

# FOOTPRINTS

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

## Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego



Advisor **Suma Himaka** (left) with Poston Camp III girls in front of their football-themed dance banner.  
From Suma's left: **Lily Okada, Emily Kuwada, Kaz Nakamichi, Pat Goto, Lily Kuroda, Kiyo Tsuida**

### A CLASSIC PHOTO FROM THE PAST: "CAMPUS ECHOES '44"

by Pat Goto Takeshita

"How sweet the memories," I say to myself, as I open the blue and white annual we named *Campus Echoes '44*.

After 66 years, the cover is worn and detached from the inside pages, which surprisingly are still intact. I just must get this bound and preserved as this was one of the most significant times of my life. We were lucky to have professional photographers come in to take pictures, as we were never allowed cameras all throughout our camp life. "A picture is worth a thousand words" the saying goes. It's so very true. It validates the story of my dear class of '44!

In my quiet, newly wall-papered bedroom I call "my retreat," I reminisce as I open my annual. How fitting to see Miss Cushman, our great principal, at the beginning of our book. Beneath her picture is written, "the First Lady of Poston III High School," then continues with, "to those who do not know her, no explanation is necessary."

She worked endlessly at getting our school accredited so we will be accepted at any college. With our brand new school complete, we, the class of '44 are ready to set up a true American Democratic Student Government.

"Isn't it great that we can vote for our choice of leaders," one of my classmates remarks.

"Yah, did you hear, 3 out of 6 elected are San Diegans: Yukio, Senior Class President; Walt, Vice President; and Pat, Secretary," another student adds. *(Continued on Page 5)*

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

- NOV. 1 – VFW/BTSD BINGO** (6:30 pm), BTSD. \$10 buy-in  
**NOV. 9 – EITAIKYO/All Life Forms Memorial Service**  
 (10 am), Rev. Shin welcome luncheon (12 pm), BTSD  
**NOV. 11 – TUESDAY SENIOR LUNCH** (12 noon), KG. \$3  
**NOV. 13 – “JAPANESE AMERICANS IN SAN DIEGO”**  
 lecture/book signing by Susan Hasegawa (6-8 pm),  
 Museum of San Diego History, Balboa Park. Free  
**NOV. 14 – FRIDAY SENIOR LUNCH** prepared by JAHSSD  
 (12 noon), KG. \$3  
**NOV. 14 – ASIAN SILK ROAD CONCERT**, San Diego  
 Chamber Orchestra with kotoist Masayo Ishigure.  
 Tickets & info: JSSDT 858/467-1727  
**NOV. 15 – “DANIEL K. INOUE: An American Story”** (1 pm),  
 film presented by San Diego JACL, Serra Mesa-Kearny  
 Mesa Public Library, 9005 Aero Drive. Free  
**NOV. 18 – TUESDAY SENIOR LUNCH** (12 noon), KG. \$3  
**NOV. 21 – FRIDAY SENIOR LUNCH** prepared by JFG  
 (12 noon), KG. \$3  
**NOV. 23 – WASHU-KAI Sumi-e Exhibition** (11 am-4 pm),  
 Casa del Prado, Rm. 101, Balboa Park. 619/239-0512  
**NOV. 26 – THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE** (7 pm), JCC  
**NOV. 29 – VFW/BTSD BINGO** (6:30 pm), BTSD. \$10 buy-in  
**DEC. 2 – TUESDAY SENIOR LUNCH** (12 noon), KG. \$3  
**DEC. 4 – JSSDT ANNUAL BONENKAI** (6-9 pm), Timken  
 Museum. RSVP 858/467-1727  
**DEC. 5 – FRIDAY SENIOR LUNCH** prepared by JSSDT  
 (12 noon), KG. \$3  
**DEC. 9 – TUESDAY SENIOR LUNCH** (12 noon), KG. \$3  
**DEC. 12 – FRIDAY SENIOR LUNCH** prepared by  
 POVUCC (12 noon), KG. \$3  
**DEC. 14 – BTSD MOCHITSUKI** (all day), participants  
 welcome. Ko-mochi \$4.50/bag, kasahe mochi \$7/set.  
 Preorders 619/239-0896  
**DEC. 14 – OBON AGAIN SHOP HOLIDAY SALE** (10 am-3 pm),  
 BTSD Sangha Hall. Info: 619/527-7855  
**DEC. 14 – “JAPANESE AMERICANS IN SAN DIEGO”**  
 lecture/book signing by Susan Hasegawa (2 pm),  
 San Diego Public Library  
**DEC. 14 – CHRISTMAS DINNER & PROGRAM** (5 pm  
 and 7 pm), JCC. Free  
**DEC. 16 – TUESDAY SENIOR LUNCH** (12 noon), KG. \$3  
**DEC. 19 – FRIDAY SENIOR LUNCH** prepared by VFW  
 (12 noon), KG. \$3  
**DEC. 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**  
 (6:30 pm), POVUCC  
**DEC. 31 – NEW YEAR’S EVE BELL-RINGING  
 CEREMONY** (11:30 pm), Japanese Friendship Bell,  
 1401 Shelter Island Drive. Free and open to the public

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

by Gwen Momita, Board President

Dear Friends,

Recently many of us have been glued to the television like never before. First, the Olympics brought us amazing glimpses of the rapidly emerging country of China, as well as record-breaking athletic feats! Now, with national elections upon us, we see an African American and a woman on major party tickets. Indeed, we are witnessing “history in the making!”

The **Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego** has been making its own history, albeit on a much smaller scale.

At our 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Meeting and Kansha Awards Luncheon held on Saturday, October 11, 2008, we honored our 2008 Kansha awardees, **Joe and Elizabeth Kikuchi Yamada**, for their exemplary community service. In addition, we celebrated the debut of Professor **Susan Hasegawa’s** book, *Japanese Americans in San Diego*. We were thrilled to see so many of our members and friends on that special day to join our celebration.

