to the end of the parade route.

Outings: A couple of outings I remember were to Palomar Mountain to see the observatory and to Laguna Mountain to play in the snow. About the only thing I remember about the Palomar Mountain outing was the ride to the observatory. We rode in **Azusa Tsuneyoshi's** Ford Model A Coupe with a rumble seat in the back. I was in the rumble seat with a couple of other guys. It was a drizzly day and it rained all the way to Palomar. It was not a pleasant ride.

The trip to the Laguna Mountain was my first encounter with snow. I didn't realize how cold snow is and wasn't prepared for it. I played in the snow for about 15 minutes, my shoes got all wet and my feet were so cold I couldn't stand it any longer. While others played in the snow, I stayed in the car for the entire day.

With the evacuation of Japanese Americans from the West Coast during World War II, Troop 72 ceased to exist. It was the end of an era with a lot of wonderful memories. The troop was not reactivated after the war.

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.

- KEN NISHI
June 14, 1926 ~ March 22, 2006
- YASUKO LUKEY
January 17, 1929 ~ March 27, 2006
- KENNETH TOMOYOSHI GIMA
November 4, 1935 ~ May 27, 2006
- STANLEY KENNETH OTSUKA
September 16, 1955 ~ June 21, 2006
- CHIZUKO KAKITA
July 21, 1931 ~ June 27, 2006
- HENRY "HANK" YAMADA, D.D.S.
July 18, 1927 ~ June 29, 2006
- JACK MASASHIGE TAKEGUCHI
January 6, 1908 ~ July 4, 2006
- YOSHIKO IWATAKI
August 11, 1920 ~ July 15, 2006
- MARY KITAGAWA NAKASHIMA
May 25, 1933 ~ July 28, 2006
- CHIEKO NAWA
April 19, 1949 ~ July 28, 2006
- SAYOKO BLOSSOM
July 9, 1932 ~ August 2, 2006
- TOSHIKO TONI MAEYAMA POTTER
November 8, 1918 ~ August 5, 2006
- TAMI YATO
November 6, 1909 ~ August 7, 2006
- RODNEY JON FURUYA
May 7, 1957 ~ August 10, 2006
- WILLIAM R. VETTER, JR.
January 13, 1925 ~ August 12, 2006
- BETTY TAKEHARA
June 9, 1925 ~ August 12, 2006
- SUMIO TAKEHARA
February 14, 1924 ~ August 12, 2006
- JOYCE KUSUMOTO
August 18, 2006
- JAMES J. DOUGHERTY
June 23, 1936 ~ August 29, 2006
- SHIZUE TANAKA DOUGHERTY
November 7, 1938 ~ August 29, 2006
- JAMES JUSTIN DOUGHERTY
June 18, 1978 ~ August 29, 2006
- TERUKO CODY
January 14, 1936 ~ September 3, 2006
- CHIZUKO SANDERS
February 20, 1934 ~ September 4, 2006
- TOM TOMIKAZU OKADA
July 30, 1920 ~ September 17, 2006
- STEVEN K. NAKAGAWA
March 14, 1953 ~ September 22, 2006
- MASAO IMIZU
June 23, 1918 ~ September 24, 2006
- SHUNSUKE "SAM" HANAOKA
1943 ~ September 25, 2006

GAKU TSUDA TO KEYNOTE ANNUAL MEETING

JAHSSD is pleased to have **Takeyuki (Gaku) Tsuda** address the annual meeting on October 7. His talk is entitled, "Nikkei Historical Legacy: The Ethnic Experience of Japanese American Youth Today."

Dr. Tsuda has based his observations on interviews he conducted in the San Diego area of Nikkei under the age of 30. Till last summer, he was Associate Director of the Center for Comparative Immigration Studies at the University of California at San Diego.

In July 2006, Dr. Tsuda moved to Phoenix and joined the faculty as Associate Professor of the Arizona State University School of Human Evolution and Social Change.

After receiving his Ph.D. in anthropology in 1997 from the U.C. Berkeley, Dr. Tsuda was a Collegiate Assistant Professor at the University of Chicago. His primary academic interests include international migration, diasporas, ethnic minorities and identity, transnationalism and globalization, ethnic return migrants, the Japanese diaspora in the Americas, and contemporary Japanese society.

His publications include numerous articles in anthropological and interdisciplinary journals as well as a book entitled, *Strangers in the Ethnic Homeland: Japanese Brazilian Return Migration in Transnational Perspective* in 2003. He is also the editor of *Local Citizenship in Recent Countries of Immigration: Japan in Comparative Perspective* to be published this year; and co-editor of *Controlling Immigration: A Global Perspective* in 2004.

Dr. Tsuda has received research grants and fellowships from the University of California (Berkeley and San Diego), Fulbright-Hays, the Wenner-Gren Foundation, the Social Science Research Council, the Japan Foundation, and the Hewlett Foundation, among others.

JAHSSD SUPPORTS ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL SCREENINGS

For the third year in a row, JAHSSD is a community co-presenter of films being screened at the **San Diego Asian Film Festival**. The week-long annual festival, to be held October 12-19 at the Ultrastar Cinemas in Mission Valley, features 130 new films by or about Asians.

The film festival offers a great opportunity to see documentaries, shorts, and feature films from around the world which might not otherwise make it to a movie theater in San Diego.

JAHSSD is co-presenting *Last Atomic Bomb*, which profiles a 70-year-old survivor of the Nagasaki A-bomb as she travels the globe speaking out against the dangers of nuclear proliferation. The documentary, which utilizes seldom-seen film footage of the Nagasaki bomb site, has been called "haunting and unforgettable."

JAHSSD is also supporting a more light-hearted film, *Densha Otoko: Train Man*, about a shy commuter who rescues a group of women from harassment and then is dismayed by his social ineptness when one of them shows an interest in him. His online friends guide him step-by-step from geek to sleek in this story based on a real-life *otoko* (nerd).

As in previous years, **Zenbu**, the social adjunct of the **Buddhist Temple**, is offering discounted group tickets to the two JAHSSD co-presented films. By special arrangement with SDAFF, Zenbu will also sell discounted tickets to other Japanese or Japanese American-themed films at the festival. E-mail zenbu@cox.net for more information.

Neither JAHSSD, Zenbu, nor the temple profit from the ticket sales.

JAHSSD TO INAUGURATE YOUTH GALLERY IN NOVEMBER

The **Museum of San Diego History** has announced a new educational exhibition, curated by the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego (JAHSSD), will be the inaugural display of the new youth gallery dedicated by the **San Diego Historical Society**.

The exhibit is titled, "**Nikkei Youth Culture: Past, Present, Future.**" The exhibit will open to the public on November 9, 2006, with a reception from 5 to 7 pm. It will remain on view through March 5, 2007.

Nikkei is an all-inclusive term used to describe anyone of Japanese ancestry. "Nikkei Youth Culture" will include photographs, documents, school yearbooks, military medals, clothing, artwork, and other materials that will illustrate activities in which children and teenagers of San Diego's Japanese American community participated during the early 1900s to present day. The exhibit will include the experiences of Japanese American youth who lived in so-called internment camps during World War II.

A series of programs during the four-month exhibition will include:

- January 11, 2007: A panel discussion following the screening of the JAHSSD-produced documentary, *Democracy Under Pressure*.
- February 15, 2007: "You Can Go Home Again, But..." a Day of Remembrance lecture by **Prof. Susan Hasegawa**, Chair of the Dept. of Political Science and History at San Diego City College. The annual **Day of Remembrance** acknowledges **President Franklin D. Roosevelt's** signing of **Executive Order 9066** which authorized the federal government to remove and incarcerate Japanese Americans living on the West Coast during World War II.

This project is funded in part by the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture. The Museum of San Diego History, operated by the San Diego Historical Society, is located in Balboa Park at 1649 El Prado.

The museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults; \$4 for seniors, students and military; \$2 for children ages 6-17; children 5 and under free.

For general information, call 619/232-6203 or visit www.sandiegohistory.org.

PROJECTS! WE'VE GOT PROJECTS!

Mich Himaka, **Yuki Kawamoto** and **Jim Yanagihara** are hard at work documenting their knowledge of business names and locations for our downtown tour. As a base, they are using the 1930 census data that **Don Estes** plotted on a map, and adding additional things they remember.

Mich is working on a diagram of the Poston III Blocks where most of the San Diego people lived, to place family names.

Ben Segawa is labeling a County map with the names of farmers and locations of Japanese American farms.

Help Wanted: Photo Identifiers

We have lots of photos that haven't been identified yet, including entire photo albums.

We need people who are willing to spend a few hours a week talking about the "old days" and remembering the old ways and faces from the past. If you would like to help with this project, we'll be starting it in January.

There will be a clipboard at the Annual Meeting to add your name; or call **Ben Segawa** (619) 482-1736, **Mich Himaka** (619) 660-9865, or **Linda Canada** (858) 457-9676.

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 Nancy Cowser at (858) 270-0733 for correction.

SABURO UYEJI
In memory of KIKUO UYEJI

EDWARD K. KUBOTA

VERNON and SHINOBU YOSHIOKA
In memory of JUNE YOSHIOKA

MARY KANEYUKI

RON SAKAMOTO and MARY TAKASAKI
In memory of MIN SAKAMOTO

DR. MICHAEL S. INOUE

JUNE KUSHINO

MARY T. YAMADA
In memory of DR. HENRY YAMADA

DR. FRANCIS I. TANAKA

ARNOLD WATANABE

PAMELA SPRINGER

TOSHIKO ASAKAWA

YUKIKO SUGIYAMA
In memory of YASUYUKI SUGIYAMA



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San Diego, CA 92109

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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.

A thousand thanks to those who helped at the **JACL/JAHSSD Mochi Ice Cream Social** on September 10 in the lovely S.D. Chinese Museum Garden. **Mits Tomita** chaired the event for the S.D. JACL. JAHSSDers who helped with hosting and serving duties were **Ben & Grace Segawa, Mich & Naomi Himaka, Jeff Obayashi, Linda Canada, Jim Yanagihara, Bill & Jeanne Elyea, Bill & Joyce Teague** and **Yuki & Mits Kawamoto**. Gracious **Andrea Nakano** served as MC and magician **Bill Yamane** amused the gathering with his sleight of hand. About 50 people enjoyed the gathering.

Back in June, **Jim Yanagihara** and our fearless president **Mich Himaka** represented the Society at a Japanese Friendship Garden reception for new officers serving aboard three Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force ships making their annual visit to San Diego. The next day, Mich and Naomi and **Patsy Yanagihara** and son **Boku** took one of the young officers to a Rancho Bernardo winery and to Old Town for lunch.

