

FOOTPRINTS

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

Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego

POVUCC DEDICATES NEW SANCTUARY



The Ukelele Praise Choir of Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ helped celebrate the dedication of the church's new sanctuary in September 2008.

Photo courtesy of Robert Austin.

KIKU GARDENS SENIOR LUNCH PROGRAM

By Yukio Kawamoto

In August 2008, the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego joined six other Japanese American community organizations to participate in the **Senior Lunch Program** at Kiku Gardens in Chula Vista. The organizations are taking turns planning and preparing lunches at the senior housing complex on Fridays. The program was started to augment the well-established Tuesday senior lunches prepared by the regular Kiku Gardens volunteer kitchen staff, headed by General Manager **Steve Sato** and chef **Hiro Sawasaki**.

As of this writing, JAHSSD has prepared three Friday lunches, all in 2008. The lunch on August 8, featuring curry rice, was chaired by **Grace Takeuchi** assisted by **Gwen Momita**, **Linda Canada**, **Valerie Abe**, **Mits Kawamoto**, **Yuki Kawamoto**, and the Kiku Gardens volunteer staff. The main course for the September 26 lunch was buta tofu and was chaired by **Gwen Momita** assisted by **Grace Takeuchi**, **Valerie Abe** and the Kiku Gardens volunteer staff. The November 14 lunch, featuring chicken katsu and tsukemono, was chaired by **Hisae Batchelder** assisted by **Naomi Himaka**, **Mich Himaka**, **Grace Takeuchi**, **Jocelyn Carrillo**, **Yuri Yamate**, **Mits Kawamoto**, **Yuki Kawamoto**, and the Kiku Gardens volunteer staff. Many comments have been received on how much the lunches were enjoyed by those who attended.

The other community organizations taking part in the Friday Senior Lunch Program are **Asian Pacific VFW Post 4851**, **Buddhist Temple of San Diego**, **Japanese American Citizens League**, **Japanese Friendship Garden**, **Japan Society of San Diego** and **Tijuana** and **Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ**.

Additional lunch dates have been assigned for 2009. It is anticipated each organization will be responsible for approximately six meals per year. All supplies and even the shopping are provided by Kiku Gardens, so the organizations need only provide the menu, the labor and the time it takes to prepare each meal.

(Continued on Page 2)

VOL. 18 NO. 1 WINTER 2008/SPR. 2009

Kiku Gardens Senior Lunch Program	1
Community Calendar	2
President's Message	2
2009 JAHSSD Officers	3
JAHSSD's Newest Board Member	3
In Gratitude	2
Oops! We Makes Mistakes	3
In Memoriam	4
Minoru Koide	4
Fred Noboru Katsumata	4
Nikkei Community Loses Two Friends	5
Glen Takahashi	5
POVUCC Pastor to Retire	5
Padres/JSSDT JA Community Night	5
Caught Doing Something Nice	6
Volunteering, A Break from Boredom	7
Chanko Nabe	8
Japanese-Americans Bridging the Oceans	8
Membership News	9
Second Chance to See "Beauty"	9
Celebrations	9
"JAs in San Diego" Author Gives Talk	9
Mazegohan	10
Nisei VFW Reunion	10
The Inauguration: Up Close, Personal	10
Three-Year Pledge Renewals	11
Bob's Buddies Get Moving	11
Austin Plus Committee Update	12
JAHSSD Three Year Strategy	12
Plans for Poston III Reunion	12
Stanley Hayama Diary	12
JAHSSD at Bishop's School	13
Nikkei Seniors Sought for Research	13
Fudo Takagi Remembers Watch Shop	13
New Play Focuses on Crusaders	14
"Hit the Hay"	16
We Get Letters & E-mail	17
Valerie Abe's Art Showcased	17
The Return of General Shinseki	18
S.D. Opera Needs Asian Supernumeraries	19
Holiday Greetings	19-22
From the JAHSSD Archives	23

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

BTSD: Buddhist Temple of San Diego **JACL:** Japanese American Citizens League
JAHSSD: Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego **JCC:** Japanese Coordinating Council
JFG: Japanese Friendship Garden **JSSDT:** Japan Society of San Diego & Tijuana
KG: Kiku Gardens **POVUCC:** Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ
SDCC: San Diego City College **SDJCC:** San Diego Japanese Christian Church

MARCH 14 – CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL (11 a.m.-2 p.m.), JFG. Cherry blossom-viewing, music, arts & crafts, food, kids activities. \$18 adults, \$7 kids. Info: www.niwa.org

MARCH 21 & 22 – IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL Flower & Cultural Exhibitions (Sat. 12-4 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.), Balboa Park Casa del Prado Room 101. Free. 619/232-8232

MARCH 22 – ABA CHOW MEIN BENEFIT LUNCHEON (11:30 a.m.), BTSD Annex. \$6 dine in or take out

MARCH 28 – CHICKEN KATSU BENEFIT DINNER (4:30-6 p.m.), BTSD. \$8 in advance/\$10 at door

MARCH 28 – BTSD/VFW BINGO (6-9 p.m.), BTSD. \$10

APRIL 4 thru MAY 16 – VALERIE ABE ART SHOW, Bay Park Press. Opening reception April 4 (5:30-8:30 p.m.) Free admission. Hours and information: 619/275-0696

APRIL 4 thru MAY 27 – “BEAUTY IN CAPTIVITY” presented by JAHSSD, San Diego City College Learning Resource Center. Free. Info: 619/660-0174

APRIL 18 – “DOCTOR QUYNH & THE WATER PUPPETS” (2 and 7 pm), Asian Story Theatre at Horton Plaza Lyceum Theatre, featuring unique Vietnamese water puppets. \$15 G.A., \$10 student/senior/military. Teachers free. Info: 619/527-2816

APRIL 25 – BTSD/VFW BINGO (6-9 p.m.), BTSD. \$10

APRIL 26 – JAPANESE COORDINATING COUNCIL ANNUAL KEIRO KAI APPRECIATION LUNCH (1 p.m.), BTSD Annex Hall, \$20, Info: (619) 239-0896

APRIL 26 – ALOHA CELEBRATION, POVUCC: Special worship (10 a.m.), Celebration (11:20), Lunch (Noon). Luncheon \$15, under 5 free. Reservations: (619) 422-8212

APRIL 29 – “BEAUTY IN CAPTIVITY” panel discussion (11:10 a.m.-12:45 p.m.), SDCC Learning Resource Center. Free. Info: 619/660-0174

MAY (ongoing) – JAPANESE AMERICANS IN WORLD WAR II,” Mesa College Library Resource Center. Free. Information: ykawahar@sdccd.edu

MAY 2 – FURNITURE/RUMMAGE SALE (8 a.m.-2 p.m.), BTSD. Info: 619/239-0896

MAY 8 – RESERVATION DEADLINE: JSSDT Padres vs. Mariners (see insert). Info: 858/467-1727

MAY 25 – MEMORIAL DAY TRI-CHURCH SERVICE (9:30 a.m.), JA Veterans Monument, Mt. Hope Cemetery

MAY 30 – BTSD/VFW BINGO (6-9 p.m.), BTSD. \$10

JUNE 7 – JAPANESE CULTURAL BAZAAR (11 a.m.-4 p.m.), BTSD, free admission. 619/239-0896

JUNE 16 – PADRES vs. MARINERS JA COMMUNITY NIGHT (7:05 p.m.), Petco Park, \$37/\$17 tickets will benefit JAHSSD, Nikkei orgs. Info: 858/705-3984

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

by Gwen Momita, Board President

Dear Friends,

During this first quarter of 2009, we find ourselves in a world-wide economic recession. Times are tough for all. How do we ensure that JAHSSD remain focused?

1) We keep doing what we do! With that said, we have just wrapped up an exhibit at Parker, Arizona, located near the former internment camp at Poston. A huge thank you goes to **Linda Canada, Susan Hasegawa** and **Valerie Abe** for helping to make this exhibit a success. Next, in early April, **“Beauty in Captivity”** will be reformatted and displayed at San Diego City College. And finally, a proposal for an exhibit at the **Veteran’s Museum** in Balboa Park is in the works. This exhibit will open in time for Veteran’s Day and will highlight the service of Japanese Americans during WWII and other wars. In conjunction with both of these exhibits we will present educational talks and moderate panel discussions. Please check the Community Calendar on this page and in future *Footprints* for dates and times of these presentations.

2) We plan for the future! The **Austin Plus Committee**, chaired by **Robert Ito**, continues to meet monthly. (See related articles on Page 12.) Our immediate goal is to find a more central location for our archives, thus making it more convenient for volunteers, researchers and student interns. Here’s where the slumping economy may help us, as rents could be lower and opportunities more plentiful. In addition, we have not given up on finding a PERMANENT HOME! If you have suggestions to move us towards this goal, we invite you to contact us.

3) We continue to fill requests for speakers and grant participation! JAHSSD receives numerous requests from educators and community groups for speakers. We also receive many requests to partner with other organizations in various grants. We are working diligently to fill these requests. At this time, however, we need more speakers! Please contact us if you are willing to play an active roll in this part of our mission. Training is fun and available any time.

As you can see, our 2009 Board has been busy, but we miss those who have recently left the Board: **Ben Segawa, Nancy Cowser, Rev. Jim Yanagihara, Naomi Himaka** and **Christina Pierson**.

To them, we sincerely say, *Thank you for your hard work and continued support of our mission.*

(KIKU GARDENS SENIOR LUNCH PROGRAM continued from Page 1)

Kiku Gardens invites all senior citizens and their guests on Tuesdays and Fridays for a tasty, healthy meal at a cost of \$3 per person. Kiku Gardens is located at 1260 Third Ave. in Chula Vista. JAHSSD can always use extra help when it’s their turn to do the Friday lunch. If you would like to volunteer to help, please call president Gwen Momita at (858) 277-8808.

You don’t have to be a board member to help. As is the case with all JAHSSD volunteer activities, it’s not all work. It’s fun to get together with a group of like-minded folks and feel good about doing something for the benefit of the community.

Volunteer! You’ll enjoy the experience.

2009 JAHSSD OFFICERS IN PLACE

At its November 2008 Board meeting, JAHSSD's Nominating Committee presented its slate of 2009 officers. The following executive officers were approved by the Board:

President: Gwen Momita
Vice President: Debra Kodama
Secretary: Karen Kawasaki-Williams
Treasurer: Grace Takeuchi
Ex Officio: Mich Himaka

Board members who are continuing in their current positions into 2009 are **Bob Batchelder** (Director at Large), **Linda Canada** (Archivist/Volunteer Coordinator), **Jeanne Elyea** (Hospitality) and **Joyce Teague** (Newsletter Editor).

Yuri Kaneda was voted onto the JAHSSD Board at the November meeting, joining **Valerie Abe** and **Craig Ozaki** as Directors at Large. (See Dr. Kaneda's profile below.)

Eddie Canada will serve as Web Editor and **Linda McLemore** will assume the Corresponding Secretary's duties, both non-board positions. **Sumiyo Kastelic**, former member of the Austin Plus Committee, will serve as Membership Coordinator, also in a non-board capacity.

Retiring at the end of 2008 were **Nancy Cowser** (Corresponding Secretary), **Naomi Himaka** (Membership Chair), **Ben Segawa** (Speakers Bureau) and **Jim Yanagihara** (Director at Large). Vice President **Christina Pierson** resigned when her family relocated out of state. Nancy and Naomi most generously took care of their previous duties until their positions were filled. Naomi will continue to take care of mail delivery and coordinate our *Footprints* mailings for us.