We are approaching the end of our successful three-year pledge program and thank YOU, our members and friends, for your support! Leasing our current space has allowed us to catalogue and access our collection, but we have quickly outgrown the space. A new committee, referred to as “Austin Plus” and chaired by **Robert Ito**, is hard at work. Their challenge is to “find and fund” a bigger, economical, and more conveniently located space for JAHSSD Archive operations. Be on the lookout for more information from this Committee.

Lastly, we continue to make additions to our Board of Directors with people who have the skills we need to meet the challenges of tomorrow. A warm welcome goes to our newest Board members, **Craig Ozaki, Valerie Abe** and **Yuri Kaneda**. We look forward to working with them as we move up to the next level.

There are still Board positions open. Is it time for you to be a part of our history? We invite you to an upcoming Board meeting to see what we’re all about.

See you soon,  
 Gwen

## 2008 KANSHA AWARDS: VOICE OF THE COMMUNITY

by Kelly Lin, JAHSSD Intern

In mid-July, I had the pleasure of interviewing **Liz and Joe Yamada**, long time San Diego residents and community leaders. Although we had never met before, they immediately welcomed me with open arms and kind hearts. As individuals, the Yamadas are amazing people and as a couple, they are nothing short of a dynamic duo. Liz is a passionate woman who is not afraid to have her voice heard. Joe is a born storyteller whose eyes twinkle when he’s got a good story to share.

Joe was born on May 1, 1930, in San Diego. Growing up, Joe recalls fond times of having rubber gun fights with his neighborhood buddies and hanging out with his fondest and furriest companion, a German Shepard named Skipper.

Joe’s parents owned a restaurant on Fifth and Market called the **Frisco Café** which served American and Asian food. War broke out when Joe was 11 years old and his family, together with other members of the San Diego Japanese American community, were evacuated from

(Continued on Page 3)



(2008 KANSHA AWARDS continued from Page 2)



Liz and Joe Yamada at home, August 2008. Photo by Linda Canada

the city and eventually sent to Poston III, Arizona, internment camp. Joe remembers bonding with the other kids at camp and also meeting Liz for the first time at one of the camp dances. His family left Poston after two years to work in the agricultural fields of Idaho and Utah.

Liz's life growing up was a lot different from Joe's. Liz was born on April 29, 1930, in Huntington Beach, California. Growing up as the daughter of a preacher, Liz learned at an early age the importance of serving one's community and also adapting to change. Liz and her four siblings, grounded by their faith and the positive attitude of their parents, flourished in the affection, security and support of the Japanese American communities in which they lived.

Uprooted frequently in their childhood—from Orange County to Japan to Seattle and several communities in California—Liz and the family were excited to settle finally in San Diego in July 1941. Less than six months later, World War II and the subsequent internment of Japanese Americans both changed and devastated the lives of all Japanese Americans.

Joe and Liz continued their friendship at San Diego High School after their families returned to San Diego following the war. Later, their aspiration to pursue professional careers motivated them to attend U.C. Berkeley where Liz majored in English and Joe in the relatively unknown field of landscape architecture. After securing a high school teaching credential, Liz returned to San Diego High School to become the first Japanese American to join the faculty as an English teacher. Tenure was followed by another career, that of parenting three children, **Garrett, Kent and Joan.**

Joe's road to professional success was remarkable. Hired as a temporary employee by **Harriett B. Wimmer**, the first woman to open a landscape architecture firm in San Diego, Joe was employed by the City schools for two years and became Wimmer's partner five years after entering the profession.

For over 50 years, Joe influenced landscape design in San Diego, directing **Wimmer Yamada and Associates** to become one of the most respected firms in San Diego. Landmark projects include Scripps Institute of Oceanography, Sea World Phase 1, Embarcadero Marina Park, UCSD campus master plan, Olympic Training Center and Del Mar Grandstand.

In addition, Joe served as a member of the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board, initiated the passage of land ordinances and created a role for landscape architecture in public and civic land planning. As the first Asian in the City's professional land planning, Joe affected local land development and residential communities from the

60s through the 90s. In 1979, he was made a Fellow in the American Society of Landscape Architecture for his exceptional designs and service to the profession.

Liz also involved herself in the community, beginning with educational projects while her children were of school age. She later became involved in boards serving the Japanese American community, among them the Asian Arts Committee, SDSU Japan Studies Advisory Board, Asian Thematic District, National Japanese American Memorial Foundation and JANM Board of Governors; and projects that benefited the City, non-profit organizations and universities such as City of San Diego Arts and Culture Commission, LEAD San Diego, Family Literacy, United Way, NTC Promenade Foundation, the San Diego Foundation, and UCSD Board of Overseers.



Kelly Lin (right) interviews 2008 Kansha recipients Liz and Joe Yamada in their home, August 2008. Photo by Linda Canada

Liz has been awarded Salvation Army's Woman of Dedication; Women Together Honoree by YWCA and Episcopal Services; Charter 100 Woman of the Year; and—the most fun recognition—Cool Women by the Girl Scouts of America.

As Joe and Liz look back on the past fifty years of their involvement in the community, they are both grateful for the wonderful opportunities they have had to make a difference in the community. They hope that their service has helped in a small way improve the quality of life for others. They are grateful for the recognition and cherish the friendship of every individual who has served with them.

The Kansha Award holds a special place in their hearts because it is the first time they are receiving an award from the Japanese American community. When asked what advice they had for the Japanese American youth of today, Liz responded, "Understand and embrace your roots, find a passion to pursue in your studies and career, care for the underserved, and go into the entire community and even region to let your unique voices be heard."

