

FOOTPRINTS

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

Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego



Joanne Oppenheim (seated) with Margaret Ishino (left), Florence Ishino Enomoto, Yoshiko Ogawa

DEAR MISS BREED LAUNCH DRAWS CROWD

by Joyce Teague

Clara Breed never carried a gun, or a grenade, or received a medal for bravery. She fought with words—letters, books, journal articles—and with acts of kindness and compassion, and she changed the lives of dozens of children, their families, their friends, and their descendents. Can one person make a difference? Read the letters, look at the pictures, and decide for yourself.

~Librarian Joni R. Bodart on Joanne Oppenheim's book, *Dear Miss Breed*

The national launch February 23 of Joanne Oppenheim's new book, *Dear Miss Breed*, drew an overflow crowd of 225 which filled the third floor auditorium of the local Central Library and spilled into the hallways.

Co-sponsored by the San Diego Public Library and the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego, the event included a reception, exhibit and book signing.

The lecture by Mrs. Oppenheim scheduled for 7:00 p.m. began half an hour early because by that time, the auditorium was already packed to standing room-only capacity.

JAHSSD President **Mich Himaka** welcomed the audience and gave a brief background on the forced evacuation of some 2,000 San Diegans of Japanese descent during World War II and what it meant to the Nikkei children who used to frequent the downtown library where **Clara Breed** was the Children's Librarian. Miss Breed, as they always referred to her, saw them off at the Santa Fe Depot and encouraged them to write her. The resultant three-year correspondence between her and the children incarcerated in a Poston, Arizona, internment camp became the basis of the book, *Dear Miss Breed*.

Anna Tatar, Library Director, then introduced New York author **Joanne Oppenheim**. Mrs. Oppenheim, who has authored some 50 books, told the standing room-only crowd how she came to write about the friendship between Clara Breed and the children of Poston Camp. While using the Internet to locate a long-lost Nikkei schoolmate, **Ellen Yukawa**, whom

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- MAR. 18** - JAHSSD Board meeting (8:15 am), Austin site
MAR. 18 - Intro to Meditation class (10-11:30 am), BTSD.
 Free and public welcome
MAR. 18 - VFW Post 4851 dinner fundraiser (6 pm); takeout
 available at 5 pm. Tickets: call VFW Post 4851
MAR. 19 - Spring Benefit Luncheon (11:30-1:30), BTSD,
 \$12 dine in/take out. Reservations: 619/239-0896
MAR. 26 - BTSD-VBT Annual Exchange and Potluck Social
 (10 am), Vista Buddhist Temple
MAR. 30 - SD-JACL Annual Meeting (6 pm), China Camp
 Restaurant, \$15. Reservations: 619/230-0314
MAR. 31 - Zenbu Dinner & Night at the Opera (6 pm). Info:
 619/527-7855, zenbu@cox.net
APRIL 5 - Viejas Asian Affair Mixer (3:30-8 pm), Viejas Casino.
 Info: 858/277-7822
APR. 8 - POVUCC Crystal Cathedral field trip, "Glory of Easter,"
 sponsored by Sunday Women's Fellowship. Cost: \$45
 includes transportation, buffet luncheon, admission
APR. 8 - BEC Lecture by Rev. Laverne Sasaki (7 pm), BTSD.
 Free and public welcome
APR. 9 - BTSD Hanamatsuri Service (10 am), Potluck (12 noon)
APR. 9 - SDJCC Palm Sunday Service: Japanese 9:15 am,
 English 10:30 am
APR. 9 - VFW Post 4851 Annual Easter Egg Hunt 1:00 p.m.,
 Kiku Gardens
APR. 13 - POVUCC Maundy Thursday Service (TBA)
APR. 15 - JAHSSD Board meeting (8:15 am), Austin site
APR. 16 - SDJCC Easter Services: Sunrise Service (6:30 am),
 Breakfast (7:30 am), Jpn. Service (9:15 am), Eng.
 Service (10:30 am)
APR. 16 - POVUCC Easter Sunday: Men host breakfast
 (8:30-9:30 am), Worship Service & New Member
 Reception (10 am)
APR. 17-21 - Kyoto Laureate Symposium, USD
APR. 29 - "Shave Ice," three Asian folks tales suitable for all
 ages by Asian Story Theater (2 and 7 pm), Lyceum Theatre.
 Tickets: 619/544-1000, www.asianstorytheater.com
MAY 7 - Zenbu Intro to Tai Chi for Seniors (11:30-12:30),
 BTSD. \$3 donation, public welcome
MAY 7 - San Diego JACL Scholarship Luncheon (time/location
 TBA). Info: 619/287-7583
MAY 14 - Jr. YBA Mother's Day Breakfast (8:30 am), BTSD.
 \$3.50 per person; mothers free
MAY 20 - JAHSSD Board meeting (8:15 am), Austin site
MAY 21 - BTSD Gotan-e Service (10 am); BEC Lecture by
 Rev. Patti Usuki (1 pm)
MAY 29 - Memorial Day: Buddhist service at Cypress View
 Mausoleum (8:30 am), Japanese American Community
 Interfaith Service (9:30 am) at Mt. Hope Cemetery,
 Buddhist service at Ft. Rosecrans (11:30 am)
JUNE 4 - Japanese Cultural Bazaar (11 am-5 pm), BTSD

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mich Himaka

Kudos to the one-person Gang of 100 we call **Gwen Momita Siefers!**

Gwen is our vice president and president-in-waiting. She took our **Camp Dance** project by the throat, shook out all the chaff, made it whole and pulled it off with nary a problem: a 450-seat sell-out in Southwestern College's Mayan Hall. All by virtue of a word-of-mouth publicity campaign.

Oh, she had help, for sure. **Ruth Umeko Voorhies**, who sold some 70 tickets herself. And my wife, **Naomi**, who virtually sold our two allotments of 40 tickets-plus by herself.

And the entire Camp Dance Committee also including **Bob Batchelder**, **Nancy Cowser**, **Jeanne Elyea**, **Chiz Imoto**, **Yuri Kaneda**, **Yukio Kawamoto**, **David Smith** and **Rev. Jim Yanagihara**, as well as our stellar assistants, **Sumi Kastelic**, **Aya Segawa**, **George Furuya** and **Joyce Teague**.

We also gratefully acknowledge Southwestern College President/Superintendent **Norma Hernandez** and Interim Dean **Donna Arnold** of Southwestern's School of Arts and Communications, which helped us by co-sponsoring the program. We also thank Mayan Hall's technical staff.

We thank the Buddhist Temple of San Diego for allowing us to use its facilities to conduct our planning meetings. Special thanks also go to the Vista Buddhist Temple's **Shokenji Taiko**, which provided us with a rousing pre-show warm-up performance that prepared us for the show.

Our thanks also to our corporate advertisers who purchased full-page ads for our program, including **California Bank and Trust**, **Bonita Point Branch of Union Bank of California**, **San Diego JACL**, **Kiku Gardens Corporation**, the generous group of San Diego area dentists, and **Southwestern College School of Arts and Communications**.

Thanks also to the **Japanese Friendship Garden**, **Sweetwater Inn**, **Community Mortuary**, **Fletcher Hills Printing**, **Teshima Design Group**, **Takenori Muraoka**, **Japan Society of San Diego and Tijuana**, and all the other individuals and businesses who purchased greetings and memorial ads for the program.

Thanks also to our favorite auxiliary—the **When's Lunch? Bunch**—which provided all of the cookies served to our guests during the intermission. Thanks to **Hisae Batchelder**, **Grace Tsuida**, **Bubbles Shimasaki**, **Kiyo Uda**, **Dorothy Asakawa**, **Mitsuko Kawamoto**, **Nancy Cowser**, **Carol Estes**, **Grace Segawa**, **Sakiko Kada**, **Mari Tanizaki**, **Patsy Yanagihara**, **Masako Shima**, **Gwen**, **Jeanne** and **Naomi**.

Last and but not least, I thank the **Grateful Crane Ensemble** and the cast and crew of "Camp Dance" for giving those of us in San Diego the opportunity to see this much-acclaimed show. Almost one month after the performance graced our stage here, we are still hearing positive comments about it and many have expressed interest in having the cast return someday for another performance.

If that's possible, we will attempt to bring it back. Who knows? We might need two shows—a matinee for those of us who need to get home early before darkness sets in and a second for those who like the night life.

While I'm thanking those responsible for organizing, ticket selling, bringing the show here and providing us with financial help, I would like to thank you, the entire San Diego Nikkei community, for coming out and supporting us.

Your responses to the show and comments made it all worthwhile. Arigato gozaimashita.

BOOK LAUNCH continued from Page 1

she had met after the war, she happened upon the letters written to Miss Breed which the Japanese American National Museum (JANM) had posted on its website. Some 250 letters written by Poston Camp youngsters, mostly from San Diego families, are archived at JANM.

At the time, the author knew little about internment and was shocked to learn her high school friend Yukawa had spent the war years imprisoned with her family at Poston, though this had never been mentioned during their acquaintance. Mrs. Oppenheim then set out to learn all she could about internment.

In reading through the poignant letters which chronicled camp life as experienced by the kids who used to borrow books from the downtown library, Mrs. Oppenheim realized this was a story that was waiting to be told: about the kids behind barbed wire and the Children's Librarian who was a loyal friend to them during their incarceration, speaking out on their behalf when few others were doing so. Above all, the author felt this story would show how one brave person could affect the lives of so many others.

"I believe it is a story that not only tells us about our past, it is a cautionary tale that has meaning to us today," Mrs. Oppenheim said.

Miss Breed went on to become Head Librarian, a post she held till her retirement in 1970. She remained friends with many of her correspondents long after they returned to San Diego.

In the 1980s, she wrote urging congressional redress for the internees. She was honored by the San Diego Nikkei community at a Poston Camp III reunion in 1991, and passed away in 1994.

During her lecture, Mrs. Oppenheim read excerpts from the letters as black and white images of the youthful correspondents were shown on the screen behind her. It was a very moving presentation.

Seated in the audience was her high school friend, **Ellen Yukawa** (now living in San Jose), whom she did eventually locate, as well as a number of Miss Breed's old pen pals who now reside in San Diego.

Among them were: **Elizabeth Kikuchi Yamada, Margaret Ishino, Florence Ishino Enomoto, Yoshiko Ogawa Watanabe and Chiz Kusumoto.**



Breed pen pals who made it to the Library reception (left to right): Margaret Ishino, Florence Ishino Enomoto and Yoshiko Ogawa Watanabe

Lynn Eller, niece of one of the letter writers, **Tetsuzo Hirasaki**, was also present. She was mentioned as the talk headed to a dramatic conclusion. Over the three-year period Mrs. Oppenheim had spent researching and interviewing, she had not come across a single letter written to the camp children by Miss Breed herself. Not one of the letter writers she had contacted, she explained, had managed to save a letter from Miss Breed!