The Society sincerely thanks these dedicated individuals for their guidance, long-time support of our mission, and the countless hours of hard work they have given in helping JAHSSD fulfill its activities, events and community projects during their tenure.

JAHSSD WELCOMES NEWEST BOARD MEMBER

By Gwen Momita

The newest member of JAHSSD's Board of Directors, **Dr. Yuri Kaneda**, is well-known to many of us. Besides being that cheerful Bonita dentist, Dr. Yuri, as she is often called, is involved in the **Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ**, the **San Diego Chapter of the JACL**, and many professional and educational organizations.

Yuri received the **Kansha Award** for community service in 2007, at the time its youngest recipient to date. She lives in Eastlake with her husband, **David Fujikawa**. While they are officially "empty nesters," their son **Eric** often travels between UC Irvine and home.

Welcome, Dr. Yuri! We are thrilled you are (literally) on board!



IN GRATITUDE

JAHSSD gratefully acknowledges the following monetary gifts to the Society since our last newsletter. If your donation has not yet been acknowledged, please accept our sincere apologies. Notify Linda McLemore at 619/216-2910 for correction. These are donations received as of January 12, 2009.

TOSHIYE C. ESTES

honoring

DR. AND MRS. P. MICHAEL HASEGAWA

and

DR. AND MRS. FRANK A. KASTELIC

EDWARD K. KUBOTA

MICH and NAOMI HIMAKA

In memory of TAKASHI MAYUMI

BRUCE SHERMAN and SUSAN HASEGAWA

C. R. TAKEHARA

FRANK and SUMIYO KASTELIC

honoring CAROL T. ESTES

ADM. and MRS. KEN SATO

EDWARD ZIMMERLY and PATRICIA HASEGAWA

In memory of DONALD H. ESTES

CLAIRE ESTES

In memory of DONALD H. ESTES

LESLIE HASEGAWA

In memory of DONALD H. ESTES

and honoring CAROL T. ESTES

BOB SHIMAMOTO

BILL & JOYCE TEAGUE

In memory of FRED NABETA

RIO IMAMURA

ROY MURAOKA

OOPS! WE (STILL) MAKES MISTEAKS

~ **Debra Kawahara's** ad was inadvertently omitted last Fall so we are glad to highlight her business this issue with a complimentary Holiday Ad.

~ Because we have combined two issues this month (Winter 2008 and Spring 2009), each of our advertisers will be comped an extra ad at the end of their current run.

~ Sincere apologies for the late arrival of this Holiday Issue and any inconvenience this may have caused our members and friends.

IN MEMORIAM

We note with great sadness the passing of JAHSSD members, San Diegans and former San Diego residents. Heartfelt condolences go out to their families and friends.

ALVIN Y. FUNAKI

August 15, 1937 ~ November 21, 2008

MINORU KOIDE

November 2, 1926 ~ November 23, 2008

DAVID MICHIO EA

January 2, 1982 ~ November 25, 2008

TOSHIKO (MOTOJIMA) HARLAN

November 16, 1932 ~ December 3, 2008

JAYNE YOSHIKO RICO

November 5, 1956 ~ December 3, 2008

YOSHIKO ROBERTS

January 4, 1931 ~ December 19, 2008

GLEN TAKAHASHI

September 2, 1949 ~ December 31, 2008

SHINOBU THOMAS

September 18, 1927 ~ January 13, 2009

TAMOTSU "TOM" KIDA

May 12, 1919 ~ January 15, 2009

GARY MIYAZONO

June 2, 1955 ~ January 17, 2009

LINDA NOMURA

January 2, 1924 ~ January 19, 2009

DORIS Y. MIYASHIRO

March 6, 1955 ~ February 7, 2009

JEANNIE SMITH

1930 ~ February 9, 2009

MINORU KOIDE:

Nov. 2, 1926 ~ Nov. 23, 2008

by Mich Himaka

Minoru (Min) Koide, a retired chemical engineer for many years at the Scripps Institute of Oceanography (SIO) and a talented bowl turner, passed away Nov. 23, 2008, at the age of 82.

A graduate of UCLA, Min participated in numerous oceanographic expeditions in most of the world's oceans while employed at SIO. His talent as an engineer led to his befriending many graduate students working on their PhD in geochemical oceanography. Friends said Min's lab often was filled with such students, whom he mentored and taught.

He was born in San Diego, the fourth child born to the late **Taju and Miwa Koide**. Both his parents were talented artists. The father, a fisherman and fishing boat skipper, took up the carving of abalone shells. One of his creations was a small chest made of abalone shell carvings, son **Frank Koide** said. The mother was a talented painter, whose works have been on display in a number of exhibits.

Min himself took up the hobby of bowl turning using hardwood from throughout the world and it became his passion for 25 years. He also carved the doors of his home in Pacific Beach as well as the entryway decorative fence.

Min's passion for woodworking began while he and his family were incarcerated in Poston III Relocation Center in Arizona during World War II. Some 80 pieces of his bowl work were on display Dec. 2 through February at the Japanese Friendship Garden in Balboa Park.

Min is survived by his widow, the former **Amy Matsumoto**; their son, **Gary**; a sister, **Tami Kinoshita** of Encinitas; and brother, **Frank**, of La Jolla. A friend of the JAHSSD, Min will be missed by all who knew him.

FRED NOBORU KATSUMATA, KANSHA RECIPIENT, PASSES

By Mich Himaka

Fred Noboru Katsumata, who helped guide the San Diego Nikkei community during the critical period of wartime evacuation and internment in 1941, passed away October 19, 2008, at the age of 92.

A native San Diegan, Fred was born September 27, 1916, at Mercy Hospital and spent most of his childhood in the downtown *Nihonmachi* (Japan Town) near Island and Fifth Avenues, where his mother, **Koma**, operated a barbershop and his father, **Kikuzo**, operated a pool hall.

When World War II broke, he was serving as president of the JACL which he had helped found. Along with the entire San Diego Nikkei community, the Katsumata family was sent first to the Santa Anita Assembly Center in Arcadia and later to Poston III Relocation Center near Parker, Arizona.

Fred was active in the community all of his adult life as a long-time member of the **San Diego JACL** and the **Japanese Congregational Church**, which today is the **Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ**. In 2001, citing his many years of service to the community, the **Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego** selected him as a recipient of its annual Kansha Award honoring contributions to the community.

We offer our deepest sympathies to Fred's children, **Ernest and Gwen Katsumata**, his grandchildren and his great-grandchildren and their respective families. Fred is greatly missed by the community.

NIKKEI COMMUNITY LOSES TWO FRIENDS

By Mich Himaka

Two good friends of our community passed away recently. **Gabriel "Gabe" Ornelas**, who operated Gabe's Barber Shop at 1035 Eighth Ave. in Downtown San Diego for 40 years, died Nov. 11, 2008, at the age of 85.

Gabe, a native of El Paso, Texas, graduated from San Diego High in 1942. He had many friends in the Nikkei community. He was also well-known to a number of politicians, including mayors, councilmen and county supervisors. Services were held Jan. 10.

Another good friend of the community, **Yick Ng "Rollie" Quon**, passed away Dec. 28, 2008, at Scripps Mercy Hospital in Chula Vista, of pulmonary fibrosis.

Rollie was 67. He was a San Diego County Sheriff's Reservist for 30 years, attaining the rank of captain.

Rollie served on the board of directors for the San Diego Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association and coordinated that organization's Lucky Lion Dance Group.

He is survived by his widow, **Mirthy**; son, **Anthony**; two grandchildren; three sisters and a brother. Rollie's service was held Jan. 7 at the Chinese Community Church.

Rest in peace, friends.

GLEN TAKAHASHI WAS COUNTY PREP WRESTLING ICON & COACH

By Mich Himaka

The San Diego County high school wrestling community called him a "legend." He was **Glen Takahashi**, honored in 1999 by the National Wrestling Hall of Fame with a lifetime service award and inducted into the California Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2006.

Takahashi served the prep wrestling community for 33 years as a coach starting in 1972 at the Univ. of San Diego High School, being hired in 1975 at El Cajon Valley High School and serving at Valhalla High School in El Cajon from 1983-2005 when he retired due to a heart condition.

Glen, the second son of the late **Howard Takahashi** (1920-2006) and **Hesaa Kida Takahashi**, passed away Dec. 31 at Grossmont Hospital. He was 59. In addition to his mother, Glen is survived by his wife, **Pamela Collins Takahashi**; daughter, **Chelsea**; son, **Branden**; brother, **Howard Jr.**; and sisters, **Loni Schuder** and **Diane Tobin**.

A Celebration of Life was held January 11 at the Faith Chapel in Casa de Oro where more than 800 relatives, friends, wrestling community families and former wrestlers whose lives Glen had touched filled the chapel.

A native of Casa de Oro, Glen graduated in 1967 from Monte Vista High School where he was a two-time San Diego CIF Section masters champion. He attended Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, winning a Western Athletic Conference wrestling title in his weight class in 1970. He went on to earn a master's degree in education from San Diego State University.

During his coaching career at USDHS, El Cajon Valley and Valhalla, he coached 46 masters champions, 37 state medalists and four individual state champions. His dual-meet coaching record closed at 234-52-2. He turned Valhalla High into a wrestling power winning the 1985 state championship and 12 SD section titles.

POVUCC PASTOR TO RETIRE

By Gwen Momita

Rev. Norma Nomura DeSaegher has announced her retirement as senior pastor of **Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ**, effective April 30, 2009.

In 2000, Pastor DeSaegher was called to the former **Ocean View UCC**. Filled with a vision, she pushed for a congregation committed to mission, spirituality and diversity. Under her leadership, the Legacy Faith Fund was initiated in 2002. At first, we had hoped to raise enough money to update and enlarge the chapel. But with the strong leadership of our Pastor and Divine Guidance, another path was chosen. In 2004, two wonderful congregations voted to merge into one now called Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ. With a brand new chapel recently completed, worship takes place overlooking beautiful Mission Bay.

During the past 8½ years, Pastor Norma has been a friend, counselor and mentor to many, as well as a community figure. She plans to keep busy by obtaining her doctorate and continuing her ministry.

Pioneer Ocean View UCC sends a sincere thank you to Pastor Norma for her leadership and the legacy she leaves. We wish her and her talented husband, **John DeSaegher**, God's speed on the journey.

An Aloha Celebration will be held Sunday, April 26, 2009. The schedule is as follows: 10-11:20a.m. - Special worship service in Chapel; 11:20-11:50 a.m. - Aloha Celebration in Chapel; 12:00 pm - Catered luncheon in Fellowship Hall.

Luncheon tickets are \$15. Children under 5 are free. Everyone is welcome to attend all or any part of this celebration. Please call **Louise Iguchi**, (619) 422-8212, for luncheon tickets.



PADRES, JSSDT SPONSOR JA COMMUNITY NIGHT JUNE 16

The **Japan Society of San Diego & Tijuana** and the **San Diego Padres** will present a **Japanese American Community Night** at Petco Park on June 16, 2009. Local designated community organizations like **JAHSSD** will benefit from the sale of specially discounted tickets to their members and friends.