## OOPS! WE MAKES MISTEAKS

*Sincere apologies for the late arrival of this issue and any inconvenience this may have caused our members and friends.  
Hmm, did we take the phrase "fall back" too literally?*

### Winter 2007 Issue:

- Page 14 (Three Year Pledges): MR. & MRS. TAD WADA's pledge was made in memory of GEORGE AKIJI, KESAYE WATANABE and DONALD H. ESTES.
- Page 18 (Community Snapshots): Third row, first photo on the left should read AYAKO STOTT of the Otedama Club.

### Summer 2008 Issue:

- Page 6 (In Gratitude): EMILY J. IGARASHI should be EMILY K. IGARASHI.
- Page 11 (Celebrations!): The birthdate of baby MAKOTO THEODORE ENOCHS was May 4, 2008, not May 14.

~ Your Editor regrets the errors. ~

# IN MEMORIAM

*We note with great sadness the passing of JAHSSD members,  
San Diegans and former residents of our community.  
We extend our heartfelt condolences to their families and friends.*

**MOLLY HASHIMOTO**  
June 30, 1924 ~ May 3, 2008

**EDWARD "BILL" OBAYASHI**  
July 2008

**FUSAE KATSUZAWA HALL**  
Nov. 15, 1930 ~ Aug. 14, 2008

**MIEKO "MEGGIE" HATADA YOKOI**  
1923 ~ August 14, 2008

**FUJIKO HIGGINS**  
Oct. 10, 1932 ~ Aug. 22, 2008

**UTAKO OWENS**  
Sept. 19, 1932 ~ Sept. 1, 2008

**SADAKO TAKEHARA**  
Dec. 2, 1936 ~ Sept. 3, 2008

**HIDEO KOBAYASHI**  
Feb. 19, 1927 ~ Sept. 9, 2008

**LINDSAY ANN TANAKAYA**  
1987 ~ September 2008

**JAMES LEE VERNON**  
Aug. 28, 1979 ~ Sept. 16, 2008

**IRENE SUMIE YAMAMOTO**  
Nov. 3, 1933 ~ Sept. 21, 2008

**AGUSTO HIROSHI MATSUDA**  
July 9, 1933 ~ Sept. 25, 2008

**TAKASHI MAYUMI**  
May 30, 1931 ~ Oct. 11, 2008

**ROSIE SADAKO DATE**  
Sept. 8, 1927 ~ Oct. 14, 2008

**FRED KATSUMATA**  
Sept. 27, 1916 ~ Oct. 19, 2008

## CHANGES IN JAHSSD BOARD

by Debra Kodama, Nomination Committee Chair

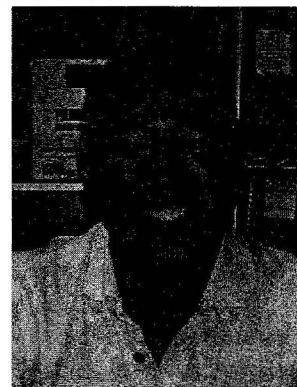
Years from now, when historians and researchers assess the events of 2008, they might well say it was a historic year.

American swimmer **Michael Phelps** set a record at the Beijing Olympics by winning eight gold medals. Our national economy was hit with catastrophic events that are sure to reshape the world economy for years to come. Both major political parties made history. The Democrats nominated **Barack Obama**, the first ethnic minority candidate, for president. Alaska Governor **Sarah Palin** joined the Republican ticket as the first woman ever nominated by the GOP as their vice presidential candidate.

Our own historical society will also see epic changes this year. First, our president, **Gwen Momita** will be ending her term. Our vice president, **Christina Pierson**, has moved from San Diego to Hawaii, where her husband is starting a new business. And at the end of this year, four of our board members are leaving the Board after serving us so well. They are **Nancy Cowser**, **Naomi Himaka**, **Rev. Jim Yanagihara**, and founding board member **Ben Segawa**, the first president of JAHSSD. We are extremely grateful to all these individuals for their years of hard work and dedication to JAHSSD.

Filling these departures has been the job of the nominating committee for the past few months. Fortunately, we have found some extremely qualified and willing new board members. **Craig Ozaki** joined the Board in July, when his nomination was unanimously approved by board members. **Valerie Abe** was added in August and **Dr. Yuri Kaneda** joined at the November board meeting, both voted in unanimously. Each individual is a welcome addition who brings new and vital skills and experiences to the group.

Craig is the son of **Tom and Liz Ozaki**, previous Kansha Award recipients. Craig is currently Deputy Director, Information Resource Management for Space and Naval Warfare command in the Point Loma area. Early this year he retired from active duty in the U.S. Navy, after serving for 20 years. He and his wife **Melinda** live in Point Loma and have two children, **James** and **Sarah**.



**Valerie Abe** has been an instructor in the Architecture & Environmental Design Department at San Diego Mesa College since 2003. Valerie is also an accomplished artist, and was recently invited to show her work at the Craft & Folk Art Museum in Los Angeles. Most recently for the Society, she designed the "Beauty in Captivity" exhibition at the Japanese Friendship Garden. Valerie and her husband, **Jon Linton**, live in Hillcrest.



Our third new member, 2007 Kansha Award recipient Dr. Yuri Kaneda, will be profiled in the Winter Issue.

While we are extremely pleased to welcome Craig, Valerie and Yuri to the Board, your nominating committee, composed of **Debra Kodama** (chair), **Gwen Momita**, **Bob Batchelder** and **Robert Ito**, is continuing to work to find additional board members.

(Continued on Page 5)



(CHANGES IN JAHSSD BOARD continued from Page 4)

However, please don't think you have to be asked to become a board member. If you agree with our mission to preserve and celebrate the history of the local Japanese American community and would like know just what being a board member entails, feel free to contact any one of us. Our phone numbers are on the back of every newsletter. You may also send an e-mail to [dkodama@cox.net](mailto:dkodama@cox.net).