During the last stages of proof-reading prior to the book's publica-

tion, Mrs. Oppenheim received a call from Ms. Eller informing her that her uncle, Tets Hirasaki, had passed away. Mrs. Oppenheim had been awaiting a recent photo of his to include in the book and Ms. Eller said she had found one and would send it.

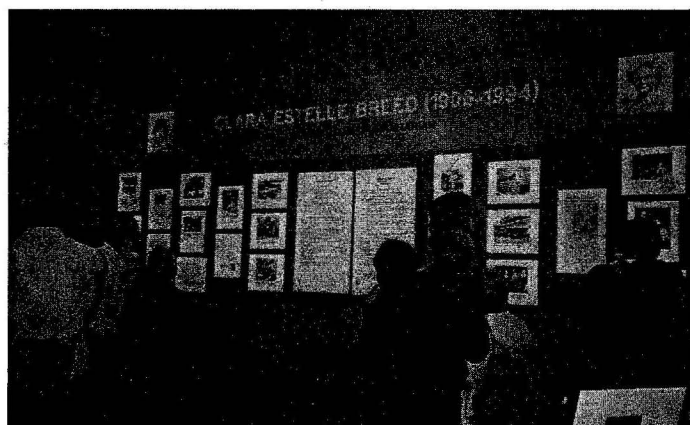
Then she was asked if, among her uncle's effects, there was by any chance a letter from Miss Breed? Amazingly, there was.



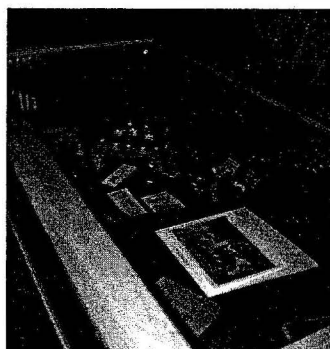
Lynn Eller holds the book in which her uncle's interview and Miss Breed's letter addressed to him appear. She explained because of her uncle's recent passing and his involvement with the book, the evening for her was bittersweet.

The letter appears to have been handed to Hirasaki at the Santa Fe Station when he and his family were evacuated from San Diego, because the envelope is unaddressed and unstamped.

Its discovery at the last minute as *the only known example of Miss Breed's writing to the children of Poston* was a significant find for Mrs. Oppenheim. Because pagination had already been set, the letter appears on the last page of the book following the index. Its revelation made for a satisfying end to a well-told story.



Above: Guests of the book launch view the Library's loving tribute to its long-time City Librarian



Left: The Clara Breed exhibit in the third-floor Wangenheim Room displays some personal effects, including a nameplate carved from mesquite wood made at Poston Camp by Tets Hirasaki using a carving tool he fashioned from a piece of broken bed frame

In a surprise announcement at the end of the lecture, Ms. Tatar announced each family in attendance would receive a copy of *Dear Miss Breed* signed by the author, courtesy of a generous library patron.

The exhibit curated by JAHSSD will be on view at the Central Library in the Wangenheim Room through the end of March. Photos of Miss Breed are also featured in a display opposite the first-floor elevators.

Mrs. Oppenheim also made a special appearance at the Chula Vista
(Continued on Page 7)

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.

KATIE KOHARU SHIRAISHI

April 9, 1927 ~ December 7, 2005

KAYO ENOMOTO

October 28, 1916 ~ December 9, 2005

KAORU SAITO-BENNETT

August 3, 1970 ~ December 14, 2005

MARY S. YAMAGUCHI

September 4, 1926 ~ December 19, 2005

TAKAKO KELLY

August 12, 1931 ~ December 10, 2005

YOSHIKO WHEAT

April 8, 1937 ~ December 20, 2005

JOHN FURUYA

September 29, 1914 ~ December 21, 2005

GEORGE HITOSHI IWAI

December 22, 2005

KIMIE "KAYE" FUKAMIZU

JULY 19, 1918 ~ January 18, 2006

HARRY HIROSHI YAMADA

January 22, 1922 ~ January 8, 2006

FRED Y. WAKABAYASHI

November 4, 1918 ~ January 31, 2006

DELORES MARGARET AZUMA

September ? ~ February 2, 2006

LAURIE J. SUGINO OGINO

March 29, 1962 ~ February 16, 2006

FREDRICK "FRED" M. HASHIGUCHI

July 23, 1924 ~ February 17, 2006

FRANCES IRENE UCHIMURA

May 16, 1946 ~ February 17, 2006

AIKO SCHERMERHORN

January 18, 1945 ~ February 27, 2006

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Naomi M. Himaka, Membership Chair

A warm welcome to those who have joined our organization since our last edition of *Footprints*. We are pleased to have all of you as members of our Society.

We welcome new Life Members **Gary and Karen Himaka**. New annual members include **Humberto Fontanott, Dwayne S. and Karen Eto and Jeffrey Obayashi**. **Yuri Kuratomi Owens** received a gift membership from **Alice Akiko Matsumoto**. We also thank members **Vernon and Shinobu Yoshioka** for upgrading to Life Membership.

Thanks also to the following members for renewing their memberships: **Florence Yamashita, Jon and Carrie A. Ware Kawamoto, Sheila Yagura, Sue S. Gerrish, P. Kumao Estes** (a gift of **Carol Estes**), **Cookie I. Taniguchi, Shirley Omori, Linda McLemore, Art and Judy Hibi, George and Sakiko Sekiguchi, Chizuko Shinzaki, Sud (Ruth) Morishita, Toshiko Kawasaki and Kiyo Matsumoto**.

We also thank the following for their recent renewals: **Janet Ochi-Fontanott, Tyler and Peggy Tanaka, H. Roy and Alice Asaki, Akira and Helen Takeshita, Michael Okuma, Ken and Judy Miyamoto, Takenori Muraoka, Kuniko Nishimura, Ann Tsuchiyama Carlin, Sakie Kawahara, Mitsue Tanaka, Eileen Katayama, Kenji and Satoko Sato, Kenji and Carol Ii, Audrey Mizokami, Iwao and Mary K. Ishino, E. Liz Suhama, Kenneth and Katherine Koba, Martin Lloyd and Emiko Ito, Joe and Elizabeth Yamada, Sumako Sue Tsushima, Tomi Morimoto, Yoshio Matsumoto, Takeko Waiji, Kay Yamamoto, Fusa Shimizu, and Todd Himaka**.

Additional thanks to the following for their recent renewals: **Tetsuo and Sasako Himaka, Taka and Beverly Sawasaki, Sandy Nakamura, Louise Iguchi, Kimie Kaneyuki, Isamu E. (Ed) and Michi Akamatsu, Harold A. and Kuniko Kuhn, Ruth Fujimoto, Frank and Tami Kinoshita, Kathleen and Dr. Robert Lui, Joseph and Noriko Correia, Jeanette M. Dutton, Isamu and Pauline Nakamura, Fudo Takagi, Beni Takahashi, Mari Sato and Dr. Henry and Mary T. Yamada**.

HOME SITE COMMITTEE SPRING REPORT

When JAHSSD moved its collection into the facility on Austin Road late last year, the first phase of the committee's work was completed. However, the work of the committee wasn't over, and, in fact, some might agree that its hardest job was on the horizon.

Members of the committee are now working on a number of very important items related to this first step. These include:

1. developing a fundraising plan to cover the \$20,000+ costs annual of operating the archives at Austin. Included are expenses such as rent, utilities, insurance, and the cost of buying the supplies needed to keep the doors open;
2. evaluating the appropriateness of JAHSSD taking the next step of creating an actual museum to showcase its collections;
3. developing a capital fundraising campaign to support the major costs of opening and maintaining a museum.

The Home Site Committee's role is to make recommendations to your JAHSSD board. It will be up to the Board to decide whether or not to move forward with the items listed above.

In connection with item number 1 above, the Committee is now working to develop a plan for raising the money needed to operate Austin for the three years that the Board committed to.

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HOME SITE COMMITTEE REPORT *continued from Page 4*

A comprehensive written plan, with detailed lists of persons responsible for each step, will be produced. The committee is looking at a number of sources for this money. Grants, donations from members and the outside community, and a potential dues increase for JAHSSD membership are all being considered as possible sources of funds. Again, it will be up to your JAHSSD Board to adopt the fundraising plan, and then take the steps to implement it.

What can you do now to help keep our precious photographs, documents, and artifacts safely housed at Austin? Here are a few ideas:

- ♦ Make a donation to JAHSSD in your own name, or in honor or in memory of someone you love.

- ♦ Check with your employer about matching gifts. Some employers encourage their workers to give money to nonprofit organizations like JAHSSD by agreeing to make a donation in an equal amount. This is an easy way for the amount of your gift to JAHSSD to be doubled!

- ♦ Name JAHSSD in your will or estate plan.

If you have ideas or questions for the Home Site Committee, contact any of these members: **Robert Ito**, chairman, **Bob Batchelder**, **Linda Canada**, **Mich Himaka**, **Sumi Kastelic**, **Deborah Kodama**, **Ben Segawa** or **Liz Yamada**.

MIS-STEAKS:

We Keep Cooking 'Em Up!

When you make an error, why make it a little one? Go for broke!

On Page 21 of the **Winter 2005 Issue**, we not only misidentified both the sponsor and the event for the three photos in the left column, but failed to identify all the hard-working volunteers pictured in the photo below. Thanks very much to **Vernon Yoshioka** and **Mildred Kawasaki** who provided following corrections:

The Japanese Senior Nutrition Program at the Japanese Christian Church (JCC) is sponsored by UPAC, not JCC. The program was started in 1976 by **Shinobu Yoshioka**.



Above (left to right): **Mary Muraoka**, **Kay Ohira**, **Yuri Yamate**, **James Yamate**, **John Ohira** (current leader), **Tom Segawa**, **Aya Segawa**, **Vernon Yoshioka**, **Shinobu Yoshioka** and **Matsuko Gray** (head cook), October 2005

Below: Helpers prepare sushi every fourth Wednesday at JCC.

Left to right: **Tom Segawa**, **Yuri Yamate** (behind Tom), **Mary Muraoka** and **Mildred Kawasaki**. Photo courtesy of Vernon Yoshioka



IN GRATITUDE

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

Mr. and Mrs. M. K. UYEJI

CHARLES FIELD JR.

DAVID SMITH

ROY ASAKI

SUMIE KASTELIC

EVELYN SAITO

In memory of Albert Saito

Mr. and Mrs. JOHN HASHIGUCHI

Mr. and Mrs. MICHIO HIMAKA

In memory of Kay Fukamizu

EUGENE SUGITA

JIM KELLY

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MATTHEW ABE

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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.

