

# FOOTPRINTS

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

## Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego



JAHSSD volunteer Michael Roussin (center) earned his Eagle Scout badge by mounting a special photographic exhibit at Kiku Gardens featuring local Japanese American history. Sharing his proud moment at the June 2007 ceremony (from left) are Carol Estes, Linda Canada, Naomi Himaka and Mich Himaka.

### "DEAR MISS BREED": Theatrical Version of Local Story Debuts in San Diego

by Lynn Whitehouse and Joyce Teague

The City of San Diego Public Library and the Asian Story Theater (AST) is presenting a stage adaptation of the book *Dear Miss Breed* by Joanne Oppenheim. The play will make its debut at the Lyceum Space Theater at Horton Plaza from Sunday, September 16 through Sunday, September 30.

The play is based on wartime correspondence that San Diego Public Librarian **Clara Breed** maintained with over two dozen young San Diegans of Japanese American descent, evacuated with their families to a remote desert concentration camp during World War II. Miss Breed, as she was known, kept every letter written to her by "her children" ages 5 through 19 who were first taken to the Santa Anita assembly center and eventually to barbed wire-enclosed camps near Poston, Arizona.

Their letters captured the frustration and perseverance of these young Americans as they wrote to their beloved librarian about a range of subjects, from homesickness and the quality of the food in camp to worries about relocation and their deeply patriotic hopes for a speedy American victory. It was not until late in her life that Miss Breed's letters and many of the clippings that document her relationship with her friends in the San Diego Japanese American community were given to San Diego's **Elizabeth Yamada**, among the youngest of the letter writers, and subsequently donated to the **Japanese American National Museum** in Los Angeles. When author Oppenheim stumbled upon them while doing research, they inspired her award-winning book which was published in 2006.

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- SEPT. 8 – JAHSSD “HOME GROWN”** exhibition closes, Bonita Museum and Cultural Center
- SEPT. 14 – TERRY MATSUOKA** (10:40 pm), S.D. Music Awards Acoustic Festival, Claire de Lune (Univ. Ave near 30th) to hear S.D.'s top acoustic acts. \$10
- SEPT. 15 – JAHSSD Board meeting** (8:15 am), Austin Archives
- SEPT. 16-30 – “DEAR MISS BREED,”** play by Joanne Oppenheim/Asian Story Theatre, Lyceum Theater in Horton Plaza. Box office: 619/544-1000
- SEPT. 16 – FALL OHIGAN SERVICE** (10 am), BTSD
- SEPT. 16 – POVUCC SHOTGUN GOLF TOURNAMENT** (1 pm), Vineyard Golf Course
- SEPT. 20 – JAHSSD NIGHT at “Dear Miss Breed”** (7 pm), Lyceum Theater. \$10 admission is JAHSSD fundraiser only when purchased in advance from JAHSSD or Zenbu. 619/660-0174 or 619/527-7855
- SEPT. 22 – POVUCC CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION**, Catamaran Hotel
- SEPT. 23 – POVUCC 100th ANNIV. CELEBRATION SERVICE** (10 am), luncheon. RSVP 619/276-4881
- SEPT. 23 – ZENBU PLAY DAY at “Dear Miss Breed”** (2 pm), Lyceum Theater. \$10 admission is JAHSSD fundraiser only when purchased in advance from JAHSSD or Zenbu. 619/660-0174 or 619/527-7855
- SEPT. 28 – VFW-BTSD BINGO** (Friday, 6-9 pm), BTSD Annex Hall. 619/239-0896. \$10 buy-in
- OCT. 6 – 15th Annual JAHSSD LUNCHEON MEETING** (11 am), BTSD Annex Hall. Free program, reserve bento by Sept. 28. 619/690-1151
- OCT. 11-18 – SAN DIEGO ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL**, Mission Valley Ultra Star Cinemas, Hazard Center
- OCT. 12 – NAT’L PARK SERVICE COMMUNITY SEMINAR** (3-5 pm), BTSD. Info: 206/320-0095
- OCT. 20 – 3rd Annual SAN DIEGO DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL** (9am-5pm), Playa Pacifica, Mission Bay Park. Asian food and entertainment. [www.s Dalliance.org](http://www.s Dalliance.org)
- OCT. 21 – MUSIC & FOOD FESTIVAL** (11-4 pm), BTSD. Musical performances, food favorites, silent auction. 619/239-0896
- OCT. 27 – VFW-BTSD BINGO** (6-9 pm), BTSD Annex Hall. 619/239-0896. \$10 buy-in
- NOV. 11 – JACL TEA TASTING** (2 pm), John Yato Studio, \$10. RSVP by Nov. 5. 619/230-0314
- NOV. 24 – VFW-BTSD BINGO** (6-9 pm), BTSD Annex Hall. 619/239-0896. \$10 buy-in
- DEC. 16 – MOCHITSUKI** (all day), BTSD. Community participation invited; mochi for sale. 619/239-0896
- DEC. 16 – OBON AGAIN SHOP HOLIDAY GIFT SALE** (10 am-2 pm), BTSD Sangha Hall. 619/527-7855

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

by Mich Himaka

As my third year filling this corner comes rapidly to a close, I'm sorry to note that we are losing a few members of our Board of Directors. **Susan Hasegawa**, **Vernon Yoshioka** and **Naomi Himaka** have asked to leave for various reasons.

Susan has taken on additional duties as a history department head at San Diego City College. Vernon's health has caused him to voluntarily leave the Board at year's end. **Noriko Inoue's** status as a Board member remains undetermined at this moment. As a mother of two young children and the operator of a website business, Noriko leads a busy life. However, she has agreed to maintain the JAHSSD website and keep it updated as she has done in the past. Our membership chairperson, **Naomi Himaka**, also has asked to be relieved of those duties and replaced on the Board as soon as we can find a replacement. Our long-time treasurer, **Bob Batchelder**, also has asked to be relieved of his duties but there is a good chance we might have a replacement for him soon.

**Gwen Momita** will serve this coming year as president with **Christina Pierson** serving as vice president.

What I'm pleading for is new people to volunteer to serve on our Board. A new look on our board will do wonders for us. It doesn't matter how long you've lived in San Diego or whether or not you were in internment camps during World War II. What we need are people who are interested in history—our history.

We keep receiving artifacts from our members and friends for which we are most grateful. For instance, we recently received a scrapbook from **Mary Yamada** with a collection of Poston III High School memorabilia that her late husband, **Dr. Henry (Hank) Yamada**, had collected and kept from his camp days. The items, mainly camp dance tickets, dance cards, and photos of old friends, are priceless.

We recently received from **Fumie Ohara** a box of cut and polished and unpolished rocks collected and brought back from Poston III by her late mother-in-law, **Mrs. Buemon Ohara**.

We received from **Liz Yamada** a sign that was made by the Poston III sign department in camp which hung over the Christian Church building in Block 329.

Liz also gave us a photo taken in August 1941, shortly after her family moved to San Diego. Her father, the late **Rev. Kenji Kikuchi**, became the pastor of the church and helped his congregation make the move into the internment camp at Poston III.

You will recognize some very familiar faces are in that photograph. So you see, it's not a matter of just knowing a few people in town, it's *getting to know them* that's important. (Yep, just like that song from *The King and I*.)

Volunteering does not mean you're stuck in the job you volunteered to do. I've been doing this for over 15 years now after being recruited by **Ben Segawa** and I can tell you it's been a fun ride. I can't say I plan to stay on the Board forever but I would like to take a brief rest after my term is up this year and after we complete the **Poston III Reunion** next April.

Both jobs have taken a toll on me but I'll survive. I thank people like **Bob Batchelder**, **Rev. Jim Yanagihara**, **Yukio Kawamoto**, **Masato Asakawa**, **Gary Hamada**, **Liz and Joe Yamada**, **Aya Ibarra**, **Jeanne Elyea**, **Grace and Mas Tsuida**, **Bubbles Shimasaki**, **Parker Uda**, **Pauline and Sam Nakamura**, **Po and Amy Kaneyuki**, **John Hashiguchi**, **Tom Ozaki**, **Arnold Seko**, **Jodie Karamoto**, **So Yamada**, **Taka and Beverly Sawasaki**, **Joyce and Bill Teague**, **Linda Canada**, **Carol Estes**, **John Asakawa**, **Jean**

(Continued on Page 3)



(PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued from Page 2)

(DEAR MISS BREED continued from Page 1)

**Fujisaki, Joe Karamoto, Steve Sato** and my wife, **Naomi**. If I left anyone off the list, I apologize. The point is they are all volunteers.

Recognize those names? Volunteers, every one. And most of them keep coming out to help put this **Poston III Reunion** together. Uh, okay, some of us keep coming out because the refreshments are so good but that's okay. They're all volunteers. Get the picture?

So think about it, please. We need new blood. Young people, old people, middle aged people. We need volunteers!

Thank you all for putting up with my nonsense these past three years.

And a big thanks to those Board members who are leaving at the end of the year. We, the entire membership, appreciate all you've done to keep this organization going on an even keel.

## JAHSSD TO CELEBRATE 15th YEAR

The Historical Society's annual membership meeting will take place October 6 at 11:00 a.m. at the Buddhist Temple's Annex Hall. A capacity crowd of members and friends is expected to applaud our 2007 Kansha Awardees and help celebrate our 15<sup>th</sup> year.

In fact, "**Celebration**" (*Iwai*) is this year's theme. JAHSSD will celebrate both its special anniversary as well as two exemplary community volunteers.

It's hard to believe 15 years have passed since a handful of dedicated folks decided it was time to actively begin preserving the history of San Diego's Japanese American community. Historian **Don Estes** and his wife **Carol Hasegawa Estes** had been conducting and transcribing interviews and collecting historic photographs for many years, but there had been no local support of these efforts. By 1992, most Issei pioneers (first-generation immigrants) had died and most of the Nisei had settled into retirement, content to watch their children become the community leaders and their grandchildren go off to college. It seemed the last thing people were thinking about was history.

The **Hundred-Year Road** exhibition at the San Diego History Museum in 1991 changed all that. When the call went out that materials were needed to illustrate San Diego's Nikkei history, the overwhelming response made it clear that people had been saving items from their families' past—farming and fishing implements now unused and rusting, army uniforms and service medals, sepia-toned family photographs, art and crafts made in internment camps—which graphically represented the past experiences of this small community. These items and the stories behind them also confirmed the influence of the Nikkei in the greater community.

"**Celebration**" will feature an exhibit of items and representative photos highlighting activities from JAHSSD's 15 years. A panel of some of our founding members will also share what it was like first starting out as a fledgling organization.

### 2007 Kansha Awards

**Dr. Terry Tanaka** and **Dr. Yuri Kaneda**—and it's really only a coincidence they're both dentists!—will represent those whose volunteer efforts help drive programs and activities that benefit the greater community. (Read their profiles on Page 7.)

All members should have received a letter of invitation which included a bento order form. The exhibit and program are free and open to the public, but bento orders must be made in advance. If you would like to attend but lack an order form, go to [www.jahssd.org](http://www.jahssd.org) and print one out, or call **Jeanne Elyea**, (619) 690-1151, to place your order.

Come out, support JAHSSD, and celebrate with us!

Fittingly, the national book launch for *Dear Miss Breed* took place at the San Diego Public Library in February 2006. The **Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego (JAHSSD)** hosted the reception for an overflow crowd which included several of Miss Breed's correspondents. Oppenheim also gave a talk at the Chula Vista Public Library where one of the letter writers, the late **Katherine Tasaki Segawa**, had volunteered for many years.

Oppenheim began writing the stage adaptation after the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP) awarded a grant for over \$60K to the San Diego City Library on behalf of AST to oversee and produce the adaptation. The project is led by **Andy Lowe**, former Artistic Director and founder of the 11-year-old **Asian American Repertory Theatre (AART)**. He has performed in numerous productions with the **Asian Story Theater** and makes his directorial debut with the company, his first major project since resigning from AART in 2005.

A 1994 Young Playwrights Project finalist, Lowe is no stranger to the playwriting process and has assisted the New York-based Oppenheim in her adaptation, which carries with it a contemporary message that resonates in the current post-9/11, war-on-terror climate of modern America.

### Play Has World Premier in September

The September 16 through 30 Lyceum Theater performances are Thursday-Friday mornings at 10:00 a.m. (the Young Audience performances), Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m., Friday and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m., with matinees Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

The Sunday, September 16, performance at 7:00 p.m. is Opening Night by invitation only. It includes a reception with the author and special guests from the community. [**JAHSSD Life Members** should have received an opening night invitation.]