The Padres will play the Seattle Mariners at 7:05 p.m. This home game was chosen because both teams have Japanese players in key positions. Right Field Lower reserved seats are \$17 (gate price \$21) and Toyota Terrace reserved seats are \$37 (gate price \$50). Although only the sale of the Toyota Terrace seating proceeds will benefit the designated organizations, our members are encouraged to purchase tickets at any level to enjoy the game with their friends.

A private pre-game tailgate party is an additional \$10 and includes all-you-can-eat food and drinks from 5:00 p.m. till game time.

The order form is included as an insert with this issue. You may also reserve your tickets at www.japan-society.org. For **JAHSSD** to receive credit for the sale, be sure to indicate that your group is **JAHSSD**. To be seated with your friends, make those reservations are made under one name in one order.

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 extra effort that makes our organization successful.

New Board member **Craig Ozaki** quickly put his computer knowledge to work for us, purchasing and installing a backup drive so that the work we've already put into the Archives computers won't be lost in the event of a computer failure or other catastrophe. The backup drive is kept offsite and updated periodically.

Thanks to **Carol Estes** who drove **Linda Canada** over to and back from Parker, Arizona, in November; and to **Tim Asamen** who met them at a great Thai restaurant in El Centro on their drive over. Meetings with the **Parker Public Library** and **Dennis Patch** and **Jay Cravath** of the **Colorado River Indian Tribes (C.R.I.T.)** should result in exciting future collaborations, beginning with a display of arts and crafts created in the Poston internment camps which were located on C.R.I.T. land during World War II.

Our gratitude to **Linda Canada** and **Valerie Abe** for devoting several days in December to curate, transport, set up and attend the reception for the Parker Public Library display; and to Linda and **Susan Hasegawa** who went back to Parker mid-February to pack up and return the display. Susan also gave a talk at the library that week.

The little things mean so much! Thank you to **Grace Takeuchi** for her assistance in taking down the photo exhibition at **Kiku Gardens** and cleaning the walls afterwards. Thanks also to our President **Gwen Momita** who, in addition to her presidential duties, vacuums, sweeps and even cleans the restroom at Austin!

JAHSSD participated in the **Fallback Festival**, a children's history event held each November in the Gaslamp Quarter. This was our third year to have a booth where we taught origami making. Thanks to **Carol Estes**, **Misako Roussin** and **Michelle Roussin** for staffing the booth and helping the children and their parents understand a little bit about the historical role of Japanese Americans downtown. Photos of this activity appeared in the Fall 2008 issue of *Footprints*.

Author **Susan Hasegawa** did it again!! Four very successful book talks were held at the **San Diego Historical Society** in Balboa Park; at **POVUCC** in the new chapel on November 30; at the **San Diego Public Library** on December 14; and at the **Buddhist Temple** on March 8. We thank **Linda Canada**, **Gwen Momita**, **Joyce Teague**, and librarian **Lynn Whitehouse** for their help in arranging these talks.

Our 2008 commitment to the Friday senior lunch program at Kiku Gardens has been supported by our membership, either as helpers or as diners. A huge thank you to our "Kiku Cooks" who worked hard on Nov. 14: **Hisae Batchelder**, **Grace Takeuchi**, **Naomi Himaka**, **Yuki and Mits Kawamoto**, **Joceylyn Carrillo** and **Yuri Yamate**. Mich and Rev. Jim were there to give support as well! We fed a ton of folks who enjoyed the meal. Linda was there to sell our new book and also helped dismantle our photo display.

Our nominating committee did a great job to recruit new board members and fill our vacancies. Gratitude to chair **Debra Kodama**, **Bob Batchelder**, **Linda Canada** and **Gwen Momita** for their efforts.

Speakers Bureau

Rev. Jim Yanagihara and **Mich Himaka** spoke about their WWII internment experience at SDSU October 9 to a gerontology class on "Diversity and Aging" at the invitation of **Julie A. Sugita** and **Dr. Joaquin Anguera**. Their presentation followed the showing of a videotaped interview of **Henry Kodama**, the uncle of Mrs. Sugita's husband, **Gene Sugita**. Gene is the son of the late **Sam and Faye Sugita**. Mr.

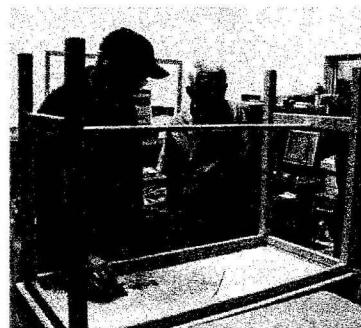
Kodama had been interviewed by newscaster **Denise Yamada** on the 45th anniversary of the Hiroshima A-bomb.

Rev. Jim and Mich also spoke November 10 at the Bishop School's "Human Right's Day" program, which featured a number of speakers on various human rights topics. They addressed about 100 seventh graders about their internment experience. Serving as moderator for that segment was our Archivist **Linda Canada**. Others in attendance were **Liz Yamada**, **Naomi Himaka** and **Robert and Jean (Fujisaki) Nelson** who provided support for the speakers.

Mich and **Yuki and Mits Kawamoto** also spoke about internment at the **Nikkei Student Union's** "Day of Remembrance" program at UCSD on February 20. Our volunteer speakers have been very busy recently and we are very grateful for their dedication.

Recent Donations

- **Tom Yanagihara** – October 1970 edition of *North Coast Living* featuring **Steve Sato** and his partners in IVAC Corporation.
- **Pioneer Ocean View Church of Christ** – Program and bookmark from September 2008 dedication of new Sanctuary.
- The late **Min Koide** – His handmade redwood and pine chest from Poston III which was displayed in the Beauty in Captivity exhibition at the Japanese Friendship Garden.
- **Frank Koide** – Photographs from Poston III, photographs of Van Camp Seafood plant, boat and tuna processing, and a photocopy of *Van Camp News*, March-April 1953.
- **Fudo Takagi** – Hand-made model plane displayed in the Beauty in Captivity exhibition, of the type he made in camp.
- **Kiyo Ochi** – Camp-made picture frame made of tiny interlocking pieces individually carved from apple crate wood...with thanks to Kiyo's daughter **Holly Hiding** for facilitating the gift.
- **Sumi Kastelic** – Our new Membership Chair donated a set of external speakers for our Dell laptop computer. This addition will aid us in using the laptop for off-site talks and presentations.
- **Yuki Kawamoto** – Our resident wood worker created a beautiful new display table for our exhibits.



Yuki Kawamoto, left, makes adjustments to the table he created for JAHSSD exhibits as Dr. Francis Tanaka looks on.

Footprints Acknowledgments

JAHSSD thanks the individuals and organizations who purchased holiday greetings last year and we apologize they are appearing after the holiday season. Thank you for your understanding and support.

We are grateful to the following for helping assemble and mail Fall *Footprints*: **Yuki and Mits Kawamoto**, **Beverly and Taka Sawasaki**, **Po Kaneyuki**, **Sakiko Kada**, **Jim Yanagihara**, **Mas and Grace Tsuida** and **Mich and Naomi Himaka**.

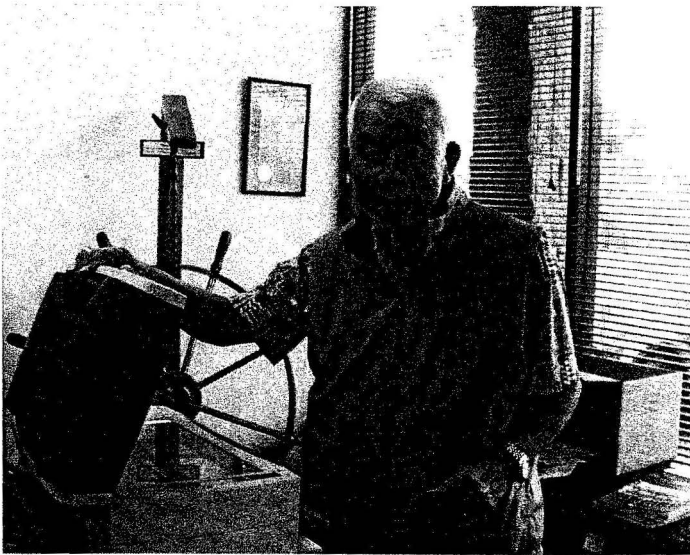
The Editors would like to acknowledge the following nonregular contributors for their articles and photos for this issue: **Robert Austin**, **Jean Fujisaki**, **Yuki Kawamoto**, **Shoichi Nasu**, **Joanne Oppenheim**, **Judy Shimamoto**, **Fudo Takagi**, **Dr. Francis Tanaka** and **Marlan Warren** and **Victoria M. Yang**.

Wishing all our generous members, thoughtful contributors and handy helpers a healthy and happy 2009!

You've heard of the 100th Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team made up of Japanese Americans from Hawaii and the mainland. They were called upon to rescue the "Lost Battalion" from Texas National Guard's 36th Division. Hitler had ordered that the Texans be annihilated so the German army had surrounded them in a trap. Two attempts to save this group by other American troops, including their own division, failed.

Volunteers from the 442nd were called up. After six days and nights of fierce fighting in the Vosges Mountains, the Nikkei troops saved 211 men of the Lost Battalion at the cost of more than 800 of their own. One of those who perished was the brother of dear friend of mine from Hawaii.

(Editor's Note: Many of those troops who participated in the rescue were from San Diego. Military historians called the rescue one of the top ten battles fought by the U.S. Army in its 230-plus-year history.)



Dr. Tanaka is now very familiar with the scanner-copier at Austin Archives!

VOLUNTEERING, A BREAK FROM BOREDOM

By Francis I. Tanaka, M.D

Dr. Tanaka is a native of Kauai, Hawaii, the youngest in a family of ten children. He earned his B.A. at San Diego State and went on to complete his medical degree at Tulane University in Louisiana. He returned to San Diego and began his family practice here, joining his late oldest brother, Dr. Roy K. Tanaka, in 1957. Dr. Francis and his late wife, Patsy Seto Tanaka, raised five children. He retired in April 2007 after 50 years of practice.

After a year and a half of retirement, being idle had become boring. So I began thinking of things to do to keep my mind from deteriorating. "Don't use it and you'll lose it," applies to the brain as well.

"Return something to the community," encouraged one of my sons.

"Keeps you out of trouble," urged my daughters.

So with such wise advice, I called **Ben Segawa** and offered my services to the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego. Without a moment's hesitation, he referred me to **Linda Canada**, the archivist for the JAHSSD.

When I reported to her, she welcomed me with open arms—and a boxful of obituaries. Obituaries! Before my retirement, my job was to keep people alive and healthy!

I started to tackle this dead subject with as much gusto as I could muster up. But as the work progressed, it became more interesting and I learned a lot of things about the community's past.

Many of the deceased were octogenarians. They must have had good genes, or the *ochazuke* and *tsukemorio* must have been healthful, or maybe even the medical care in San Diego had something to do with their longevity!

This task was finished in one week, so Linda brought out the next project for me—a large box packed with newspapers articles which had been collected by the late JAHSSD historian, **Don Estes**.

Over the many years that Don had been studying Japanese history, especially in San Diego, he had amassed many articles from many places and people. With Linda's help, I went through reams and reams of newspaper articles. I found this work not a chore but very interesting and educational. Many of the articles had nothing to do with San Diego or San Diegans, but I ended up reading the entire article anyway because they became engrossing.

DEBRA M. KAWAHARA, Ph.D.