(CAMPUS ECHOES '44 continued from Page 1)

We're all ready to go "Gung Ho!" We are voting to have a brand new name for our school: not just plain Poston III High. Students are submitting their choice of names.

Hearing the outcome, I proudly yell to my friends, "Guess who won? June, our friend and classmate from San Diego with her entry, 'Parker Valley High.'"

Then I come to page 93. "Oh my," I say to myself as I stare at the picture of the G.A.A. Cabinet. I remember this event so vividly. Seven of us, including myself, are chosen to host our first social event honoring our football squad.

"Wow, it will be fun," my friend Kiyo says.

Enthusiastically, I rub my hands together. "Let's get started."

All of us decide "Pigskin Ball" will be our theme. We make goalposts out of scrap lumber. A large piece of dark material is the background showing bold large cut-out letters, "Pigskin Ball," tacked on. For the final touch, cut-out stars in the shape of a football are placed above the huge letters.

"Boy, what a creative masterpiece!" I sigh with satisfaction. With the mess halls contributing the refreshments and the timid fellows coming forth, the first event is a huge success.

As clubs were formed like Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, glee clubs and orchestra, many other events did follow. We were so proud of our school paper we called "Hi Times." Student editors and reporters with their advisor, Miss Washler, worked very hard keeping up with what's happening at our school. The task of putting out an annual was almost unthinkable with what we had to work with. [As the result of] the combined hard work of teachers and dedicated fellow students, to name a few, Saburo, Masato and Grace, I say, "Thanks!" Editors: June, Artist: Akira, and Yo, Committee chairman, I say, "Thanks!"

The "unthinkable" became a treasure for us who lived it.

Since I was a February graduate, I didn't get my picture in the yearbook nor my diploma. I didn't participate in the senior play, graduation and other senior activities, but my boyfriend did take me to the senior prom.

Looking back, I can proudly say, we, from Parker Valley High, did do something with our lives. From innocent, timid teenagers, we blossomed into responsible youth leaders, despite great adversities. Who knows where we would be now had we not been in Poston?

"The past is gone forever, but the treasured memories and stories live on," I think to myself, as I gently close my yearbook.

**Pat Takeshita, nee Goto**, was born and raised in San Diego. She is the oldest of four children including **Leonard, George and Naomi**, of Issei parents. Pat's family was evacuated to the Santa Anita Assembly Center in 1942, then relocated to Poston Camp III, Arizona, where she lived with her family for 3½ years. There she met **Sam Takeshita** who was to become her husband.

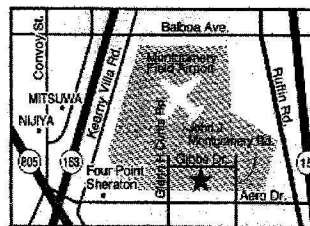
After the war, the Goto family relocated to West Los Angeles. Following his service in the Army, Sam returned to San Diego where he and Pat married. After a short stay in San Diego, they moved to West Los Angeles where they operated a nursery for 25 years. After retirement, the Takeshitas.

# OKAZAKI CHIROPRACTIC



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**San Diego, CA 92123**

**(858) 514-8320**



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

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

moved to Westchester in western Los Angeles where Pat lives today. Pat was a caregiver to her beloved Sam, who courageously battled Parkinson's Disease for 36 years.

Pat wrote about her evacuation experiences for an adult writing class. "Campus Echoes" was among several stories written by the Westchester Writing Group on their war time experiences and published in 2008 in a book, War Years. We thank Pat for permission to reprint this piece in Footprints. Another story from War Years will appear in the Winter Issue.

## WANTED!

We need volunteers to help transcribe oral history audio and videotapes. This requires the ability to type while listening to a tape. You may use your home computer (PC only; no Mac) and our tape and transcribing equipment.

You will be typing exactly what you hear on an audio or videotape to create a transcript of an interview. The audiotape transcriber 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 one short training session at the Austin Archives site in Spring Valley, then you can do the work at home on your own time. When you're finished, you can e-mail the transcript, or make a copy on a CD or DVD for us.

Interested? Call Linda Canada (858) 457-9676 or email [Lcanada509@aol.com](mailto:Lcanada509@aol.com)

## 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.*

Our sincere thanks to **Janice Shigehara** who donated a book by **Sachi Kaneshiro** titled *Bend with the Wind*; to **Frank Koide** who donated some never-before-seen photographs taken at Poston III as well as photographs and newsletters from the time his parents were working in the fishing industry and at Van Camp Seafood; and to **Bob Shimamoto** who gave us a much-needed paper cutter for use in the office.

Intern **Ashley Sylva** spent a day at the Archives, continuing the project she started last year. Because of her help in summarizing the contents of our photograph album and scrapbook collection, it was much easier to locate materials used for the Poston Reunion exhibition and the recent Japanese Friendship Garden exhibition.

To help publicize the exhibition at the Japanese Friendship Garden, **Min Koide**, who had made a chest of drawers shown in the exhibit, participated in an interview for the *Shades of San Diego* television series hosted by **Jessica Chang**. Min and **Miho Ihara**, program director of the **Japanese Friendship Garden**, appeared together. The series aired on Channel 4 several times.

We thank **Yosh Kawahara**, **Susan Hasegawa**, **Valerie Abe** and **Linda Canada** for their contributions to the annual JAHSSD exhibit at the Buddhist Temple's **Bon Odori: Gathering of Joy** in August.

Staff at **Mesa College**, including their graphic services department, assisted Yosh in the production of the four panels displayed at the Bon Odori. Yosh is in conversations with the Mesa College library to exhibit these panels next Spring during Asian Pacific Heritage Month.