Tickets for the weekday youth performances can be obtained from Young Audiences at (619) 282-8709. Tickets for all other performances are \$15 (\$10 for seniors/students) and can be purchased from the Lyceum box office, (619) 544-1000. (See box below for special JAHSSD group discount sales information.)

"Dear Miss Breed" is supported in whole or part by the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP) administered in California by the State Librarian; The San Diego Foundation; and the City of San Diego Commission for Arts & Culture.

(Read related story of actors meeting the letter writers on Page 17)

### "JAHSSD NIGHT" and "ZENBU PLAY DAY" during "DEAR MISS BREED" run

Playgoers have an opportunity to support the **Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego** by buying special group tickets to either of two *Dear Miss Breed* performances:

**Thursday, SEPT. 20 ("JAHSSD NIGHT") at 7:00 pm**

**Sunday, SEPT. 23 ("ZENBU PLAY DAY") at 2:00 pm**

Tickets for these performances are \$10 (all ages) when purchased from a JAHSSD Board member (listed on the back cover of *Footprints*) or from Zenbu, the social adjunct of the Buddhist Temple (e-mail [zenbu@cox.net](mailto:zenbu@cox.net))

JAHSSD will retain a portion of this special ticket sale as a fundraiser, so if at all possible, please purchase your tickets for JAHSSD Night or Zenbu PlayDay directly from JAHSSD or Zenbu!

# 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.*

**TAMIKO PANSEGRAU**  
November 7, 1934 ~ May 18, 2007

**HARUKO T. SAITO**  
January 25, 1918 ~ May 24, 2007

**CAROL ANNE AKAMATSU**  
January 5, 1954 ~ June 11, 2007

**HENRY SHIGEO KOIDE**  
December 1, 1919 ~ June 12, 2007

**LILLIAN KRESTINE SUDA**  
March 1935 ~ June 22, 2007

**YOSHI M. MATSUSHITA**  
July 15, 1925 ~ June 30, 2007

**JESSE FUJIO TANAKA**  
August 3, 1928 ~ July 3, 2007

**HENRY YADA**  
April 6, 1925 ~ July 8, 2007

**SHOJI DATE**  
August 8, 1918 ~ July 14, 2007

**JAMES S. MATSUMOTO**  
January 14, 1918 ~ July 31, 2007

**KARL KOYAMA**  
1918 ~ August 12, 2007

**CHARLES MINORU IWASHITA**  
April 11, 1917 ~ August 21, 2007

**NADIA HARUMI SMIT**  
July 8, 1981 ~ August 27, 2007

## CAUGHT DOING SOMETHING NICE

*In each issue, 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 makes our organization successful.*

The nicest thing of all was Executive Director **Vicky Delong** and the Board at the **Bonita Historical Museum** who offered us the space for our summer exhibition, **Home Grown: Japanese Americans in the South Bay**. In addition to sharing their beautiful space, the Bonita Museum also loaned us exhibition cases and stands to help us display our artifacts in a meaningful way. Thanks also to their docents, who not only kept a watchful eye on our objects, but also answered visitors' questions and helped them understand the exhibition.

We had a wonderful group of volunteers who helped us move objects and get the Bonita Museum exhibition ready. In addition to our own members and their children, thanks to **Aya Ibarra** at the **Japan Society of San Diego and Tijuana** for loaning us some of her summer interns to help on this project. Aya's friend **Tim Kosen** made the vegetable stand replica for us.

We sincerely appreciate the following people who loaned objects for display in the Bonita exhibition:

**Tim Asamen** of the **Pioneer Museum** in Imperial Valley for the hanging produce scale; **Carol Estes** for the asparagus knife, tsukemono crock and press; **Lloyd Ito** for the large platform scale and many smaller items from his farm; **Mits Kawamoto** for her mother's brown dress displayed on a dress form and for the photo of her mother wearing that dress; **Ritsu Nabeta** for the *katsuobushi* (dried bonito shaver) and chunk of dried bonito; and the **Obon Again Shop** for the Kikkoman shoyu bottle.

**Yoshie Okuma** for a large blue barrel and wood cover her husband, **Kei Okuma**, used for making large batches of tsukemono for South Bay farmers; **Alico Oyama Yano** for farm implements and a rubber stamp used at the Oyama Farm.

**Kiyo "Parker" Uda** brought in some albums and a box of 78 rpm phonograph records for display at the upcoming **Poston Reunion**. Since the theme of this reunion is "Senior Prom," these records should stimulate memories and bring smiles to faces.

Speaking of the Poston Reunion, the following grand people helped with the recent massive mailing to potential attendees: **Po Kaneyuki, Taka & Bev Sawasaki, Bubbles Shimasaki, Parker Uda, Grace Tsuida, Ben & Grace Segawa, Brucie & Dottie Asakawa, Linda Canada, Carol Estes, Motoo Tsuneyoshi, Jeanne Elyea, Tom Ozaki, John Hashiguchi** and **Yuki & Mits Kawamoto**. Muchas gracias!

We'd also like to acknowledge **Mits & Yuki, Nancy Cowser, Gwen Momita, Linda Canada, Jim Yanagihara** and **Mich & Naomi Himaka** for handling assembly and bulk mailing of the annual meeting invitations, and to our friends at the **Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ** for donating the xeroxing of the invitations. Thank you all so much!

The faithful *Footprints* folding and mailing crew for the Winter-Spring Issue consisted of **Po & Amy Kaneyuki, Yuki & Mits, Mich & Naomi** and **Gwen**.

For the Summer Issue, it was **Po & Amy, Yuki & Mits, Jeanne, Nancy, Jim, Gwen, Linda, Mich & Naomi, Ben & Grace, Bob Batchelder, Sakiko Kada, Jessica & Ryan Himaka, Lori Hara, Carolyn Kada** and **Jillian Kodama** and her friend.

And a big thank you to **Rick** and **Michael Roussin** for their efforts in helping us reorganize the storage for our collections at Austin Drive. Working in the July heat, they removed all our artifacts from one area of the archives and placed them back in a way that we can access them more easily.

*(Continued on Page 5)*



(CAUGHT DOING SOMETHING NICE continued from Page 4)

### Recent Donations

We gratefully recognize the following who have made donations of objects to our collection since the last issue of *Footprints*:

◆ **Kisae Ohara** gave us items made by her father-in-law, **Buemon Ohara**, including carved and painted box ends and carved and painted birds and fish, all of which he made in camp.

◆ **VFW Post 4851** gave us more items in addition to those we listed last issue: a bingo cage, many trophies from sporting and other events, a file of photographs, and videotapes of VFW activities. We also thank board member **Christina Pierson** for picking them up.

◆ **Masako Shima** donated a copy of the *Santa Anita Peacemaker* from 1942 and several pages from 1943 editions of the *Gila News-Courier*.

◆ **Shig Yamashita** donated the fascinating nailing box that got so much attention at the Bonita Museum exhibition this summer. This unusual piece of farm equipment made quick assembly of the produce lug boxes by organizing the nails so they were ready to use.

◆ We now own the replica of a Poston barracks room originally created by **Frank Wada** and used by JAHSSD several times for exhibitions. After it was installed at the Bonita Museum, Frank surprised us with the gift of this fascinating and useful exhibit piece. **Jeanne Elyea** will continue to store the room at her property in Chula Vista.

### Contributors to This Issue

We thank our friend **Lynn Whitehouse** of the San Diego Public Library for contributing to the cover story for this issue. Lynn is a long-time friend of JAHSSD who has been involved with the "Dear Miss Breed" project from its inception.

Other contributors to this issue include **Bob Batchelder**, **Debra Kodama**, **Gwen Momita** and **Steve Sato**.

In addition to those from our archives, the photos in this issue came from **Valerie Abe**, **Linda Canada**, **Yuki Kawamoto**, **Joyce Teague** and **Elisabeth L. Usborne**.

A thousand thanks!

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Naomi Himaka, Membership Chair

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

They include: **Paul & Frances Arakawa** and **James Williams**, husband of our secretary **Karen Kawasaki**; and **Mr. & Mrs. Ernie Katsumata**, a gift from **Yas & Sumi Ishida**. We are pleased to have each of you as new members of our Society.

**Mrs. Sanami Nakamura** upgraded **Craig & Sharon Nakamura's** membership to Life Members. Thank you!

Thanks also to the following for renewing their memberships: **Patricia & Christopher Williams**, **Richard & Helen Takashima**, **Chiz A. Imoto**, **George & Betty Wakiji**, **Kiyoko Takemoto**, **Sachiko Nishida**, **Glenn & Roslyn Masumoto**, **Mark T. Abe**, **Tom Arata**, **Holly & Ronald Hidingier**, **Mary Kaneyuki**, **Joy Sakaue & Lee Plummer**, **Umeko Kawamoto**, **Kiyo Uda** and **Masako Shima** (gift from **Hisae & Bob Batchelder**).

We also thank the following for their recent renewals: **Dick Jensen**, **George & Karen Shinzaki**, **Harry & Misako Honda**, **Valerie Abe & Jon Linton**, **Elizabeth Hatashita**, **Karen Kawasaki**, **Masaharu Tsuida**, **Rose Y. Watamura**, **Thomas & June Hamada**, **Mitsuye Yamamoto**, **Yas & Sumi Imamura Ishida** and **Sam Yamaguchi**.

## IN GRATITUDE

JAHSSD gratefully acknowledges the following monetary donations to the Society since our last newsletter. If we have inadvertently omitted your gift, please accept our sincere apologies. Notify Nancy Gowser at (858) 270-0733 for correction.

ANONYMOUS

EDWARD KUBOTA

KUNIKO NISHIMURA  
In memory of THOMAS NISHIMURA

MASAHARU TSUIDA

MR. and MRS. MASAYOSHI TSUIDA  
In memory of MARK W. TSUIDA

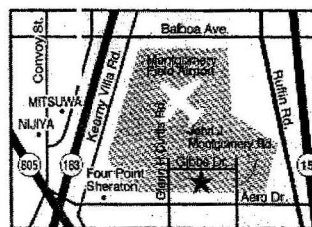
ROSE Y. WATAMURA

## OKAZAKI CHIROPRACTIC



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

**(858) 514-8320**



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

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

## WABI SABI: WHAT'S NEW AT THE AUSTIN ARCHIVES

by Linda A. Canada

It feels like we've been playing Musical Chairs at the archives over the last several months. We've got a lot of materials stored in a relatively small amount of space, so sometimes we have to move boxes just to get access to our treasures!

Getting ready for the **Home Grown** exhibition that closed September 8, with the help of **Michael** and **Rick Roussin**, we moved a very heavy mochitsuki stone and a metal forge from Austin Drive to Bonita. In addition to the items that some of you loaned us, many items had to be gathered from boxes hidden deep in our stacks.

No sooner had we gotten the Bonita materials pulled and moved to the museum when we had a visit from our local fire marshal. We were advised that our materials were stored too close to the electrical panel, so once again our collections storage was disassembled and placed in another arrangement!

This time, the Roussins moved out *all* of our objects, furniture, and many trunks, boxes, and suitcases. It looked like a giant garage sale in the space behind our storage unit!

As these objects were organized and put back into place, we took photographs of them to help with the cataloging. To our surprise, inside some of the crates and suitcases we found some stored items that we hadn't realized were there! One trunk contained items was donated by **Masako Shima**.

I invited Mrs. Shima and her daughter **Hisae Batchelder** to come view these treasures, and we spent several hours reminiscing about Mrs. Shima's life. It was wonderful to see Mrs. Shima's face light up as a favorite coffee cup from camp, or her husband's shop coat from his father's store came out of the box. As the surprises continued, Mrs. Shima shared many interesting stories of life in pre-war San Diego.

While the objects in our collection are fascinating and significant, it is the stories about who used them and how they were used that make the artifacts really come alive. As carefully as we take care of these precious stories and items, sometimes we find that the connections between them have been lost. From time to time, I'll be asking for our members' help in sharing their memories about items whose stories have disappeared.

When it is time for you to donate an item to JAHSSD, be sure you give us some information about where and how it was used, who made it and how you received it. If we gather this information when the object is donated, it will make our future exhibitions so much more interesting!

## HOME SITE COMMITTEE FALL 2007 UPDATE

Members of the Home Site Committee want to thank everyone who has responded to the request for the second pledge payment. It is hard to believe that we are now halfway through the lease period!