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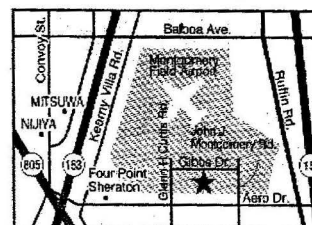
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CHANKO NABE

by Joyce Nabeta Teague

In October of last year, Bill and I traveled parts of central and southern Japan, first as part of a tour group led by our friend, **Rev. Akio Miyaji**, then a week on our own. It was both exciting and nostalgic for us: 32 years ago we'd left behind many Japanese friends and an enjoyable life of teaching English in Hiroshima to start a family back home.

The trip was tinged with sadness at times, as we also there to conduct a memorial service for my father who died in March 2007. He was the second oldest of eight brothers and sisters (three Americans, five Japanese) and the first sibling to pass away. A Kibei Nisei, Dad had lived in Japan for only seven years, but he always recalled those days with great fondness.

During our stay in Kyushu, we met with **Rio Imamura**, former San Diegan and frequent contributor to *Footprints*, who now lives in Kita Kyushu not far from Fukuoka City where we spent several days. He introduced us to journalist **Shoichi Nasu** who enjoys writing in both Japanese and English about Kyushu and its residents.

Instead of a full-blown Chanko Nabe column from me this month, we reprint a story by Nasu-san which he wrote following our meeting.

JAPANESE-AMERICANS BRIDGING THE OCEANS

by Shoichi Nasu

Shoichi Nasu is a senior writer for Tokyo's Yomiuri Shinbun. The following is an excerpt from his monthly English-language column, "Out and About," that appeared November 28, 2008 both in print and online. The column was sent to us by Yoshiko (Yottan) Saito Sato, a former San Diegan married to retired Adm. Kenzo Sato of the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force. We thank Mr. Nasu for his kind permission to reprint his column and for supplying us with the photograph which accompanies it.

One of my readers in Kitakyushu, Fukuoka Prefecture, **Rio Imamura**, recently introduced me to two American friends, **Joyce and Bill Teague**, who were visiting Fukuoka from San Diego.

Joyce is a sansei, a third-generation American of Japanese descent. Her father hailed from a village that merged with Kurogimachi, Fukuoka Prefecture. He died last year at the age of 81 in San Diego. Joyce had come to Japan to take half of his ashes to his ancestral home—a final and symbolic visit.

Joyce's grandfather, **Genshichi Nabeta**, left his village and went to the United States in the early 1900s. He was one of many young Japanese who sought jobs there in the late 19th century and early 20th century. Joyce's father, **Fred Fukumi Nabeta**, was born Nov. 23, 1925, in the West Los Angeles area as the second child of eight children.

In [1933], when Fred was 7 years old, the family came back to Kurogi. When Fred turned 15, his father told him to return to the United States and try to support the family while working there. The life of a big family must have been tough in those days, especially under the increasingly militaristic atmosphere in Japan.

After World War II broke out—sounding the death knell for the Japanese-American community—Fred, who had been working for his father's friends, was detained together with many other Japanese Americans in an internment camp in Poston, Arizona. After the war ended, he took various jobs in different places to support not only his



Bill and Joyce Teague with Rio Imamura, Fukuoka Nishitetsu Grand Hotel, October 23, 2008. Photo courtesy of Shoichi Nasu.

brothers and sisters back in Fukuoka, but also his own family in the United States.

Fred, who had married a Japanese-American [**Ritsu Uyeno**], eventually landed a managerial position at a supermarket in San Diego. He worked very hard right up until retirement without taking any sick leave, bringing up five children, Joyce being the oldest.

This was Joyce's second trip to Japan. She first visited the country in 1975 when she and her husband, Bill, whom she met at [San Diego State University], were given the opportunity to teach English in Hiroshima Prefecture for a year and a half.

During their recent short stay, they met with Joyce's relatives in Fukuoka and friends from the Hiroshima days. Speaking of her pleasure at the reunion, she said, "Frankly, I can't help but feel sorry we waited so long before returning to Japan."

Joyce showed me some of her father's writing and drawings she found after his death. I found his poems and cartoons to have a certain dexterity and style; especially as they had been created by a man who had to leave school at 15 and had no official education thereafter.

One of his very short poems, which he composed while in the internment camp in 1943, runs thus:

*Omoi wa harukani kokyo no sora e
Sozoro mushi no ne mi ni shimiru*

"My thoughts soar to the sky above my home village,
Somehow, the insects' chirping seeps into me."

Joyce serves on the board of directors of the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego. Among its activities, the society is trying to bridge the gap between Japanese-Americans and what they call *Shin Issei*, or new first generation Japanese, who have been dispatched from Japanese firms and are now living and working in San Diego. The society hopes its activities will help enrich both communities.

Joyce told me they also receive inquiries from an increasing number of young Japanese-Americans conducting research for master's degrees or from others keen to learn more about different aspects of Japanese-American identity.

"While I wonder if there's a true pride in one's Nikkei (Japanese-American) heritage, I hope there's at least a curiosity about it, particularly the further removed a person is from Japan," she said.

It seems to Joyce and Bill that the young Nikkei Americans—fourth or fifth generations—are increasingly giving their newborn babies a Japanese first name, as opposed to the hitherto customary practice of using Japanese names as middle names. Joyce and Bill's grandson is named **Makoto Theodore Enochs**.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Naomi M. Himaka, Membership Chair

A very warm welcome to several individuals who have joined our organization since our last edition of *Footprints*. They are **Gwen Katsumata** (a gift from her late father **Fred Katsumata**); **Beverly Morisako**; **Grace Nakayama & John Jaeger**; **Rich & Ruth Kaneko**; **Lisa Kendricks** and **Mariko Kendricks**; **Jennifer & Masao Kabashima** (a gift of **Pam Springer**); and **Tom & Karen Shea** (a gift of **Chiz Shinzaki**). We much appreciate our members **Valerie Abe & Jon Linton**, **Joseph & Elizabeth Yamada**, and **Tim & Junko Kajita** for upgrading to Life Members.

Heartiest welcome to new Corporate Life member **Asian Pacific VFW Post 4851!**

Thank you to the following for renewing their memberships: **Akira Hata**, **Nancy & Daniel Martinez**, **Tom H. & Elizabeth Ozaki**, **Joe & Terry Mizufuka**, **Jim & Sharon Kunugi**, **Pat Takeshita**, **Sachiko Nishida**, **Eunice Yamane**, **Asa & Jaime Enochs**, **Kenneth Uyeda**, **H. Roy & Alice Asaki**, **Brian & Viola Kiyohara**, **Eric Segawa**, **Mari Sato**, **Yoko Hashima**, **Jim Yanagihara**, **Paul & Frances Arakawa**, **Nori I. Komorita**, **Helen Kodani**, **C. R. Takehara**, **Grace & Hiroshi Sawasaki**, **Akira & Joan Loveridge-Sanbonmatsu**, **Shig & June Yamashita**, **Edythe Harada**, **Chieko E. Saito** and **Masayoshi & Grace Tsuida**.

Thanks also to the following for renewing their memberships: **Michael & Mary Segawa**, **Akira & Helen Takeshita**, **Tom & Elizabeth Hashimoto**, **Miki Honda**, **Kikuye Koga**, **Shuji Miyasaki**, **Sheila & Ron Yagura**, **Toshiko Kawasaki**, **Shizue Maruyama**, **Mary Yamamoto**, **Frank & Jean Boyd**, **Eugene Yamada**, **Peggy Tsurudome**, **Glenn & Keiko Negoro**, **Mary Doi**, **Yukiko Sugiyama**, **Jane Takeshita**, **Alice Yano**, **Shizu Watanabe**, **John & Jill Damrose**, **Jiro Saito** and **Ken & Akiko Matsumoto**.

Also **George & Chiyoko Masumoto**, **Janet Ochi-Fontanott & Humberto Fontanott**, **Rose Y. Watamura**, **Robert A. & Teruko I. Brown, Jr.**, **Masako Matsuhara**, **Margaret F. Ikeda**, **Fred & Becky Hatashita**, **Rose N. & Harvey Itano**, **Glenn M. & Barbara Hashiguchi**, **Marilou Seki**, **Mitsuo Tomita**, **Sandy Nakamura**, **Grace Igasaki**, **Sakiko Kada**, **Michael Okuma**, **Art & Judy Hibi**, **Charles & Susan T. Bender**, **Robin T. Shimasaki**, **Mitsuye Yamamoto**, **June Hosaka** and **Ralph & Avis Honda**.

This report concludes my tenure as Membership Chair for the last few years. **Sumiyo Kastelic** will assume these duties as JAHSSD Membership Coordinator as of the next report.

I wish to thank **Yukio Kawamoto** for his many years as previous Membership Chair and for all his help during my term. Thank you very much for all your help and patience.

A SECOND CHANCE TO SEE "BEAUTY IN CAPTIVITY"

If you missed getting to the **Japanese Friendship Garden** last summer to see JAHSSD's exhibition of art and craft objects made in the internment camps, mark your calendar for April 4 through May 27, 2009. A slightly different version of the exhibition will be on view at the Learning Resource Center at San Diego City College.

The two-month-long second display of "**Beauty in Captivity**" is funded in part by the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program. Call (619) 660-0174 for more information.

CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations to **Rev. Akira Hata**, who observed his 88th birthday on December 1, 2008; and **Rev. Jim Yanagihara**, who observed his 77th birthday on November 30. Both birthdays were celebrated by the BTSD Sangha December 7 during the Bodhi Day Service.

Asako Morinaka celebrated her 90th birthday late last year, too. **Yukiko Sugiyama** celebrated her 88th birthday on Feb. 15, 2009.

Good news from and good tidings to **Vernon Yoshioka**, JAHSSD past president, who received a successful kidney transplant last November and has been recovering at home with the help of his wife **Shinobu** and loving family.

Lee and Susan Moribe announce the late January arrival of a grandson, **Bryson Moribe**, to **Michael and Bounmy Moribe**. Bryson has an older brother, **Riley**, two years old.

Steve Sato, a man who wears many hats in our community including as General Manager of **Kiku Gardens**, will add another to his head in the San Diego Opera production of "**Madame Butterfly**." Steve will play Cio Cio-san's uncle, one of many Asian "supernumeraries" who will appear in the opera's Spring production in non-singing, non-speaking roles.

"JAs IN SAN DIEGO" AUTHOR GIVES TALK AT PARKER LIBRARY



In December 2008, JAHSSD's **Linda Canada** and **Valerie Abe** installed a small exhibition at the Parker, Arizona, public library featuring art and handcrafts made in the World War II Poston internment camps nearby. In February 2009, Linda and **Susan Hasegawa** went back to Parker to take down and return the items to the Austin Archive. Here, Susan addresses a rapt audience at the library about the camps neighboring Parker and what life was like for the internees.

MAZEGOHAN

by Mich Himaka

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Why? For one thing, we can't get it done without you.

What is it? Well, we would like to compile information to make books to remember our fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts and cousins—essentially all of our relatives from San Diego—who served in the military. That would include the Army, Navy, Air Force (yay!), Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines.

How about anyone who served in a foreign military? Why not? We can make up a book for them, too! If you know of anyone who served in World War I or earlier, great! I have yet to hear of a San Diegan who served in that war or before. I do know I have my Dad's draft registration card for WWI, even though he was never drafted.