Austin Site Helpers

So much has happened at the new Austin Drive Site since last December. In a few short months, it has been transformed into an organized and comfortable working and meeting space for JAHSSD.

First off, big thanks to computer-savvy **Andrew Marumoto** for stepping in as our computer installation technician extraordinaire. He helped us decide where to hook up the new computer and what additional equipment we needed. Andrew also did the installation work and got our new cataloging software up and running.

Ben Segawa and **Bob Batchelder** took turns being at the site for installers and other visitors.

When's Lunch? Bunch donated funds to purchase 30 chairs and a mini-refrigerator for the Austin Site. Thanks to **Hisae Batchelder** and **Bill Elyea** for making the purchases and delivering them to the site.

Thank you to **Ben and Grace Segawa** for delivering the important recent donation of the Abe Family fishing materials to the archives.

Our newest Board member, **Linda Canada**, has stepped forward to coordinate and help train volunteers to use the cataloging software. She and **Christina Pierson** have received training in its use. Among those who have been at the site regularly to start the cataloging are Linda, **Carol Estes**, **Sumi Kastelic** and **Grace Segawa**. We especially thank **Gaku Tsuda** for lifting heavy boxes during the processing of the collection, and Carol for making several trips to Staples and Costco to pick up supplies.

After much research, Linda selected and purchased a versatile printer/scanner/copier for our needs and delivered it to the site where her equally versatile husband **Eddie Canada** installed it for us. The purchase was made possible by a gift from **Bruce and Sharon Asakawa** and **Po and Amy Kaneyuki**. A round of applause for everyone!

Book Launch Helpers

We are grateful to the people who helped with the February 23 reception for the *Dear Miss Breed* Book Launch cosponsored by the **San Diego Public Library** and JAHSSD. **Liz Yamada** and **Ben Segawa** worked closely with Library Director **Anna Tatar** and library staff to assure the success of this exciting national event. Ben and **Grace Segawa** greeted author **Joanne Oppenheim** and her husband at the airport and served as guides during their San Diego stay. Greeters and helpers that evening included **Grace Segawa**, **Karen Kawasaki**, **Joyce Teague**, **Gwen Momita**, **Jeanne Elyea**, **Linda Canada**, **Yuki Kawamoto**, **Rev. Jim Yanagihara**, **Bob Batchelder** and **Mich and Naomi Himaka**.

The glass-encased exhibit at the Library was curated by **Linda Canada** with help from **Karen Kawasaki**. **Liz Yamada**, one of the letter writers featured in the new book, loaned items from her personal collection for the display. Refreshments were coordinated by **Naomi Himaka** with help from **Jeanne Elyea**, **Hisae Batchelder**, **Patsy Yanagihara**, **Mits Kawamoto** and **Gwen Momita**.

Joyce Teague worked with San Diego City Council staff to prepare a proclamation which was presented by Councilmember **Jim Madaffer** declaring February 21 as "San Diego Day of Remembrance" to highlight San Diego's DOR activities, which included the book launch. JAHSSD President **Mich Himaka**, accompanied by **Anna Tatar** of the San Diego Public Library, was on hand to accept a copy of the proclamation and address the Council on our behalf. We thank Fearless Leader Mich for

doing such a stand-up job of speaking on our behalf at both the City Council meeting and the book launch. (You can read the text of his acceptance on Page 14.)

Camp Dance Performance

We had wonderful help for the San Diego debut of this terrific show. Our **When's Lunch? Bunch** cookie bakers were: **Dorothy Asakawa**, **Hisae Batchelder**, **Nancy Cowser**, **Jeanne Elyea**, **Carol Estes**, **Naomi Himaka**, **Sakiko Kada**, **Mits Kawamoto**, **Grace Segawa**, **Bubbles Shimasaki**, **Grace Tsuida**, **Kiyo Uda** and **Patsy Yanagihara**. Other bakers included **Miki Honda**, **Chiz Imoto**, **Ruth Voorhies** and **Shinobu Yoshioka**. The cookies were bountiful and yummy!

Thanks to the volunteers who helped at the performance itself on January 28, including: **Nancy Cowser**, **Gwen Momita**, **Jeanne and Bill Elyea**, **Ruth Voorhies**, **Chiz Imoto**, **Karen Kawasaki**, **Susan Hasegawa**, **Carol Estes**, **Jim and Patsy Yanagihara**, **Grace Tsuida**, **Dorothy Asakawa**, **Kiyo Uda**, **Bubbles Shimasaki**, **Grace and Ben Segawa**, **Bob and Hisae Batchelder**, **Susan Hasegawa**, **Joyce Teague**, **David Smith**, **Yuki and Mits Kawamoto**, **Vernon and Shinobu Yoshioka** and **Mich and Naomi Himaka**. Gee, hope we named everyone!

Debbie Kodama helped with transportation and **Liz Yamada** loaned items for the Camp Dance display which was designed by **Linda Canada** and displayed by **Susan Hasegawa**.

Kudos to **Gwen Momita** for chairing the committee which brought Camp Dance to San Diego. (They are acknowledged in this issue's President's Message on Page 2.) We also gratefully acknowledge the **Southwestern College School of Arts and Communication** which co-sponsored the event.

We Love Gifts!

Our sincere thanks to **Joanne Oppenheim** for generously donating 20 autographed copies of her book, *Dear Miss Breed*, to be used in our fundraising efforts for the Austin site.

A good friend of the Society who wants to remain nameless underwrote the cost of Camp Dance tickets which JAHSSD offered to several youth groups to encourage their attendance. JAHSSD gave the tickets to teen members of the San Diego Japanese Christian Church, the Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ, the Buddhist Temple of San Diego, and the Nikkei Student Union of UCSD. Thank you, **Anonymous**, for your generous gift!

Thank you also to **Gordon and Arlene Shimizu** for the donation of the DVD, "Beyond Barbed Wire," and to **Sam Yamaguchi** for continuing to donate quarterly copies of the Go For Broke Bulletin of the 442nd Veterans Club.

Jeanne Elyea, **Carol Estes**, **Naomi Himaka** and **Joyce Teague** donated office and food service supplies for the Austin site. Sneaky anonymous donors have dropped off useful items such as a laser pointer, covered dish for the coffee service, a paper towel holder, and miscellaneous items for the collection such as photographs. Thank you!

Your Time Is Appreciated

Our volunteer speakers have been very busy since our last issue. We thank **Yuki and Mits Kawamoto**, **Rev. Jim Yanagihara**, **Vernon Yoshioka**, **Ben Segawa** and **Mich Himaka** who spent all day at Poway High School last February, talking to history students about internment.

Jeanne Elyea, **Mich Himaka**, **Yuki Kawamoto** and **Jim Yanagihara** were part of a panel asked to talk about their internment experience at UCSD's Day of Remembrance program on February 16.

Ben and Grace Segawa served as guides for author **Joanne Oppenheim** and her husband during their busy book promotion in Southern California. They even took a train ride

(Continued on Page 7)

CAUGHT DOING SOMETHING NICE continued from Page 6

together up to Los Angeles for the *Dear Miss Breed* event at the Japanese American National Museum after the appearances in San Diego.

Sumi Kastelic spent many days at **Carol Estes'** home organizing and cataloging the extensive book collection of **Don Estes** to prepare books for donation to the JAHSSD. We are grateful to Carol for this generous gift of the books which served as Don's references for his research and writing and which will be invaluable as we humbly try to continue our work in his spirit.

This Issue

Lastly, thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue of *Footprints*. We'd especially like to thank the students who took time to let us know what they thought about the Camp Dance performance and the classroom visits by JAHSSD speakers. Your thoughts and opinions are welcome in these pages any time!

BOOK LAUNCH continued from Page 3

Library the following day accompanied by **Ben Segawa**, whose late wife, **Katherine Tasaki Segawa**, had worked there for many years.

Kathy Segawa, around ten years old at the time her family was evacuated, was among the youngest of Clara Breed's camp penpals and one of the most prolific. Their friendship continued long after the war. In the late 1980s, Kathy began working at the Chula Vista library in administration until the year of her passing in 1993.



Bright-eyed Kathy Tasaki as she probably looked when she was writing letters from Poston Camp to San Diego Childrens Librarian Clara Breed during World War II

An appreciative crowd of about 100 people heard Mrs. Oppenheim read many of Kathy's descriptive letters about camp life. Part of the proceeds from the sale of the book that day benefited the Chula Vista Library.



Kathy Tasaki Segawa (left), Yoshiko Ogawa Watanabe and Clara Breed at the Poston Camp III Reunion in 1991. Miss Breed was honored at this event

[The Editor thanks Mich Himaka and Ben Segawa for their contributions to this article. Photos not owned by JAHSSD appear courtesy of Linda Canada, Naomi Himaka and Joyce Teague. To read more about Joanne Oppenheim's award-winning book, go to www.dearmissbreed.com. Dear Miss Breed is published by Scholastic Publications and is available in bookstores now.]

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WELCOME, NEW ADVERTISERS!

Two individuals have joined our elite group of advertising supporters.

Jeffrey Obayashi is a current member of JAHSSD, JACL, Asian Business Association and Asian Accountants of San Diego. He graduated from San Diego State in 2005 with a degree in Finance and Political Science. He served as student body Vice President from 2003-2004.

Jeff recently became a partner at **San Diego Advertising Specialties (SDAS)** which was founded in 1987 by **Faith Bautista**. SDAS makes promotional and imprinted items such as pens, magnets, cups, shirts and bags—basically anything that a logo or imprint can be added to.

Prior to SDAS, Jeff worked for both an investment company and a nonprofit community and business organization, Mabuhay Alliance. Jeff's grandfather, Joe **Obayashi**, was the original owner of the **Sun Cafe**. His grandfather and father later owned the **Miyako Restaurant** located on Fourth Avenue and, later, Pacific Highway

Joy Sakaue Plummer is the sister of a familiar Society member, **Gwen Momita Siefers**. Joy is an interior designer who works part-time, Thursday through Saturdays, at **Basset Furniture Direct**, one of the first stores to open in the new Eastlake Design District in Chula Vista.

Joy worked for the Dept. of Social Services for 28 years before deciding to follow her love of interior design. She graduated from the Design Institute of San Diego in 2003 and went to work at Homestead House (which closed its doors in December). She not only sells furniture at the newly-opened Bassett store, but she also make house calls. "I make your houses true homes to be proud of," she writes.

When you need promotional items or are thinking of sprucing up a room in your house, please keep Jeff and Joy in mind. Let's support the business owners who support JAHSSD.