At the JAHSSD Board Retreat held earlier this year, the Home Site Committee was asked to develop a plan to help members of JAHSSD interact more with members of other JA community organizations. A draft of this plan was circulated at the August board meeting, and we expect to finalize it at the September meeting. In addition to identifying the groups with whom we want to collaborate, we also will develop strategies for working more closely with others.

## VALERIE ABE'S WORK EXPLORES INTERMENT THEME

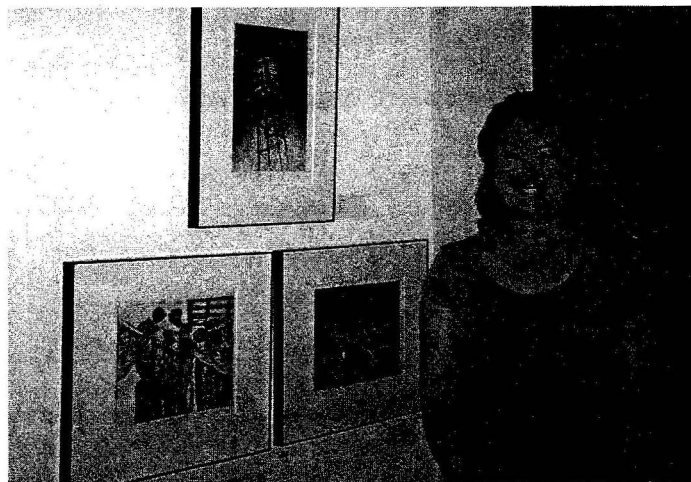
by Joyce Teague

As a youngster growing up, **Valerie Abe** tried to ignore her Japanese side. Her desire was to "fit in" as much as possible with her white, middle class neighbors and friends. In this she succeeded very well, popular among her peers, graduating from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, with a degree in architecture, working in architecture and marrying architect **Jon Linton** in 2001.

Abe's parents, grandparents and all of her aunts and uncles had been evacuated from their homes and confined to so-called internment camps for the duration of World War II. But as a child, the topic was not much discussed nor was Abe very curious about what that experience might have meant for them. At some point in her adulthood, she began to explore what being Japanese American meant, channeling her curiosity and musings into artistic expression.

Intermittently over the past three years, Abe has created about a dozen intaglio etchings, mixed media projects, paintings and an artist book she calls her **Japanese American Internment Camp Series**, in which she interprets some of the iconic symbols of World War II internment including guard towers and the suitcases into which internees packed as many of their approved possessions as they could.

Three etchings in the series were among 50 or so works chosen for display at the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Juried Exhibition at the Athenaeum Library in La Jolla. The exhibition was shown through the month of August. Two etchings from the series were also juried into the Los Angeles Printmaking Society's 19<sup>th</sup> National Exhibition to be held at the Riverside Art Museum from September 15 through October 28, 2007.



*Local artist Valerie Abe and her internment camp etchings on display at the Athenaeum Library in La Jolla. She explained the acid resist process used to produce the etchings during a Zenbu outing to visit the exhibit on August 25.*

"The camps were not a main topic of discussion at my family gatherings, or in my formal education," Abe wrote recently in trying to explain the inspiration for the series. "How did I feel about what happened to my family? How has my generation (*Sansei*, third generation) been affected by our parents' and grandparents' experience?"

"These etchings are part of a series of artwork created in response to my inquiries."

In her continuing exploration of Japanese American cultural history, Abe joined JAHSSD in 2006 and has begun volunteering her time to Society projects. She teaches architecture at San Diego Mesa College.



## 2007 KANSHA AWARD WINNERS: THEY KNOW HOW TO MAKE YOU SMILE!

*On Saturday, October 6, the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego will present this year's Kansha Award for exemplary community service to two fine San Diegans who always go out of their way to help others and get things done. And it's sheer coincidence both happen to be dentists!*

### DR. YURI KANEDA: NEVER TOO YOUNG TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

by Debra Kodama

**Yuri Kaneda?** A Kansha Awardee? How can that possibly be? Didn't she just graduate from UCSF Dental School a couple of years ago? Seems to me she's way too young to be receiving this commendation. After all, she's a whole year older than I am, and I know I'm not old enough to be considered for this award.

Wait a minute. What's this? Yuri's biography? Hmm. Let's look it over and see if she's truly old enough to be worthy of such recognition.

She's active in the local **San Diego JACL Chapter**, including sitting on the Scholarship Committee. She's certainly active in her church, **Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ (POVUCC)**. I can see here she's chaired several different committees in addition to serving as the moderator, vice moderator and superintendent of Sunday School in the past.



Yuri has also done quite a lot for her community. She has sponsored local soccer teams and the Bonita Vista High School football team. She has also joined the booster club for several of Eastlake High School's sports teams including cross country, track and soccer.

On top of all this involvement, she reaches out in so many other ways. She provides toothbrushes for the homeless, offers free teeth whitening to high school students who maintain a 4.0 GPA, and is a member of more professional, educational, and business organizations than I can count.

Good grief she's a busy woman! How does she even find time for her career as a dentist in Bonita? Not to mention be a wife to husband **David Fujikawa**, and a mom to high school senior **Eric**.

All this civic involvement is too good to be true. Must do more investigation beyond reading her 34-page resume. I'll talk to her pastor. Certainly **Rev. Norma Nomura DeSaegher** of POVUCC will be able to tell me if Yuri is deserving of this recognition.

Okay. Got the scoop on Yuri. "Yuri is so deserving of this honor," says Rev. DeSaegher, who goes on to explain how Yuri helps out with so many different aspects of the church, big and small. She rarely turns down a request to be on a committee or work on a project. Furthermore she says Yuri was instrumental in leading the process when Ocean View merged with Pioneer United Church of Christ three years ago.

"Yuri is truly a blessing to this congregation," says Pastor Norma.

Well, I guess it's time to admit I was wrong... but only partly. Dr. Yuri Kaneda is certainly most deserving of this award. Over the years, she has demonstrated her commitment to being a leader in her community, in her church and in her profession.

On the other hand, I still say she's too young. Neither of us can really be *this* far over 30!

### DR. TERRY TANAKA: A SERVANT'S HEART

by Gwen Momita

*A servant's heart.* These are the exact words used to describe **Dr. Terry T. Tanaka**, a local dentist (prosthodontics) by his long-time receptionist, **Darlene Spurgeon**. Terry is also a 2007 Kansha Award recipient.

I was privileged to meet Terry and his gracious wife, **Naomi (née Fukute)**, at their home in Chula Vista. Within a short while, this friendly, unassuming gentleman had confirmed all I had read about him. He is modest, polite, humorous, and expressed a true passion for family with gratefulness and humility.

Terry was born in Torrance, California, to parents **Tomokiyo and Fumiko Mitsuji**. His early days were spent on a farm in Artesia, where he and six siblings worked, studied and played. Terry is thankful for his parents, as they gave him "a stable base" from which he would build a solid future.

Terry completed his undergraduate work at Pepperdine University and went on to graduate studies at the USC School of Dentistry, specializing in orthodontics. Terry claims he secretly went there just to find Naomi. And, she admits she was looking for him! They were married and eventually had five children. All kids (**Alan, David, Randall, Katherine, and Mindy**) remain close to their family. In addition, the Tanakas enjoy six grandchildren, with one on the way.



Today, Dr. Terry, as he is often called, is a clinical professor at USC in the Department of Graduate Prosthodontics. He has authored numerous articles and is actively sought after as a speaker throughout the world. I was surprised when he told me his speaking calendar is booked for the next five years! "Nevertheless," he tells me with a chuckle, "I don't buy green bananas!"

Dr. Terry was instrumental in organizing the "Thousand Smiles Foundation" Field Mission Teams, now sponsored by Rotary Clubs International. "Why Field Mission Teams? Because I strongly feel that for every child born with a physical deformity, someone else is sent to take care of that child, he explained. "We are the chosen ones. We are honored to be chosen to help those less fortunate. Some have received more than others, because they were meant to share."

Despite all of his accolades, Dr. Terry insists with conviction, "My greatest personal accomplishment is, thanks to my wife, a happy, loving family. I want to share this award with Naomi. She provided the stability, love and encouragement while I was conducting research.

"I am deeply honored and hope that I can serve as a little bit of an inspiration to the younger generation who need guidance but may not recognize it until later in life," Dr. Terry said. "Most of the time, experience is something we get—right after we need it!"

What a pleasure it was to be able to meet this man. Congratulations, Dr. Terry! You truly possess a character of giving, and a true servant's heart.

# CHANKO NABE

by Joyce Nabeta Teague

Like most of you, I try to live my life so I have few regrets. But the memory has a habit of clinging to incidents that chide and haunt. Now that my father is gone, I think about him a lot.

Recently I read a column in the Los Angeles-based *Rafu Shimpo* by Bill Hosokawa who had lived half of his life in Denver and was relocating to Seattle. The distinguished author and journalist is about a decade older than my Dad was, but of the same generation.

Hosokawa wrote about a big life change for him—moving in with his daughter and her family on the west coast where he would be assured of comfortable new quarters and regular meals. He also mentioned the frustration of learning new technology, moving from pencil and paper to the family computer to write his columns. I got the impression that he would do just fine and I hope he is doing just that.

After leaving farming and becoming a produce clerk then manager for a supermarket chain, my father never missed a day of work. Even when he was sick, he went in and got his job done.

After his retirement in 1990, we wondered how he would occupy his time. Sort through the cluttered garage? Work on his postage stamp collection? Organize his photos? Play video poker in Vegas? Take Mom to Japan more often to visit relatives? Just sit around and watch TV?

Turned out he did all these things and more. For a guy who knew hard work from his childhood, he very contentedly settled into a leisurely life of retirement. After such a hard life, he certainly deserved it.

My siblings and I may have discussed Dad getting a computer and teaching him how to use e-mail, navigate the Internet and all that. Some of us probably suggested to Dad that he get a computer, but I don't recall him showing any interest. Maybe the learning curve was too intimidating. This was a guy who, according to Mom, didn't use the typewriter because his fingers were too big for the keyboard. But, heck, even the hunt-'n'-peck technique gets the job done if you have something to say.

Some years ago when Best Buy opened a store in El Cajon, I took Dad there so he could see the range of electronics offered at a discount. While looking around, he ambled over to a display of computers and ran his fingers over a keyboard. A little lightbulb lit over my head.

"Hey, Dad, why don't you buy a computer?" I said. "You can get all the sumo news every day. You can get e-mail from Japan."

"Nah," he said. And putting his hands in his pockets, he walked away.

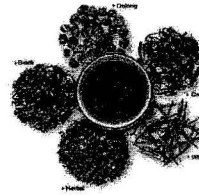
So a regret of mine is that I took his response at face value. This was someone who bought the first TV on their block in West L.A. and neighbors would come over after dinner to watch shows together. In Watsonville where we farmed strawberries, he bought a color TV as soon as he could afford one. He bought a VCR when they became available and began taping his favorite shows, amassing quite a video library. And when he realized he could watch Japanese sumo, he had a satellite dish installed. Again, first on the block. He continued to collect and read new books.

So why wouldn't a guy like this love the Internet?

But he never bought a computer nor did we ever buy him one for his birthday or for Father's Day. Maybe it was because we feared the computer might join the company of other ways we tried to "improve" him over the years: track suits and sports shoes we thought he might find comfortable but which he never wore. Or a snazzy electronic label maker meant to be a fun tool for his photo collections that remained untouched after it was opened.

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Not until Dad came home from the hospital late last year and he and Mom needed us kids to be at home with them, 24/7. Some of us had to be able to get work projects done while there, so Bill bought a computer and installed it in the guest bedroom. We also used it to keep medical records and write notes to one another since we were there in shifts.

This column is being written with me seated at the computer. Since Dad died in March, my sisters and brother and I take turns staying with Mom and her cat, Tabi. It's a nice machine and I do a lot of writing, editing and desktopping while here. I also do a lot of wondering.

Among the papers Dad left behind were several journals in meticulous Japanese he kept while interned at Poston Camp I. They were a surprise to Mom who had never seen them in their 60 years of marriage.

Separated from his family in Japan at age 16, unable to let them know of his whereabouts and prevented from earning and sending them the money they so desperately needed, my father's frustration and loneliness are expressed eloquently on the pages of these notebooks: poems, songs, drawings, laments and pep talks to buoy his spirits.