What our organization would like to do is put together books to include military photos or snapshots of our relatives during the time they served, if there are any available. If you wish, we can scan the photos and include them in the books and return them.

Yes, we are taking this idea from the **San Diego Chinese Historical Museum**. They have been able to compile such a collection over the years. We thank them for helping us get started on our own project.

We have a lot of guys who served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the 100th Battalion, the Military Intelligence Service in the Pacific Theater or in integrated units during WWII, who called San Diego their home at the time. We would like to honor them with this collection. Of course, there were a number of Nikkei women who served in the Nursing Corps during WWII, Korean War and after. We would like to honor them, too.

I know there are a number of local Nikkei who served in the conflicts which followed WWII including the Korean, Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraqi Wars and we hope to honor them as well.

Inserted in this issue you will find a form titled, "Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego Registry of Japanese American Veterans." It includes a space for photos or snapshots, formal or informal, of our veterans in uniform.

If you can fill them out with the information we seek, please help us honor our vets, living and deceased. I'm sure you may not remember the units in which you/they served but that's okay. Include any information you can and we will appreciate it very much.

If you need more forms, let us know and we will send them to you, as many as you wish! In fact, the more the merrier. Even if we receive duplicate forms, we can combine the information.

Maybe much of the information we seek is nothing but fog today but any information you can provide us will be greatly appreciated. Maybe someone in the family will remember. This may turn out to be project that will be endless but I think it will be worthwhile for all of us.

Don't be modest about your military service. We have nothing to be ashamed of because we all served (or are serving) with honor.

NISEI VFW REUNION HELD IN LA MIRADA

The 59th Annual Nisei Veterans of Foreign Wars Reunion was held on February 13-15, 2009, at the Holiday Inn in La Mirada, California. General Chairman for the reunion was **Robert M. Wada** of the Kazuo Masuda Memorial VFW Post 3670. Other posts which jointly hosted the

reunion were: Gardena Nisei Memorial VFW Post 1961, San Fernando Valley VFW Post 4140, East Los Angeles Nisei Memorial VFW Post 9902, and Los Angeles Memorial VFW Post 9938.

Two Medal of Honor recipients were on hand to greet friends and autograph books. **George "Joe" Sakato**, E Company, 442nd, was accompanied by his daughter; and **Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura**, H Company, 7th Regiment, 3rd Division, Korea, and his wife were in attendance. The Honorable **Vincent H. Okamoto**, considered the most highly decorated Nisei in the Vietnam War, was on hand to sell and autograph his newly published book, *Wolfhound Samurai*.

The reunion was well attended, but their numbers are dwindling as the World War II veterans advance in age. Many more hundreds have attended the past reunions. It was a good chance for old friends to meet and for the veterans to make new friends.

Former California State Assemblyman, **Paul Bannai** of Gardena, was busy visiting and taking photos. **May Porter**, who retired from Medivac after 30 years, was there. **Harry Tanabe** of Hayward and his wife visited with old friends. **Norio Uyematsu**, formerly of Brigham City, Utah, and his wife also attended.

Floyd Mori, National Executive Director of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) and a former U.S. Army Reservist during peace time, was at the Friday Night Welcome Buffet Dinner. He stated: "It is an honor to be among such great heroes as the Nisei Veterans of Foreign Wars from World War II and later. The entire Japanese American community owes these brave individuals a debt of gratitude for all they did to make life better for all of us. The courage, sacrifice, and loyalty they exhibited during extremely difficult times of war are exemplary and admirable. They deserve our utmost respect and appreciation as do all those who currently serve in the military of this great country." *(The preceding was excerpted from a press release.)*

THE INAUGURATION, UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

by Linda Canada, JAHSSD Archivist



Eddie and Linda Canada were in Washington D.C. with members of a charitable group of medical doctors Eddie is affiliated with. Photos courtesy of Linda Canada

On January 20, 2009, Eddie and I were able to be in Washington D.C. for the inauguration of President Obama. I thought I'd share some of our observations with you.

Washington DC in the winter is colder than San Diego any time! You may remember that San Diego was in the middle of a winter Santa Ana condition in mid-January, and the day before we left for the East coast it was 80 degrees here. When we changed planes in Chicago, it was minus 15 degrees, and you never saw people move so fast from a plane into the airport terminal. By the time we reached Washington's National airport it was a "balmy" 10 degrees, and I was sure glad I borrowed a warm coat for the trip.

(Continued on Page 11)

(INAUGURATION UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL continued from Page 10)



Obama inauguration souvenirs are the new collectibles. Before we even claimed our luggage we had shopped in two stores specializing in inauguration memorabilia. In the next few days we saw hundreds of shirts, buttons, refrigerator magnets, and Obama-themed goods. Street vendors were at every corner in DC, and even after the inauguration they were drawing big crowds of eager buyers. We did our share, and helped the local economy by buying several items to remember the event.



A lot of people go to Inaugurations. We had just a small taste of the crowds to come as we visited the Mall. All of the museums were fenced off so that the expected crowds would not trample their landscaping. Streets and sidewalks were fenced off so that the crowds could be directed to the security gates and entrances into the viewing areas. 5000 portable toilets were installed around the Mall. Our favorite slogan on one of them was, "We are #1 in the #2 business." We were on the public transportation system, called the Metro, when Sunday's free concert at the Lincoln Memorial ended, and had the experience of being squeezed like sardines in the underground train.

People who live in DC are really friendly. Excitement and hope was in the air. Strangers greeted each other, and DC locals were welcoming to the huge throngs of people who were in town for the big event. We visited Mount Vernon, the historic plantation that was George Washington's home. Their previous busiest day had been 18,000 people. There were 20,000 people, about 2/3 under the age of 20, the day we visited. In spite of the noise and confusion, the tour guides and staff were courteous and helpful. Back in the District, one street vendor asked where I was from, and when I said San Diego, he threw open his arms and gave me a big hug and thanked me for coming to the Inauguration!

Television does a great job. Like many of you, we watched the inauguration on television, and thought CNN did a great job. Unfortunately, the tickets our group thought we had for seats at the big event did not appear, so we gathered around a big screen TV inside a warm hotel with lots of other people and enjoyed the inauguration events as they unfolded. We laughed, we cried, and we participated in the inauguration in the same way that the one or two million poor souls out in the cold did.

It was thrilling to see Washington DC decorated with flags and bunting, and to hear the excitement of the visitors. We are happy that we had the chance to share this major event in American history, and are glad to be able to share it with our JAHSSD friends, too.

THREE-YEAR PLEDGE RENEWALS

JAHSSD is very grateful those who have pledged their support of the Society's Three-Year Plan. This list includes pledge payments received as January 12, 2009. Please notify our Treasurer of any errors.



MOMIJI LEVEL

**MASATO and DOTTIE ASAKAWA
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TAKE LEVEL

MICHIO and NAOMI HIMAKA

"BOB'S BUDDIES" GET MOVING ON APRIL 4

Bob's Buddies will once again step off in the MS Walk, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's annual outdoor fundraiser.

Named in honor of JAHSSD's long-time treasurer, **Bob Batchelder**, Bob's Buddies consists of JAHSSD members, their families and friends who will join forces on Saturday, April 4, to help raise money in the San Diego area walkathon.

The JAHSSD team leader is once again **Carol Estes**, chief coordinator and cheerleader. She invites new as well as former walkers to join the 2009 team for a morning of exercise and friendship; and all non-walkers to support a Bob's Buddies walker by pledging a donation in any amount.

You can become a walker or a supporter easily by going to <http://www.mswalk.com> and finding Bob's Buddies under "Team Rank." If you don't have access to the Internet, please call Carol at (619) 280-9418 and she will be glad to sign you up.

As a challenge each year, the JAHSSD team has increased its total amount of pledges raised. As of the end of February, Bob's Buddies already ranked first in its division in monies raised with over \$10,000.

Last year, the national organization devoted over \$255,000 in direct assistance to 500 people for grants for independence, modifications for homes, vehicle hand controls, utility relief during the summer heat, transportation assistance, equipment assistance, respite care, and chore services. Each dollar raised does indeed help those in need.

AUSTIN PLUS UPDATE

By the Austin Plus Committee

Can you believe that it has been three years since we moved our collections into the Archives on Austin Drive? Thanks to the generosity of our members and friends, the costs of moving into, furnishing, and operating the Archives were all covered by donations to the **Three Year Pledge** program. If you donated to this project, late last year you received a thank you letter that contained a list of the many accomplishments JAHSSD achieved during the previous three years.

JAHSSD has committed to staying at the Austin Drive site for another year, and will pay the operating costs with funds previously raised and profits from the **Poston Reunion** held in April 2008. Our committee, called **Austin Plus**, has begun meeting to develop the strategies and funding plan for 2010 and beyond. The priority list that the committee suggested and which received Board approval is outlined in the Board's **Three Year Strategic Plan** [see below]. The plan will serve to help the Board focus on its immediate and long-term goals.

Your thoughts and ideas about the future of our Archives and our collection are welcome. Meetings of the Austin Plus Committee are held monthly on the second Wednesday of the month at the Austin Drive site. Please e-mail your ideas, or your intention to attend the meetings, to JAHSSD@sbcglobal.net. In the coming editions of *Footprints* you will find additional information and updates about the committee's efforts.

JAHSSD THREE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN, 2009 – 2012

At its November 2008 meeting, the JAHSSD Board was presented with recommendations by the **Austin Plus Committee** for strategic direction the Board should take during the next three years. The following is a summary of the recommendations, which the Board adopted unanimously:

NEW FACILITY

- 1. Determine activities to take place in a new facility.** These might include exhibitions, classes, lectures, and meetings. Climate-controlled storage and collections processing workspace should be considered.
- 2. Determine criteria for a new facility.** These will include size, location, configuration, and cost. Location considerations will include availability of public transportation which will maximize use of student interns and volunteers.
- 3. Raise funds for costs of new facility.** These might include tenant improvement costs, moving expenses, need for additional furniture and furnishings.
- 4. Find and Relocate to a New Facility.** Based on the criteria that is established.

OPERATIONS

- 5. Board Development & Expansion.** Identify skill sets necessary for growth of JAHSSD. Identify potential board members under age 40 to serve on JAHSSD board.
- 6. Complete the Organization of Items in Archives.** There are still donated items in the archives that need to be catalogued.
- 7. Public Relations & Fund Development.** Strengthen image of JAHSSD as a community resource.
- 8. Community Collaborations.** Continue and expand the collaborations with local historical groups and organizations that promote the

contributions of Japanese Americans to the San Diego Region.

9. Education & Public Awareness. Conduct activities that reflect the contributions of Japanese Americans in San Diego that include but not limited to: exhibits, speaker's bureau, tours, digital storytelling, oral histories, etc.

The next step in the process is to identify the specific annual goals that will help us implement and achieve the Strategic Directions. The Board will then consider and adopt the annual goals and will let the membership know about them in an upcoming edition of *Footprints*.

If you have suggestions, ideas, or would like to serve on a committee, please contact **Robert Ito**, chairperson of the Austin Plus Committee at rpto@cox.net or call and leave a message at our Austin site (619) 660-0174.