Ruth Voorhies and **Ben Segawa** were panelists at the showing of JAHSSD's *Democracy Under Pressure* as part of City College's Constitution Week activities on September 21. They answered questions about their internment experiences from the 100 students, faculty, and staff in attendance. Board and Society members on hand to assist with the event included **Grace Segawa, Gwen Momita, Carol Estes** and **Linda Canada**. **Prof. Susan Hasegawa** moderated the panel discussion. Thanks to all of you!

Thank you to Mich and Naomi for representing the Society and members at the reception held for the three visiting Japanese Maritime Training Ships on Aug. 8. Aboard the training ship *Kashima*, they met **Japanese Consul General Kazuo Kodama**, who had expressed an interest in learning more about the Japanese community in San Diego. The Himakas put together a package of reading material from the Society archives and mailed it to him.

At the Austin archives, there is a small exhibit of fishing artifacts and photographs in the lobby area. Thanks to Ben and Grace and their granddaughter **Jilly Kodama** for help with the installation. Mich and Naomi loaned us his father's fishing licenses for use in the exhibit.

The letter that members and friends received recently about the **Three-Year Pledge Plan** was the result of the efforts of many: the **Home Site Committee** developed the letter and brochure; following Board approval, **Joyce Teague** did the layout, **Linda Canada** had it printed, and **Naomi Himaka, Ben Segawa, Carol Estes** and Carol's summer guests from Japan handled all the collating and mailing chores. Thanks to all! And thanks to everyone who responded to our appeal!

We Love Our Volunteers

Thanks to **Roy Asaki** who responded to our request for a Japanese translator. He has already spent hours working on the **T. Abe** collection, interpreting photograph captions and creating an index of a Southern California Japanese language literary magazine. (And we can use more bilingual volunteers to help with tasks like these!)

Boy Scout **Michael Roussin** and his dad **Rick Roussin** worked for hours in the heat to move furniture and boxes as we were getting ready for the Open House. Michael is developing an Eagle award project that will involve JAHSSD photos displayed at Kiku Gardens.

Among those who helped the JAHSSD Open House on August 26 run smoothly were **Linda & Eddie Canada, Jillian Kodama, Ben Segawa, Sumi Kastelic, Carol Estes** and **Yuki & Mits Kawamoto**.

Members of **When's Lunch Bunch** took charge of the refreshments for the Open House on August 26. They were **Nancy Cowser, Grace Segawa, Mits Kawamoto, Gwen Momita, Hisae Batchelder** and **Carol Estes**. The refreshments were plentiful and yummy!

We thank the following for volunteering hours of time to create the JAHSSD Exhibit at the Buddhist Temple's **Bon Odori** on August 5: **Susan Hasegawa, Grace Segawa, Carol Estes, Christina Pierson, Linda Canada, Jilly Kodama**. Set up (and tear down) in the Annex Hall was with the help of **Mich & Naomi Himaka, Gwen Momita, Jeanne Elyea, Ben Segawa** and **Jim & Patsy Yanagihara**. **Debra Kodama** and her entire family helped take the photos for our "Japanese American Faces of the Future" exhibit.

Debra also created the short video loop used in the exhibit. Thanks for loaning objects for display: Mich and Naomi, Christina, Patsy, and **Liz Yamada**. **Karen Kawasaki** created a Power Point presentation about the internment and loaned us the projector to show it. She also found a rap song about the internment which we played to attract teens. This exhibit was a real team effort, and many compliments were received about its contents.

Because of You, Wishes Came True!

First of all, thanks to Christina, Carol and Yuki for loaning us electric fans which helped get us through the hot-hot-hot summertime!

Thanks to our good friends **June Takeguchi Hosaka, Carol Estes, John & Tsune Hashiguchi, Tom & Sumi Yanagihara** and **Yuki Kawamoto** for responding to our Archives Wish List. The Austin space now has TV trays, an electric fan, an electric heater, a wastebasket, a clock radio and a DVD player.

Tom Yanagihara, Jr., Frank Ogura, Paul Kaneyuki, and Yuki, Rev. Jim, Naomi and Mich get applause for cleaning and moving donated items to the Austin space. **Dr. & Mrs. Ken Miyamoto** donated two computer desks that we are using in the lobby area. They make the office look very professional! Thank you.

Travis Honda, former UCSD student, donated a copy of a DVD he shot of the first tour of downtown San Diego's old Japanese Town conducted by **Yukio Kawamoto** on June 10.

We also want to acknowledge Yuki's incomparable woodworking skills. Once again, he has created the beautiful Kansha Awards which will be presented at the 2006 annual meeting.

Carol Estes continues to donate many items for our use, including photo paper that was useful in creating the photos for the Obon exhibit. **Bob & Hisae Batchelder** gave us attractive paneled folding screens in which Bob has displayed color copies of **Akira Shima's** artwork.

Footprints Contributors

We thank the nonregular contributors to this issue, including **Greg Morishige, Yuki Kawamoto, Gwen Momita** and **Fran Wada**. And as always, we are grateful to The Usual Suspects for being the mailing crew for the Summer Issue of *Footprints*.

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Naomi M. Himaka, Membership Chair

A warm welcome to the new members who have joined our organization since our last edition of Footprints. We are pleased to have all of you as members of our Society. New members include **Joe K. Kitagawa, Kenneth Uyeda, Shuji Miyasaki and Fusako Yokotobi.**

Wakae Sato's membership is a gift from **Mariko Sato.**

We thank members **Debra Kawahara & Neil Nagata** for upgrading to Life Membership.

Thanks also to the following people for renewing their memberships: **Terry & Sachiko Nishida, Thomas & June Hamada, Ben Kitahata, Kikuno Tanabe, Dell Shitara, Grace & Hiroshi Sawasaki, Dr. Joe Takehara, Frank & Janet Koide, Guy & Toshi Kiyoi, James & Helen Urata, Tak & Ruth Sugimoto, Joe Karamoto, Tad & Fran Wada, Tim Asamen, Hiroshi Kubota, Hesaa Takahashi, Masaharu Tsuida, Toshi & Miyoko Miyashita, Mary Abe and Hideko Shimasaki.**

Craig & Sharon Nakamura's memberships were gifts from **Sandy Nakamura. Mary Marumoto's** is a gift from **Jeanne Elyea.**

We also thank the following for their recent renewals: **Sumiko & Fumiko Nakamoto, Akira & Joan Loveridge-Sanbonmatsu, Chiyeko Yagi, David Fujikawa & Dr. Yuri Kaneda, Karen Hart, Rose & Harvey Itano, Tim & Junko Kajita, James & June Tajiri, Sam Yamaguchi, Eileen Katayama, Tom & Taeko Udo, Sam & Nori Komorita, Jack Fujimoto, C. R. Takehara, Chieko Saito, Yone Shiwotsuka, Jiro Saito, Jodi Masumoto, Eric Segawa, Takeyuki Tsuda and Jim & Patsy Yanagihara.**

The memberships of **Virginia Loh, Iona Batchelder and John Bucher** are gifts from **Bob & Hisae Batchelder.**

Additional thanks to the following for their recent renewals: **Helen Kodani, Mike & Mary Segawa, Mitsuye Yamamoto, Pam Springer, Pat Takeshita, Eunice Yamane and Edythe Harada.**

WABI SABI: What's New at the Austin Archives

by Linda Canada

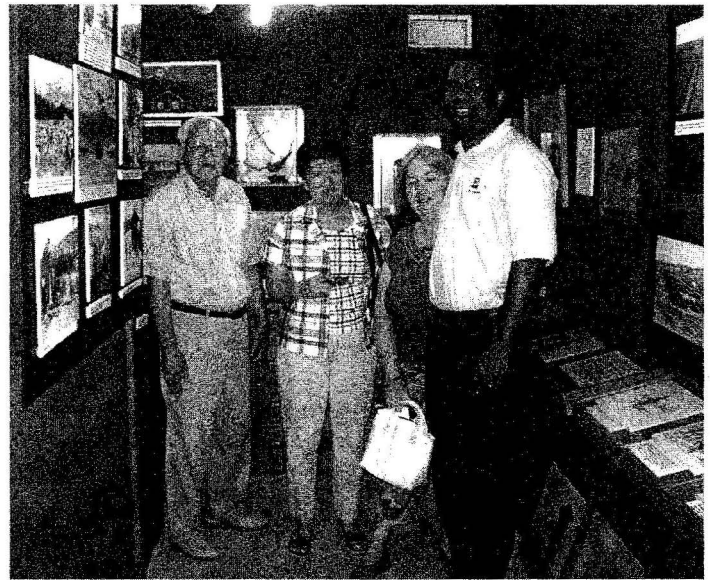
With this issue, we introduce a regular column to update our membership on activities at JAHSSD's archives on Austin Drive in Spring Valley.

Greetings to JAHSSD members! My name is **Linda Canada.** I am a volunteer in the archives that JAHSSD has recently created in Spring Valley. Since our Editor has asked me to write a regular column on for *Footprints*, I thought I'd start out by telling you a bit about me.

I studied history as my undergraduate major at UCLA, and after graduation and a few years of work, attended law school in L.A. Until I took early retirement, I practiced real estate and corporate law in San Diego for almost 20 years. I now call myself a "recovering lawyer."

To redirect my energies and make some new friends, I began volunteering at the **San Diego Historical Society** in 1996. That is where I met **Don and Carol Estes** (and some of you) when I worked with docents for JAHSSD's "Hundred Year Road" exhibit.

Over the years, Don and I kept in touch, and he generously helped me on a variety of research topics involving Japanese Americans, internment, and Buddhism. About a year before his death, Don asked me to join other community members on the **Home Site Committee** chaired by **Robert Ito.** It is through service on that committee that I began attending JAHSSD board meetings regularly, and was eventually asked to join your board.



Founding Board member Ben Segawa and his wife, Grace, a weekly volunteer at the Austin Archives, with Wabi SABI author Linda Canada and her husband Eddie. The four went to San Jose in August to visit the Japanese American Museum and bring home some ideas to JAHSSD.

While I was volunteering with the San Diego Historical Society, I became very interested in designing exhibits, and making them child-friendly. I enjoy creating programs to help the younger generations understand the past. I've been the curator for several exhibits around San Diego, so what I bring as a volunteer is the ability to organize and communicate a story, and to illustrate that story with photographs, documents, and objects from our collection.

Since Don's death, I've been the board member most involved in getting the collection organized and stored in a proper way. We started with the photograph and document collections.