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CHANKO NABE

by Joyce Nabeta Teague

Salutations Never Postmarked

Here it is March and I have yet to finish our family's 2006 New Year letter. My bad.

The handful of you out there reading this who have received Teague League greetings in past years knows this is not the typical annual Christmas letter with diary-like descriptions of the family's travels, triumphs, trials and tribulations over the past year.

For one thing, the traditional Christmas letter is used by people who have actually accomplished something of note ("finally finished my dissertation between sessions of breast feeding the amazing Mensa quintuplets"), or traveled somewhere exotic ("paddled to Pago Pago and ate mahi mahi") and would like to share the news with others.

We have to make up a bunch of stuff because our lives are so mundane. Instead of sharing any actual news, the Teague League annual letter attempts to be a modest entertainment. It is full of half-truths, outright lies, compromising photos, and cryptic lists that even immediate family members have trouble decoding.

We include actual family quotes that make some of us—okay, mainly me—sound like participants in a study on short term memory loss. This section is offensively called "ALLzheimer in the FAMILY."

If you read between the lines and squint real hard, you might be able to figure out one or two things that actually happened in our lives. But who really needs or wants to know anyway?

The intent is to have fun putting together something to amuse our friends. But once, I apparently stepped over a line and *just went too far*.

About ten years ago, I composed family "news" that was so out-rageous it could not, I was certain, be construed as actually having happened: *Bill's stress at work was such that he had to have a lobotomy*, I claimed. *I am able to bend my arm in all directions after an elbow transplant from a baboon donor*. *Jaime is taking 20 classes at Cal and juggling three part-time jobs*. Ha ha ha.

But a few days after we sent the letter out, someone wrote back right away saying they were praying for Bill's recovery. Another hoped fervently my elbow transplant had been successful. (Interestingly, no one commented on Jaime's fake accomplishments, probably because I had not made them far enough from the truth!) But clearly my humor has missed the mark. I'd either gone too far or not far enough, depending on your appreciation of absurdist humor. Anyway, I apologized to these old friends, assuring them we were both okay and these were just jokes. JOKES!

Getting back to being three months late mailing out the 2006 letter: it is dismaying, but why fret? After all, *even the 2005 letter was never sent out!* That one was nicely composed, full of images of chickens (being the Year of the Cock), ready to be printed out, stamped and mailed. Then we had a serious computer meltdown. Oy. Most of the fonts I had used to lay out the letter were forever lost. I never got around to rebuilding the greeting till a year later. And, gee, did *anyone* miss receiving it?

My current plan is to mail out both the 2005 and 2006 letters together, a double whammy to shock and awe our pals scattered around the globe. But so far I haven't made the time to finish up this year's letter.

I've had great excuses every month: in January, I was recovering from December. In February, I was obsessed with watching every single minute of every single day's telecast of the Winter Olympics.

Now I am concentrating on laying out *Footprints*. Gotta finish this column. Gotta get another elbow transplant. And a brain transplant. Or maybe all I really need is a lobotomy like the one Bill got 10 years ago...

CAMP DANCE BOASTS

FULL HOUSE

by Gwen Momita

Riddle me this: What can make you laugh, make you cry, make you sway and make you sigh...all while tapping your toes?

The answer: **CAMP DANCE: THE MUSIC AND THE MEMORIES**, a musical tribute to the Japanese Americans who were interned in so-called relocation camps across the U.S. during World War II.

On Saturday, January 28, the **Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego**, in conjunction with the **Southwestern College School of Communication and Arts**, was delighted to present San Diego's first-ever performance of *Camp Dance*. An enthusiastic audience of over 450 individuals was called to their seats by the exciting sounds of the Vista Buddhist Temple's **Shokenji Taiko**.

Following this pre-show performance, writer and executive producer **Soji Kashiwagi** introduced the program. With familiar tunes of the time such as "Sentimental Journey" and "Chattanooga Choo Choo," the talented Moonlight Serenaders proceeded to sing and dance their way into our collective hearts. The old-time Japanese favorite, "Shina no Yoru" ("China Night"), brought back fond memories to old and young alike. By the end of the show, there was scarcely a dry eye in the audience as the performers, mostly Sansei, eloquently expressed their appreciation to the Issei and Nisei generations.

Homemade cookies, baked and packaged by When's Lunch? Bunch members, were munched by appreciative audience members before and after the performance. Kashiwagi, along with the performers and musicians, delighted the crowd by appearing in costume to autograph CD covers in the lobby at the show's end.

JAHSSD is committed to bringing meaningful cultural and educational programs to the community, but we could not do it without your support. So we gratefully acknowledge the following groups, organizations and individuals: **California Bank & Trust, Grateful Crane Ensemble/Moonlight Serenaders, San Diego-JACL, Kiku Gardens**, our San Diego-area Nikkei dentists, **Southwestern College, Union Bank of California**, and everyone who purchased greetings and ads for the program and tickets for the performance.

Lastly, I'd like to thank the hard-working Camp Dance Committee for their dedication and commitment to this project.

It seems there's always one individual who gets the ball rolling,



CAMP DANCE COMMITTEE (left to right): Nancy Cowser, Naomi Himaka, Ruth Voorhies, Jim Yanagihara, Yuki Kawamoto, Mich Himaka, Bob Batchelder (seated), David Smith, Jeanne Elyea, Gwen Momita and Chiz Imoto.

Not pictured: Yuri Kaneda

and in this case, it was our beloved **Don Estes**. As a small group of us sat and wondered out loud if it were remotely possible to bring an event of this magnitude to a successful fruition, Don quietly picked up the phone and made the first call. Our journey had begun. I know Don was tappin' his toes with the rest of us.

MAZEGOHAN

by Mich Himaka

A search of the Internet tells me that **Jimmy Iwao Kido** passed away in San Jose in 1996 at the age of 65.

His kid brother, **George Masao Kido**, passed away also in San Jose in 2002 at the age of 67.

I think our little band of "yogores" from Block 330 in Poston III, Arizona, during the World War II years find it hard to believe that they would be the first among us to leave this earth.

Jimmy was one of the nicest guys I would ever know. (Our little band had three guys named **Jimmy Kido**, **Jimmy Yanagihara** and **James Kida**. One of them had to have a nickname and we gave it to the smallest guy and called him, "Gopher.")

Though Jimmy and James were two years our senior, they were in the same grade as Gopher and me. James because of a leg injury suffered early in his young life and Jimmy because he was forced to quit school in the fourth grade to help his father farm.

It was a rough life for Jimmy but the war was "good" for him.

"You know," he told me once on a serious note, "if it wasn't for the war, I realize I would never have finished school."

That he graduated from high school in 1950 was to his credit because he had to work after school almost every day and on weekends on a gardening route he created for himself. A few of us often went with him to finish his gardening route early so we could "mess around."

When we were in camp, our parents knew the family background of extreme hardship and they were kind to Jim and to George, who we all affectionately called "Cooties" because he was forever groveling around in the dirt.

Getting stung by a big scorpion didn't cure him of the habit, either.

On occasion, big brother Jim would take Cooties into the shower to spruce him up. And, you know, he looked quite decent all spruced up as a kid!

But to us, he would forever be "Cooties." Even Jim called him "Cooties."

Jim looked after his little brother in camp. Gopher remembers Jim as a quiet, friendly individual, a "soft touch in many ways." Because of his quiet demeanor, Jimmy could be manipulated, he said.

"I think that was why he was running around with the 'wrong' crowd after the war when he came back to San Diego," Gopher said.

But when our old Poston group all returned to San Diego, Jimmy broke away from his old "Logan Heights" gang crowd and began running around with the Nihonjin group he was familiar with from camp days.

"He was nice to a fault," Gopher recalled, "but he didn't cause anyone problems like some of the rest us."

"It was out of place for him to be running around with 'gangs' but it could have been because he was lonely. He was not an outgoing person so he ran with whoever accepted him."

"When we got back to San Diego, he broke away from the other minority groups. Those people never bothered him or tried to get him back into the kind of lifestyle they engaged in. I think it was because they knew he was with his own kind of people," Gopher said.

"One thing, though, he remained friends with those guys but they never pressured him back into the old ways. It was very hard to get mad at Jimmy because of the way he was. He was just a nice guy."

Jimmy himself agreed that if we, his old camp buddies, had not returned to San Diego, there was no telling what would have happened to him.

"I might have gotten into a lot of trouble with those guys," he said.

That's not to say he never got into trouble running around with us!



The Yogores (left to right): Front row-Jim Yanagihara, George Kido, Tom Yanagihara, Hitose Suwa; Back row-Ben Segawa, the author, James Kida, Jimmy Kido, Yoshito Suwa. "Yogore" might be generously translated as "grubby rascals"

For instance, after we graduated high school, a friend in Los Angeles and one of the yogores, invited a bunch of us to a graduation party.

One of the drinks the hired bartender served was a concoction they called a Moscow Mule. Its ingredients include vodka, ginger beer, lime juice and a lime wedge.

Jimmy made his own mixture by drinking a shot of vodka, a bottle of ginger beer, some lime juice and a wedge of lime.

Laughing and having a good time, Jimmy then shook himself up a little bit and sat down. Of course, Jimmy was "of age," so it was okay, but the rest of us were underage so we didn't drink. (Smile.)

Needless to say, on our drive home, we had to make a stop for Jimmy. Uh, it made him feel better.

One week after we graduated from high school, the Korean War broke out. Jimmy joined the Navy and served aboard the destroyer *John W. Thomason* (DD-760). Gopher joined the Army and served with the medical corps in Korea. About a year later, I joined the Air Force and served as a radio operator on B-29s and KC-97s, refueling tankers. Jimmy and Gopher both served in the combat zones. I escaped it, serving most of my time in Louisiana's swamplands.

Jimmy had a great sense of humor, too. While in the Navy, he wrote to us about the time his ship was hit by a shell. Jimmy said he was "sitting on the pot" when the shell hit and, "you might say it scared the s--t out of me!"

After leaving the Navy, Jim took his parents and a couple of his sisters and moved to the San Jose area for a new start. Gopher and I found him up there about 40 years ago and the three of us went to dinner and talked about the old days.

Jimmy was good with his hands. For a young guy, he was a handyman. We recalled how he lathed a baseball bat out of a three-foot-long four-by-four piece of wood in school wood shop, whittled one end down to a knob with a knife and file and we all used it to play ball. You know, that bat never broke either. I wish we had kept it because it would be some kind of souvenir from camp days.

Jimmy was a little guy but he was a strong guy, probably the physically strongest of all of us. But the tough life he lived had to take a lot out of him. It probably contributed to his early demise; too early as far as I'm concerned.