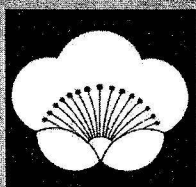
Summer interns **Kelly** and **Kristi Lin** and their parents created a children's craft project using recycled materials for the Bon Odori. Their booth was so popular they ran out of materials. The Lin Family generously donated the paper, markers and other supplies for this project.

We thank some "regulars" for folding and mailing the Annual Meeting letters: **Yuki & Mits Kawamoto**, **Po Kaneyuki**, **Taka & Beverly Sawasaki**, **Nancy Cowser**, **Gwen Momita**, **Bob Shimamoto**, **Ben & Grace Segawa**, **Sakiko Kada**, **Debbie Kodama**, **Mas & Grace Tsuida**, and **Mich & Naomi Himaka**.

We'd also like to acknowledge the people who helped prepare Summer *Footprints* for mailing last July. They were **Jeanne Elyea**, **Ben & Grace Segawa**, **Kiyo Uda**, **Gwen Momita**, **Bubbles Shimasaki**, **Mas & Grace Tsuida**, **Po Kaneyuki**, **Taka & Bev Sawasaki** and **Mich & Naomi Himaka**.

In addition to our regular contributors, we are grateful to those whose stories or photography appear in this issue: **Rio Imamura**, **Yuki Kawamoto**, **Debra Kodama**, **Kelly Lin**, **Gwen Momita**, **Miyo Reff**, **Pat (Goto) Takeshita** and **Bert Tanaka, Jr.** Many thanks!

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.*

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Naomi M. Himaka, Membership Chair

A warm welcome to 12 new members who have joined our organization since our last edition of *Footprints*: **Howard Kuyama** (a gift of **So Yamada**); **Susan Shimizu** (a gift of **Stephens Sato**); **Satoshi & Mary Okamoto** (a gift of **Mich & Naomi Himaka**); **Bert Tanaka, Jr.**; **Marty Morimoto** (a gift of **Frances Uyesaka**); **Erika Katayama**; **Min & Amy Koide**; **Craig Ozaki & Melinda Albright**; and **Michael Lindquest**.

Our thanks to **James Williams & Karen Kawasaki-Williams** and **James & Helen Urata** for upgrading to Life Membership.

Thanks to the following members for their renewals: **Thomas & June Hamada**, **Ty & Michele Hoffman**, **Sakie Kawahara**, **Yone Shiwotsuka**, **Frances Uyesaka**, **Ernie & Glory Lee Katsumata**, **Allan & Patricia Koba**, **Yas & Sumi Ishida**, **Chiz Imoto**, **Masako Shima** (gift of **Hisae Batchelder**), **Kenji & Carol Ii**, **Kiyo Uda**, **Jim & Masako Diley**, **Mary Marumoto** (gift of **Jeanne Elyea**), **Norma Nomura DeSaegher**, **Frank & Janet Koide**, **Glen & Roslyn Masumoto**, **Larry Kida**, **Hiroshi Kubota**, **Ritsu Nabeta**, **Roy & Susan Yonekura**, **Masaharu Tsuida**, **Guy & Toshi Kiyoi**, **Joe Takehara** and **Tom & Taeko Udo**.

We are grateful also to the following for renewing their membership: **Harold & Kuniko Kuhn**, **Tsutomu & Rosie Date**, **Umeko Kawamoto**, **Tim Asamen**, **George & Karen Shinzaki**, **Richard & Helen Takashima**, **Sam Yamaguchi**, **Eileen Katayama**, **Dwayne & Karen Eto**, **Louise Iguchi**, **Michael Lindquest**, **Therese James**, **Toshi & Miyoko Miyashita**, **Elizabeth Hatashita**, **Harry & Misako Honda**, **Michiko Eguchi**, **Mary Yamada**, **George & Betty Wakiji**, **Mark Abe**, **Kathleen & Robert Lui**, **Hesaa Takahashi**, **James & June Tajiri**, **Tetsuden Kashima**, **Jodi Masumoto**, **Karen Hart**, **Christy Vikander**, **Takeko Wakiji**, **Isamu Ed & Michi Akamatsu**, **David Fujikawa & Yuri Kaneda**, **Tetsuo & Sasako Himaka**, **Jeanie Kashima**, **Pam Springer**, **Dick Jensen**, **Grace Ishitani**, **Wakae Sato** and **Yuri Kuratomi Owens**.

## "JAPANESE AMERICANS IN SAN DIEGO" NOW AVAILABLE

by Joyce Teague

The October 11, 2008, annual membership meeting of the **Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego (JAHSSD)** served as the launch of San Diego's first-ever pictorial history of its citizens of Japanese descent.

**Japanese Americans in San Diego**, authored by San Diego City College Professor of History **Susan Hasegawa**, was released the week of the meeting date. Hasegawa, who served on the JAHSSD Board before taking a sabbatical from SDCC to write the book, provided the keynote address, "Creating a Legacy," featuring a Powerpoint presentation illustrating insights she gained from writing the book. She also signed copies of the book before and after the meeting.

The book covers the Japanese American experience in San Diego primarily from the 1880s to the 1990s. It includes over 200 archival photographs and uses oral history interviews and primary sources to tell the history of San Diego's Nikkei community.

Hasegawa, who was born in Hana, Maui in Hawaii, currently chairs the Department of History at San Diego City College where she began teaching under the mentorship of the late **Donald Estes**, founding board member of JAHSSD.

Hasegawa has directed many projects for JAHSSD, including the **REgenerations Oral History Project**

(Continued on Page 7)



(JAPANESE AMERICANS IN SAN DIEGO continued from Page 6)

(in cooperation with the **Japanese American National Museum**) and the production of the 2000 documentary, "**Democracy Under Pressure**," about the evacuation and incarceration of San Diego's Japanese American population during World War II.