Storing in the "proper way" means that we've been putting things into file folders and boxes that are specially made to slow down the gradual deterioration that affects all things. As we remove rusted paper clips, unfold pages, and take papers out of old binders, we also organize them into logical groupings. Then we put them into special acid-free file folders, and file them alphabetically in clean, white, acid-free storage boxes.

Why acid free? The acid that remains in paper products after they are manufactured turns brown with age. This brown color is a result of a chemical reaction happening in the paper. As the paper gets darker and darker brown, the color bleeds onto the papers on either side, making quite a mess! Using acid-free archival papers and boxes won't undo the damage, but it will slow it down, and greatly lengthen the life of the documents.

The next step will be to enter summary information about the file contents onto our museum software. When that step is done, we will be able to do what **Ben Segawa** told me that he wanted to do: *Push one button and find everything.*

Our archives are open by appointment, and we are almost always there on Mondays between 9:00 and 4:00. If you didn't make it to our Open House on August 26, please feel free to come by to see what is being done. You might even find a volunteer job that interests you!

Call me if you'd like more information at (858) 457-9676.

To read more about JAHSSD's efforts to preserve history, please read "What Is An Archives" on Page 8.

WHAT IS AN ARCHIVES?

by Linda Canada

An archives is a place where photographs, documents, personal objects, artwork, and objects from everyday life are organized and stored so that people will be able to see them and use them for research purposes.

What is special about the JAHSSD archives?

Having an archives is how JAHSSD is able to meet its mission statement:

To recognize the contributions Japanese Americans have made to the San Diego region by preserving and making available artifacts, photographs and other information chronicling their history and experiences.

We have some unique information about San Diego Japanese Americans in our collection:

- Business records from the fish broker and boat owner **T. Abe**, which illustrate how the fishing industry operated in San Diego from around 1915-1942;

- Records of **Moto Asakawa** [2006 Kansha Awardee] describing his role in organizing youth and recreation activities, especially during the Poston years;

- Materials from **Masami Honda** describing the building and early years of Kiku Gardens;

- Minutes, activity records, attendance reports, and other operational information from a number of Nikkei organizations:

- = JACL
- = Buddhist Temple San Diego
- = Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ

- Interview transcripts from San Diego Issei, collected by **Don Estes** beginning in the 1970s;

- Rare original materials from the Poston years including:

- = List of residents by family name
- = Church records, song books, attendance books, Buddhist gatha books
- = *Poston Chronicle* newsletters
- = Original photographs
- = Furniture and artwork made in camp
- = Military uniforms and insignia from the 442 RCT

- Materials donated by **Joe Yoshioka** and others related to the fishing industry in San Diego;

- Lug labels, equipment used on the farms, and other artifacts from the farmers and gardeners of San Diego County;

- Menus, dishes, and photographs from restaurants and other Japanese American owned or operated businesses.

Our archives also includes an extensive library of books collected by **Don Estes** and donated by his family. These books contain information about Japanese immigration all over the world, and Japanese Americans in all areas of the United States. The collection has a lot of books about relocation, internment, and redress.

What do we do with these materials?

Our materials are available for students and scholars who are interested in the history of the Japanese and Japanese Americans in San Diego. We receive requests from teachers and newspapers for information, and answer questions that come in from our website, using these materials.

We also use the materials to create articles and exhibits such as:

- Buddhist Temple annual Bon Odori exhibit
- JAHSSD annual meeting exhibit

- Other museums as requested, i.e., Bonita Museum and the San Diego Historical Society Museum

- San Diego Public Library exhibit in support of the *Dear Miss Breed* book launch

- Speaker's Bureau use of reproductions of objects to show school and community groups.

How can I help?

Our first priority is to protect and preserve the collection, and then to make it available so people can use it.

Special boxes and papers are used to help with preservation. Since most paper has high levels of acid, which causes it to turn brown as it ages, we are putting records in special acid-free folders, and storing them in acid-free boxes. This will not reverse any damage that has already been caused, but will extend the life of the papers we do have.

These acid-free boxes and folders are expensive. A single box costs \$8, and the file folders and special papers to separate sensitive materials may add another \$20-\$30 to the cost. For oversize objects, a storage box alone may cost as much as \$25!

Money is the first thing we need so that the collection may be organized and preserved.

The second thing we need is volunteers to do the work. There are many simple tasks that can be done to help, and some more complex ones that require use of the computer. We try to make the work fun and enjoyable.

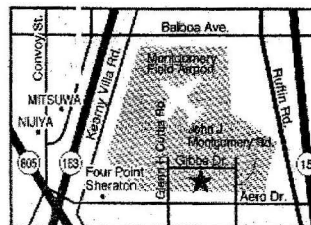
For information about the archives, to volunteer, to arrange a visit or to conduct research, contact any JAHSSD board member, including your JAHSSD Archivist, **Linda Canada**, at (858) 457-9676.

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2006 KANSHA AWARDS

*Each year, the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego selects an outstanding San Diegan whose many contributions of time and energy to the Nikkei community have been voluntary, sincere, long-standing and influential. This year, two such selfless individuals will be honored at the JAHSSD Annual Meeting on October 7, 2006: **Moto Asakawa** and **Roy Muraoka**.*

RAISING THE BAR... MOTOHARU ASAKAWA, 2006 Kansha Award Recipient by Gwen Momita



Recently, I posed the following question to **Moto Asakawa**: "What advice would you give to the youth of today?"

His unwavering answer: "Set a good example for your kids."

Truly, this 91-year-young individual has done just that, and has "raised the bar" in the process! Born in San Diego on March 16, 1915, Moto spent much of his early years in the heart of Balboa Park where his parents operated the **Japanese Tea Garden**.

Moto's leadership skills became evident early on. Besides holding offices in various school and youth organizations, in 1935, he became the first San Diegan of Japanese descent to earn the rank of Eagle Scout. He went on to graduate from U.C. Berkeley with a B.S. in Business, an accomplishment that would later serve him well.

Following college, Moto married **Florence Umezawa** and together they raised four outstanding sons: **Bruce, Glenn, Don** and **Larry**. Moto is rightfully proud of them and considers "raising and educating all of the kids" one of his biggest accomplishments.

During World War II, Moto and family were interned at Poston, Arizona, but they soon after moved to Ohio, where Moto worked various jobs. Upon returning to San Diego, Moto faced a huge dilemma: how to support his family. He decided to open a nursery business on the family's property in Linda Vista.

According to Moto, he knew nothing about growing flowers, but his father was a farmer, so...how hard could it be?

"Getting the business up and running proved to be one of my greatest challenges," confesses Moto. As it turns out, it also proved to be a very successful venture, which ended only after the City purchased the property for future development.

Moto's service career is long and distinguished, and the following is just a partial list.

Moto has served as chair or president of the following organizations: Kiku Gardens Senior Housing, Japanese Friendship Garden, California Nurseryman's Association, numerous city and state commissions, the Rotary Club, and the San Diego Chapter of the JACL.

More recently, Moto joined a very elite group of gentlemen awarded the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award (DESA), a national honor bestowed only upon those Eagles Scouts who "have gained status of fame or eminence in their life work, and have shared their talents with their communities on a voluntary basis." Only one in every thousand

(Continued on Page 11)

"I'VE BEEN VERY LUCKY" ... ROY S. MURAOKA, 2006 Kansha Award Recipient by Mich Himaka



Like **Moto Asakawa**, with whom **Roy S. Muraoka** shares this year's Kansha Award spotlight, Roy is the son of community activist parents. Both **Saburo** and **Haruko Muraoka** had been honored by various community groups for their volunteer efforts.

A Chula Vista native, Roy is the oldest of four children. His father was an Issei native of Yokohama, Japan, and his mother a Hawaii-born Nisei, which makes Roy and his siblings Sansei.

Roy grew up in the Chula Vista area attending the F Street School and later Lillian Rice Elementary School.

On April 8, 1942, following the outbreak of World War II and after his father had been taken into custody as an enemy alien, Roy, his mother, and sisters, **Lillian Horiuchi** of Las Vegas and **Jane Hiromoto** of Garden Grove, were transported to the Santa Anita Assembly Center in Arcadia. In August 1943, the family was relocated to the Poston III Relocation Center in Poston, Arizona, where they settled in Block 323.

In 1944, the family was reunited with the father at the Crystal City, Texas, internment camp. There, a second son, **Takenori**, now a San Diego attorney, was born.

Following the family's return to the San Diego County area, Roy graduated from Chula Vista High School. On Aug. 15, 1951, Roy was drafted into the Army shortly after the Korean War broke out. He served as a medical technician during the war, including a stint in Kyoto, Japan.

Following his military service, Roy returned to work on his father's farm in Chula Vista. In 1960, he married **Aiko Fujii** and they had two sons, **Tad** and **Ken**.

Roy and his father later teamed up in running numerous businesses, which came under the umbrella of **Muraoka Enterprises**, which he runs today. The businesses include the Palace Garden Mobile Home Park, the South Bay Mobile Park, several apartment complexes, and the Sweetwater Inn in National City.

Roy followed his parents lead in participating in community service. He began his community activities in 1970 when he served a year as president of the Buddhist Temple's Adult Buddhist Association.

He became a founding member and in 1974 served a term as commander of the Japanese American Memorial VFW Post 4851. Roy coordinated the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Forces memorial service at Mount Hope Cemetery for **Seaman Toya**, who drowned in San Diego Bay during a first Japanese Navy visit to San Diego in the late 1800s.

(Continued on Page 11)

THREE-YEAR PLEDGES

The JAHSSD Board of Directors is very grateful to the following individuals and organizations who have generously pledged their support of the Society's Three-Year Plan as of September 30, 2006. Please notify our Treasurer of any corrections.



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MOTO ASAKAWA continued from Page 9

Eagle Scouts receives the DESA, and from a perusal of recent listings, it is possible that Moto may still be the only DESA recipient of Japanese descent.

Moto is also a longtime member of **Ocean View United Church of Christ**, now the **Pioneer Ocean View UCC**. He was raised and baptized in this church, and has spent decades serving on boards and as senior advisor to many committees.

Rev. Norma DeSaegher of POVUCC says, "Our church family and the Nikkei community are truly blessed to have Moto in our circle of friendship. The success of our church is largely rooted in his vision and support. We salute him on this well-deserved Kansha Award."

Indeed, Moto has spent his entire life giving to the community, both in service and in financial generosity. He has set and raised the bar high for all of us. So on Saturday, October 7, we will raise our glasses and say, "Thank you, Moto-san," for your fine example of leadership, vision and courage.

ROY MURAOKA continued from Page 9

"I think the affiliation with the Japanese Maritime Force energized a relationship between two Navy towns, which contributed to the establishment of the Japanese Friendship Garden," Roy said.