Gopher, James Kida and I had been trying to locate him for many years, going to San Jose and calling his last known phone number we had or sending him applications for Poston III Reunions.

Little did we suspect that he was already gone, and 10 years ago at that.

Yes, we all miss him a lot.

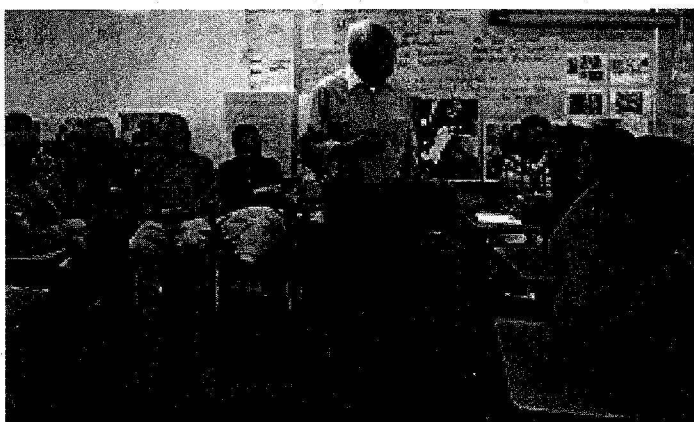
So long, Buddy. Rest in peace. You deserve it.

JAHSSD SPEAKERS BUREAU

by Yukio Kawamoto

From time to time, the JAHSSD receives invitations from schools, civic organizations and other groups to speak about the Japanese American experience. In February, the JAHSSD speakers bureau provided speakers for history classes at Poway High School and the Day of Remembrance observance at the University of California at San Diego.

Members **Mich Himaka**, **Rev. Jim Yanagihara**, **Ben Segawa**, **Mits and Yuki Kawamoto**, and **Vernon Yoshioka** were guest speakers at Poway High School on February 10. The group was invited by JAHSSD board member and secretary, **Karen Kawasaki**, to speak to three history classes at Poway where she teaches U.S. history. The speakers provided insight into the events that led to the evacuation of Japanese Americans from the West Coast during World War II. They also shared their personal experiences during the evacuation and spoke on other events relevant to the Japanese American experience during the war.



Ben Segawa holds the attention of history students at Poway High School as other speakers wait their turn to speak

JAHSSD thanks Karen Kawasaki for the opportunity to speak to her students and others about the evacuation experience and for the delicious lunch she provided for the group.

On February 16, JAHSSD was invited to provide a panel of speakers at UCSD's Day of Remembrance which was sponsored by the **Nikkei Student Union (NSU)**. JAHSSD thanks the UCSD NSU and **Kelsey Wakasa**, chair of the DOR, for inviting the group.

JAHSSD always seeks volunteers to fill the need for speakers with first-hand knowledge of the Nikkei experience. We most often get asked to talk about internment, so we especially welcome former internees who can respond to questions about what camp was like. History becomes relevant when hearing from someone who lived it first-hand.

If you like to join the speakers bureau, please call Mich Himaka at (619)660-9865/e-mail keidan@cox.net or Yukio Kawamoto at (619)286-8203/e-mail yukkawa@cox.net.

Young Voice: REFLECTIONS on INTERNMENT CAMP SPEAKERS

On February 10, 2006, several JAHSSD members visited Poway High School and talked about their internment experience in the classrooms of U.S. History teachers Karen Kawasaki and Dave White. Speakers were Yuki and Mits Kawamoto, Ben and Grace Segawa, Vernon Yoshioka, Jim Yanagihara and Mich Himaka. Their visit prompted these thoughts from some of the students:

From the guest speakers I learned more than I would have from books. It was very interesting and sad to hear about how Pearl Harbor affected them...They were always wondering when they would be released and what their lives would be like when they were free again. For the children it was much easier and for some, fun. One thing that frustrated me was when one speaker said that his brother would be out fighting for the U.S. when his family was in camp. That is not fair for those who look like the enemy...It makes me very happy to hear them say that they are still American even after the way we treated them. Thank you for having them speak to us. I really learned a lot. ~Alyse

The presentation of the Japanese-American internees was much different than I expected. I thought they would mention how horrible it was, the life would be the worst you could think of. Instead, they mentioned they made friends and had fun. I know they didn't mean "it was fun and I would do it again," but it was fun for what they had...I liked how they brought pictures. I loved hearing them speak of their experiences. ~Mary

The things that I learned from the guest speakers were all the things that a person had to go through when discrimination goes on...People also lost their land forever and all the crops, if they were farmers. One other thing that I learned from these wonderful speakers was that when they were talking about their history, they spoke with a certain feeling like if they were there at that moment...America is made of every kind of people. ~Herman

Their experiences showed me to be happy with what I have and appreciate my life for all it's worth. My favorite part of their presentation was watching Ben [Segawa]. He was always laughing and it made me laugh too. All the speakers had wonderful stories that were exciting, sad, and funny. I appreciate them coming and I believe it will help me in my studies. ~Kayla

I learned that the Japanese-American troops were some of the best, but they didn't get recognition for their accomplishments. The Japanese Americans were easy targets because of the way they looked, as opposed to the German or Italian Americans. This was by far my favorite thing we have done this year. I loved listening to the guest speakers. ~Nick

In my opinion the guest speakers really put the internment camps into perspective. Sure we read about them in books, but you don't really understand the effects of them until you hear it from a person who really went through them...It is amazing that these speakers still show so much respect for American through everything they went through. I think all of them at one point in their talk said something about yeah the internment camps were horrible, but America has learned and I'm still proud to be an American. That shows a lot of character and pride for your country. ~Danielle

It was really cool because it wasn't one small paragraph in a book. It was a living history lesson. Mr. Segawa asserted that the Constitution had failed them as they each, in turn, told us about different aspects of the war and their own view as a Japanese American growing up in a chaos of xenophobia. ~Becca

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SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1975

BOB'S BUDDIES WALK FOR FIFTH STRAIGHT YEAR APRIL 30

Bob's Buddies will participate in the San Diego MS Walk in April, marking the fifth year JAHSSD's team will help raise money for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

The team is named for JAHSSD's treasured treasurer, **Bob Batchelder**, who participates every year, keeping team members from wandering off course by corralling them in with his motorized scooter!

Each year, the team has exceeded its previous record in total pledges, last year winning the Diamond Award by raising over \$11,000! This year the team is trying to raise a whopping \$12,000.

Co-captains **Mich Himaka** and **Carol Estes** will lead the pack which will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Embarcadero Marina Park. Everyone's welcome to become a Buddy and come on out for a morning of pleasant exercise and comradeship.

If you'd like to register to walk, call Carol at (619) 280-9418 or e-mail her at tabuchiasegawa@aol.com. If you are not able to join the team but would like to contribute to its efforts, please contact Mich or Carol who will welcome your pledge of support.

POSTON RESTORATION PROJECT UPDATE

Last January, **Ruth Okimoto** of Berkeley, California, provided an update on the **Poston Restoration Project** to the committee's team leaders. Among the information she shared was:

1. A meeting scheduled for February 18, 2006, to discuss the \$81,260 Historic Preservation Grant from the Arizona Heritage Fund was canceled. The grant was to be used to begin work on Phase One of the project. Unfortunately, the Arizona State grant included the issue of easement, a problem for the **CRIT Tribal Council** because it impacts the Tribe's sovereignty. The Council had to turn down the grant. Another meeting will be scheduled.

2. Fall 2005, the CRIT Tribal Council approved \$50,000 to fence and secure the Poston Camp I grounds. **Jon Villalobos** and the **Ahakhav Tribal Preserve** staff have completed installing the fencing. We thank them for this action.

3. The Poston Restoration Project is now an official non-profit organization. **Jay Cravath** and **Denis Viri** completed the lengthy paperwork and are working on getting an IRS number. The Arizona Corporation Commission approved the corporation called Poston Community Alliance, Inc. (PCA). The Poston Restoration Project falls under the umbrella of the PCA.

DEBRA M. KAWAHARA, PH.D.
LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST

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CELEBRATIONS!

Golden Anniversaries in 2006:

OSCAR and GRACE KODAMA ~ March 10

TOM and SUMI YANAGIHARA ~ Nov. 3

MOTOO and ANGIE TSUNEYOSHI ~ Nov. 27

Congratulations to KIRK IMAMURA, former San Diegan, who received the Charles Lamden Rising Star of Business Award in March. The award is given to recent graduates of SDSU's College of Business who "are on the fast track to becoming leaders in the business industry." Imamura worked for Sony in robotics system engineering and manufacturing equipment design. Now president of Avatar Studios and CEO of 441 Records in New York, he specializes in top quality jazz and blues recordings for clients like Eric Clapton and Norah Jones. His parents, RIO and TAMIKO IMAMURA, flew in from Kitakyushu, Japan, to watch Kirk receive his award.



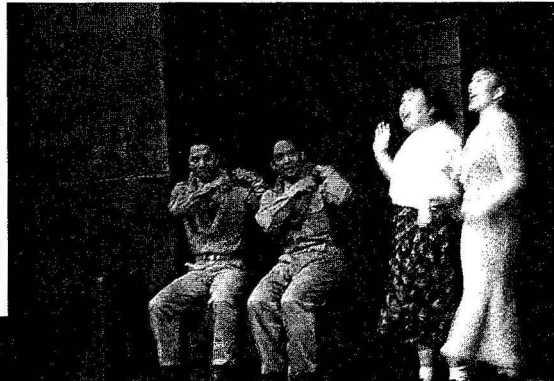
Our handsome friend, ROBERT SHIMAMOTO, celebrated his "Beiju," or 88th birthday, at the Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ in November of last year.

JAHSSD member, FLORENCE YAMASHITA, just happily celebrated her 93rd year.