PLANS FOR POSTON III REUNION ARE PROGRESSING

Ada Nishida Yamamoto of Kingsburg reports in a recent e-mail received here that tentative plans are to hold the next Poston Camp III reunion April 5, 6 and 7, 2010, at the Golden Nugget Casino Resort in Las Vegas. **Frank Abe** and **Sammy Nakagawa** of the Central California Poston III Reunion Committee are co-chairing this fourteenth reunion with Ada to serve as registration chair. She reports that their first mailing should be in the mail sometime in March.

Plans for the 2010 reunion were announced in San Diego at the last one held in April 2008, which had been promoted as the very last reunion with the theme, "The Last Dance." However, the success of that reunion apparently encouraged others to continue these reunions.

A group from San Jose also stepped up last April to announce they would host or plan a 15th reunion after the Central Cal committee holds their event for former Poston III internees.

Co-chair of The Last Dance reunion, **Mich Himaka**, has already talked to **Miki Honda** of Honda Tours about planning a bus trip to Vegas for San Diegans interested in traveling by bus next year. Costs haven't been discussed yet but we'll get information to interested parties as soon as those plans are set up, thanks to Mich, Miki and her son, **Ralph Honda**.

STANLEY HAYAMI DIARY PUBLISHED

Stanley Hayami was a 16-year-old prisoner in Heart Mountain when he began a diary chronicling his thoughts, aspirations, and optimistic hopes for a "United Nations of Earth." Weeks after graduation in 1944, he was drafted into the 442nd RCT.

Joanne Oppenheim, author of *Dear Miss Breed*, has taken a treasure of JANM's collection and enlarged upon it with historical annotations, Stan's recently found letters from the army, and interviews of friends and family. Stan's diary, letters, and art, tell the all too short story of a brilliant student, an aspiring artist-writer, and dedicated Nisei son.

The preceding information is from a press announcement by the publisher of *Stanley Hayami, Nisei Son: His Diary, Letters & Story From American Concentration Camp to Battlefield 1942-1945*. The book's preface is by **Senator Daniel Inouye**, who was Stanley's platoon leader.

FUDO TAKAGI REMEMBERS TARO'S WATCH SHOP

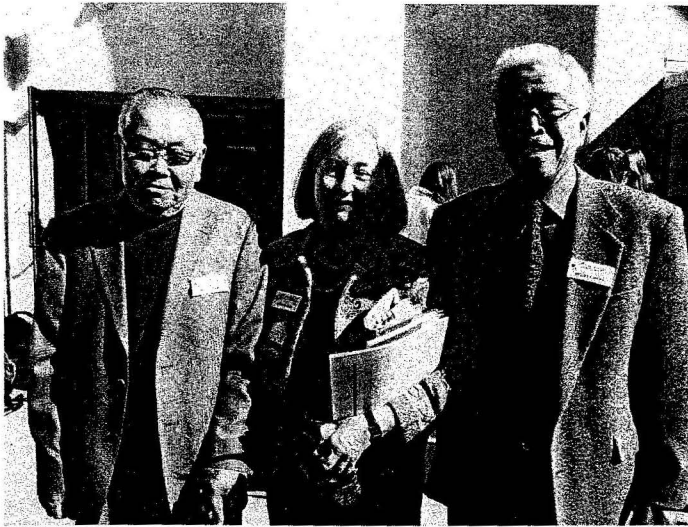
Our Fall 2008 article on the special **Taro Matsui** display created by JAHSSD interns at the Austin Archives triggered some memories in **Fudo Takagi** recently. He used to be a customer of **Taro's Watch Shop** which was established in the 1960s at Twelfth and Broadway downtown. He recalled that the building owner wanted to enlarge the building so that's how Taro's business was displaced and ended up on Tenth Avenue at Broadway.

Fudo had a friend who was a watch repairman for Jessop's Jewelers, still located downtown. He told Fudo that of the craftsmen in San Diego who worked on the old spring-wound watches, Taro was considered the best.

A co-worker of Fudo's once took his watch to Jessop's for repair and was referred to Taro's shop, so Jessop's probably sent a lot of business to Taro over the years that he was in business.

We thank Fudo for sharing these remembrances.

If you have read a story in this issue that stirred up some memories in you, pick up the phone and give Editors Joyce or Mich a call and we'll be glad to write them up and share them in *Footprints*.



Jim Yanagihara (left), Linda Canada and Mich Himaka at the Bishop's School. Photo courtesy of Jean Fujisaki.

JAHSSD AT BISHOP'S SCHOOL

By Gwen Momita

JAHSSD was proud to participate in the Bishop School's Day of Human Rights on November 10, 2008. Our speakers were **Michio Himaka** and **Jim Yanagihara** with **Linda Canada** moderating.

Those on hand lending audience support were **Naomi Himaka**, **Jean Fujisaki Nelson** and **Robert Nelson**. **Liz Kikuchi Yamada** gave closing remarks. Other speakers were **Lisa Ling** of National Geographic and **Peter Irons**, well-known civil rights lawyer.

Bishop's student organizer **Julie Gantz** said, "As young people, we live in a world where we need to know what is going on in our city, country and the world. Organizing an event of this magnitude...can only be accomplished because we care. The true success of the day came from the speakers who so generously gave of their time and knowledge so that we can begin on the road to becoming true global citizens."

NIKKEI SENIORS SOUGHT FOR RESEARCH

By Nobuko Kemmotsu

Want to help in the advancement of science? We are recruiting members of ethnic minority groups who are 45 or older for a study of cognition for San Diego State University. Currently we are enrolling individuals of Japanese descent.

A team of researchers at San Diego State University are investigating the effects of aging on the senses and the brain. There are many studies available for participation. Some studies involve memory or sense of smell. None of the tests require physical exertion. Testing may take two to three hours and you will be paid for your participation.

The results from this study may lead to improved diagnostic accuracy of smell and cognitive evaluations of Nikkei individuals.

We can test up to two individuals at a time, so couples or friends can carpool. Our research laboratory is located at 6363 Alvarado Ct., Suite 101, San Diego, CA 92120. If you are interested in participating, please contact me or Dr. Claire Murphy at (619) 594-5970, or e-mail lifespan@sciences.sdsu.edu to make an appointment. I will also be glad to answer any questions you may have about the study.

WANTED!

We desperately need volunteers to help transcribe oral history audio and videotapes. This requires the ability to type while listening to a tape. You can work at home at your own pace using your computer (PC only; no Mac) and our transcribing equipment.

You will be typing exactly what you hear on an audio or videotape to create a transcript of an interview. We have a simple-to-use audiotape transcriber, a great tool that allows you to slow or repeat the sounds as many times as necessary so you can hear what is being said. Don't worry—all transcripts are reviewed later for accuracy and spelling, so yours does not have to be letter-perfect.

This job requires just one short training session at the Austin Archives in Spring Valley, then you can do the work at home on your own time. When you're finished, e-mail the transcript, or make a copy on a CD or DVD for us.

Interested? Call Linda Canada (858) 457-9676 or e-mail Lcanada509@aol.com.

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NEW PLAY FOCUSES ON LETTER-WRITING "CRUSADERS"

On November 17 and December 1, 2008, an all-Asian American cast graced the stage at The Marsh Theatre in San Francisco to perform scenes from a new internment play, **Bits of Paradise** by **Marlan Warren**.

The seven young actors took the audience back in time when 20-year-old camp internee **Yuri Kochiyama** (born **Mary Nakahara**) started a letter-writing campaign to the Japanese American **442nd Regimental Combat Team** to raise the men's spirits. The young women who wrote the letters called themselves The Crusaders, and the play—an ode to Kochiyama—came alive as actors read verbatim excerpts.

In 2000, while living in Los Angeles, playwright/screenwriter Warren came across the "Crusaders Scrapbook" at the Japanese American National Museum and gained permission to use its contents for a play. Although she got helpful feedback on the first draft, Warren began to doubt her ability to make the material work.

"The Crusaders' letters are upbeat, flirtatious and funny. It was challenging to show the dark side [of the internment experience] without breaking my own rule of keeping it verbatim."

In February 2008, now relocated to San Francisco, Warren rewrote the play and The Marsh accepted it for its play reading series. Her attempts to attract Asian American actors and directors failed until she put an ad on popular Craig's List online and resumes began pouring in.

Warren provided the actors, aged 15 to 30, with historical background to the Crusaders' story. Each was deeply affected by their roles and their responsibility in bringing the story to life. Warren directed 15-year old **Chanelle Yang** (as Mary Nakahara) and **Linda**



The youthful cast of BITS OF PARADISE with Yuri Kochiyama at The Marsh Theatre play reading last November. Photo courtesy of V. M. Yang.

Wang (as Yuri Kochiyama). **Connie C. Kim**, **Pisha Warden**, **Wesley Cayabyab**, **Jean Franco** and **Wilton Yiu** played multiple roles as Crusaders and soldiers.

"I feel a sense of pride and a sense of identity," said Franco, a Filipino American actor who portrayed one of the soldiers. "I wouldn't have known about this part of history if I hadn't done this project."

(Continued on Page 15)

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\$ BINGO \$

\$ BINGO \$

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BINGO 6:00 pm \$10 buy-in
Two Winners Every Game
Additional cards .50 cents each
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(NEW PLAY continued from Page 14)

Actor Pisha Wayne said she felt honored to play the dual role of an internee diarist and a Crusader: "My grandparents met on their way to a concentration camp so this project is especially meaningful and exciting for me."

Yuri Kochiyama went on to become a human rights activist and Nobel Peace Prize nominee. She and original Crusader **Ruth Ishizaki** thrilled both actors and audience by attending the first show. After the reading, Kochiyama said, "What this play captures of World War II Nisei soldiers and the teenage camp Crusaders who corresponded with them is awesome."

Although Warren wrote the first draft over eight years ago, she was only able to make contact with Kochiyama recently. "For years I was unable to gain an introduction or even contact info for Yuri," said Warren. "Then someone finally took pity on me and surrendered it. I'd heard she's reclusive and in frail health, so I decided to just go to her residence and leave an invitation to the play."

To Warren's surprise, Kochiyama, who was hearing about the play for the first time, welcomed her warmly. When Warren returned home from the visit, she found voice mail from Kochiyama saying she had read the script and was pleased with it. "I'm so glad you are the one who found that scrapbook and wrote this play," Kochiyama said.

Since the reading, both Kochiyama and Ishizaki have invited the artists to visit her. Ishizaki's husband revealed that she also has a 60-year-old Crusaders scrapbook they were welcome to peruse. [Ishizaki has since donated her album to JANM.]

About the sudden abundance of riches, Warren said, "After years of being alone with this script, it's like a great light has been turned on and I finally see the project. The next step will be to make a fuller, richer play now that I have access to the Crusaders."

She has recently partnered with the **San Jose Japanese American Museum** to create a documentary about the Crusaders using scenes from "Bits of Paradise." She is also seeking a theatrical partner to help craft a full production of the play.

"I hope to expand the roles of the women whose more personal letters and experiences were previously unavailable to me."

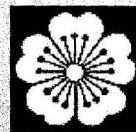
Warren can be contacted at marlan_warren@yahoo.com.

A GIFT THAT WILL KEEP ON GIVING

Why not give a membership to JAHSSD?

A gift membership includes the quarterly Footprints, so your thoughtfulness will be remembered four times a year.

Help former San Diegans stay in touch with their "homeys," or give a friend/grandparent/parent/kid/grandkid a year-long gift that can teach, inform and inspire...because you support the good works of JAHSSD.



BEST WISHES, PASTOR NORMA!