He served as president of the Western Mobile Home Association in 1974 and then joined the board of directors of the Japanese Friendship Garden in Balboa Park in 1976. That same year, he joined the board of the Kiku Garden senior housing project.

Roy has also served as vice president and currently president of the Japanese Coordinating Council (JCC), an organization which represents all of the religious and cultural organizations in the community. One of the JCC's responsibilities is hosting receptions for the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force naval training ships, an annual event.

He also serves as treasurer on the Chula Vista-Odawara Sister City Society board and continues to serve as a member of the San Diego-Yokohama Sister City Society, the Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Southern California, and as a director of the Japan Society of San Diego and Tijuana.

Roy also served as the Friendship Garden's chairman for its part in what used to be called Christmas on the Prado. He organized the Friendship Garden's sale of teriyaki chicken bowls, which the first year netted the Garden \$17,000 in just eight hours with volunteer help from the Japanese community.

In 1986, Roy helped establish a monument at the site of the former Chula Vista Gakuen at the corner of Palomar and Broadway.

The tradition of a Muraoka family member prominently serving the community has entered the third generation with Roy's sons becoming active at the Buddhist Temple. Ken currently serves as board president.

"And I didn't have to urge him to do that, Roy said. "He did that on his own."

In recent years, Roy has been honored with the City of Chula Vista's Humanitarian Award, that city's highest honor; the Japan-U.S. Center Women's Forum's "Japanese Culture Award" for community service; and the Japanese Friendship Garden's "Service, Commitment & Dedication" Award. The City of San Diego even proclaimed Aug. 16, 2002 as "Roy Muraoka Day."

"I've been very lucky," Roy said about the recognition given him.

JAHSSD is simply catching up with the rest of San Diego County and the Nikkei community by adding Roy's name to its list of people deserving recognition for service to our community.

CELEBRATIONS!

Congratulations to **David Kawamoto** who was named JACLER of the Biennium at the 2006 National JACL Convention in Phoenix. His wife, **Carol Kawamoto**, was previously given the same honor. Speaking of the **Japanese American Citizens League**, **Vernon Yoshioka** was given recognition for his many years of service to the JACL at the Pacific Southwest Regional JACL Awards dinner held in Los Angeles on September 16. Vernon has served the JACL in local and regional positions for many years.

Our very best wishes to Board member **Karen Kawasaki** who announced her engagement to beau **James Williams** at our last Board meeting! The happy couple is planning a July wedding next year.



Fred Katsumata recently celebrated his 90th birthday! Pictured above at Pioneer Ocean View UCC are (left to right): **Tom Udo, Fred, Taeko Udo, Roy Arakawa** and **Taye Hashiguchi**.

Last July, the Buddhist Temple awarded scholarships to deserving graduating high school and college students. Recipients of the **Ben Honda Memorial Scholarship** for high school seniors were: **Nathan Hidingier**, an Eastlake H.S. graduate; **Isaac Martinez**, a Mt. Miguel H.S. graduate; and **Erik Sumida**, a graduate of Patrick Henry H.S.

This year's **Tetsuyo Kashima Memorial Scholarship** for undergraduates was awarded to **Derek Inouye**, a fourth-year student at UC-San Diego; **Jenna Lee**, a second-year student at UC-Berkeley; **Nicholas Nakamura**, a second-year student at UC-Merced; and **Courtney Okuhara** of UC-Riverside, a business administration major. Congratulations to all of you!

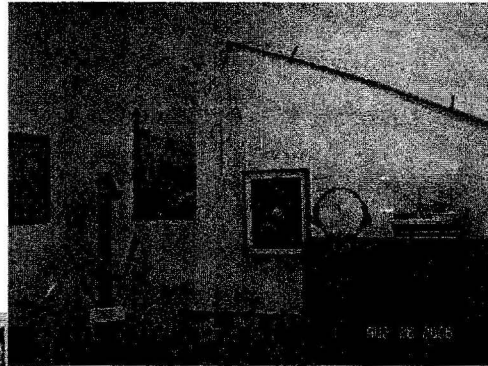
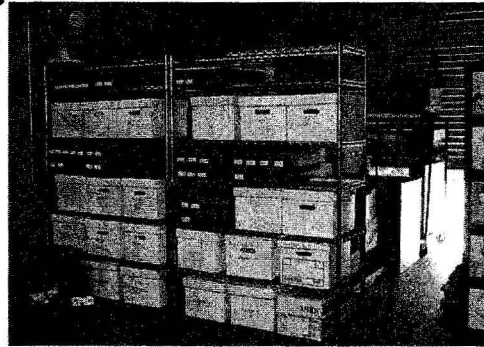
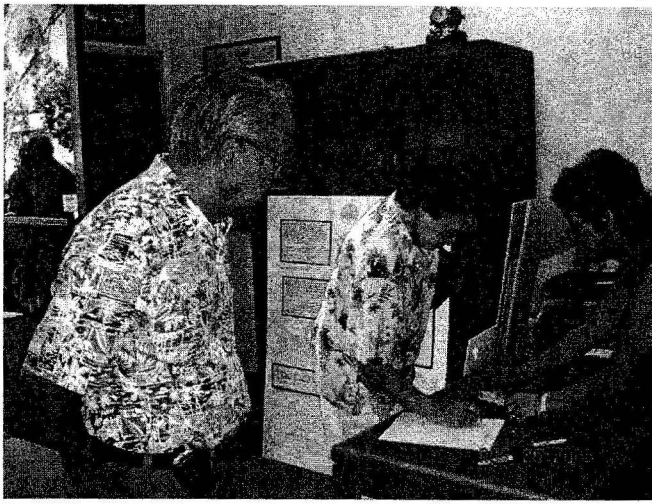
Our hard-working Home Site Committee Chair **Robert Ito** appeared on the local cable feature, "Heart of San Diego," in a half-hour interview by host **Fred Lewis**. The show highlights the accomplishments of prominent San Diegans.

Last September, **Jeanne and Bill Elyea** were recognized as "difference makers" by the San Diego Blood Bank for volunteering their time to the Blood Bank for over 20 years! Wow!

Congratulations to local artist **John Yato** who has opened a showroom and art studio at 7847 Dunbrook Rd., Ste. D, San Diego, CA 92126. View John's artwork by appointment or arrange for art lessons by calling 858/613-0600.

If you know of someone who has celebrated a special birthday, anniversary, or other milestone...or if you'd like to share the news of the birth of a child or grandchild with our readership, please send the info to Footprints.

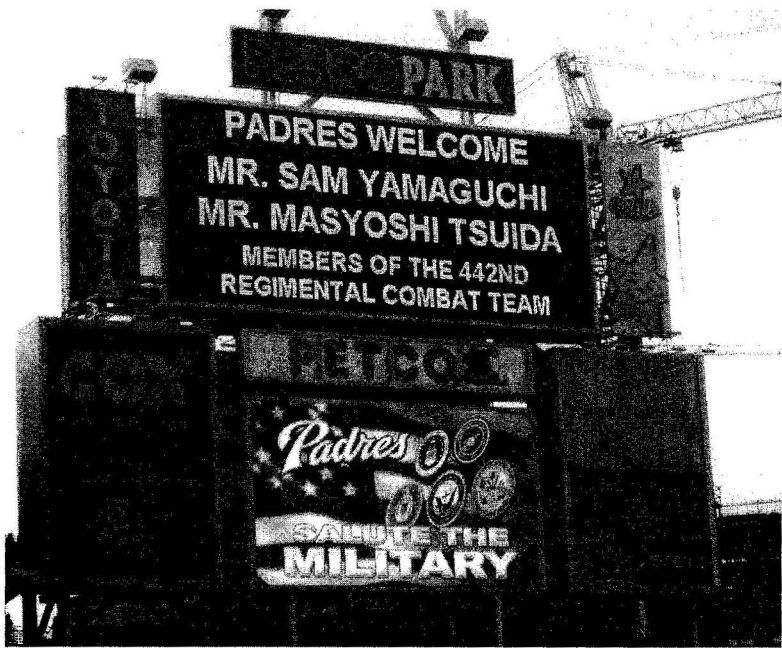
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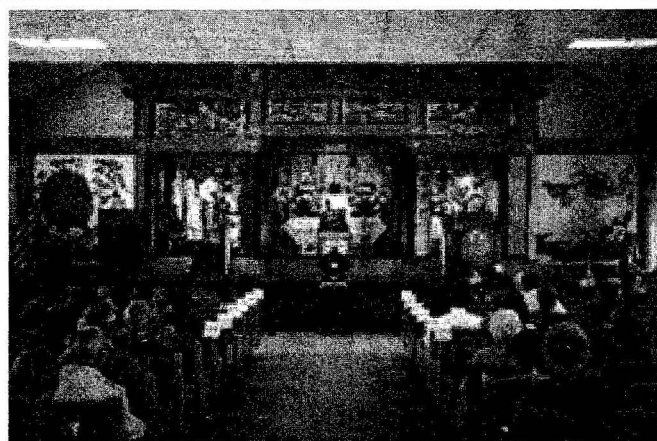
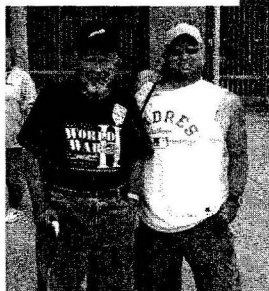
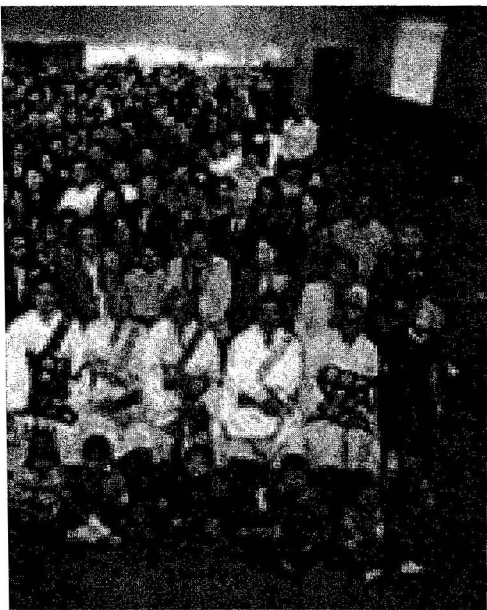
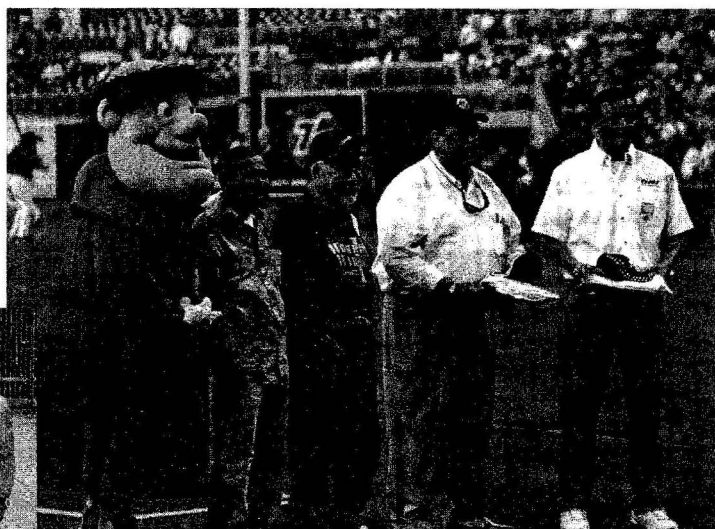
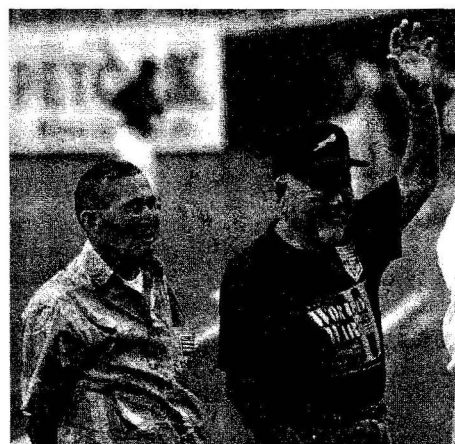
**BUDDHIST TEMPLE of
80th Anniversary -**