~ HAPPY BIRTHDAY! ~

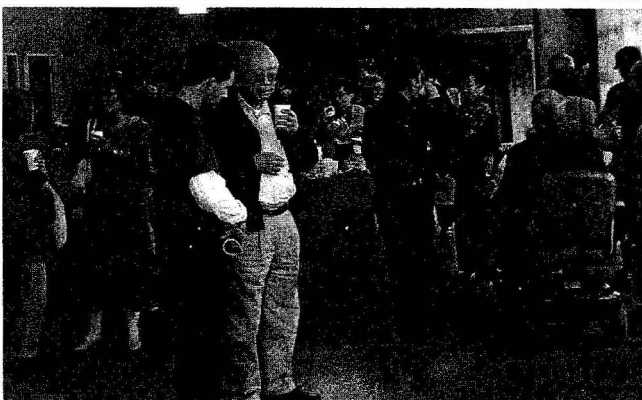


Above: Gwen Momita,
Local Committee Chair
Above right: Soji Kashiwagi,
Camp Dance Exec. Producer



COMMUNITY

**"CAMP DANCE: The
Music & the Memories"
Southwestern College
JAN. 28, 2006**



Above:
Mary Kageyama
Nomura, "Songbird
of Manzanar"



SNAPSHOTS

**DEAR MISS BREED National
Book Launch at the
S.D. Library
FEBRUARY 23, 2006**

Photos on the right:

(Left to right) Ben Segawa,
Karen Kawasaki, Jillian Kodama, Debra
Kodama, Librarian Lynn Whitehouse

Library Director Ann Tatar

JAHSSD President Mich Himaka

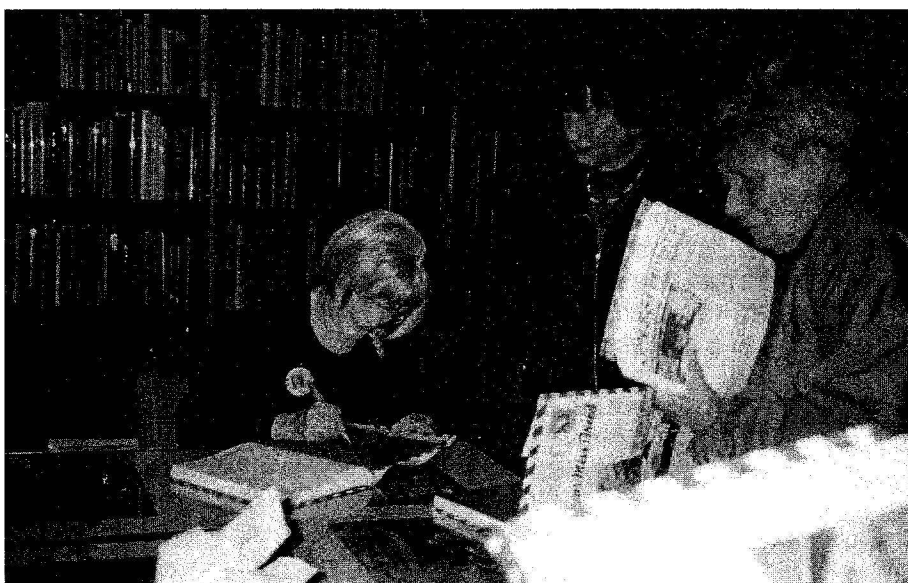
Grace Segawa, Bob Batchelder,
Mich Himaka, Gwen Momita



Above: Not an empty seat
in the auditorium!

Left: Jeanne Elyea, Liz
Yamada (center, one of
Miss Breed's pen pals) and
Ben Segawa as Liz signs
Ben's copy of the book

Below: Joanne Oppenheim
personalizes copies of
Dear Miss Breed she had
signed before the lecture

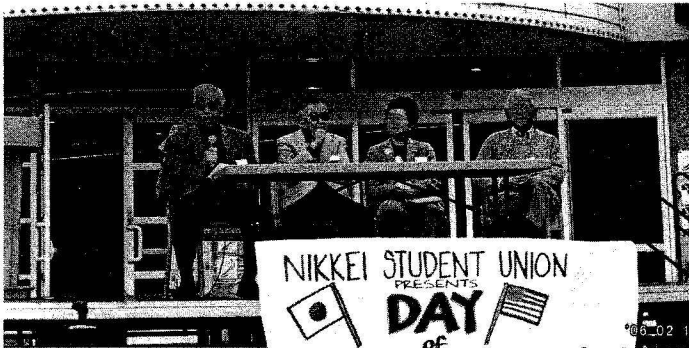


SUMMARY of SAN DIEGO'S 2006 DAY of REMEMBRANCE EVENTS

DOR at UCSD

On February 16, the University of California at San Diego Nikkei Student Union (NSU) observed the national Day of Remembrance to commemorate the day President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066. The order was signed February 19, 1942, authorizing the exclusion of Japanese Americans from the Pacific Coast.

Former Poston Camp III internees, **Yukio Kawamoto**, **Rev. Jim Yanagihara**, **Jeanne Elyea** and **Mich Himaka**, represented the JAHSSD as panelists, recounting their Poston III experience.



Mich Himaka, Jim Yanagihara, Jeanne Elyea and Yuki Kawamoto were a panel of former Poston Camp internees at UCSD's DOR events

leader of the Fair Play Committee in camp, led the protest against the draft of internees; **John Tateishi**, National Executive Director of the JACL; and **Tad Nakamura**, coordinator of UCLA's Center for Ethno Communications.



Mits Kawamoto (foreground left) snaps a photo of Yuki Kawamoto, Mich Himaka, Kelsey Wakasa, Jeanne Elyea and Jim Yanagihara. As Cultural Chairperson of the Nikkei Student Union, Kelsey organized this year's DOR events at UCSD

DOR at SDSU

John Tateishi also addressed a gathering that same evening at San Diego State University's DOR event which featured the screening of the 2005 film, *Stand Up for Justice: The Ralph Lazo Story*. Lazo, a Los Angeles-born Mexican American, chose to join his Japanese American friends being evacuated to places unknown rather than to be left behind in his Boyle Heights neighborhood. He spent the duration of the war at Manzanar Camp. The film director and members of the cast and crew were present at the event which was co-sponsored by the SDSU Cross-Cultural Center and the San Diego Chapter of the JACL.

2006 SAN DIEGO DAY of REMEMBRANCE

The San Diego City Council, at the urging of Councilmember **Jim Madaffer**, adopted a proclamation on February 21, 2006, declaring the date the *2006 San Diego Day of Remembrance*.

JAHSSD President **Mich Himaka** accepted the proclamation on behalf of JAHSSD and the Japanese American community.

Along with **Anna Tatar**, Library Director, Mich invited council members to the February 23 launch of the book, *Dear Miss Breed*, about the correspondence between the beloved former San Diego Children's Librarian, **Clara Breed**, and the incarcerated Japanese American youngsters she had befriended during the pre-war years.

Mich's acceptance is below.

2006 DAY OF REMEMBRANCE PROCLAMATION ACCEPTANCE

by Mich Himaka

On February 21, 2006, the San Diego City Council unanimously passed a proclamation by Councilmember Jim Madaffer declaring the date "2006 San Diego Day of Remembrance" to mark local Day of Remembrance (DOR) observances. (The National DOR marks the signing of Executive Order 9066 in February 19, 1942, which egregiously suspended basic civil liberties for Japanese Americans and forcibly incarcerated more than 120,000 citizens and legal aliens alike into U.S. internment camps during World War II.) President Mich Himaka accepted the proclamation on behalf of JAHSSD and made the following remarks.

Council President Peters, Mr. Madaffer, Honorable Councilmembers, Ms. Heumann, and with regards to Mr. Aguirre, whom I've known for many years:

On behalf of the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego, I thank you and accept this proclamation honoring our community's observance of what it calls, "The Day of Remembrance."

As the proclamation states, it commemorates the presidential order issued 64 years ago that caused some 120,000 Japanese Americans to be uprooted from their homes along the West Coast.

Two thirds of us were American citizens, born and raised in the U.S.A., and the rest were legal aliens who by law were denied the right to even apply for citizenship.

Unfortunately, the people who most deserve this recognition are gone. That would be the Isseis, our parents, the first generation of Japanese who settled in the U.S., some of them as long ago as the late 1800s. In the time they lived here, they twice had to start anew in their adopted homeland—once when they first came to the U.S. and again after the war ended.

Some of them sent their sons into combat during World War II in France, Italy and Germany while they remained behind barbed wire fences that surrounded their relocation centers. Many of those sons made the ultimate sacrifice. Those sons distinguished themselves serving with the segregated 442nd Regimental Combat Team, which emerged as the most decorated U.S. Army unit of its size in history. Others served with non-segregated units. Others served in the Pacific Theater with the Military Intelligence Service as interpreters and interrogators. Many of them were San Diegans, many of them earned multiple Purple Heart medals.

A few years ago, twenty of the 442nd members were honored at the White House when Congress reviewed Distinguished Service Crosses awarded them and upgraded them to Congressional Medals of Honor. That occurred some 60 years after the fact of their heroism.

This past week, Japanese American students at the University of California at San Diego and San Diego State (Continued on Page 15)

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE PROCLAMATION *continued from Page 14*

University observed the Day of Remembrance with special programs.

The observance concludes Thursday, Feb. 23, at 6 p.m. with our Society and the San Diego Public Library co-sponsoring the official introduction of a new book honoring the memory of the much-beloved Clara Breed. Miss Breed was the pre-war librarian of the San Diego Children's Library.

The book, *Dear Miss Breed*, was written of Joanne Oppenheim and published by Scholastic Publications. It is based on correspondence exchanged between Miss Breed and Japanese American youngsters she befriended when they visited her at the library for many years.

When some 2,000 Japanese Americans in San Diego were ordered to report to the Santa Fe Depot on April 8, 1942, Miss Breed was there to see us off. She handed those youngsters she recognized stamped and addressed postcards urging them to write to her and to stay in touch. In return for their postcards, Miss Breed would send them books that had been taken off the library shelves and facing disposal, or writing material or magazines.

For all of us, Miss Breed's was the lone voice in the dark speaking out publicly against the evacuation. She offered encouragement where there was none. The book relates the love those letter writers had for her and she for them. Some of those letter writers are here and I would ask them to stand and be recognized.

Miss Breed was a breed apart. She was a friend who never forgot us. She was a welcome sight for us when we left San Diego and a welcome sight when we returned, a friendly face to always remember.

I invite all of you to join us for the release of this new book, honoring one of your former City employees. Again, this will be at 6 p.m. Thursday at the Downtown Library.

Ms. Anna Tatar, Library Director, has provided a copy of the new book for each of you. Also a copy of our newsletter, *Footprints*, has been provided to each of you.

I thank you again and apologize for taking so much of your time.

The archived telecast of Mich's presentation can be viewed on the City's website, http://granicus.sandiego.gov/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=3. Click on CITY COUNCIL - Tuesday Feb 21 and again on VIEW VIDEO. On the pull-down menu below the screen, select ITEM 32: S.D. Day of Remembrance.

SNOW AND WINTER SOLSTICE

by Rio Imamura

Snow covering from Hokkaido to Kyushu on this winter solstice day in Japan. Shivering cold outside.

My Toastmaster friend in Taiwan e-mailed that she just prepared warm rice dumpling soup. Their traditional custom is to place it before the tablets of the deceased on the winter solstice. She said it's cold also in Taiwan.