To read them is almost like discovering another person hiding inside my father's skin. Dad's generous, accommodating and self-deprecating self shared a secret space with a writer, a thinker, an artist: passionate, idealistic and articulate...and invisible to those closest to him till after his death. To our knowledge, once he and Mom became immersed in the daily rigors of the farming life, he never wrote anything like this again.

Having earned his freedom from the boss and the time clock, would Dad with some nudging have enjoyed learning how to use the computer and navigate the 'net? Sent e-mail to his siblings in Japan whom he cared for deeply but seldom wrote? Talked sumo with fellow enthusiasts from around the world? Written poetry again?

I regret we will never know.



## MAZEGOHAN

by Mich Himaka

Cooperstown, New York. This little village of about 2,100 people comes alive for three days once a year. If you're not familiar with it, this is the home of baseball's Hall of Fame, where they say Abner Doubleday started modern baseball as we know it today.

How did we get here anyway? Well, our two sons, **Keith** and **Daniel** and Keith's wife of one year, **Dawn Jenkins**, treated **Naomi**, her Mom **Sakiko Kada** and me to this special trip to celebrate my birthday.

I was around four years old when Papa and our family friend, the late **Akira Shima**, used to take me to Lane Field at Broadway and Pacific Highway, and I became a complete baseball nut...the kind of kid who would throw an imaginary ball from deep right field all the way to home plate for the game-saving play and then swing an imaginary bat to hit the game-winning home run with the bases loaded.

In my youth, I could only hear Hall of Fame induction ceremonies on the radio or hear the news of some of my old favorite ballplayers like Ted Williams, Joe DiMaggio, Bob Feller and Lou Boudreau get inducted. Those are the guys I was fortunate to see in action when we lived in Cleveland in 1946-48 right after World War II ended.

My first major league game was when the Indians played the Detroit Tigers with Feller pitching against Hal Newhouser. (Tigers won, 1-0).

That's the kind of nut I was. I could remember little things.

I used to buy the Sunday edition of the *New York Daily News* because during the season, they always ran pictures of baseball players. I cut them out and put them into a scrapbook my sister, **Suma**, bought me. (I still have the scrapbook.)

So, when the Hall of Fame announced that the Padres' **Tony Gwynn** had been elected to the Hall, our sons and daughter-in-law made the reservations for our trip to New York City, reserved a car for our drive to Albany, New York, and hotel reservations and tickets and whatever else we needed to attend the Cooperstown induction ceremony for Mr. Gwynn and **Cal Ripken Jr.** of the Baltimore Orioles.

We heard there were 200 busloads of fans from Baltimore expected and we heard some San Diego radio station and other tour groups from San Diego had booked trips as well.

In fact, when we got to our hotel in Albany, we ran into old friends on the elevator—**Mrs. Katherine Hubbard Curran**, who graduated from San Diego High with me in 1950; and San Diego County Marshal's Sgt. **Barbara Bare**. Mrs. Curran is the widow of the late **Judge Richard Curran** and the sister-in-law of the late **Mayor Frank Curran**. (The Currans used to sit in front of us at the San Diego Chargers' games in Qualcomm Stadium before the Chargers became good. Make that *great!*)

On our trip the Hall of Fame Museum, we ran into **Linda Marumoto McLemore**, who we knew was going to be there, too. How difficult was that? Well, imagine being in a crowd of about 75,000 and you get the picture. It was the largest crowd ever to see a Hall of Fame induction ceremony, we were told. The previous largest crowd was 50,000 when **Nolan Ryan** was inducted in 1999 with much of the crowd coming from New York City where he pitched for the Mets.

The Clark Sports Center Field where the induction took place was wall-to-wall people. People began placing their chairs on the field on Friday morning, two days before the ceremony. We overheard one woman say she set up her chair on Friday and was surprised to find it still in place when she returned on Sunday. It was that kind of crowd.

One salesperson at the museum store told me it was the most well-behaved, most patient group of people they had ever had. I told her it probably was because of the kind of people Mr. Gwynn and Mr.

Ripken had been during their playing career. She agreed.

Touring the museum was another kick, especially seeing the plaques for players like Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Satchel Paige, Jackie Robinson, Ozzie Smith, Dave Winfield and Williams, DiMaggio, Feller and Boudreau. Having pictures taken next to them was also a thrill.

Seeing pictures of the ladies who played during the wartime was also a thrill. They were the ones in the movie, "A League of Their Own."

It looked like the Hall of Fame also was looking ahead to when current players, like **Ichiro Suzuki**, might also enter the Hall. Other players featured included Padres' record-breaking reliever, **Trevor Hoffman**. (We've pretty much decided that if and when Trevor gets in, we should go again! Well, maybe the rest of them will go but I'm not counting myself in at this point.)

A Hall of Fame induction ceremony is a trip all baseball nuts should take at least once, whatever their age. I really think Naomi, Saki and the kids enjoyed it as much as I did.

Just so the kids will know, I really look forward to the day when we all go to Canton, Ohio, to watch **Ladanian Tomlinson** enter the Pro Football Hall of Fame!

Then I'll be able to see the plaques with old Cleveland Brown players like Bill Willis, Otto Graham, Dante Lavelli, Jim Brown, Marion Motley, Mac Speedie, Lou Groza and other favorites.

I can then write how I saw the very first game the Browns ever played in Cleveland Stadium against the Miami Seahawks in an exhibition game and the Browns won, 44-0. The Browns used to let kids into their games for 50 cents to sit in the end zone. And, any football kicked into the end zone, the kids could keep. And Lou Groza, who was their kicker, could kick them a mile! Into the end zone and hit the clock!

But that's another story.

You listening, kids?? Ohio is closer than New York, too.

## SENIOR HOUSING UPDATE

by Steve Sato

The Senior Housing Committee has continued to meet over the past months collecting information and ideas about building and managing a senior apartment complex to serve San Diego's elderly Nikkei. As currently envisioned, the complex would be a collection of studio and one-bedroom apartments with kitchens and bathrooms.

The committee has collected data on estimated costs and potential building sites and is currently searching for sites from 1 to 3 acres. If you or anyone you know has any suggestions of potential building sites, please contact me at (619) 422-4951.

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## POSTON III REUNION PLANS MOVING ALONG

by Mich Himaka, Reunion Cochair

The Poston III Reunion plans are moving along quite nicely, thanks to the efforts of people like **Bob Batchelder** and **Masato Asakawa** and our Booklet Committee members like **Gary Hamada**, **Jean Fujisaki**, **Liz Yamada**, **John Asakawa** and **Jeanne Elyea**.

We've sent our initial mailings out and have started receiving replies, which is encouraging. We are also sending invitations to all our members, whether they were in Poston III or not and whether they were in other camps or not, but interested in attending the reunion at the Doubletree Hotel in Mission Valley on April 18, 19 and 20, 2008.

We plan to have a Friday Night Mixer, a Saturday Night Banquet and a Sunday Morning Breakfast before our visitors leave for points east, west, north or south.

We are lining up entertainment for the Saturday Night Banquet, a trip to a casino, a Christian Prayer Service, a Block 318 get-together for former residents of that block, a reunion of the Class of 1944 and, if there is sufficient interest, a Tijuana shopping tour.

We are planning a golf tournament for those interested. If there is interest, we might set up a trip to the Zoo for families.

We are still trying to line up a trip to a casino willing to provide us with free buses for our guests. Stay tuned.

Our archivist **Linda Canada** and her crew of volunteers are preparing an exhibit of Poston III and other camp photos and artworks. If you have any art that was created in camp by relatives (or yourself) and wish to loan it to us, please contact Linda (whose telephone number is on the back cover of this issue).

We have had good turnouts for our meetings, drawing up to 25 people, all of them interested in making this a huge success as this may be our last Poston III Reunion, unless another group from Los Angeles, San Jose or Central California is interested in planning another one.

But let's face it, we are not getting any younger.

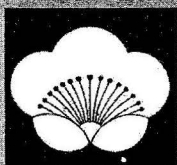
People say my hair appears to have gotten grayer in the past year. I wonder why?

## POSTON III REUNION COMMITTEE SEEKS CAMP SNAPSHOTS

If anyone who was interned in Poston III has any informal snapshots or camp scenes that were taken in camp, the reunion committee would like to borrow and copy them to be included in our exhibit.

Please call **Mich Himaka** (619) 660-9865 or **Rev. Jim Yanagihara** (858) 576-1618 who are willing to pick them and return them.

**WHY DO WE RECORD WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?  
WHY DON'T WE JUST TALK ABOUT YESTERDAY?**



Because what we experience,  
endeavor, accomplish and  
overcome today becomes  
our history tomorrow.  
Write it down. Share it.  
Help preserve our history.

## JAHSSD TO CO-PRESENT "CATS OF MIRIKITANI," OTHER SDAFF FILMS

The Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego will once again support the **San Diego Asian Film Foundation** by becoming a community presenter of three films being screened at the **2007 San Diego Asian Film Festival**. The festival will run **October 11-18** at the Mission Valley Ultrastar Cinema in Hazard Center.

The first film, a documentary by **Linda Hattendorf** titled **CATS OF MIRIKITANI** follows the unlikely friendship between the film's director and a homeless Japanese American artist in her New York neighborhood who is trying to sell his paintings of "whimsical cats, bleak internment camps, and the angry red flames of the atomic bomb."

The old man's name is **Jimmy Mirikitani**. After terrorist attacks take down the World Trade Center buildings, Hattendorf brings Mirikitani into her home where the story of his tragic past begins to reveal itself—childhood in Hiroshima, **Tule Lake Internment Camp** where he is separated from his sister, loss of his U.S. citizenship, to his current bleak situation.

Critics have called this film "profoundly gripping...deeply moving... full of delayed revelations and subtle pleasures." The **Buddhist Temple of San Diego (BTSD)** will also be a copresenter of this fascinating film.

The second film, **AMERICAN PASTIME**, is set at **Topaz Relocation Center** in Utah and focuses on two families on opposite sides of the fence dealing with the sacrifices and prejudices triggered by the war effort. **Desmond Nakano** co-wrote and directed a heart-felt story which uses the characters' love of baseball and jazz to show their feelings of frustration and well as their patriotism.

The third film is an award-winning contemporary family drama set in Japan. **WHAT THE SNOW BRINGS**, about a famous draft horse endurance race in Hokkaido, has garnered high praise from audiences at film festivals all around the world. "Fresh, impressive work lasts forever in the heart."

### Get SDAFF Tickets from Zenbu

Through special arrangement with SDAFF, the Buddhist Temple's social adjunct **Zenbu** is selling highly discounted group tickets to *all screenings* of the JAHSSD copresented films...as well as to other Japanese/JA films at the film festival not listed here.

Zenbu group tickets are generally \$1 less than the already discounted SDAFF tickets prepurchased at their website. Anyone is welcome to take advantage of this offer by reserving tickets in advance through Zenbu (e-mail [zenbu@cox.net](mailto:zenbu@cox.net)), by mailing your ticket order to the temple with a check made payable to "SDAFF", or by calling **Joyce Teague** at (619) 527-7855.

### Schedule of JAHSSD-presented Films

**AMERICAN PASTIME** = Saturday, Oct 13. at 2:30 p.m. and Tuesday, Oct. 16 at 8:15 p.m.

**CATS OF MIRIKITANI** = Sunday, Oct. 14 at 3:15 p.m. and Monday, Oct. 15 at 6:15 p.m.

**WHAT THE SNOW BRINGS** = Saturday, Oct. 13 at 12 p.m. and Wednesday, Oct. 17 at 8:35 p.m.

Find the complete SDAFF schedule at [www.sdaff.org](http://www.sdaff.org) or pick one up at BTSD or the Mission Valley Ultrastar Cinema in Hazard Center.

Neither JAHSSD nor BTSD benefits from the sale of the discounted tickets. They are offered by Zenbu as a community service to its members and friends and to support the San Diego Asian Film Foundation.



## STUFF WE DO...



JAHSSD volunteers Yuki and Mits Kawamoto (left) and Linda Canada made themselves available for questions and comments at the five-hour exhibit, "NIHON TAMASHII (Japanese Spirit)" at the Buddhist Temple's Bon Odori Festival of Joy, August 6, 2007. Hundreds of visitors viewed the exhibit.

## AN APPEAL TO ALL VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

by Mich Himaka

We are asking all veterans and their families to consider loaning JAHSSD so we can copy the military citations their fathers, mothers, grandfathers, grandmothers, uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces or cousins earned during their wartime service. This includes citations earned during the following conflicts: World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Persian Gulf War and the Iraqi War.