SNAPSHOTS



**Padres Salute
442nd RCT
Veterans
Petco Park
August 21**



**IN DIEGO
Sept. 17**



MAZEGOHAN

by Mich Himaka

With little publicity beforehand, the San Diego Padres saluted members of the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team at its August 21 game with the L.A. Dodgers.

It was the team's annual salute to the Disabled American Veterans Day and the DAV chose to salute the Nikkei veterans in San Diego County.

Despite efforts to talk Nikkeis into attending the event, only two attended—**Masayoshi Tsuida** and **Sam Yamaguchi**. That was too bad. We know of at least nine men who still live in San Diego County, including Mas and Sam. The others I know of include **Lloyd Ito**, **Hank Hashiguchi**, **Frank Wada**, **Abe Takehara**, **Jim Matsumoto**, **Jimmy Kondo**, **Dr. Frances Tanaka** and **Eddie Akamatsu**.

I'm guessing there are more survivors who live in San Diego. I know there are others who served with the MIS and integrated units.

Those who attended the game described the occasion as a "really nice tribute to the guys."

"It was unexpected so it was a nice surprise for us Nikkeis in attendance," said **Roy Muraoka**, who was at the game. "The reception (a standing ovation) the two received from the crowd was really nice."

I saw only brief pre-game interviews of Mas and Sam on Channel 4. It seemed like the interviewer had no idea who they served with. When Sam said he had served in Italy, she seemed surprised.

More than 37,000 fans were in attendance when the Padres Field Announcer, **Frank Anthony**, introduced the two veterans to the crowd. In the stands also were Mas' wife, **Grace**, and their family. In introducing Mas and Sam, Anthony welcomed the crowd as follows:

"Ladies and gentlemen, the Padres are proud to continue its long standing tradition as THE team of the United States military. Tonight, the Padres are proud to honor Disabled American Veterans in our annual DAV Day.

"Our distinguished guests this evening are from the 442nd Regimental Combat Team comprised of more than 4,000 Japanese American volunteers from Hawaii and the mainland.

"After intensive training, they were sent to Italy in April 1944 and joined the U. S. Army's 100th Battalion.

"They fought with distinction in eight major combat campaigns and is considered the most highly decorated unit of World War II. Its members were the recipients of: 20 Medals of Honor, 53 Distinguished Service Crosses, 560 Silver Stars, 4,000 Bronze Stars for valor, 9,486 Purple Heart Medals and eight Presidential Unit Citations for actions in Italy, France and Germany.

"Two of those gentlemen are with us tonight. This man enlisted in 1943 and served with Company F. He was wounded on July 4, 1944, in the Battle of Little Cassino in Italy...**Mr. Sam Yamaguchi**.

"Our next guest enlisted in 1942 and joined Co. C in October of 1944. He was wounded while in the Battle of France...**Mr. Masayoshi Tsuida**."

Both Sam and Mas were presented with jackets, hats and a Disabled for Life Memorial gold coin and were honored as "true American heroes."

Those who attended the game and witnessed the pre-game ceremonies said the crowd gave both of them a standing ovation.

"It was quite an honor," Mas said.

It was a well deserved honor, I might add.

Congratulations to Mas, Sam and all the other Nikkeis who served during WWII, Korea, Vietnam and now, Iraq. Thank you all.

To see photos of the Padres presentation, look on Page 13.

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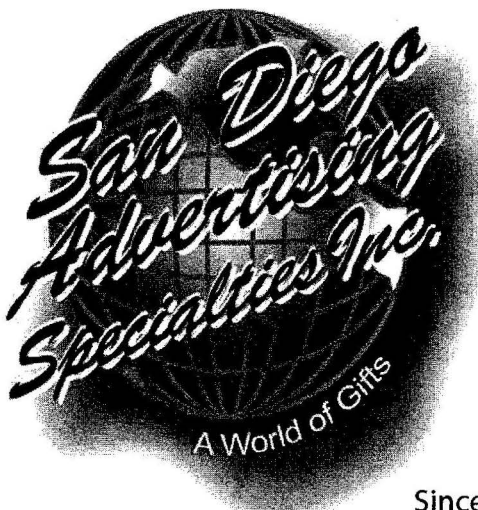
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Where: Golden Nugget Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas

Cost & Details: TBD by early next year. Notices will be sent out as information is confirmed.

Tour Option: Miki Honda of Honda Tours is putting together a bus trip for San Diegans who are interested in attending the reunion. Reserve a space now so we can estimate how many are interested. Signing up doesn't commit you to the tour, but since the reservations are first come, first served, better to reserve your spot now!

Questions? contact Mich Himaka (619/660-9865) or Jim Yanagihara (858/516-1618)

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OOPS! We Makes Misteaks!

Readers noticed the following errors in the Summer 2006 Issue:

- On Page 11, **Joe Sakato** is shown with his sister, **Fumiko Matsumoto**, posing with the Ambassador of France.
 - The **Dear Miss Breed** order form listed the wrong amount for the book. The suggested donation is \$23, not \$30.
- Your Editor regrets the errors and her head be hanging real low...

JOURNEY TO THE UNITED STATES: The Akiji Watanabe Story

by Fran Watanabe

The story of pioneer San Diego Issei Akiji Watanabe, researched and written by his daughter, Frances Watanabe Wada of Seattle, concludes with this issue. We began the first installment four years ago! We thank Fran for permission to reproduce her father's story for our readers.

Realizing a Dream

My mother in the meantime also kept very busy. Besides her work and church involvement, she was very interested in haiku and participated actively in a haiku club.

I recall Arnold and me asking her at different times if she would like to take a trip to see her family in Japan. After all, the last time she went to Japan was in 1934, and we thought she would want to see the many changes and advances in the country since at last visit. Each time she stated that she was not interested in making such a trip. Arnold and I offered to pay her way, in case she was holding back because of expenses; but her answer was still "no." We never pursued why she was so definite about this, but I wish we had.

In the 1950s interest grew in Congress to push for a naturalization law which would enable the Isseis, up to now barred by law from citizenship, to become citizens of the United States. At this time there were a few Japanese-Americans from Hawaii in the U.S. Congress. Gradually, Nisei from California won election to Congress, and they too joined the voices urging citizenship.

The Walter-McCarran Naturalization and Immigration Law was passed in 1952. As soon as my mother heard the news, she enthusiastically enrolled in the first Americanization class sponsored by the Chicago Resettlers Committee and the Japanese American Citizens League. My mother received her Americanization certificate on January 12, 1954. This certificate signified that she had completed 30 weeks of classes on American history and civics. I remember how hard she studied to pass the citizenship test. I must admit there were things she had to learn that I did not know!

On August 30, 1955, she finally received her official Certificate of Naturalization. This had been her dream for many, many years. As a citizen of the United States, she proudly voted for the first time in 1956. She supported the Democratic Party and gave generously to Democratic candidates from Chicago. When she received an invitation to attend the inauguration of Lyndon Johnson as President of the United States, she was pleased. Unfortunately, she was not able to attend.

Moving On to New Experiences

October 1954 was a busy month, as on the first of the month, Arnold married Asako Narahara and on the 31st, I married Tad Wada. Arnold and Asako lived in the same apartment building as my mother for a few years, but realizing the need for their own place, they bought a home in northwest Chicago. There they raised two children, Martha and Tom.

Tad and I moved right after our wedding to Seattle, Washington where Tad freelanced as a graphic designer and I worked for a time with the Seattle Public Schools administration office. When our children Bruce, Janice and Sharon were born, my mother came out from Chicago to help us, spending about three or four weeks each time.

As our children grew older, we built a home on Mercer Island, a suburb of Seattle. It was while we were there I learned that my mother suffered a stroke. After she was able to return to her apartment, Arnold spent a great deal of time there since Mom was not able to take care of the building and tend to the needs of the tenants. In time, this

responsibility, in addition to his own full-time work and the demands of his young family, began to take a toll on my brother, mentally and physically.

Finally he called me one night to discuss if Mom could come to stay with us. Tad and I agreed, and we quickly made arrangements to have her leave for Seattle as soon as possible. This was in 1971. At this time my mother was still weak from the stroke but fortunately her mind was clear. Over the next many months the strength in her legs improved, and she was able to get around on her own very well with the aid of a cane. She soon became an integral part of our lives, and it gave our children a chance to interact with "Grandma" on a daily basis. She joined us on our summer trips to the ocean, and she watched our children participate in their elementary school music programs. We celebrated many holidays and birthdays together.

Although I enjoyed having my mother with us, after a few years I began to feel the need for some privacy. Mom was now physically stronger, and I thought it might be good for her to be on her own for awhile. About this time a new housing unit for elderly Issei called Kawabe House was being built near the Japanese Congregational Church she was attending and in the vicinity of her doctor's office. I did have somewhat ambivalent feelings about this move, and I was not sure how Mom would feel about this change. But I thought it was necessary to broach the subject and give her the opportunity at least to see the accommodations and to learn about the many services and activities available at Kawabe House.