Hasegawa has served as curator or co-curator of many of JAHSSD's educational exhibits, including "**Beauty in Captivity**" which recently completed a three-month run at the Japanese Friendship Garden.

In addition to resuming her teaching duties, Hasegawa will devote the coming year to promoting the book throughout San Diego County through personal appearances and presentations. These will include a November 13 lecture/book signing at the Museum of San Diego History in Balboa Park for the San Diego Historical Society at 6:00 p.m.; and a book signing/multimedia presentation at the City of San Diego Downtown Public Library on Dec. 14 at 2:00 p.m. These presentations are free and open to the public.

Copies of *Japanese Americans in San Diego* became available at bookstores and other venues beginning in October. However, the Society urges you to buy your books directly from JAHSSD at the Austin Archives or by mail order using the form on the last page of the newsletter. This is the only way the Society can realize the most profit from each book and why presales of the book were encouraged to our membership and friends.

If you need a special Christmas or *bonenkai* (year-end) token for someone you appreciate, JAHSSD's book would be a thoughtful gift.

For any information about the book or to arrange a speaking engagement for your school or group, contact [shasegaw@sdcdd](mailto:shasegaw@sdcdd).

## KIDS LEARN DOWNTOWN HISTORY AT FALLBACK FESTIVAL

For a third year, JAHSSD participated in the Fallback Festival, a popular children's history street fair that takes place in the Gaslamp Quarter. This year's event took place Sunday, November 2.

JAHSSD's participation introduces kids to the history of Japanese Americans in the downtown area. Besides displaying a map created by JAHSSD members showing the site of old Japantown, we distribute brochures and newsletters and offer an origami activity for those who stop at our booth.

**Linda Canada** arranged for our participation. Those who helped in the booth were **Carol Estes**, **Misako Roussin** and **Michelle Roussin**.



Misako Roussin (seated left) and her daughter Michelle (right) guide inquisitive students making origami figures. Photograph by Carol Estes

## IN GRATITUDE

JAHSSD gratefully acknowledges the following monetary gifts to the Society since our last newsletter. If we have inadvertently omitted your donation, please accept our sincere apologies. Notify Nancy Cowser at (858) 270-0733 for correction. These are donations received as of Oct. 30, 2008.

### JAPANESE COORDINATING COUNCIL JAPAN SOCIETY OF SAN DIEGO & TIJUANA

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EDWARD KUBOTA

HAROLD KUHN

SHIN & TOSHIKO MATSUDA

HENRY and EUNICE MUKAI

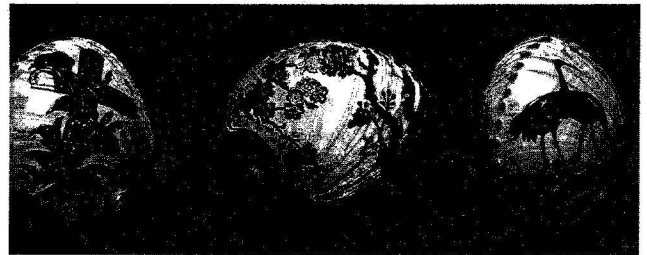
YONEKO SHIWOTSUKA

PAMELA SPRINGER

HESAA TAKAHASHI

BERT TANAKA, JR.

## A MYSTERY OF HISTORY:



### Who carved these abalone shells?



JAHSSD's collection contains many unique items, among them these artfully carved abalone shells. Abalone fishermen who spent long days at sea were known to use their down time creating beautiful works like these which they gave to their family and friends. A close-up of one of the shells (left) shows the carved initials "S.H." If you know the artist, please contact JAHSSD at (619) 660-0174 or [contact@jahssd.org](mailto:contact@jahssd.org).

## CHANKO NABE

by Joyce Nabeta Teague

### Wait! Loss?

Late last year, soon after our daughter and son-in-law announced they were expecting for the first time, Bill and I decided for the sake of our grandchild to get rid of some body fat and thereby increase the chance we'd be around for little Mako's milestones. It had taken three decades of happy overindulgence and a steady decrease in outdoor activity to pack on the extra pounds, and we knew trying to rid ourselves of them quickly wasn't realistic. So we joined Weight Watchers (WW).

Let me tell you, it is time-consuming and tedious standing around watching your weight. For one thing, your weight is just not that fascinating. You are asked to note and calculate the caloric value of everything that goes into your mouth, even your thumb. They call this journaling. I call it Time I Could Spend Doing Something Else, Like Eating. Counting "points," WW's euphemism for calories, requires math. For me, it was not going to happen. Math. Just thinking the word causes brain paralysis.

For the number-challenged—okay, you can substitute the word "lazy"—WW cunningly developed an alternative to counting points and called it the Core Plan. In this regimen, you can eat anything off a long list of sensible foods like whole grains, lean meats, fruits and veggies. You can eat as much of the approved foods it takes till you feel satisfied.

This plan has been working for us, but I won't lie: it has its disappointments. For instance, no matter how many times I reread the list of Core Foods, it never seems to include cookies, pies, candies, doughnuts, cream puffs or even fruit juice. One of our favorite phrases from the WW guide is, "Bread is not a Core Food." This phrase is meant to remind you not indulge in bread...or pancakes or biscuits or muffins or doughnuts or pizza...you get the idea. Basically anything you can smear with butter or dunk into a cup of hot coffee is not a Core Food.

To amuse ourselves, Bill and I tease one another as we make daily eating choices: "Hey, put that fork down! German chocolate cake is not a Core Food!" Or, "Sheesh, how many times do I have to tell you—frozen margaritas are not a Core Food!" and so on. In fact, so many tasty dishes are verboten that sometimes I find myself standing dejectedly in the middle of the kitchen repeating the mantra, "Food is not a Core Food. Food is not a Core Food," and crying inconsolably. But of course I exaggerate. I can always be consoled. Just hand me anything chocolate.