JAHSSD extends warm wishes to
REV. NORMA NOMURA DESAEGHER
as she leaves her ministry at Pioneer Ocean View UCC. During her years in San Diego, Pastor Norma consistently supported JAHSSD, participating in our Annual Meeting & Kansha Awards, giving generously to support our mission. She attended numerous functions of various San Diego Nikkei organizations, including the annual Tri-church Memorial Day Service at Mt. Hope Cemetery. We thank her for her contributions to the community and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

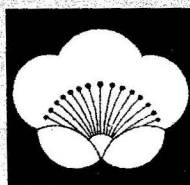
Sincerely,
JAHSSD Board



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

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. Photograph it. Share it.
Help preserve our history.

"HIT THE HAY"

by Pat Takeshita

Pat Goto Takeshita was born and raised in San Diego. When World War II started, her family was evacuated to Santa Anita Assembly Center, then relocated to Poston III, Arizona, where they lived for 3½ years. After the war, the family relocated to West Los Angeles where she married Sam Takeshita whom she had met in Poston. After a short stay in San Diego, the couple moved to West L.A. where they operated a nursery for 25 years. They currently reside in Westchester in western Los Angeles. This is the second of three stories she wrote for an adult writing class. We thank Pat for permission to reprint her stories.

Oh, it's April First, 1942. Yes, April Fools Day! I have to get up and pull an April Fool's joke on Papa before he beats me to it.

Oh, no, I can't. My heart sinks. Papa is not here!

How can I forget that day last month when Mama, visibly shaken and crying, said, "Shizu (that's my middle Japanese name), Papa's gone! The FBI men took him away. Yes, he's gone and we don't know why or where for how long."

Hugging Mama, I tearfully said, "Maybe they will let Papa come home tomorrow," desperately hoping this will happen.

What are we going to do without him? He always takes care of us: we never have to worry about anything. Now that he is taken from us, who can we count on? I am so worried and scared. I just turned 16, and now I must take care of my mother, who is in ill health with stomach problems, my younger brother Leonard, who has a bad case of asthma, and of course, my little sister Naomi. I know Papa would want me to do the best I can, which I certainly hope to do.

I see tacked on telephone posts, library doors, post offices and other public places, an Executive Order 9066 issued by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, saying 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry will be evacuated from the West Coast on April 8, 1942. I can't believe this! This must be an April Fool's joke!

Oh no, this is for REAL!! I'm running to tell Mama since she doesn't understand English too well, explaining to her we must hurry and register at the Civic Control Station. "There we will be getting name tags which we are to wear around our neck or put on our lapel, with a family number and further instructions," I inform her.

I do not remember how long this took, but it was chaotic with so many Japanese people and so much confusion. "I'm glad it's done and over with," I say. Then suddenly I remember and say to Mama, feeling a little panicky, "We must hurry home now, there is a curfew order saying that we cannot be out between 8 p.m. to 6 a.m."

What an April Fool's Day it is, one I will NEVER FORGET. All I can say is, I am glad to be home, eat dinner, take a nice hot bath and jump into my wonderful soft, cozy bed. Tomorrow is another day...

"Today," Mama says, "We must go shopping for suitcases." Luckily, even with all the evacuees looking for the same things, we are able to buy four suitcases. We are told that we can only take one suitcase each.

"What shall we put in it? Should I put in light or warm clothing? Where are they sending us? How long will we be gone?" I have so many questions and sadly no answers! It is very unsettling and bewildering to say the least.

I cannot waste time, since we have only one week to sell all our belongings. Our neighbors, friends and their friends, even many strangers are here to buy whatever they want. We must sell everything or just leave them here, so we are trying to sell things for practically nothing. A few things, like our refrigerator, we could not sell. My dear friend and classmate, Rosa Flores, is keeping it for us. She did not

care what people thought or said. She is a true friend. I am selling my piano I love so much for \$25. As it is being hauled away, I feel like a part of me is going too. Every single day, the house is getting emptier and emptier. I do feel so empty, too, and so lost!

April 8. It is Evacuation Day! With tears in my eyes, I say good bye to my little white house with a blue roof, which holds so many warm and precious memories. I am very sad to leave this great neighborhood. I'll miss my school, library, classmates, teacher, pals and my good old San Diego. Will I ever be able to come back to all this?

As we reach the Santa Fe Union Station, shocked to see so many people, I excitedly scream, "Mama, I've never seen so many Japanese people in my life!" I then realize they are mainly women and children, since most of the men have been rounded up by the FBI.

Surrounded by rows and rows of soldiers armed with their rifles and bayonets, we are hauled into Train #1. My asthmatic brother, however, is granted special permission to be on Train #2 for people with extra needs. I am very nervous being in separate trains, but at this point, I have no choice.

It does seem like an eternity until our rickety old train finally begins to chug along. Immediately the soldiers order us to pull down the shades.

I wonder, Why are we not allowed to see outside? This is not much fun! Kids running up and down the aisles, babies crying, the elderly looking so hopeless, clutching their bags. I'm hoping we'd get to our destination soon.

It seems like forever when the train finally comes to a stop. We all came ALIVE! Someone says, "We may be at Manzanar, Central California."

To my surprise as I step off the train, I see we are at Santa Anita Race Track. I excitedly turn to Mama saying, "I've heard of Santa Anita; that is where the famous horse Sea Biscuit runs. But, why are we here?"

I have no time to think about this. I must find my brother, Leonard, is he here? Or has he gone somewhere else like Papa? Feeling a bit panicky, I ask an authority figure and he says, "Yes, Train #2 is here." We all run toward his train, looking for him eagerly.

Excited, I yell, "There he is," as my heart jumps with joy! Leonard is happily waving at us with a big smile. Misty-eyed, we all embrace him. I am so happy and grateful to have us all together again.

As I look around I see barbed wire fences all around us with armed MPs everywhere, and guards on a tall watchtower looking down on us. This is so strange to me. Why are the machine guns pointed down on us? Again in line we are going to be issued our barrack number, our cots, mattress covers to be filled with hay, newspapers to put beneath us to keep out the draft and cold and, yes, blankets.

"Mama, I found our barrack," I call. I am shocked. It is a horse stable. "Mama, are we going to sleep here?" I ask in disbelief.

She sadly nods, "Yes." Each stall has one long room, divided by double doors where the horses can be fed by opening the top portion. I can't believe this is where we'll be sleeping. The smell of urine and manure is really TERRIBLE. Thank heavens, Mama is able to get G.I.-issued brooms and buckets. While cleaning, I ask myself, "Why would the government put us in a place like this?"

Now that Mama, Leonard and Naomi have turned in for the night, I too, am ready to "hit the hay." I'm too tired to think or even ask "why" anymore. I'm totally drained. I can see the searchlights flashing back and forth across our stables from the soldier's watchtower. It's an eerie, scary feeling. It reminds me of the 1930s penitentiary movies, where the convicts are trying to escape and the searchlights are on them.

Oh, my, I'm so tired. I feel like I was swept up in a whirlwind spinning, spinning...not knowing where I'm going or where I would land. I can hardly keep my eyes open.

"Wish you were here, Papa. Miss you and love you. Good night."

WE GET LETTERS & E-MAIL

Dear Gwen & JAHSSD Staff,

We just wanted to thank you so very much for your recent monetary donation to POVUCC's Christian Nurture program. That was so thoughtful of you to remember the children as part of your recent book talk with Susan Hasegawa. I myself am enjoying reading the book as well as my relatives who I gave a book for Christmas. They were thrilled to see their pictures in it!

Hope this New Year brings new and wonderful challenges for the JAHSSD. We appreciate all the work you do for our community. Our sincere thanks on behalf of the POVUCC Christian Nurture Board.

~Coreen Fujinami

Dear Ms Takeuchi:

We would like to express our appreciation to the JAHSSD for the showing of *Passing Poston* at the Asian Film Festival in San Diego and donating the proceeds of \$126 to the Poston Community Alliance. We are very grateful to the members of the JAHSSD for coordinating this event and helping us market this most important film as it allows us to continue to fulfill our mission to support the Poston Restoration Project.

We now have available copies of the *Passing Poston* DVD. The cost of the DVD is \$25, including postage. Please contact me by email at marshige@comcast.net or by phone at (510) 290-1944 if you or others are interested in purchasing the DVD.

Once again, please convey our deepest appreciation to the JAHSSD members for their contribution.

Sincerely,
Marlene Shigekawa, Treasurer

Dear Joyce,

I had no idea that there was a direct connection between Stanley Hayami and San Diego...in fact, his sister, Grace Hayami Koide, raised her family in San Diego. I have never met Grace. She has been in a nursing home since I began work on the book...but she is very much a part of Stan's story and in the diary.

Her daughter Lisa Halverson still lives in San Diego. Liz and Joe Yamada came up to L.A. to JANM for the program I did there over the weekend to celebrate the publication of the book. They, too, were surprised to make the connection!

Small world!

A dedicated website, www.hayamidiary.com...has the story of the book online. It was written with a grant from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program in cooperation with JANM, which holds the rights to Stan's Diary. The book is available on Amazon or at JANM.org.

Cheers,
Joanne Oppenheim
New York

Dear Mitch,

Sachi Nishida gave me the *Footprints* (Summer 2008 issue). Reading through the pages, I came to Page 7 and in the column titled, "In Gratitude," I noticed your brother Osa's name. I didn't know he had passed away. It was such a shock because I always felt him to be a dear friend. Whenever we met, it was a, "Hi Yottan." Another person I noticed as having passed away is Michi Okuma. Since my sister, Shimako Uda, is unable to write, I do not get any information on what is going on in San Diego.

Please accept my deepest condolence. I will miss him.

I am enclosing an item I cut out from *The Daily Yomiuri* that I subscribe to...Mr. Nasu writes his "Out & About" every last Friday of the month, which I enjoy reading. What a surprise to see a picture of someone I recognized in the newspaper. I never really [got to] know them. Meeting them at bukkyo-kai and a hello, how are you, is about the limit of our conversation. Joyce's mother is a close friend of Sachi. Sachi had mentioned Joyce's name quite often.

We were in San Diego only two weeks. We did so much running around I didn't realize time could fly so fast. We enjoyed having lunch at Kiku Garden. So nice to see so many friends.

Do take care and keep up the good work with all you are involved.
~Yottan [Yoshiko Saito Sato]

(Mich's note: Yottan is the younger sister of Shimako Uda and older sister of former San Diegan Jiro Saito. She has many friends in San Diego. It was great seeing her and her husband, Kenzo, during their recent visit.)

Dear Joyce-san,

Many thanks for your kind words on my column. I've enjoyed writing it since it was a good story to write. I suppose if you have good materials on your hand, anybody could write a good story out of them.

Anyway please make use of my column anyway you like...I've attached the photo I used in the column.

Many, many thanks again for giving me this opportunity.

Shoichi Nasu
The Yomiuri Shimbun
Fukuoka, Japan

VALERIE ABE'S ART SHOWCASED

Board member **Valerie Abe** has invited JAHSSD to the opening of an exhibit of her new works at the Bay Park Press, 4138 Napier St. (off Morena Blvd.), on Saturday, April 4, 5:30-8:00 p.m. Media to be featured include intaglio etchings and other pieces using ink and paper.