She asked what we customarily do in Japan. I can't answer off the cuff, so I looked up the 'net and found we Japanese usually do two things. One, eat pumpkins. Two, take a hot bath with citrons afloat.

Why we do this? Pumpkins in Japanese are *kabocha* but are also called *nankin*. The suffix "n" is related to the Japanese *un* which is luck.

Similarly, citrons in Japanese are *yuzu*, which is associated with another word *yuuzuu*, which means "accommodating."

People who follow the tradition will be healthier and luckier for the New Year, free from money troubles and health problems.

Should you believe it?

Yes, you should! Let's think positively for tomorrow.

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

by Fran Watanabe

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

Down the North Shore

For some reason unbeknownst to me, my parents left the employ of the Seizes and accepted a position with Dr. and Mrs. Ellsworth Faris in Lake Forest, Illinois, located about five miles north of Highland Park. Dr. Faris was a professor emeritus with the University of Chicago and lived in a two-story house situated on a large lot. I was saddened to leave my newly-found friends, but Terry promised we would keep in touch.

I started Lake Forest High School midyear of my sophomore year. But this time I adjusted easily to the new high school, as I had gained confidence in myself while in Highland Park and I remembered how I had overcome my earlier feelings of inadequacy and loneliness there. As promised, Terry often came to Lake Forest, and I also made friends at this new school.

After a short time at the Faris home, my parents moved again, to the McGibeny residence just down the road. I don't know for certain, but I believe this change was facilitated by my friendship with Rica Owen, a student at the high school. Rica's mother was heir to a thriving restaurant business in Chicago and lived on a large estate. Mrs. McGibeny was looking for a cook and housekeeper, and it was probably Rica who told her mother about my parents. And no doubt a better salary was an inducement for the change.

My parents attended to their jobs at the McGibeny residence with vim and vigor. Because the McGibeny's entertained a lot, Mom and Dad were kept busy. But on their days off, they would borrow the car and drive into the city. There they visited old friends from San Diego days who had settled in Chicago after leaving camp, and they also attended church. I often accompanied them into town which I considered a special outing. My father seemed especially happy with the beauty of the Midwest.

Life in the McGibeny home with this family was the happiest for me as a teenager. Rica and I were the best of friends, and although my parents worked for Mrs. McGibeny, she treated us almost like members of her family. As an example, for Christmas she invited us to join her family in the music room/study to open our presents together. I was free to invite my friends to the house (Terry was a frequent visitor) and on occasion have parties or get-togethers when the McGibeny's were away. And when Rica had a debutante coming-out party at the local country club, guess who she invited to attend? She even gave me one of her long gowns to wear to the occasion.

During the summer, I worked taking care of young children in town and doing light housework. One summer I earned enough money to buy myself a bicycle with which to go school and visit friends. Since many of my friends belonged to the Lake Forest Presbyterian Church, I started church attendance with them. Gradually I joined the church choir and at one time represented the young people's group at a Presbyterian retreat. Teenage parties, dances at the high school, football and basketball games all provided carefree, happy years; and the memories of camp life began to fade into the distance.

If I remember correctly, Rica left high school during her senior year to go to Grinnell College in Iowa. I graduated from high school in

(Continued on Page 20)

Young Voice: CAMP DANCE WAS AN INSPIRATION

by Kelsey Wakasa

I greatly appreciated and absolutely loved "Camp Dance: The Music and The Memories." It was incredibly heart-warming, educational, and fun! The few times my grandparents talked about the camps, it was always on a serious and educational note. However, "Camp Dance" really changed my mindset about the internment camps and the Japanese American community. It showed me how strong the community is and how, despite times of intense racism, the Japanese Americans still found a way to laugh, enjoy, and live life to the fullest.

I am the Cultural Chairperson for the Nikkei Student Union at UC San Diego and one of the events I am responsible for is Day of Remembrance, which is a day dedicated to those 120,000 Japanese Americans interned in the camps after Executive Order 9066. After watching "Camp Dance," I added swing dancing into the program as an icebreaker because I wanted to portray the lightness and hope of the Japanese youth during the camps.

It was so inspiring to see the youth go on with optimism and laughter. What was even more inspiring was that those youth were people like my grandparents, aunts, uncles and family friends. My grandma and uncle still take dance lessons and have a true passion for swing. I never understood why, but now I know that they had to resort to events such as these dances to keep their spirits high in camp.

"Camp Dance" was truly touching and heart-warming because it was so easy to relate to. Everyone, no matter how old or young, can relate to situations like being nervous around your crush, or to the awkward moments at dances. I am sure it evoked happy memories for every person in that auditorium. Therefore, it was not just an experience which those interned could relate to. It was an experience that every human being could relate to.

"Camp Dance" did an excellent job explaining the history, while keeping it entertaining at the same time. The actors were incredibly talented and it was a joy to see so many Asian actors involved in the community!

I thoroughly enjoyed "The Camp Dance" and I would highly recommend anyone and everyone to see it! If I could, I would definitely see it again and take everyone I know with me!

Young Voice: THANK YOU FOR CAMP DANCE!

JAMIE SHIMIZU*, San Diego State University:

The "Camp Dance" musical was such a delight to see, especially for a person in my age group because it showed me a part of my family's history that I never knew much about. This musical was both an educational and pleasurable experience in my perspective, and I'm sure the same goes for many others who viewed it.

It was a very emotional show, but at the same time there were funny, serious, and playful parts to it. The way that these elements were equally incorporated made it more interesting, in my point of view, and ended up being a great show. The songs were oldies but goodies as well. I found myself tapping my foot, and enjoying each one of them.

The singing was more than great; the actors and actresses did a wonderful job in portraying real life characters in this unforgettable event in United States history.

Overall, this was a successful musical in my eyes. I was overwhelmed with how much emotion that came from the musical as well as myself. It may have happened a long time ago, but it still goes on through each generation, and that is what amazes me.

I would be more than happy if the cast could come down to San Diego again and perform, because I know I wouldn't mind seeing it again.

**Jamie is a 2005 graduate of Mount Miguel High and currently a freshman at SDSU. She is the daughter of Gordon and Arlene (Tsuneyoshi) Shimizu and granddaughter of Motoo and Angie Tsuneyoshi. Jamie also is the granddaughter of the late Paul and Emi (Himaka) Shimizu.*

REIMI WOO, San Diego Japanese Christian Church:

Thank you very much for allowing us to be able to see "Camp Dance," it was wonderful!! It really lets you know what the Japanese went through and how they had good times and bad times. If I could see it again I would and I would try to bring friends to see it to because it was really good and it makes you think.

Thank you again and I hope to see it again!!

JILLIAN KODAMA, Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ:

The musical "Camp Dance" is based on how many people in internment camps went to the camp dances to get away from the all of the craziness.

In the musical there were many tales from the journals of the Japanese Americans who were there... [which] gave many people, along with myself, a look into how it felt to be there.

The play featured many high school stereotypes, such as the popular kids and the nerds. The props and the script were very realistic, and it made it more believable. But for me the thing that made it the most realistic was the clothes, they really made it seem like the clothing from that time period.

All of the songs were in the musical were all of the biggest hits from the [40s]. From the play I learned many things, such as all of the regular happening at a camp dance, and how my grandparents really lived there for a part of their lives.

STEVE SHIMIZU, University of California San Diego:

Thank you for letting those from the Nikkei Student Union attend the Camp Dance performance. Although I was well below the average age of those attending, I could see that there are not many differences across the generations. We both have felt the same emotions of love, fear and embarrassment, but that generation had to live through a period of unfounded national reprisal.

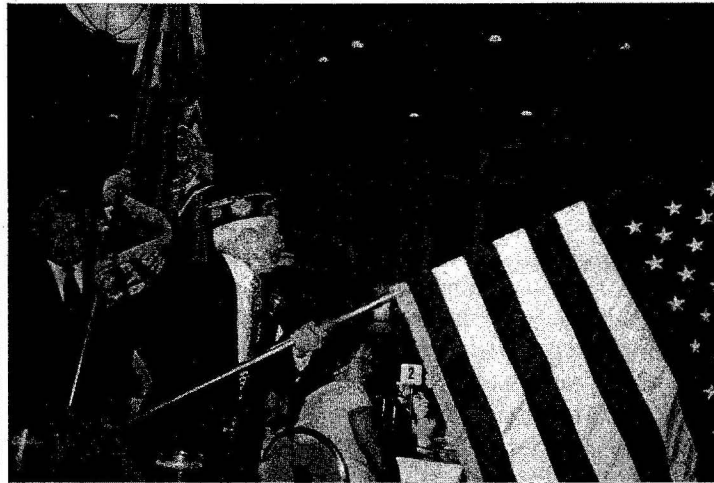
Reflecting on the performance and how many of them tried to make the best out of their situation, I realized that I am near the age of those depicted in the performance. These are not insignificant times for those of my generation. It is my turn to make the best of every situation, whether good or bad, significant or insignificant. Bitterness accomplishes nothing, but joy brings peace and gives an example to future generations.

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!

COMMUNITY SNAPSHOTS

JACL NIKKEI VETERANS APPRECIATION LUNCHEON, Doubletree Hotel, NOV. 15, 2005



Above center: Roy Muraoka and James Yamate present colors
Left: Mistress of Ceremonies Marianne Kushi; Right: Caitlin Baker



Above left: Robert Ito

Above center: Mildred and Paul Yasuhara,
Ruth and Kaz Kiyono

Above right: David Kawamoto,
San Diego JACL Chapter President

Left: Shokenji Taiko

Right: Masayo Norikura (koto), John Kaisan
Neptune (shakuhachi), Takao Naoi (guitar)



WE GET LETTERS & E-MAIL

Dear Ben and Grace,

As I look back at the *Footprints* of year 2005, I see several impressions that will leave deep imprints in the sand of time that not even the tide of time will wash away.

You and many of my friends will leave a treasure that will be cherished by our community as long as we teach our children to be proud of our heritage.

I am so proud and grateful to all of you who give so much time and effort to the community. This note is my way of thanking you for making it possible for me to practice medicine in a community that was once very hostile to people of our ethnic background.

We each have a niche in life. Yours is to serve the community with your talents and dedication, and mine is to keep you healthy. However, life throws obstacles in our paths, and our footprints sometimes become blurred. But with the help of God, we straighten out the path.

In health, as in life, there are things we cannot change, but we sure can control them—like diabetes, hypertension, and the color of our eyes and skin cannot be changed, but we sure can control them.

Witness what you are doing today with the prejudice that prevailed against the Japanese only a few years ago. The prejudice still exists, but we sure have changed it so that people don't call me by the three letter word that makes my blood boil.

So with much "aloha" in our hearts, I extend our "mahalo" to all of you from the Tanaka family.