Truthfully, over a long period and a new mindfulness about eating habits, we have shed a combined weight of 75 lbs. Our health has improved as a result. But recently I had hit a lull which I refer to as "wait loss" because it feels much like marching in place.

### Exer-thighs?

When I mentioned this plateau to a friend once too often, she politely suggested I should really consider adding something new to my regimen. She almost whispered the concept because she knew it would be shocking to me: *exercise*. I looked at her blankly. Maybe I blinked rapidly. Maybe I fell over and she had to help me up. *Exercise?*

Well, she patiently explained, it seems millions of people actually speed their weight loss by using a forklift to pry their derriere off the sofa and thrust it towards a treadmill or a jogging path or even in the direction of a hallowed destination called 24-Hour Fitness Club.

I was dumbstruck. What?!? I have to expend physical effort to get rid of the flab that hangs from my thighs and upper arms like so much heavy drapery?

Kidding aside, I am the first to admit that sitting in front of the computer for countless hours has given me the figure of a dimply

Daruma doll. And I can pinpoint exactly when it started: when our daughter went off to college and we began using e-mail to be able to "talk" to her regularly. I discovered the Internet. The virtual world was as seductive as the real world. All this time I thought I was broadening my mind, I was actually broadening my buttocks!

Fortunately, our brilliant infant grandson has already provided an elegant solution. As of this writing, he is now five months old and over



*This is what an exercise aid looks like, disguised as a sleeping baby in a stroller: Mako Enochs just shy of five months at Oak Park near our home.*

twice his birth weight. I now think of Mako as a precious baby barbell. On the days he is in my care, lifting him up and down dozens of times a day and carrying him around has already made a difference at the WW weigh-in, getting me past that "wait loss" lull. I push him in his stroller on all the quiet streets of Oak Park. Soon he'll be toddling, then running, then biking, with me just trying to keep up. It surely must be that Mako wants us to be around for his milestones, too. And did I mention our grandson is brilliant?

I'm still no convert to exercise merely for its own sake. Along with your health, you must have laughter in your life to weather its challenges. So I leave you with this much-shared wisdom about exercise so you can flex your funny bone.

- *The advantage of exercising every day is that you die healthier.*
- *Walking can add minutes to your life. This enables you at 85 years old to spend an additional 5 months in a nursing home at \$5000 per month.*
- *My grandmother started walking five miles a day when she was 60. Now she's 97 years old and we don't know where the hell she is.*
- *I joined a health club last year. Spent 400 bucks and I haven't lost a pound. Apparently you have to go there.*
- *The only reason I would take up exercising is so that I could hear heavy breathing again.*
- *I have flabby thighs, but fortunately my stomach covers them.*
- *I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me.*
- *If you want to try cross-country skiing, start with a small country.*

### Beer and Manju Are Not a Core Foods

Since the previous part of this column was written, I feel compelled to report that Bill and I have just returned from a wonderful two-and-a-half week visit to Japan, literally eating our way across several prefectures. So the "baggage" we brought back included more than just *omigae* (souvenirs). Those who argue Japanese food is not fattening probably do not eat it in copious amounts washed down by bottles of the local brew. *I'm not saying that's what we did*, but some serious backsliding on the Core Plan did occur. And it was worth every calorie!



# THREE-YEAR PLEDGE RENEWALS

The JAHSSD Board of Directors is very grateful those who have pledged their support of the Society's Three-Year Plan. This list includes pledge payments and new gifts received as of May 29, 2008. Please notify our Treasurer of any errors.



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In memory of DONALD H. ESTES  
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In memory of  
MASAMI HONDA & RUTH YAEKO HONDA  
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KESAYE WATANABE and DONALD H. ESTES  
JOE & LIZ YAMADA  
SO YAMADA

**GIFT IN LIEU OF A PLEDGE**  
HESAA TAKAHASHI

## MAZEGOHAN

by Mich Himaka

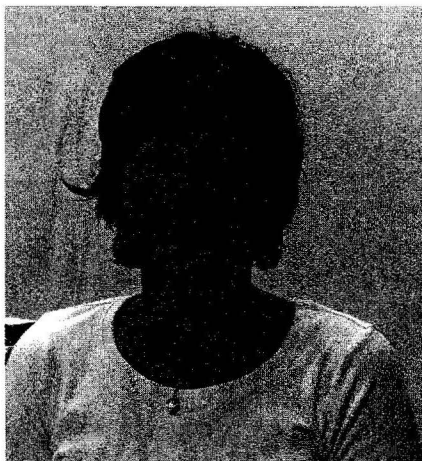
**Mai Kawaguchi**, the Buddhist Temple of San Diego's young bilingual secretary, joined some 1,400 other San Diegans on August 19 to take the oath of citizenship.

The native of Matsudo City in Chiba-ken, Japan, said she decided to take her citizenship to make it easier for her to bring her parents to the U.S. should it become necessary.

"I feel very fortunate to have this opportunity to even apply for citizenship," she said in an interview.

Mai-san, as she's affectionately known to the temple Sangha, said she was unaware that what the Isseis and Niseis experienced during World War II, long before her arrival in the U. S., probably eased the way for hundreds and thousands of Asians like her to become citizens.

I told her that unlike European immigrants to the U.S., Japanese and other Asians were barred



*Mai Kawaguchi in the BTSD office*

from applying for citizenship until 1952, seven years after World War II ended. Under the law, European immigrants were eligible to apply for citizenship five years after they came to the U.S.

The war record of the Niseis during the war and the loyalty of the Isseis to their new homeland convinced lawmakers that Asians should have the same opportunity to seek citizenship.