Mom was able to review a couple of units and surprisingly took a liking to one on the upper floors with a nice view of the city and Elliott Bay to the west. It was a rather spacious one-room unit with a private bathroom and a Pullman-type kitchen along one wall. She could cook her own meals if she liked, but she would also be able to eat prepared meals in the dining room on the main floor if she preferred. Mom decided to give it a try. We purchased some furniture, cooking utensils, linens, etc., and before long she was settled in her new "home".

In a way I think she did enjoy the independence the Kawabe House gave her. She made new friends, walked to the church nearby, took walks around the block, and I believe she even grew some vegetables in the garden on the property. I was able to take her to the doctor's appointments, and we shopped together for groceries. Many times we brought her home for dinner and to celebrate birthdays and holidays, and at other times we were treated to her home-cooked meals in her apartment.

My mother lived at Kawabe House for about two years, when she began having some headaches, though none were debilitating at first. But one evening when she called to report some severe headaches, Tad took me to her apartment. I thought I would stay with her during the night, and if her headaches did not improve by morning, I would take her to see the doctor. However, during the night, her breathing pattern changed and I not able to wake her up. The ambulance was called and the doctor alerted.

By morning, she was still in a coma: my mother had had a massive aneurysm. The doctor felt that, should extraordinary measures be taken and should she survive, Mom would be in a vegetative state. I recalled that in some earlier conversations with her, she had indicated she would hate to be in such a condition. Mom was always very fiercely independent, and she abhorred the thought of herself lying on the bed incapable of comprehension or communication. I agreed with the doctor not to use heroic methods and let nature take its course.

Until one is confronted with this situation, it is difficult to know how one would, or should, respond and what would be the proper action to take. But knowing my mother's feelings about being incapacitated, I felt I had made the correct decision. After a short wait at the hospital, the doctor advised me that Mom had passed away peacefully.

(Continued on Page 17)

JOURNEY TO THE U.S. continued from Page 16

That was on March 19, 1976. My mother was 81 years of age.

Some Afterthoughts

When I think back to those intervening years from the time my mother first reached the United States until her most recent years in Chicago and in Seattle, I have so many questions I wish I could have asked her. I wonder if she was happy with her life. Were most of her experiences satisfying? Did she realize most of her hopes and dreams? Did she ever regret leaving Japan? Were there things she wanted to do yet, but were left unaccomplished? What did she think of this country after having lived here for 54 years?

So many questions, unfortunately, all unanswered. While she was living with us, I had a wonderful opportunity to draw on her hopes and fears, her disappointments and joys, thoughts about the past and future. I also could have obtained information about my father through her. But at that time I was so involved with raising my own family and "doing my own thing" that talking and listening to Mom about such matters had not even entered my mind.

Therefore, regretfully, there are a lot of "holes" in this story about my parents. But I hope that there is enough here that will enable our children to gain some understanding of the kind of people their grandparents were, what they had accomplished in their chosen land and how they had lived their lives to the fullest.

The Issei as a group were a strong people. They had to be to survive in what was often a hostile environment. They met discrimination with stoicism and endured difficulties with quiet determination. They were a people who believed in the American dream; and with the opportunities they enjoyed in this country, they worked hard to provide for their families and to make something of themselves.

They contributed to society as entrepreneurs, farmers, merchants, artists, doctors and dentists, teachers, ministers, wives and mothers—in all walks of life. Some Issei were very successful financially, some were not. Some were leaders of their community, while some may have not led such notable lives. I am sure, as in all human beings, there was a wide range of personalities, from the humble to the braggart, frugal to the extravagant, generous to the selfish. But as a group they shared the qualities of honesty, hard work, perseverance and love of family. They also believed in the importance of education as the way to become successful and accepted in this society; and therefore they encouraged their children to study hard.

Much has been written about the Issei. Historians can tell the story so much more eloquently and in greater detail than I can. So I hope our children will avail themselves to what these books reveal about these first-generation immigrants from Japan.

I hope they will also read and enjoy this story about their own grandparents, George Akiji and Kesaye (Takeuchi) Watanabe. It is with this hope, and with great affection and gratitude for my parents, that I compile this American saga. ~Fran Wada, April 1997

WANT TO SHARE A BIT OF HISTORY OR SOMETHING ELSE YOU LEARNED TODAY?

If you found something worth sharing on these pages, please consider giving a JAHSSD gift membership to your children, relatives, or friends. They will receive their very own four informative issues of Footprints...and the Society will benefit as well!

MISTA MOOSE ON THE LOOSE

by Greg Morishige

Greg is a 30-something Yonsei, a Chicago native recently married to Southern Californian Esther Park. They met in Chicago thanks to parallel careers in banking. Last year, their jobs took them to San Francisco for a two-year stint where Greg is now a strategy consultant. Greg started a blog to record his west coast experiences. Greg is fairly well-known in the Chicago area for his copious online restaurant reviews under the moniker, Mista Moose. Greg's tongue-in-cheek blog entry is reprinted with his kind permission.

Despite my ancestry, my Japanese language skills are awful. This is a known fact. I estimate that my vocabulary probably consists of about 150 words. If we take away numbers, this gets reduced to 50.

Wait, I'm not sure if I can count to 100 in Japanese. Hmm.

Anyway, if I put my mind to it, I might be able to pronounce my own last name with the accents in the right place. I wish I could be like those TV newscasters who can shift from plain English to an obnoxiously heavy Spanish accent in mid-sentence, but frankly it just doesn't work well with my Chicago accent.

In Hawaii, Esther, her sister, and I were walking away from the beach, when a Japanese tourist said something to me. I have no idea what he said.

Despite my natural reflex to respond to any foreign language in Russian (yes, I have done it at Mitsuwa, a Japanese grocery store in Arlington Heights), I was able to respond back to him in Japanese.

I'm not entirely sure what I said at the time, but it was either *Nihongo hanashimasen* or quite possibly *Eigo hanashimasen*. The first one means, "I don't speak Japanese," while the second one is—yes, "I don't speak English."

I think I said I don't speak Japanese.

Anyway, the guy proceeded to talk to me. I was tempted to keep walking, but the guy needed help. He had a beach equipment rental brochure in his hand, but apparently couldn't read what it said. He pointed at the word "fins" and then pointed at a boat in the water.

Based on the apparent disconnect, I found him a different brochure about the boat ride, to which he responded approvingly, *boh-to*.

I pointed at the price and I said, *eto*, which is "that" in Russian. I caught myself and went back to doing hand gestures to communicate the children's price (short gesture) versus adult price (tall gesture).

He was very grateful.

I was quite proud of the moment to help him out.



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WE GET LETTERS

To Mitch Himaka,

Hi ! I am forwarding these pictures that Ken took at the Padres game of Uncle Mas Tsuida and Sam Yamaguchi of the famous WWII-442 RTC. They were honored on August 21, 2006, at the Padres-Dodgers game for their heroic efforts. Uncle Mas received a Purple Heart when he was wounded in France. The other gentleman was also injured in Italy, I believe...

Thought one of the pictures would be great in your next Footprints. You can write a proper story about the event.

Also, I believe Auntie said it was Min Sakamoto who investigated to see if the 442 RTC veterans could be honored. He was only a few months shy of realizing his efforts...

Judy Miyamoto
San Diego

Editor's reply: Thanks, Judy, for sharing the photos. And you can see that Mich did do a "proper story" on the event in his column on this page.

JAHSSD Board Members:

I have a suggestion for you to consider, because I feel it's important and if you haven't considered it before now I think you oughtta.

Please refer to the sheet with the donation request [Three-Year Plan pamphlet]. I have marked several places where I think wording should be discussed by you folks. One thing I personally object to is the use of the "relocation" term. We were kicked out of San Diego and incarcerated in Santa Anita and Poston which was a concentration camp, and I would ask each one of you if you would dispute that fact.

I believe you should decide from now on what terms not to use and what descriptions to use. And from now on maintain a consistency in everything that you distribute, and have everyone representing the [Historical Society] to agree to this.

That's my suggestion. I've been a volunteer docent at the Japanese American National Museum since its opening in 1992. I don't think I've heard anyone object to the use of "concentration camp" although some may be uncomfortable about it. No question that people will say "when we were evacuated," but nothing like that is ever in writing.

Let me add this. Michi Weglyn wrote *Years of Infamy* and her husband, Walter, was a survivor of the Holocaust. Walter was one guy who would say, "you have got to call them concentration camps." My wife was a personal friend of Michi's so I was able to meet them.

I hope you make some changes.

Babe Karasawa
Whittier, California

Editor's reply: We appreciate your taking the time to voice your objections and suggestions. I am certain not a single member of our Board would dispute that the experience most West Coast Nikkei had during the duration of World War II was unconstitutional incarceration in concentration camps. But in editing the words of others, I also don't feel right putting words into their mouths. The use of the terms like "relocation" and "evacuation" are not only commonplace to describe those experiences, but are used by former internees themselves. They are free to refer to their internment experience however they wish and we have a responsibility not to censor the terms they choose. I personally have no problem using the phrase "concentration camp," but I have friends who do, though we all know what the camps were and why they were promulgated. With the amount of literature out there on this topic, the term "relocation" is not going to go away. As for the JAHSSD Board agreeing on a list of desirable and undesirable terms in the literature we disseminate, perhaps you can supply us with such a list for discussion.

SENIOR HOUSING SURVEY RESULTS

The following edited report was submitted by the Kiku Gardens/SD-JACL Senior Housing Committee. We thank Steve Sato, General Manager of Kiku Gardens, for providing it to Footprints.

A joint committee of members from **Kiku Gardens** and the **San Diego JACL** Board of Directors recently published and mailed out a survey to the Nikkei community to get the community's input as to its interest in and support for the planning of a senior housing complex.

In August 2006, the survey was sent to members of the **Buddhist Temple of San Diego, Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ, Japanese Christian Church, VFW Post #4851, Japanese Coordinating Council, Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego, Japanese Friendship Garden, Japan Society of San Diego & Tijuana, and the North County Japanese Community Center.**

A total of 1700 surveys were mailed with 360 surveys completed and returned. The response rate of over 20% is well above survey averages.

The data was tabulated and the results show that the community has voiced a strong interest in seeing a senior housing complex built in San Diego County.

Approximately two-thirds of the respondents are interested in some type of senior housing facility. Over 50% of the respondents have considered living/moving to a senior housing complex. Over 140 people are interested in an independent living environment while over 70 people are interested in an assisted-living environment.

The results of the survey show that there is indeed an interest and a need for a senior housing facility for our community. Community meetings will be forthcoming to get more input.