When possible, please include a photo of your serviceman or woman in uniform. We would like to create a collection and perhaps run them periodically in our newsletter so our young people can see what the Nikkei community has contributed to preserving the freedoms we enjoy today. We would be able to display them when we mount exhibits on those who have served in the military.

We don't wish to embarrass anyone but we would like others know that "our guys" did earn their keep while in the service. It's more a matter of pride on our part to show others that we have contributed.

Please call any members of our Board of Directors to arrange a pick-up of those citations. We would like to collect and photocopy as many as them as we can and we promise to take good care of them.

And please, don't be shy. Let's show some pride for our grandkids and great-grandkids to follow.

## OOPS! WE MAKES MISTEAKS

Member and former San Diegan **Toshio Miyashita** of Hawaii wrote to correct the information that accompanied the photo of **Kiyo (Kimura) Ochi** in "From the JAHSSD Archives" on Page 22 of the Summer 2007 Issue. Toshio, brother of **Kazuko Miyashita**, was indeed the photographer (not "Toshito" as reported), but the setting wasn't the Colorado River in Arizona, but the shores of Imperial Beach during one of the pre-war **Kagoshima Ken** picnics, probably around 1940-41. Kiyo's good friend at the time was **Fumi Machigashira Otsuji**.

The Editor regrets the errors and thanks Toshio for taking the time to set the record straight!

Asian Story Theater  
& THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY  
present



## Dear Miss Breed

BY JOANNE OPPENHEIM

Based on a true story  
When the Japanese American kids who visit Clara Breed's library are told they and their families are being sent away to camps after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Clara becomes a lifeline for these children as she writes letters to dozens of them, sending books and gifts for the entire three-year duration of the war. "Dear Miss Breed" uses oral histories and the actual letters to tell this inspiring true story of friendship and hope, during a difficult and forgotten time in American history.

SEPTEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> - 30<sup>TH</sup>

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This program is supported in whole or in part by the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP), a project of the California State Library in Sacramento, administered in California by the State Library, The San Diego Foundation, and the City of San Diego Commission for Arts & Culture.



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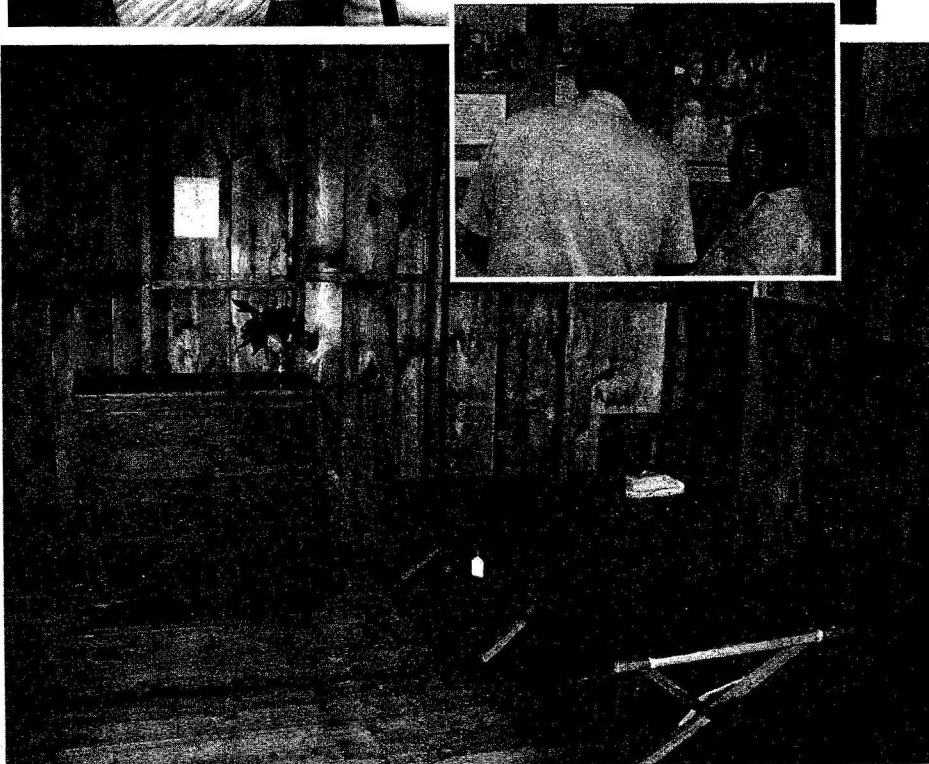
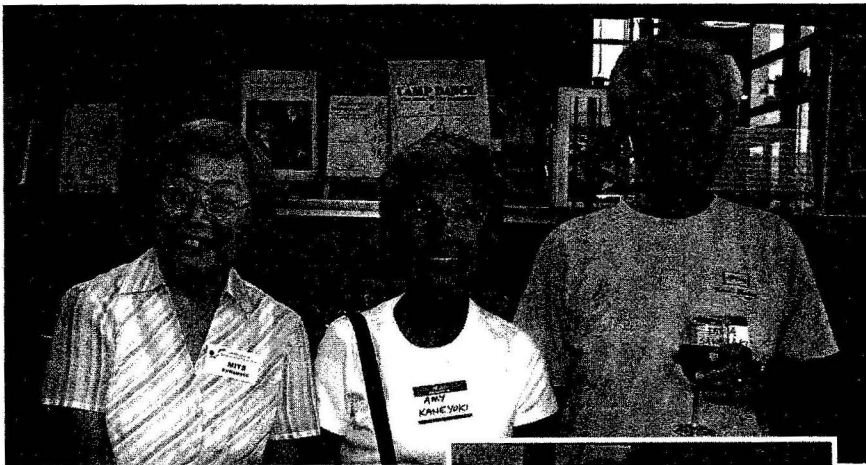
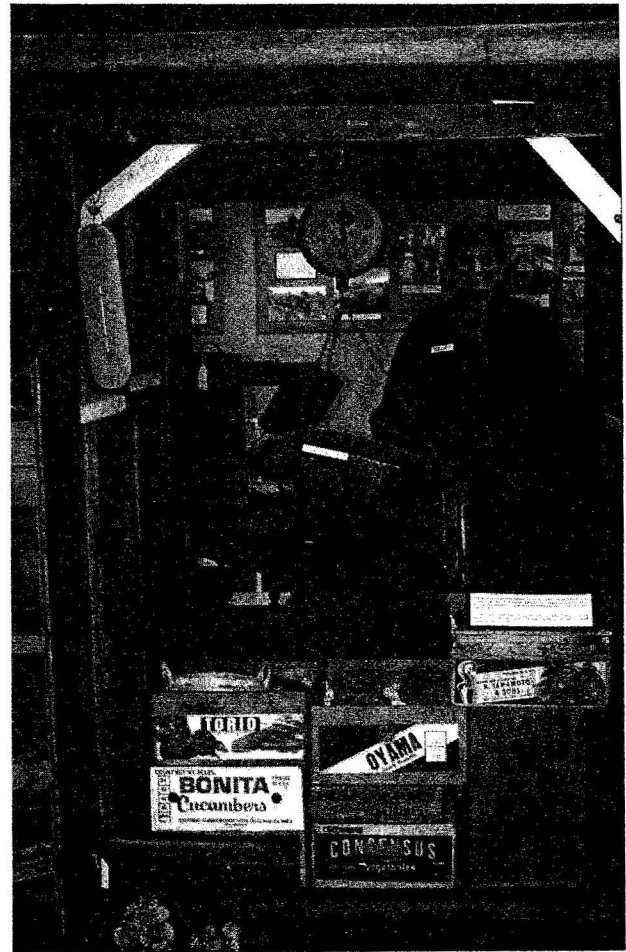
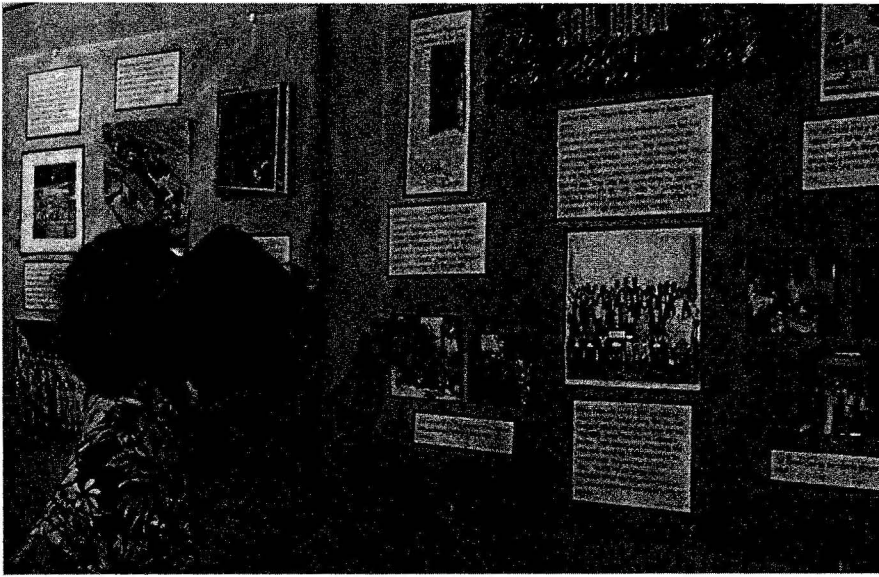
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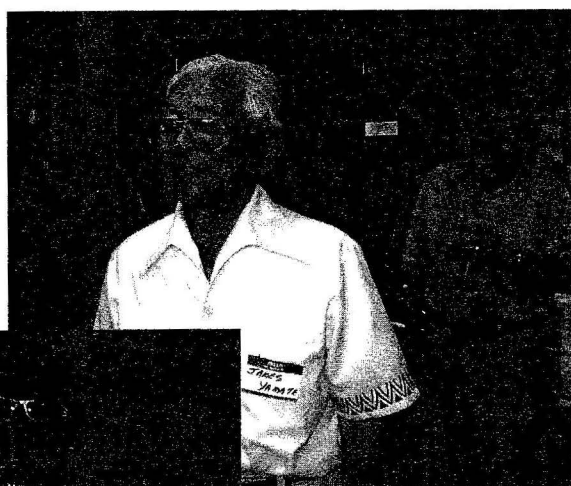
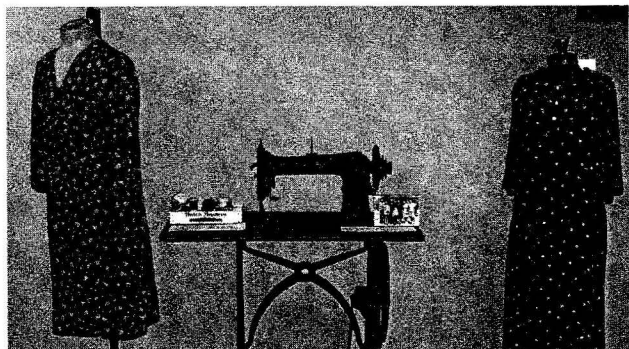
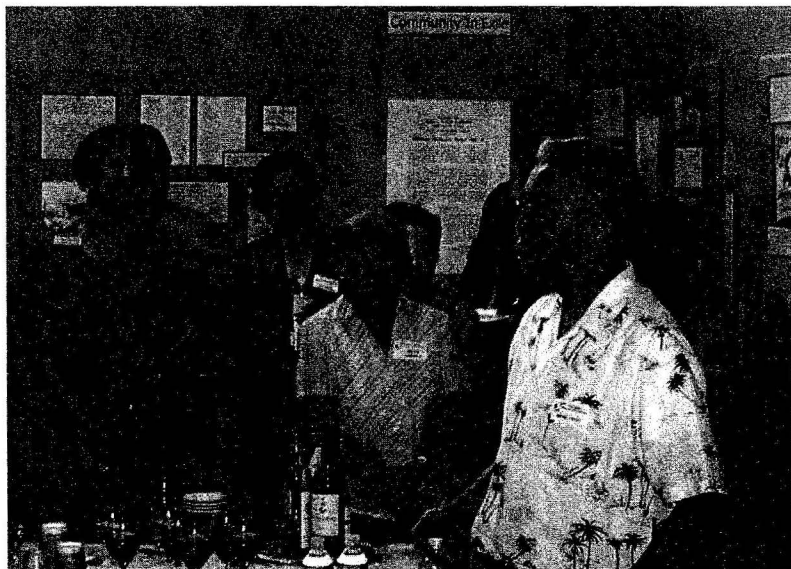
(619) 270-8025 OR (619) 273-7400