Sincerely,
Francis Tanaka
Bonita, California

Dear Mich and Naomi,

Just want to let you both know that we really enjoyed the show [Camp Dance] very much. You and the rest of the committee did a super job of bringing this show together. For the price we paid for the tickets, we got a steal for the super entertainment we got. This is one time I am glad you talked me into buying the tickets.

Thanks again, and a job well done.

John and Tsune Hashiguchi
San Diego

Dear JAHSSD:

On the behalf of the San Diego Jr. YBA, we would like to thank you for your generous donations [of Camp Dance tickets]. Because of you, we were able to learn and become more appreciative about our ancestors' past camp experience. Thank you!

Elysa, Brent Fuchigami, Erik Sumida, Lauren Nakamura, Caitlin Baker, Isaac Martinez, Kevin Fujii, Luke Matsumoto, Bryant Shimizu, Alex Torio, Kevin Lee, Carissa, Cheva Kinoshita, Carol Taira, Sara Matsumoto, and LuAnn Lee, Advisor

JAHSSD,

Thank you so much for allowing us to go to this great performance. "Camp Dance" was a great musical which gave me insights into the pain and shame that the Japanese were forced to go through during this bleak period in American history.

Thanks for reminding us to not let this happen again with another people who are deemed of questionable loyalty because of their peoples' responses in the midst of world events. Thanks also for enlightening me and helping me to imagine how this tragedy in the Japanese community had moments of joy as well.

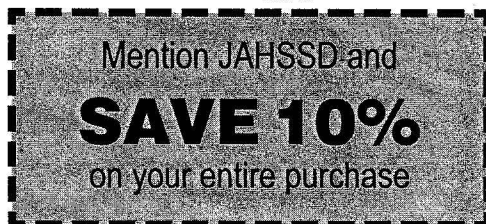
(Continued on Page 19)

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WE GET LETTERS & E-MAIL continued from Page 18

I can definitely see how "we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" has become true through the beautiful relationships that developed in the camps.

Brent King, Youth Pastor
S.D. Japanese Christian Church

Dear Joyce,

Thank you...for assigning one page for Dr. Phillips' Memorial Service with photos [Winter 2005 Issue]. So Mike Inoue chaired the service. You could have found me in the back row if I were living in San Diego.

I saw Lane Nishikawa's photo on Page 19. Glad to see that Kyo-cera sponsored his film "Only the Brave" screening. His father and I worked together for many years, you know.

I think I heard of the new Rev. Honda, about the same age with my daughter, who went to Hale Junior and Madison High. And now finally the book of Miss Breed to come out. I saw Dick Davis' photo, too.

I like the "Journey to the U.S." by Fran Watanabe and cannot wait for the next *Footprints*.

Rio Imamura
Kitakyushu, Japan

DEAR FRIENDS,

Thank you so much for the warm welcome that the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego gave to *Dear Miss Breed*. Launching the book in Clara's own library was a dream come true. Having many of the correspondents there at the program on Thursday evening made it a night to treasure in the memory of all who participated in making this book happen. That night felt like a family party!

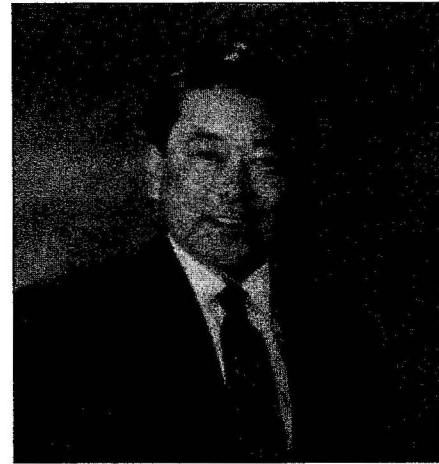
I think Clara would have been happy to see how diverse the audience was and how her own beliefs have been embraced. Several people in San Diego have mentioned that they would like to see *Dear Miss Breed* become a "One City One Book" event in the future. That would be wonderful. I do believe that this is a story not just about the Japanese American Community nor just about San Diego, but about all of us.

Thanks to everyone who worked on the exhibit and reception on Thursday night. I wish we had more [time] to visit with everyone. Thanks to Ben & Grace Segawa for going on tour to the high schools with me. My only regret is that in my list of thanks I did not mention the one person who was missing and who deserved my thanks for all that he did to help with my never ending questions! That of course, is Don Estes. I will have to come back to S.D. and do another program so I can give him the public thanks he deserves! My apologies to Carol, who was on my long list, but in the excitement of the moment, did not get read!

By the way, thanks to a contact that Anna Tatar made, a review and feature story will appear in *USA Today* on March 14th. So, Clara Breed is well on her way to the stardom that Anna and I know she deserves. I trust this will be good for the San Diego Public Library, as well.

With thanks,
Joanne Oppenheim
New York, N.Y.

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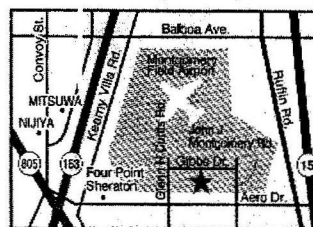
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QUESTIONED LOYALTIES: JAHSSD Proposes Traveling Exhibition

Plans are underway for a new traveling exhibit that will involve area high school students in its planning and development. Tentatively titled "Questioned Loyalties," the exhibit will explore both the similarities and differences in the experience of young people who were World War II internees and those of young people from San Diego's Arab American community after September 11, 2001.

The project is the brainchild of Board members Susan Hasegawa, Christina Pierson, and Linda Canada. Funding is being sought from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP), which funded JAHSSD's video project, *Democracy Under Pressure*, completed in 2000. The JAHSSD Board approved submission of a grant application at its February meeting. Development of the exhibit depends on the grant being awarded to JAHSSD.

The project as conceived involves several steps: (1) planning meetings with youth who will learn how to create an exhibit, conduct oral interviews, gather materials for display, and do the time management and record-keeping that grant organizations require; (2) working meetings with the youth, former internees, and members of the Arab American community; (3) fabrication sessions where the exhibit materials will be prepared for display; and (4) activities in support of exhibition of the finished product.

If funded, the active period of the grant will run from June 2006 through the following June. The exhibit would make its debut at the 2006 Annual Meeting and then be displayed at venues throughout the County, including the San Diego Historical Society, UCSD, the Congress of History annual conference, the San Diego Community College, and the Imperial Valley Pioneer Museum.

JOURNEY to the U.S. continued from Page 15

June 1947 and started Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, the following September. After graduating from Highland Park High School, Terry also applied to Northwestern and was accepted.

It was while I was in college that my parents moved again, this time to Winnetka, another suburb just north of Evanston, this time to work for the Greenfield family. We lived in quarters situated above the large garage which was separate from the main house, giving us the type of privacy we did not have in the previous residences. My father often went to Miami, Florida, with the Greenfield family on their vacations, while Mom and I stayed in Winnetka.

It was while we were living in Winnetka that my mother had her first stroke. It was a minor one which caused amnesia for a short period of time. Fortunately, she regained her memory, and there were no lingering or outward signs of a stroke, mental or physical. This was the first illness of either parent that I can recall.

Around this time (1947 or 1948) a new electronic gadget called the TV came onto the market. Arnold built for us a compact TV from a Heath kit. Since the black and white picture appeared on a small 5- or 7-inch screen, Arnold bought a magnifying-type glass especially made for TVs to place in front of the screen to enlarge the picture. I recall the many hours we spent in front of this wondrous invention, marveling at the many entertaining programs being beamed into our home. Of course these productions were very crude compared to the highly polished slick programs of today, but I remember how thrilled we were with this new toy!

(Around this time, I learned that after my Watanabe grandfather passed away in November 1945, my grandmother pleaded with my father to return to Japan. The war was over but I am sure life there was very harsh and difficult. However, my father had been living in this country for 40 years and now had a family whom he wanted to raise in America. It must have been an emotional decision for him to make, torn between his obligations to his family in Japan and to his immediate family in this country. I do not know how he handled this matter, but needless to say he did not return to Japan.)

Next issue: Re-establishing the American Dream

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Author Maxine Hong Kingston (left), Michael Okuma, Susan Moribe and Aki Tomiyama at San Diego State University, February 21, 2006. Kingston made a rare San Diego visit to talk about her latest work, *The Fourth Book of Peace*, as part of the Hugh Hyde reading series. The twice-a-year readings are made possible by the Laurie Okuma Memorial Fund, named for Okuma's late wife, who was a writer and creative writing instructor at SDSU. 2006 marks the ninth year the Memorial Fund has sponsored the popular reading series.

MULTI-CAMP REUNION PLANNED IN SEPTEMBER 2006

A committee consisting of former internees of several World War II internment camps has announced plans for a multi-camp get-together this fall. The reunion is scheduled for September 22 and 23 in Sacramento.

Because reunions of the individual camps are attended by fewer people each successive time, some organizers are considering ending them altogether. So Chuck Kubokawa (interned at Topaz) thought a casual get-together with no formal dinner or speaker, reasonably priced, might appeal to those who would appreciate a chance to renew old friendships in a "fun-type social event."

Internees of Amache, Poston, Topaz and Tule Lake centers are invited, although those who were in other camps are more than welcome to attend.

The reunion package would include Friday afternoon arrival, buffet dinner/mixer (day one) and all-day Saturday activities, lunch and dinner (day two).

If you are interested in attending the gathering, fill out the pre-registration form below as soon as possible and mail it in. The organizers need to get an idea how many might participate. Detailed information and a registration form will be sent to you by the organizers in May.

MULTI-CAMP GET TOGETHER PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Yes, I am/we are interested in attending.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

No. of persons _____

Your Camp(s) and Block No. _____

Your comments and suggestions: _____

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MOHAVELAND AVAILABLE AGAIN

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

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

An article on *Mohaveland* and some sample pages from the book appeared in the Winter 2005 Issue of *Footprints*.

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

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

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FROM THE JAHSSD ARCHIVES...



Lillian Yuriko Kawasaki (left) and Mary Mariko (Yanagihara) Tanizaki enjoy books on the steps of the San Diego Childrens Library. This is where Librarian Clara Breed came to know many of the Japanese American kids who were to be evacuated from San Diego soon after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. It was commonplace for children attending Lincoln School to stop at the library to drop off and check out books on their way home. This charming photo from our archives was probably taken in the late 1930s.

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WHAT'S INSIDE THE SPRING ISSUE



PAGE 8: The JAHSSD-sponsored January performance of **CAMP DANCE: The Music & The Memories** was a sell-out and a huge success!

PAGE 17: Journalist Marianne Kushi (left) hosted last November's first-ever luncheon honoring San Diego's Japanese American veterans.

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