The committee is continuing to meet to discuss the possibility of creating a new nonprofit organization to undertake the task of searching for property, looking for financial resources, and building this senior housing facility.

If you are interested in future updates, would like to participate in the new organization, or have any questions, please send your name, address, phone number and e-mail address to: Kiku Gardens, ATTN: Senior Housing Committee, 1260 Third Ave., Chula Vista, CA 91911.

The committee members would like to thank all of the above-mentioned organizations for their cooperation and support in the mailing of the survey. And the committee members would also like to thank all of the respondents for taking the time to return the surveys.

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JAHSSD'S FIRST OPEN HOUSE

JAHSSD threw open the doors of the Austin space on August 26 and welcomed members to visit the Archives and view the progress our small corps of volunteers has made since our collection was consolidated under one roof late last year.

About 35 members and volunteers enjoyed refreshments, a tour of the facilities, and an informal display from our local fishing and cannery collection. Bits of interesting San Diego Nikkei history were on view in most every nook and cranny of the space.

The Society is grateful to Archivist **Linda Canada** for taking the lead in planning and overseeing the Open House. She had a great crew of helpers, most of whom are named in the "Caught Doing Something Nice" column this issue.

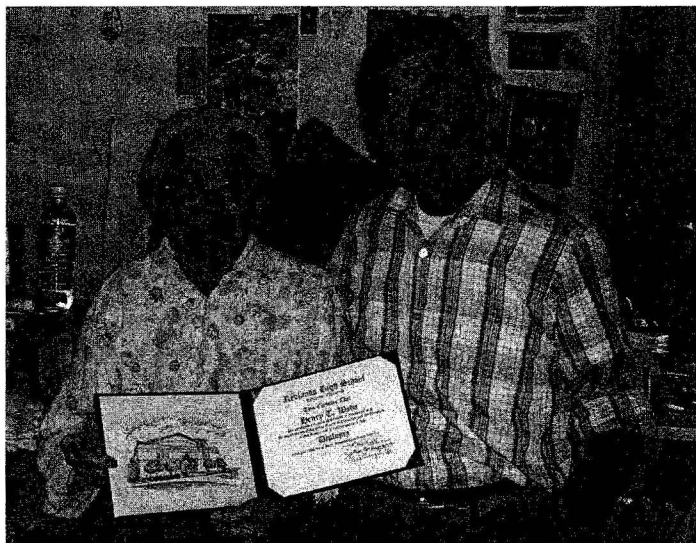
Please see photos of the Open House on Pages 12-13. Thank you to **Carol Estes** for providing these photos.

REDLANDS HIGH SCHOOL GRANTS INTERNEES BELATED DIPLOMAS

Through the efforts and persistence of **Robert Wada**, youngest member of the nine children in the **Tamakichi and Akiyo Nishida Wada** family, three Nisei former students of the Redlands Unified School District were awarded belated high school diplomas.

The diplomas were awarded under the jurisdiction of California Assembly Bill 781 (Lieber, 2003) which authorizes school districts to issue retroactive diplomas to Japanese Americans who were interned in U.S. concentration camps during World War II.

Receiving diplomas are **Henry Wada**, Class of '45; **Helen Wada**, Class of '43 (posthumous); and **James Sakato**, Class of '42.



Mary Marumoto Wada holds the retroactive diploma her husband Henry (right) received belatedly from Redlands High School earlier this year.

All nine Wada children were educated in Redlands Unified School District schools except for Robert, who attended his three years of junior high in Poston, Arizona. The oldest member of the family, **Mary Marumoto** of San Diego, was the first to graduate from Redlands High School in 1932.

At the onset of World War II, over 110,000 Americans of Japanese descent and their native-born parents were sent to internment camps throughout the United States in a mass West Coast evacuation, thereby denying students the opportunity to remain in high school during the war to graduate with their hometown classmates.

Henry Wada, who now resides in Chula Vista, a suburb of San Diego, was to attend Redlands High School with the Class of '45. His sister, Helen, who left Redlands in March 1942 during her junior year, graduated from Poston High School in Arizona in 1943. Helen's diploma was awarded posthumously and presented to her daughter **Sherry Ann Iacono** in Benecia, California.

In addition to the Wada siblings, a diploma for the Class of '42 was awarded to James Sakato, now living in Los Angeles. The Sakato family also left Redlands during the mass evacuation when James was a senior just three months shy of graduation. Before leaving Redlands High School, James was the editor of the *Makio*, the high school yearbook.

James is the younger brother of **George "Joe" Sakato**, a 1941 RHS graduate and an E Company, 442nd Regimental Combat Team veteran. Joe was awarded the Medal of Honor during World War II, the only resident of Redlands ever awarded the nation's highest combat award. [See a story on Joe in the Summer 2006 Issue of Footprints.]

Hank Wada expressed his appreciation for the belated diploma. "I have been invited to all the Class of '45 reunions by my former classmates and have been attending them without a diploma," he commented. "Now I can consider myself a bona fide member of the Class of '45 at the reunions. I am grateful to the District for their consideration and understanding in granting us our diplomas."

After an extensive review of school records and research into the California State legislation authorizing granting of the special high school diplomas, **Dale C. Whitehurst** of the Redlands Unified School District informed Robert Wada the diplomas were being granted.

Whitehurst also told Wada that the District felt "so compassionate" about the diplomas that they were printed to look exactly like those issued in 1942, 1943 and 1945, including the same 40-year seal on the 1943 version.

Thanks to **Jeanne Elyea** for sharing the photograph and the press release for this story.

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OBJECTS LOANED TO FOLK MUSEUM EXHIBITION

On November 2, the **Museum of Craft and Folk Art** in San Francisco is opening an unprecedented exhibition showcasing arts and crafts made by Japanese Americans while incarcerated in U.S. internment camps during World War II.

Based on the book **The Art of Gaman** by **Delphine Hirasuna**, the exhibition will feature many objects never shown to the public. A large majority of the over 150 items on display are on loan from former internees and their families. The impressive craftsmanship and originality of the internees' handiwork plus the tremendous variety of objects make this exhibition amazing to experience.

A few months ago, the **Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego** was approached by the museum to see if we had items in our collection we would be willing to loan to the exhibit. After sending a description of some of our artifacts, the museum selected unusual objects which were not already duplicated in the exhibit, including a hand-made razor and examples of dance cards made by wartime residents of Poston Camp III.

Background for the Exhibition

Following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the entire Japanese American population on the West Coast, which represented 90% of all ethnic Japanese living in the United States, was forcibly evacuated and imprisoned in ten inland concentration camps for the duration of the war. Given just one week to settle their affairs and report to the camps with only what they could carry, the 120,000 Japanese American evacuees (two-thirds of whom were American citizens by birth) suffered devastating losses from which many never recovered.

Once locked behind barbed wire, the internees tried to *gaman* (bear the seemingly unbearable with dignity and patience). Housed in tar paper-covered barracks furnished with nothing more than metal cots, the internees used scraps and found materials to fashion furniture and beautify their surroundings. Arts and crafts became essential for simple creature comforts and emotional survival. In addition to chairs and tables, they created toys and games for amusement, musical instruments, pendants and pins, purses and ornamental displays.

For decades, these objects have remained largely forgotten, not even valued by the individual who made them. Created by people who did not view themselves as artists but saw their effort as both an act of necessity and a way to pass the time, the objects were stored in garages once the war was over—and many things were simply thrown away.

Value of the Exhibition

In mounting this exhibition, the Museum of Craft and Folk Art is educating a new generation of Americans about the internment experience through showing some of these remaining objects and putting them in their historical context through photographs from the era, a video of oral histories running in the gallery, Japanese American docents who were interned as young people, and a hands-on workshop with an art activity that simulates the deprivation of the internment experience.

In developing her book, Hirasuna contacted countless individuals in the Japanese American community on the West Coast to gather the items one by one. Many of the artifacts shown in her book will be on display at the Museum, along with other objects gathered specifically for this show with the support of the **Japanese American Citizens League**. Other organizations, including **JAHSSD**, the **National Japanese American Historical Society** and the **Japanese American Museum of San Jose**, have loaned artifacts.

Hirasuna is co-curating the exhibition with Museum staff. The exhibition is funded in part by the **California Civil Liberties Public Education Project (CCLPEP)**, a program of the California State Library.

The Art of Gaman will be on view at the Museum of Craft and Folk Art at 51 Yerba Buena Lane in downtown San Francisco from November 2, 2006 through January 21, 2007. For more information on this exhibit, museum hours, admission information, and directions to the museum, call (415) 227-4888 or visit www.mocfa.org.

Editor's note: Most of the information in this story is excerpted from a museum press release received by JAHSSD.

AMERICA AT ITS BEST: The Nisei Soldiers "Go fo' Broke"!

*Eric Saul, a U.S. Army historian from Monterey, California, gave the following speech at the ceremony to present the Medal of Honor to **William K. Nakamura** and **James Okubo** on March 25, 2001, in Seattle, Washington. This copy appears courtesy of **Eileen Iwanuma Ewald**, who was present at the ceremony. It has been edited for length.*

Something About Japanese Americans and Their Values

So why was it you Nisei, second generation, born in America, were willing to volunteer for the Army from the plantations of Hawaii, often when you were considered second-class citizens, or from concentration camps in America? Your parents couldn't become citizens or own land, so land was put in your name. Before the war, you wanted to be doctors, lawyers, and professionals, but you couldn't. No one would hire you. So you worked on your family farms, flower orchards, and shops. You were often segregated in the Little Tokyos and Japantowns. You couldn't go where you wanted, be where you wanted, be whom you wanted.

Furthermore, your President, on February 19, 1942, signed an Executive Order that said you weren't Americans anymore, you were "non-alien." So why did you join the Army? Why did you become soldiers, and ironically become, of all things, the most decorated army unit that this country has ever produced?

There were words like *giri* and *on*, which your parents taught you. Which mean, "duty" and "honor" and "responsibility." You had to pay back your debt to your country.

Oyakoko: love for family. Your parents couldn't become citizens, but you loved your families and you had to prove your loyalty at any cost. You used your bodies as hostages for your families to prove your love for democracy and justice when you volunteered from those camps.

Kodomo no tame ni: for the sake of the children. Many of you didn't have children at the time, but you knew you wanted to have families. And you knew that you didn't want your children to have to suffer as you did. You wanted your children to be able to be doctors, and lawyers, and professionals. If you went into the military, did your job, perhaps things would change. Because of your wartime record, your children can now be what they want in a country that you wanted for them.