# "HOMEGROWN: Japanese America"

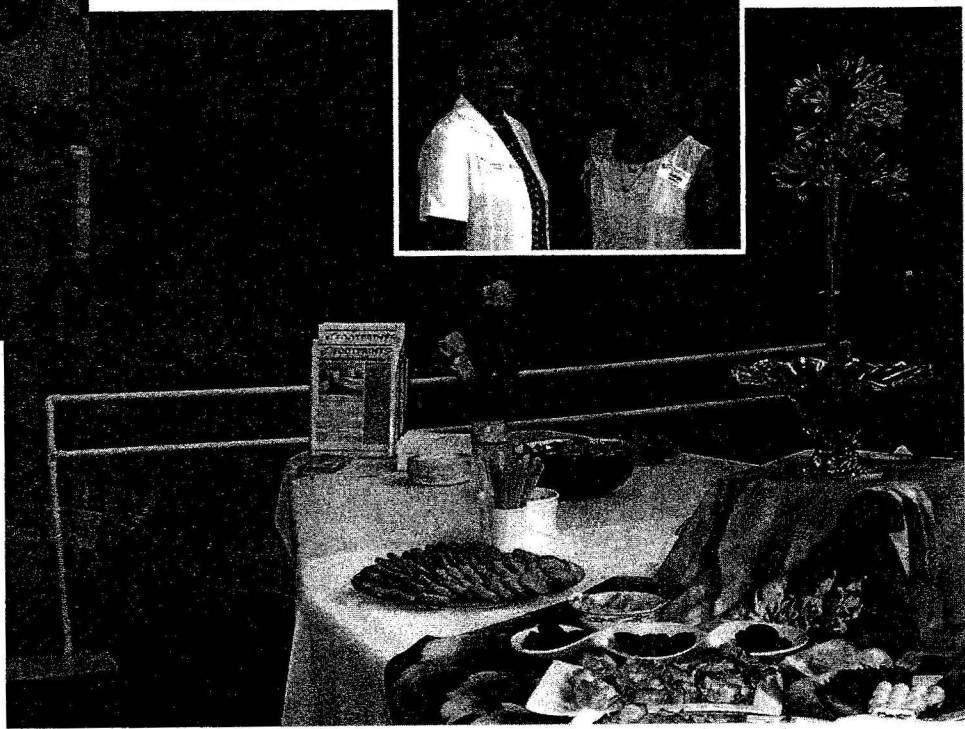




# ns in the South Bay" EXHIBITION



Photos of  
July 14, 2007  
opening reception  
courtesy of  
Elisabeth L.  
Usborne



## THREE-YEAR PLEDGE RENEWALS

The JAHSSD Board of Directors is very grateful those who have pledged their support of the Society's Three-Year Plan since our last issue. The listing below includes pledge payments and new gifts received as of August 22, 2007. Please notify our Treasurer of any errors.



### SAKURA LEVEL

DR. FRANCIS TANAKA

RUTH U. VOORHIES

TAKEKO WAKIJI  
In honor of the SHIMA FAMILY



### MATSU LEVEL

SUSAN HASEGAWA and BRUCE SHERMAN

MR. and MRS. JOHN HASHIGUCHI

MR. and MRS. MARTIN L. ITO

MR. and MRS. YUKIO KAWAMOTO

BOB SHIMAMOTO

SABURO UYEJI



### MOMIJI LEVEL

MR. and MRS. MASATO ASAKAWA

MR. and MRS. WILLIAM ELYEA

ROBERT P. ITO

MR. and MRS. KEN MATSUMOTO

IKUKO TANIGUCHI  
In memory of  
KATSUMI J. and YOSHIKO TAKASHIMA

MR. and MRS. BILL TEAGUE  
In memory of FRED FUKUMI NABETA

SO YAMADA



### TAKE LEVEL

ANONYMOUS

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MR. and MRS. TSUTOMU DATE

MR. and MRS. PAUL KANEYUKI

UMEKO M. KAWAMOTO

HATSUNE MUKAI

MR. and MRS. GUY KIYOI

JUNE KUSHINO

TOMI MORIMOTO

SACHI NISHIDA  
In memory of TERRY NISHIDA

DR. RUTH OKIMOTO

MIYO REFF

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In memory of FUYO K. TAJIRI

MITSUE TANAKA  
In memory of Mr. & Mrs. KYUJI AIZUMI

MR. and MRS. MASAYOSHI TSUIDA

KIYO UDA

SO YAMADA

SAMUEL C. YAMAGUCHI  
In memory of MARK YAMAGUCHI  
and THE YAMAGUCHI FAMILY

VERNON T. YOSHIOKA

### GIFTS IN LIEU OF A PLEDGE

MR. and MRS. RYO HASHIMA

MARY KANEYUKI  
In memory of CARL H. KANEYUKI

RICHARD KARASAWA  
In memory of DONALD ESTES

AUDREY MIZOKAMI  
In memory of SAM FUJITA  
1942 JAACL President

MR. and MRS. TAKASHI SAWASAKI

JANE TAKESHITA

IKUKO TANIGUCHI

MASAHARU TSUIDA

MASAKO A. UYEJI  
In memory of MAGOTSUGU "KATTIE" UYEJI



## NEW JAHSSD OFFICERS NAMED FOR 2008

The JAHSSD Board has selected **Gwen Momita** to serve as President and **Christina Pierson** to serve as Vice President beginning in January 2008. Both Gwen and Christina will serve terms of one year.

The other Historical Society officers—**Bob Batchelder**, Treasurer, and **Karen Kawasaki**, Secretary—have one year remaining on their terms of office. Bob has served as Treasurer for more than seven years and has expressed a desire to step down from that post, so an active search is underway to find a new Treasurer.

**Naomi Himaka**, with her business thriving and little spare time on her hands, has agreed to serve another term but only until a new Membership Chair can be found.

In addition, longstanding Board members **Vernon Yoshioka** and **Susan Hasegawa** have asked to step down from their board positions at the end of the year. Vernon is a recent past president of the Society and has served as our community liaison with other Asian groups on both the local and state levels. Susan, Chair of the Dept. of Political Science and History at San Diego City College, will turn her concentration to a sabbatical project which will greatly benefit the Society. (See related article on this page.)

### Board Changes Will Create Vacancies

Speaking for the Board, President **Mich Himaka** expressed his appreciation to Vernon and Susan for their many years of leadership and service to the organization. Each has pledged to continue to assist the Society in both its short-term projects and long-term goals.

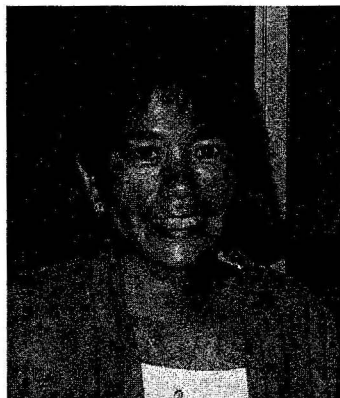
Mich sees these new open Board positions in a positive light. "Board vacancies always present a tremendous opportunity to involve people with fresh ideas and new approaches to the issues we face," he said. "I hope folks in our membership or out in the community who support our desire to preserve and share our unique history will consider volunteering to serve on our Board."

"This is really a wonderful group of people to work with. We accomplish a lot every year, but we sure have a lot of fun, too."

Anyone interested in serving on the JAHSSD Board should contact Mich or Gwen whose phone numbers are always listed on the back cover of *Footprints*.

## LOCAL PROFESSOR'S SABBATICAL PROJECT TO BENEFIT JAHSSD

**Susan Hasegawa**, Professor of History at San Diego City College, has announced plans to take a teaching sabbatical during the upcoming Spring semester to research and write a book on the Japanese American experience in San Diego from the 1880s to the 1980s. The college has approved her leave. Hasegawa plans to incorporate archival photographs, oral history interviews, and primary sources to tell the story of San Diego's Nikkei (Japanese American) community.



*Prof. Susan Hasegawa at the Nikkei Youth Exhibition she curated in 2006*

Part of this process will involve the laborious electronic cataloging and documenting of photographs in the **Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego's** sizable collection. "Under the direction of the late **Prof. Don Estes**, JAHSSD had amassed a collection of some 800 to 1,000 photographs. The next step to preserving our history is cataloging and further documenting the stories behind the images," she explained. "I want to create an electronic archive for future student and general public research on the San Diego Japanese American community and address the gap in both the current literature and the local history."

Another component of Hasegawa's sabbatical plan will involve learning software that will help her create an online master course for U.S. History at SDCC. "The completion of a book, electronic photograph archive, and learning new software will create concrete products to educate students and the general public on the impact and contributions of Japanese Americans to San Diego County," she wrote in her proposal.

The work Hasegawa is undertaking during her six-month leave will make JAHSSD's important photo collection both more accessible and useful. The bulk of the collection was gathered over many years by Prof. Estes, Hasegawa's mentor at SDCC. Creating a pictorial history book using the collection will also give wider exposure to JAHSSD and its archives.

At a recent meeting, the JAHSSD Board commended Hasegawa for generously dovetailing her project to the Society's mission. The Board also has committed its support of the book project and is expected to benefit from its sale after its publication.

Hasegawa has decided to retire from the JAHSSD Board of Directors at the end of 2007 to concentrate on her sabbatical projects. She will continue to work closely with JAHSSD and the Board, curating exhibits and offering her expertise and perspective as an historian to the Society's future projects.

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### 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!

## CELEBRATIONS!



*Our own beautiful Karen Kawasaki and the dapper James Williams were wed on June 28 in the presence of their family and friends. The setting was the Harbor Inn, right at the water's edge on the Submarine Base in Point Loma. Congratulations!*

### ROY S. YONEKURA

**Certified Public Accountant**

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10388 LIMETREE LN.  
SPRING VALLEY, CA 91977  
**(619) 660-9865**

## FISHING NET:

### Trolling for Internet Treasure

by Robert Irie

*Born in New York City, Robert is a second-generation Japanese American currently residing in San Diego, California. He is a former maintainer of the Asian American Resources website, a portal site that listed Asian American websites and resources in the early days of the Internet. Robert is interested in using technology to promote Japanese and Asian American cultural and language awareness and education. We welcome him as a regular contributor.*

There are several resources on the Internet that may be of particular interest to Japanese Americans and the Nikkei community. The following are two national-level organizations that also have local member chapters or societies.

#### National Organizations

##### ◆ Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) ([www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org)).

The nation's oldest Asian American civil and human rights organization, the JACL has a web presence that provides information about its many services, including education resources, outreach programs, and events. The website also provides a listing of local JACL chapter websites, accessible from the Resources and Links tab. Note however that not all chapters have websites.

##### ◆ National Association of Japan-America Societies (NAJAS)

([www.us-japan.org](http://www.us-japan.org)). Another national organization that has several local chapters is the National Association of Japan-America Societies. NAJAS is a private, non-profit organization that focuses mainly on educational, cultural, and business programs on Japan and U.S.-Japan relations, and consists of around 40 independent local organizations across the country. The emphasis of each organization varies, with some catering to those who have business interests in Japan, and others providing cultural and social events for people interested in Japanese culture.

Local or regional organizations also have a web presence, particularly in the Southern California area. They provide even more opportunities to participate in cultural events during major Japanese and American holidays and occasions.

#### Local/Regional Organizations and Sites

##### ◆ Japanese American National Museum (JANM) ([www.janm.org](http://www.janm.org)).

The Japanese American National Museum, the largest museum in the U.S. dedicated to Japanese Americans, is located in Los Angeles, California, in the Little Tokyo neighborhood. While visiting the museum is highly recommended, those who are not able to physically visit can browse some of the museum's collections online ([www.janm.org/collections/online/list](http://www.janm.org/collections/online/list)) and purchase items from the online museum store ([www.janmstore.com](http://www.janmstore.com)). Finally, the museum is involved in several outreach programs, including the **Discover Nikkei website** ([www.discovernikkei.org](http://www.discovernikkei.org)) that, among other things, maintains a comprehensive topical list of Nikkei resources.