Though schooled as an architect, Valerie is most interested in self expression through the fine arts. Her etching of an iconic internment camp guard tower was chosen for the poster and postcards which announced JAHSSD's "**Beauty in Captivity**" exhibition at the **Japanese Friendship Garden** last summer.

Valerie joined the Society Board as a director last Fall. Besides co-curating and designing the "Beauty In Captivity" exhibit, she helped transport and mount the display of camp-made artifacts currently being shown at the Parker Public Library in Parker, Arizona.

Valerie's exhibition will run through May 16. Admission is free. Hours are 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday; other hours by appointment.

For more information, call (619) 275-0696.

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THE RETURN OF GENERAL SHINSEKI

By Rio Imamura

On hearing retired General Eric Shinseki had been nominated for the position of Secretary of Veterans Affairs by the President-elect Obama, lifetime member and frequent contributor Imamura did some research on Shinseki for his blog, Riosloggers. This edited excerpt is reprinted with permission.

*Swift as the Wind / Silent as the Forest / Fierce as Fire /
Immovable as the Mountain. ~from The Art of War by Sun Tzu*

In the early 1960s, I took my family to visit the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Great Neck and the U.S. Military Academy in West Point. I was stationed in New York then as part of my job.

My son was in kindergarten and he liked to watch the Sunday parades of cadets. We visited Great Neck at the invitation of my former American colleague to visit with his family as his son had just enrolled in the Merchant Marine Academy. We learned that a cadet is given the privilege of heading a parade whenever the academy is informed that his or her parents are visiting. My colleague was proud of introducing his son at the very front.

As to West Point, I belong to the postbellum generation greatly influenced by General Douglas MacArthur and I wanted to pay a courtesy visit to his alma mater near Bear Mountain by the Hudson River. A young Eric Shinseki may have been among the cadets who paraded for us. According to demographic information for both West Point and Annapolis, Asian Americans, as well as African Americans, make up 7 to 8% of the total enrolled there today.

At first I thought Shinseki was an Okinawan name but it turned out that it is not. After I found out that his grandfather immigrated from Hiroshima, I researched how many people with the surname Shinseki live in the Hiroshima area. The result was only four instances there out of one million names. I...concluded that it is a rare name. The kanji (Chinese character) means "new fort" (and could alternately be pronounced Arazeki or Niizeki), a very suitable name for a soldier.

A news flash came on the symbolic Pearl Harbor Day last year. General Shinseki was nominated as Secretary of Veterans Affairs by then President-elect Barack Obama, thrilling news to Japanese Americans as well as the Japanese. As a returnee from the States myself, I wanted to learn more about the General.

My Korean friend now living in Hawaii who grew up in Okinawa and served in the U.S. Marine Corps, sent me a book in time for Christmas titled, *My Name is...Shinseki...and I am a Soldier* written by Richard Halloran. I finished reading it during the New Year holidays and found it very inspiring.

According to the book, Shinseki bravely fought in the Vietnam front lines and was injured, losing part of his leg from a land mine. While recuperating, he received a masters degree from Duke University in literature, which broadened his vision and horizons from Shakespeare to Fitzgerald. I imagine that he is familiar with Bushido or Hagakure, the guide for a Samurai Warrior, learning in particular three virtues of warriors: knowledge, humanity and courage. Of course, he must be familiar with Sun Tzu's *The Art of War*, as quoted at the top of this article. He told the University of Georgia students shortly after his retirement that he comes from a country where nobody looks alike and most of them come to the U.S. with culture.

"Beware the 12-division strategy for a 10-division Army. Our soldiers and families bear the risk and the hardship of carrying a mission

load that exceeds what force capabilities we can sustain. So we must alleviate risk and hardship by our willingness to resource the mission requirement." (From his retirement speech, June 11, 2003).

General Shinseki is known as a strong advocate and promoter of the Stryker concept, a vehicle more rugged than a vulnerable Humvee and less unwieldy than a tank. He also supported black berets as a morale booster for the army. He was planning an army transformation into the 21st Century. His love for his soldiers is well expressed in his saying: "I was rescued on a soldier's back more than once. You can't imagine how I embrace a feeling of affection toward them!" His diversity and leadership as an Asian American have been admired by all men and women under his command.

As Army Chief of Staff, he challenged some of the Bush Administration's assumptions going into the Iraq War which led to confrontations with Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and his Deputy Paul Wolfowitz. General Shinseki has kept stoically silent since his retirement, turning down interview requests from 60 Minutes, Dateline, etc. However, I found out he made two speeches after his retirement. One was at the Asian American Journalists Association in San Diego, on Aug 15, 2003 and the other was at the University of Georgia Chapel on April 5, 2004.

The title of the 2004 speech was, "From Autocracy to Democracy: the effort to establish market democracies in Iraq and Afghanistan." I tried hard to obtain transcripts of the two speeches but was unable to do so. I saw nothing but praise for General Shinseki, and we all believe he was one of Obama's best selections for an important post.

Now that the confirmation hearings for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs are progressing well and General Shinseki has started his own web site to share his views with his fans and followers, I'm hoping to be able to read more of his speeches and statements on the transformation of the VA structure into the 21st Century. Every pundit expects he will make changes swiftly and decisively. His life's second act is starting and will surely attract a lot of attention.

It was reported that he quipped at the beginning of confirmation hearing, "F. Scott Fitzgerald said, 'There are no second acts in American lives.'"

Just watch.

Brief biography of General Shinseki as provided by Rio: Eric Ken Shinseki was born November 28, 1942 in Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii. His family is Japanese American. He graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1965 with a Bachelor of Science degree and a commission as a second lieutenant. He earned a Master of Arts degree in English Literature from Duke University. He was also educated at the Armor Officer Advanced Course, the United States Army Command and General Staff College and the National War College.

Within a few months of his graduation in 1965 he was a second lieutenant on his way to Vietnam to serve as an artillery forward observer. On a second combat tour he commanded a tank squadron. During those Vietnam tours he was wounded three times, including losing part of his foot.

General Shinseki has held a number of commands including the 1st Cavalry Division, 3rd Infantry Division, Army Chief of Staff, Commanding General Seventh United States Army, Commander Allied Land Forces Central Europe, and Commander of NATO Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He became the Army's 34th Chief of Staff in 1999 and at the end of his four-year term, he retired.

General Shinseki is the first Asian American in U.S. history to be a four-star general, and the first to lead one of the five U.S. military services. His years as active military were from 1965-2003.

SAN DIEGO OPERA NEEDS ASIAN SUPERNUMERARIES

The following appeal was forwarded by e-mail by Erika Hiramatsu who will be appearing onstage as a supernumerary in this production.

The **San Diego Opera** is seeking Asians for their May run of "Madame Butterfly." They need one Asian man, 5'10" or taller, medium build, to fill the non-speaking, non-singing role of an imperial castle guard; and two Asian girls, between ages 5 and 8, who will be able to sit absolutely still during a very famous aria.

Parts like these, called supernumeraries, do not require acting experience, but you must be able to follow directions, make the rehearsals and, of course, all the performances.

Rehearsals are at the Copper Room of Golden Hall (second floor, facing the Civic Center) and at the Civic Center Theater. Street parking is free after 6:00 p.m. The experience is a lot of fun, and this time (versus 2004 when a similar appeal went out to the Asian community) only Asians have been cast for the Asian roles. You won't be needed the entire time, so you can bring a laptop or a book for down-time.

Rehearsals begin April 20, 2009. Since they are too lengthy to list in this space, contact S.D. Opera for details.

Performance dates & times. You must be available for these dates and times. Report earlier for makeup & costumes: May 9 - 7 p.m., May 12 - 7 p.m., May 15 - 8 p.m., May 17 - 2 p.m., May 20 - 7 p.m.

If you or your child is interested in performing, call **Bob Borntrager** ASAP, (619) 533-7073, or e-mail bob.borntrager@sdopera.com.

June Yamamoto of

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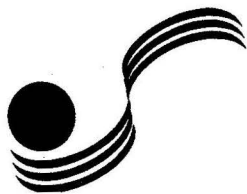
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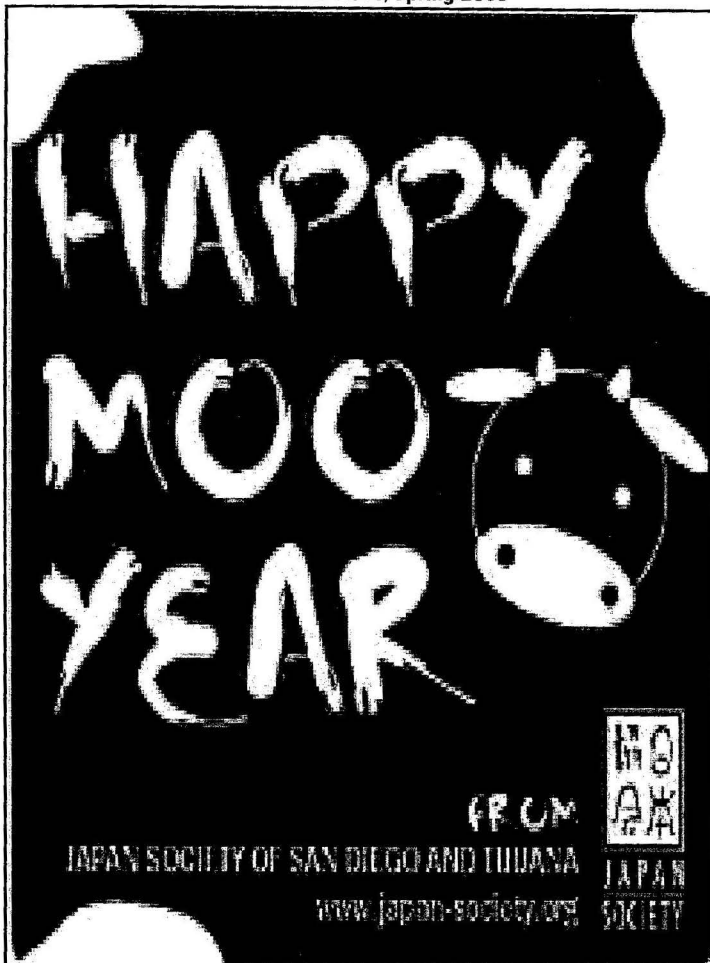
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to all my friends!



Sachi Nishida and Family

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Bob & Hisae Bachelder



Vernon & Shinobu Yoshioka

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a Very Happy New Year



Yuki & Mits Kawamoto

FROM THE JAHSSD ARCHIVES...



ANOTHER MYSTERY OF HISTORY

This is a section of a large photo from our archives. We are guessing this photo is circa 1950s-60s.

A note with the photo says these are "Miyako waitresses." Are they from the long-defunct MIYAKO RESTAURANT on Pacific Highway? Names noted are "Jeanie, Squeaky and Susie Cravens."

But who is who? Can you identify anyone else here? Did you or one of your relatives work here? What are your memories of this establishment? Did you attend or host any functions at this restaurant?

Please drop a line to our Archivist with your responses or e-mail her at jahssd@sbcglobal.net.

Help us solve another Mystery of History!

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FOOTPRINTS STAFF:

Editors: Joyce Teague, Michio Himaka
Editorial Assistance: Bill Teague
Desktop Pub: Paper Pushers Editorial Services
(paperpushers@cox.net)

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REV. NORMA DESAEGHER: She'll be retiring soon
but not soon forgotten. See Page 5 of this issue.

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.

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