Enryo: humility. There's an old Japanese proverb that says if you do something really good and you don't talk about it, it must be really, really good! You never talked about your wartime record. You didn't tell your children, you didn't tell your wives, and you didn't even tell the country.

Gaman: internal fortitude, keep your troubles to yourself. Don't show how you're hurting.

Shikata ga nai: sometimes things can't be helped. But other times, if you go for broke...you can change things. (Continued on Page 21)

Haji: don't bring shame on your family. When you go off to war, fight for your country, return if you can, but die if you must.

Shinbo shite seiko suru: strength and success will grow out of adversity.

When I was curator of the Presidio Museum, I wanted to know why you joined the Army. Why did you join from a concentration camp?

A veteran from Cannon Company named **Wally** told me a story. His family was sent from Los Angeles to the Santa Anita racetrack, which was an Assembly Center for Japanese Americans. There, they were put in a horse stall. Before the war, they had a flower shop, they had their own home in Los Angeles, and they were a middle-class family. Now they were living for weeks in a horse stall that hadn't been cleaned when they moved in, and it stunk of horse manure.

Wally's father said to him, "Remember that a lot of good things grow in horse manure." It did.

I remember hearing a story from a **Chaplain Higuchi**, the chaplain of the 442nd, who was from Hawaii. I asked him, "How could the Niseis have joined the Army under these circumstances? How could they have done what they did?" Chaplain Higuchi said he himself couldn't understand, because he was from Hawaii and hadn't suffered the same discrimination. But his job as chaplain was to go through the pockets of the Niseis who had been killed in combat.

He remembered going through the pockets of one mainland Nisei. In his wallet was a news clipping that told how the family farm had been burned down by racists near Auburn, California. Yet this Nisei still volunteered for the service. Chaplain Higuchi said that there was no medal high enough in this country to give to this Nisei who had been killed and was lying in front of him. Chaplain Higuchi had to write a letter home to his parents.

You Nisei fought for this country, your country. It has taken 56 years to get to this point, but you made democracy stand for what it really means.

When you came home from the war, **President Truman** had a special White House ceremony for you. It was the only time that the President of the United States had a ceremony at the White House for a unit as small as a battalion.

It was raining that morning in Washington, and Truman's aide said, "Let's cancel the ceremony." Truman said to his aide, "After what those boys have been through, I can stand a little rain."

He said to the Niseis, bearing their regimental standard with the motto of Go for Broke, "I can't tell you how much I appreciate the opportunity to tell you what you have done for this country. You fought not only the enemy, but you fought prejudice and you won. You have made the Constitution stand for what it really means: the welfare of all the people, all the time." Lastly, he advised the Niseis to keep up that fight.

So in the 1980s you fought for redress. One of the reasons that redress passed so overwhelmingly in Congress was the record of the 100th/442nd and the MIS. The Civil Liberties Act of 1988 provided an apology for your parents and for your suffering. So on the battlefields of France, Italy and Germany, Go for Broke stood for the welfare of all of the people, all of the time.

The price that you paid for democracy was the highest combat casualty rate of any regiment that served in the United States Army. The 100th/442nd suffered 314% combat casualties. The 100th/442nd was an oversized regiment, with its own cannon and engineer company, and even its own artillery battalion. The 4,000 men who started off in February of 1943 had to be replaced nearly three and one half times. Eventually, about 14,000 men would serve in the 100th/442nd.

If the story of the 100th/442nd is unbelievable, there is a more unbelievable story. It is the story of the Military Intelligence and Language Service. More than 6,000 Niseis served throughout the Pacific in a super-secret branch of the military. Niseis provided the eyes and ears of intelligence and language skills that helped to break the stalemate in the Pacific. They broke secret codes, interrogated prisoners, provided valuable propaganda, and translated millions of documents to help win the war in the Pacific.

By the war's end, **General Willoughby**, **General MacArthur's** chief of intelligence, declared that the Nisei shortened the war by two years and saved a million Allied lives.

Never had so many owed so much to so few. I wish every American could know your story. We owe a great debt of honor to you Niseis for what you did for the country and for democracy. It is a debt that can never be repaid. I am here to tell the story for your children, because I know you can't say it. It is a legacy that they must carry on and remember what you did for them and for all of us. Your legacy continues to protect us all.

I remember during the Iranian crisis that there was talk of keeping Iranian Americans possibly in protective custody. Senators **Daniel Inouye** and **Spark Matsunaga** said, "You can't do that. That's already been done, and you were wrong then." You did make the Constitution stand for all of the people, all of the time. You made it work, and you made it work for me, for your children, and for this country.

President **Ronald Reagan** remembered, when he signed the bill enacting the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 [House Resolution 442], that "blood that has soaked into the sands of a beach is all of one color. America stands unique in the world, the only country not founded on race, but a way, an ideal."

You Niseis came home...You went about your lives, but you made sure that your parents could become citizens. By 1953, you saw your parents naturalized. Your parents had to wait, in some cases, 65 years to become American citizens. And that they could own land for the first time. And that others of Asian descent could own land for the first time. Your greatest success was that your children could be what they wanted to be, without the discrimination that you suffered.

Some of you became lawmakers and entered the House and the Senate. There were more than 590 laws in California in the 19th and the early 20th century against Asians. You fought a fight to make sure those laws were challenged and overturned one by one.

We thank the Japanese American senators, **Sparky Matsunaga** and **Dan Inouye**, veterans of the 100th/442nd, for doing that. We thank you for your providing the legacy upon which they could fight for those rights. Justice prevailed, and your parents became citizens.

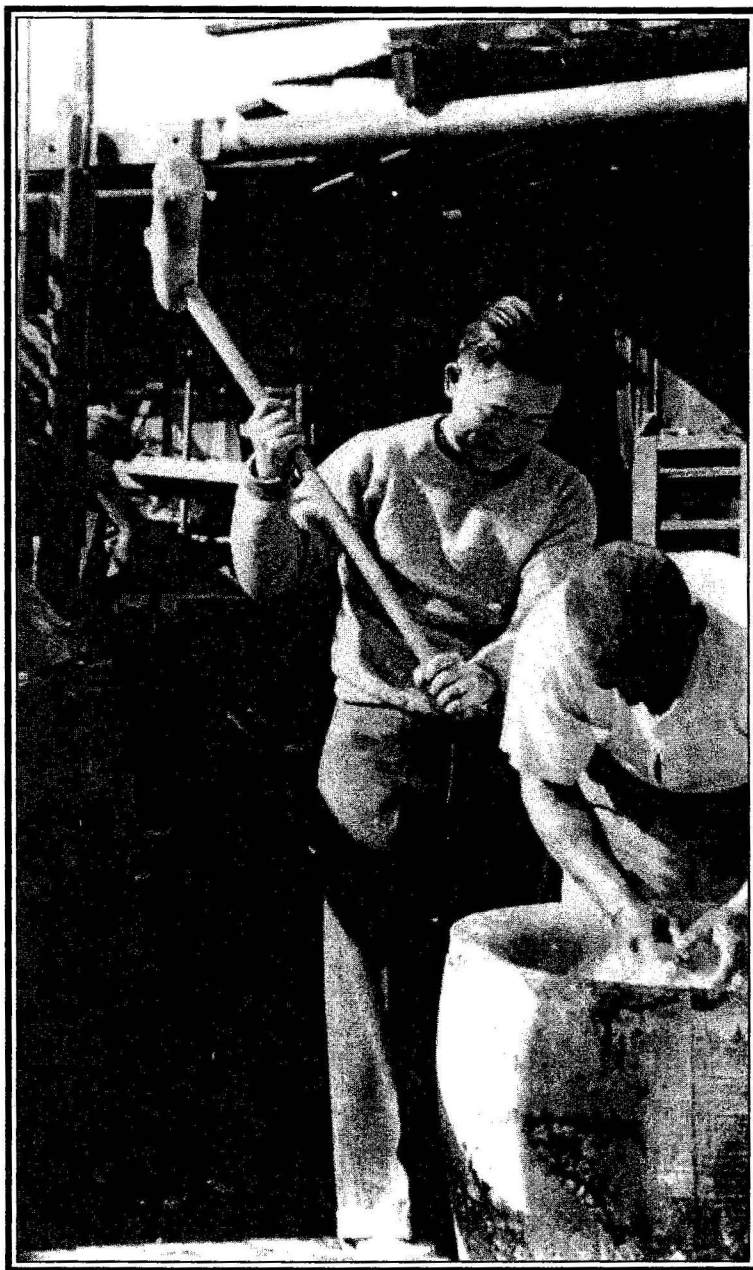
We stand at a pinnacle of your history in your golden years. Redress passed and a nation apologized for a terrible injustice perpetrated against its own citizens.

[In 2001,] **President Clinton** belatedly awarded 20 Medals of Honor to Japanese Americans. Clinton stated in his speech of the Niseis that "in the face of painful prejudice, they helped to define America at its Best."

Last night I was speaking to one of my K Company friends, **Tosh Okamoto**, and he said to me, "You know, the awarding of the Medals of Honor to our boys is sort of the icing on the cake. I've sort of been angry for a long time at my country and what happened to us during the internment. Getting redress and the apology, and having the country recognize my buddies, lifted a cloud from my head. I now really feel like I'm truly American, and it was all worth it."

So this is the happy ending of the 100th/442nd/MIS story, and I thank you for sharing it with us. I salute you. God bless you. And tell your kids to tell the world!

FROM THE JAHSSD ARCHIVES..



MOCHITSUKI AT FISH CAMP c 1935

An unknown gentleman (left) and **Tsurusaburo Kobayashi** work together in this traditional way of making *mochi* (rice cakes), usually made at year-end for consumption at New Year celebrations.

As one pounds rhythmically with the *kine*, or mallet, the other deftly turns and folds the lump of cooked sweet rice to aid its transition from individual grains to a sticky dough. The cooperative effort will continue when the dough is divided into small portions, rolled in rice flour, and individually shaped to form the flat, round cakes that can then be eaten fresh, broiled or toasted, served in soups, or flavored as a confection. Just as the labor is shared in its making, so is the *mochi* when the day-long labor is completed.

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SOUTH BAY MONOGATARI: Tales of the South Bay Nikkei Community (Donald H. Estes c.1996, Chula Vista Historical Society): Stories of struggle and success among San Diego's Japanese immigrant families. By the acknowledged expert on the San Diego Nikkei. 195 pages, photographs, annotations and index.

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SAN DIEGO PADRES



DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS | AUGUST 21, 2006
Sam Yamaguchi (left) and Mas Tsuda acknowledge applause at recent Padres game honoring 442nd RCT veterans. See story on Page 14.

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