##### ◆ Japanese Language and Culture Meetup Groups ([www.japanese.meetup.com](http://www.japanese.meetup.com)).

The meetup.com website allows people with similar interests to organize groups online and meet each other (a "meetup") in person in cities across the world. There are Japanese Language and Culture Meetup groups in most major cities, and most are organized to provide Japanese language conversation events, cultural exhibit and event outings, or simply dinner gatherings.

Many Asian American organizations also have Japanese American components or share similar interests to the Nikkei community. Future columns will describe them and their websites in more detail.



## ACTORS GET INSPIRATION FROM THOSE THEY WILL PORTRAY

by Joyce Teague

On August 26, JAHSSD arranged for a get-together between some of **Clara Breed's** World War II letter writers and the cast of the upcoming play, "**Dear Miss Breed.**"

Seven young actors portraying **Clara Breed** and her teenage correspondents had a chance to meet with their real-life counterparts. The new production is being produced by **Asian Story Theater** and the **San Diego Public Library** this September at the Lyceum Theatre in Horton Plaza. (See cover story on Page 1.)

A Mission Valley office space where the cast has been rehearsing was the setting for the casual meeting, which included lunch, a viewing of the JAHSSD-produced documentary "**Democracy Under Pressure**" to give the actors an overview of what evacuation and internment was like for young San Diego Nikkei, and a question and answer session.

On hand were the play's director **Andy Lowe** and assistant director **Kimberly Miller**. Cast members in attendance were **Susan Hammons**, **Ciceron Altarejos**, **Kezia Liu**, **Evie Rodriguez**, **Rosalie Celestial**, **Billy Khang** and **Enoch Wu**.

Representing JAHSSD were **Ben and Grace Segawa**, **Liz Yamada**, **Louise (Ogawa) Watanabe**, her daughter **Diane Yamada**, and **Joyce Teague**, who facilitated the get-together.

The actors were able to hear firsthand what it was like for the youngsters to be uprooted from the comfort of their homes and transported to a remote desert environment so different from the San Diego neighborhoods they had known. The letter writers' responses were candid and disarming.

"When I was young, it was different than now," **Louise Watanabe** told the group. "Our parents worked seven days a week and we never went on a vacation. It was exciting to be on a train. We weren't thinking about why you're on a train. It wasn't till we arrived at Poston that we realized why we were there."

**Liz Yamada** said because they were so young, their preoccupations in camp were different from that of their parents or grandparents who, having been forced to leave a well-established business, occupation or position in their community, had a greater sense of loss and displacement than did their children.

As Miss Breed promised when she saw the children off at the Santa Fe train depot in April 1942, she sent those who wrote to her books that had been retired from the library's shelves and other items they asked for if she was able to procure them. Louise recalled the ritual of receiving a book from Miss Breed, reading it, then passing it along to a friend who would in turn give it to another friend. She would not get the book back because it was being circulated throughout the camp.

Because Miss Breed had so generously offered to help, the young letter writers also asked for small things that were difficult to get in camp. Louise recalled asking if Miss Breed might find her some buttons to complete the two-piece outfit she had sewn by hand for her high school graduation ceremony. Miss Breed sent her the buttons.

Louise also recalled writing Miss Breed that her family did not have an iron, an item that was scarce in camp. "She wrote back saying she would try to find me one, and she did." One wonders how much of her modest librarian's salary Miss Breed was spending on buying and mailing these items regularly to "her children" in the camps.

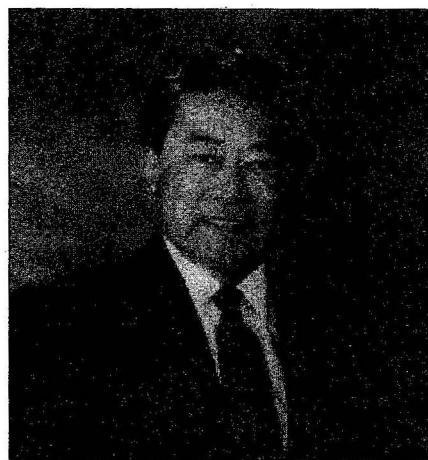
**Susan Hammons**, the actress portraying Clara Breed, asked if the letter writers could describe Miss Breed's mannerisms and

comportment. How did she dress, had they ever seen her angry, did she raise her voice? The actors sought information they could use to make their portrayals as true to character as possible.

The actors sensed the importance of the story they were engaged in telling their audience. Several, in describing their theatrical background and why they decided to try out for this particular play, said they considered it their good fortune to have been cast.

**Billy Khang** described his casting in the play as "fate. For me, it's a privilege to be involved with this project," he said, as his fellow actors nodded their agreement.

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## NPS TO OFFER WORKSHOP IN SAN DIEGO OCTOBER 12

The **National Park Service** will offer a local workshop to get input on a recently-approved grant program to preserve World War II Japanese American confinement sites. In December 2006, Congress allocated \$38 million for this grant program.

Ten Western Region workshops are being scheduled by **Densho**, a Seattle-based nonprofit organization founded in 1996 to preserve and share WWII internment oral histories (visit [www.densho.org](http://www.densho.org)). Densho Executive Director **Tom Ikeda** included San Diego in the workshop series to make sure our local JA organizations have the opportunity to contribute their ideas.

**The two-hour San Diego workshop is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 12 at 3:00p.m. in the Buddhist Temple of San Diego Sangha Hall.**

JA community groups will be notified of the details by Densho in September. If you are interested in attending or have ideas you want to share, call Joyce Teague at (619) 527-7855.

# LEARNING ABOUT SAN DIEGO'S PAST FROM AN OLD DIRECTORY

by Linda A. Canada

From **Harry Honda**, long-time Los-Angeles based journalist and JAHSSD member, we recently received photocopies of portions of a **1915 Japanese Directory** published by the San Francisco Japanese language newspaper **Shin Sekai** (New World).

Harry told us, "This directory was found in the basement of the Sun Building in Little Tokyo before it was razed in 1975. I have constantly referred to it to study what the Japanese American scene was like in the early 1900s."

Harry photocopied five pages containing San Diego business advertisements as well as the part of the directory listing people and businesses who were in San Diego in 1915 and mailed them to his friend **Yuki Kawamoto** for our attention.

There are many familiar names on this list, which was translated by **Roy Asaki**, our dedicated Society member and volunteer. Roy is a *kibei*, sent to Japan for education, who spent the war years separated from his Los Angeles family. By the time Roy was able to rejoin them in 1949, they had relocated to Chicago following internment. Roy learned Japanese before the Japanese government standardized the kanji characters after World War II. He is therefore able to translate these early texts that are part of the JAHSSD collection.

<p><b>THE HOTEL TOGO.</b> 519 5th St., SAN DIEGO, CAL.</p> <p>館旅等高 <b>東郷ホテル</b> 食室及料理部共完成 電話架設中</p> <p>加州サンデーボーイ市 第五街五一九</p>	<p><b>THE OWL SHOE CO.</b> 541 1/2 5th St., SAN DIEGO, CAL.</p> <p>アオル靴店 并修繕部</p> <p>加州サンデーボーイ市第五街五四一 今週最新式のチャムピオン、エジンを染へ付け 最速に且廉率に修繕可致 尚ほ靴店は新機、靴下、其他諸品は勿論セロ ンドハンド様の販賣可致</p>
--	--

Ads for two Nikkei-run San Diego businesses from the 1915 Japanese Directory. The directory was published by the Shin Sekai, a San Francisco-based Japanese language newspaper.

These are the San Diego businesses with ads in the directory. Those with "?" indicate names where the kanji can be read more than one way. If you are familiar with any of these business names and notice an error in our interpretation, we'd appreciate it if you'd let us know.

■ **THE HOTEL TOGO.** 519 Fifth Street, San Diego. Manager: Taryokichi, Onan (?), Odan(?) or Okusunoki(?). Dining room and food service areas both finished, phone service being installed.

■ **THE OWL SHOE CO.** 541 1/2 Fifth Street, San Diego. Manager repairs department. A new modern Champion machine installed for fast reliable repair services. Also we sell new shoes, socks, and other second-hand items.

## The Yokohama Laundry.

234 National Ave., Cal.

男女洋服洗濯部并ダイオーク  
加州サンデーボーイ市  
ナショナル町二四三  
本店  
**横濱洗濯所**  
イー街八四八  
支店  
**同店**  
本店電話 一五五八  
支店電話 一四三二  
ホーナム 四九二七

The Yokohama Laundry, a local Nikkei business which purchased ad copy in the "1915 Japanese Directory." These ads appear on the five photocopied pages sent to us by Harry Honda and translated by JAHSSD volunteer, Roy Asaki.

■ **EMPIRE HOTEL.** 562 Fourth Street, San Diego, California. Hotel Manager: Hirosuke Hamano. Home phone 3523, main 3202. San Diego's best high class newly constructed hotel. Dining room and food services facilities completed.

■ **FAVORITE LAUNDRY.** 1209-1211 H Street, San Diego, California. Home phone 4201. Manager: Daioku. Mens and ladies suit cleaning. All our workers are experienced, reliable, careful. They do excellent work and we also provide fast home delivery service.

■ **SUYISAKA (?) STORES.** 528 Fifth Street, San Diego. Home phone 1959. Japanese foods and general merchandise store. [Note: the **Shikisaka Trade Association** occupied the same space, according to the directory listings. Thus, the name of the store might be **Shikisaka**.]

■ **YASHOTE.** 443 Sixth Street, San Diego. Owner: Kinjiro Terada. Home phone 3598. Immediately seated food services.

■ **YOKOHAMA LAUNDRY.** Main office: 243 National Avenue, San Diego. Manager: Daioku. Home phone 1558, main 4324. Branch Office: 848 E Street. Home phone 4927. Men and women's suit cleaning.

■ **PANAMA LAUNDRY.** 1106 H Street, San Diego. Phone home 2410. Hamada & Yamamoto. Men and women suit cleaning and dye.

In addition to the display ads listed above, there were many other Japanese owned or run businesses listed for the San Diego area. Not many of them had telephones, and sometimes several businesses shared a single address.

These are the business listed:

(Continued on Page 19)



(LEARNING ABOUT SAN DIEGO'S PAST continued from Page

Japanese Club  
Community Christian Church  
San Diego Weekly Publication  
Rafu Shimpo branch office  
Asahi Newspaper branch office  
Shin Sekai contact office  
Matsura Clothing Stores  
Yonemura Clothing Stores  
Japan Trade Association  
Koka (?) Trade Association  
Togo Trade Association  
Harada Trade Association  
Hirose Trade Association  
Kimono House  
Yasumatsu Trade Association  
Shikisaka Trade Association  
Ishikawa Trade Association  
Ando Book Store  
Higashi General  
Merchandise Store  
Owl Shoe Store  
Hotel Inspire  
Togo Hotel  
Nakamoto Hotel  
Japan Hotel  
Kisyu House  
Yokohama Laundry  
and branch office  
Panama Laundry

Favorite Laundry  
Japan Laundry  
Mikawa Hotel  
Togo Pool Hall  
National Pool Hall  
Japan Pool Hall  
Yamato Pool Hall  
Togo Laundry  
Kobayashi Pool Hall  
Tamagawa Bath  
Yokohama Bath  
Yano Western Foods Store  
Toyo Western Foods Store  
Yokohama Western Foods Store  
Sun Rice Western Foods Store  
Yashote  
Obayashi Shooting Grounds  
Hagino Candy Store  
Yamasaki Candy Store  
Arakawa Fruit Store  
Sagawa Bed [housing]  
Nakamura Bed [housing]  
Nakamura Pool Hall  
Konishi Barber Shop  
Toyo Barber Shop  
Umida Barber Shop  
Togo Barber Shop  
Shikisaki Barber Shop  
Japan Tea House [Coronado Beach]

There were also four camps listed, which are probably the camps where the Japanese farm laborers lived:

#### Camp Bonita

Kiyanbu Camp (?) Hatashita

Kiyanbu Camp (?) Iwasaki

Kanyu (?) Camp Shimokawa

These pages from the 1915 *Japanese Directory* give us a glimpse into the lives of a small group of Issei who became the foundation of much of our present Japanese American community.

If you have knowledge of any of the above individuals or businesses and would like to expand the information we have, please drop us a line. We always welcome your corrections and comments.

## THE FOOD-O-PHILE FILES

by Your Eat-it-tor, Certifiable Foodhead

Sushi lovers always have their favorite joint. Because these days the general population has embraced sushi as a dining staple, San Diego now has a lot of sushi places to choose from.

I've long been partial to KAZUMI'S in Hillcrest (3975 Fifth Ave., 619/682-4054) because the personable **Kazumi Yokoyama** is also the best guy to engage in bartender-like conversation. But relative newcomer WASABI SUSHI's generous and tasty portions haven't disappointed in several visits (2662 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach, 858/272-2275). It's just a couple blocks from the always-crowded SUSHI OTA, a non-nonsense fave of locals.

And where do we *always* run into friends when we need a quick and tasty meal before seeing a film at the Mission Valley Ultra Star Cinemas? SANSAI JAPANESE GRILL near Hazard Center.

## JAPANESE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SAN DIEGO

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Proudly Celebrating Its Centennial

September 22~23, 2007

## JAHSSD HIGHLIGHTS, 2003 to 2007

Compiled by Yuki Kawamoto

This year, JAHSSD celebrates the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding. Highlights of our first 10 years were published in the Fall 2002 issue of *Footprints*. This is a brief look back at the next five years to the present. We thank Yuki for culling through board meeting minutes and past issues of *Footprints* to compile this list.

### 2003

**Noriko Inoue** joins Board. JAHSSD web site established with Noriko Inoue as webmaster. JAHSSD participates in the Multiple Sclerosis Society walkathon in support of Board member **Bob Batchelder**, raising over \$6,000 for the MS Society. Board members and JAHSSD members (AKA our **Speakers Bureau**), continue to give talks to school classes and community groups. Committee co-chaired by **Ben Segawa** and **George Furuya** is formed to plan a memorial commemorating local Japanese Americans who have served their country in all branches of service. **Jeanne Elyea** donates space in a converted cargo container on her property for storage of our artifacts. An exhibit on the temple's history is mounted at the **Buddhist Temple of San Diego** in conjunction with its Bon Odori Festival in August. An exhibit curated by **Don Estes** is shown at the Bonita Historical Museum in September. **Harold Kuhn**, **Umeko Kawamoto** and **Kiyoko Ochi** are recipients of the 2003 Kansha Award at the annual meeting on October 18. Korean War Veteran **Bob Wada** is guest speaker for the meeting.

### 2004

**Christina Pierson** and **Rev. Jim Yanagihara** join Board. Planning for the veterans memorial continues; site for memorial selected is near the Old Japanese section of **Mount Hope Cemetery** and donated by the City of San Diego; design of monument and contractor for construction selected. Community response when asked to provide financial support of memorial is overwhelming. Dedication of memorial planned for Memorial Day 2005. Representatives of **Kiku Gardens**, JAHSSD and **San Diego JACL** join to present the **Nikkei Filmfest** featuring three films and their directors at Southwestern Community College. JAHSSD provides assistance, photos and artifacts for a children's interactive exhibit in Balboa Park focused on 1915 Exposition. JAHSSD again participates in the MS Walk with the **Bob's Buddies** team and exceeds its previous pledge goal. Sponsor free community screening of the film, "**Farewell to Manzanar**" at the Educational Cultural Complex on June 18. Artwork of **Akira Shima** featured in exhibit at the Buddhist Temple's Bon Odori Festival. Community copresenter of the documentary *Eyewitness: Stan Honda* featuring San Diego-born photojournalist **Stan Honda** at **San Diego Asian Film Festival**. **Tetsuyo Kashima** (posthumously) and **Tom and Elizabeth Ozaki** are recipients of the 2004 Kansha Award given at the annual membership meeting on October 8. Exhibit on Japanese American contributions to the local fishing industry mounted for the meeting. **Robert Ito** is guest speaker. Site Location Committee (later renamed **Home Site Committee**) with Ito as chairman formed to find a home site for JAHSSD. Participates in an open house at the Buddhist Temple by providing speakers for a panel discussion and a JAHSSD informational booth.

### 2005

**Michio Himaka** assumes the office of president, replacing **Vernon Yoshioka**. **Gwen Momita** is vice president, **Bob Batchelder** continues as treasurer, and **Karen Kawasaki** is secretary. Hosted key members of the **Colorado River Indian Tribes (C.R.I.T.)** visiting San Diego; one of the tribe elders provides a moving account of her experience with the internment camps built on C.R.I.T. land during World War II. Photo exhibit on March 26 at the inaugural **Japan Fiesta** which featured an

arena football match between the San Diego Riptide and the All Japan Samurai Warriors and a convergence of San Diego's *shin issei* (new generation of immigrants) businesses. JAHSSD's **Bob's Buddies** team participates in the MS Walk. JAHSSD Board devastated by passing away of historian and founding board member, **Donald Hamilton Estes** on May 7. **Japanese American Veterans Memorial**, honoring San Diego's U.S. soldiers of Japanese ancestry, is dedicated on Memorial Day, May 30, in conjunction with the annual **Memorial Day All-Community Service** conducted by the three San Diego Japanese faith organizations and the **Asian Pacific VFW Post 4851**; event co-chair **Ben Segawa** welcomes the crowd of over 400 persons, followed by talk by co-chair **George Furuya** whose father, **George Furuya, Sr.**, was his inspiration for initiating the memorial project; Congressman **Bob Filner** presents JAHSSD with a flag which was flown over the nation's capitol; letters and proclamations from many political office holders, including President **George W. Bush**, are received. **Carol Hasegawa Estes** and her family accept the 2005 Kansha Award given posthumously to **Don Estes** at the annual membership meeting on October 15. **Ruth Okimoto**, Poston Restoration Committee, and **Yuko Kaifu** of the Office of the Consul General of Japan, are guest speakers. Through efforts of the **Home Site Committee** and on their recommendation, a suite at a site on Austin Drive in Spring Valley is leased for office space and storage of JAHSSD archives. Materials are moved to the "Austin Archives" late in the year.

### 2006

**Linda Canada** joins Board to fill position of historian (later officially our archivist). "**Camp Dance**," a musical revue featuring songs from camp days and performed by the **Grateful Crane Ensemble**, is presented by JAHSSD at Southwestern College's Mayan Hall to a sold-out crowd on January 28. The book *Dear Miss Breed* by **Joanne Oppenheim** is launched on February 23 by Scholastic Books, **San Diego Public Library** and JAHSSD at the Library with the author present. A **Clara Breed** exhibit is mounted by JAHSSD to coincide. **Bob's Buddies** participates in their fourth MS Walk with the team raising over \$12,000 for the MS Society. A consultant is hired to help organize archival materials at Austin Site. Position of Corresponding Secretary created with **Nancy Cowser** appointed to fill post. Three tours of the old Japanese Section of downtown are led by its prewar residents **Mich Himaka**, **Jim Yanagihara** and **Yuki Kawamoto**; the first tour was for board members, the second for Society members and the third for the **Odawara Sister City** group. Fund drive launched with a goal of \$30,000 to finance the three-year lease of the Austin Site. Open house at the Austin Site held on August 26. A display titled "Teamwork and Leadership" is featured at the Buddhist Temple's Bon Odori. **Moto Asakawa** and **Roy Muraoka** are awarded the 2006 Kansha Award at the annual meeting on October 7; Professor **Gaku Tsuda** speaks on his research on Nikkei youth. Community co-sponsor of several films screened at the 2006 **San Diego Asian Film Festival**. Host a booth at the Gaslamp District's **Fall Back Festival** on October 29 featuring a map of old Japantown developed by **Jim Yanagihara** and offering origami demos with participation of children. A two-month exhibition titled **Nikkei Youth Culture: Past, Present, Future** is invited to be the inaugural exhibition of the Youth Education gallery of the **San Diego History Museum** in Balboa Park, opening November 9. JAHSSD and the **San Diego JACL** co-host a mochi ice cream tasting event at the **Chinese Museum** downtown.

### 2007

**Mich Himaka** agrees to a final term as president. JAHSSD hosts reception at **Kiku Gardens** for **Mike Roussin** who mounted a photo exhibit there as his Eagle Scout project. Board members meet in February for a strategic planning session. JAHSSD will act as sponsor

(Continued on Page 21)



(JAHSSD HIGHLIGHTS continued from Page 20)

and fiscal agent for the Poston III Reunion to be held in San Diego April 18-20, 2008. **Bob's Buddies** raise a record \$16,000 for the MS Society this year. Plaque dedicating the flagpole at the Veterans Memorial in Mt. Hope Cemetery to **Min Sakamoto** is unveiled at a ceremony on Memorial Day, May 28. Exhibit curated by **Linda Canada** and **Susan Hasegawa** titled **Home Grown: Japanese American Farming in the South Bay** opens a two-month run at the **Bonita Museum** on July 14. Walking tour of old Japantown conducted for students from **San Diego High School**. Exhibit, **Nihon Tamashii: Celebrating Nikkei Traditions**, is mounted for the Buddhist Temple's Bon Odori in August. "Dear Miss Breed," a play written by **Joanne Oppenheim** and supported by JAHSSD to open September 16 for a two-week run at the downtown Lyceum Theater. **Dr. Terry Tanaka** and **Dr. Yuri Kaneda** selected to receive the 2007 Kansha Award at annual membership meeting on October 6; meeting exhibit will focus on JAHSSD's 15-year history.

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## JAHSSD TO PARTICIPATE IN GASLAMP STREET FAIR

For the second year, JAHSSD will host a booth at the **Fall Back Festival** in the Gaslamp Quarter on November 4, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The annual street fair highlights San Diego's diverse downtown history through free activities.

JAHSSD's booth will feature a map of old Japantown created by **Jim Yanagihara**, **Yuki Kawamoto** and **Mich Himaka** to show people what the downtown area looked like in the 1930s.

JAHSSD volunteers will teach origami to visitors to the booth. We invite you to wander downtown on November 4 and enjoy this fall festival. If you'd like to work in the booth for a shift, call Linda Canada.

## Thanks, BOB'S BUDDIES & 2007 M.S. Walk Donors!

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These are the donor names received as of press time.  
We regret any omissions.

## FROM THE JAHSSD ARCHIVES...



Unlike its theatrical forerunners *noh* and *kabuki*, *shibai* was a staged entertainment that made its way to the U.S. via Japanese immigrants. Traveling professional troupes would come overseas occasionally to entertain the largest Nikkei communities, but it was more often home-grown performances that would be presented in local churches, using period costumes and props. For a short time following the closing of the internment camps, San Diego's resettled Nisei resumed some of the traditions their parents had perpetuated before the war, like the *shibai*. This 1954 formal photo shows members of the Young Buddhist Association (YBA) at the Buddhist Temple posing in their make-up and costumes. The *shibai* tradition has not been carried on by subsequent Nikkei generations for reasons which may seem obvious, but the most important one is the loss of the Japanese language among the subsequent generations.

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**DEAR MISS BREED** (Joanne Oppenheim ©2006 Scholastic Press): The award-winning story of San Diego's brave Children's Librarian, Clara Breed, who carried on a three-year correspondence with children who wrote her from behind barbed wire during World War II. Their letters offer remarkable insight into camp life and the hopes, dreams, and tenacity of young Americans branded "enemy aliens" by their country.  
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**SOUTH BAY MONOGATARI: Tales of the South Bay Nikkei Community** (Donald H. Estes ©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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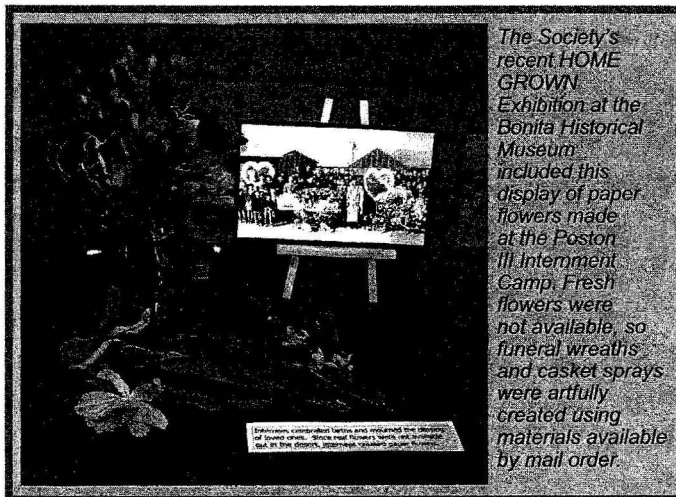
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The Society's recent **HOME GROWN** Exhibition at the Bonita Historical Museum included this display of paper flowers made at the Poston III Internment Camp. Fresh flowers were not available, so funeral wreaths and casket sprays were artfully created using materials available by mail order.

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

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