I remember in 1952 when Issei were allowed to seek citizenship that Mama was one of the first to apply 34 years after she came to the U.S. I was in the Air Force then, based in Biloxi, Mississippi. She wrote to me in katakana, which was the only way I could read Japanese, to tell me that she was now my equal. She was so proud. (And so was I.)

I recently uncovered some citizenship class notes that Papa had recorded in English in a notebook for both him and Mama to study. Papa never got to obtain his citizenship as he fell ill and never completed the process. I still have the little American flag Mama received and her citizenship document.

As noted in the summer issue of *Footprints*, **Rev. Makoto Okura** of the Japanese Christian Church took his oath of citizenship on May 21.

Mai is the second daughter of **Hideo and Kazue Kawaguchi** of Chiba-ken. She also has an older married sister, **Hiroye Minami**, also of Chiba-ken. Mai came to the U.S. as an exchange student in Boise, Idaho, in 1990. She completed high school in Boise after three years.

After graduating, she went to San Francisco and attended a fashion school there but living in S.F. was too expensive, she said. With contacts in San Diego, she came here and attended fashion school. After two years here, Mai returned to Japan where she opened her own clothing store. A clothing designer friend in San Diego bought clothes here and shipped them to her in Japan. She operated the store for a year and decided to return to San Diego.

Mai completed her citizenship class and interview before taking her oath of citizenship.

Congratulations, Mai-san, and welcome to U.S. citizenship.

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

by Linda A. Canada, Archivist

While attending the Bon Odori on August 2 at the Buddhist Temple, **Saeko Yato Shimamoto** visited the JAHSSD exhibition in the Annex Hall and spotted the now-familiar photograph of young **Moto Asakawa** and his family in front of the Japanese Tea House in Balboa Park. The photo is featured on the front of our membership brochure.

Saeko's startling comment as she pointed to someone in the photograph: "That's my grandfather."

She promptly sat down and named all the individuals in the photo and gave us important information about their relationships to one another. While the names of many of those in the photograph were already known, it was new information that the man on the upper left side was Moto's mother's (**Osamu Yato Asakawa**) sister's husband and named **Henry Yoshimine**. The other two men standing are Osamu's father (**Sukeharu Yato**) and brother (**Sukekazu Yato**).

This is an example of the important information that we gather from community members who are constantly telling us, "I don't know anything that would help." You would be surprised how extremely valuable "what you don't know" is to the Society's work.

New at the Austin site is a small exhibition illustrating the life of **Taro Matsui**, a watchmaker who was a long-time member of the Buddhist Temple. The Lin sisters, our summer interns, created the exhibition and were amazed to see how much information could be learned about a person based on the things they leave behind.

Working their way through two boxes of documents, photographs and business records, **Kelly Lin** was able to create

Taro's biography. (See story on Page 11.) Using the Internet to find U.S. census records, and searching through old telephone directories in our collection, **Kristi Lin** learned where Taro's shop and home were located. Objects on display illustrate Taro's dedication to the Buddhist Temple and also show some aspects of his business.

Although neither of these curious young women had ever met the bachelor watchmaker, they now have a much better understanding of him after putting together some pieces of his life's puzzle.

That's the beauty of the many seemingly unrelated items in our collection. Each one has its own tale, and our job (and our joy) is to record the stories while we can, to recreate them even if the owners have passed on, and to connect them to create a clearer picture of San Diego's Japanese American community.

You are invited to visit our Austin Drive site any Monday to see the Matsui exhibition and learn more about our Japanese American collection. Call Linda Canada (858/457-9676) or the Archives directly at 619/660-0174 to make sure we will be there when you plan to visit.



*Taro working at his watch repair business in downtown San Diego, circa 1960s*



## TARO MATSUI DISPLAY AT AUSTIN ARCHIVES

In June 2008, JAHSSD's summer interns, **Kelly** and **Kristi Lin**, researched and put together a small exhibit on **Taro Matsui**, a long-time resident of the College Grove neighborhood who owned a watch repair shop in downtown San Diego for several decades. Taro's biography, tools of his craft, and selected photographs will be displayed indefinitely in the tabletop case in the entry of the Austin Archives. Please call the office to arrange a time to view the display. The following is an edited version of a life history put together by Kelly Lin for the display.

**Taro Matsui** was born on April 23, 1919, in Hanford, California. He was one of four children and had a very strong bond with his sister, **Fusako**. According to sources, Taro was a pretty quiet guy who never married yet was always loyal to his family. From Taro's diary, we can infer that faithfulness and kindness were two qualities that he valued enormously and throughout his life, Taro seemed to exemplify both these traits.

For the duration of World War II, Taro and his family were sent to the Jerome, Arkansas internment camp. After his release, Taro and a camp friend, also from Hanford, studied watch repair in Chicago. Meanwhile his sister and mother moved out to San Diego to be with their church minister. After completing his watch repair course, Taro moved to San Diego to be with his family and opened **Taro's Watch Shop** during the 1960s. It was a one-man shop located on Broadway at Tenth Avenue in downtown San Diego. The shop was a successful business which eventually closed in the 1990s because Taro needed to spend more time with his sister, who was starting to show signs of Alzheimer's.

Both Taro and his sister Fusako were Buddhists. When Taro lived in San Diego, he was an active member of the **Buddhist Temple in San Diego**. Taro was very involved at the temple in various organizations and was an eager and generous volunteer there till the end of his days. Whether it was helping out with the monthly newsletter or instructing kids as a Sunday School teacher, Taro was always willing to lend a hand.

After retiring from the watch repair business, Taro continued his involvement in the temple and helped Fusako by assuming cooking and shopping duties for her until she was moved into a Mira Mesa nursing home. While Fusako was in the assisted living facility, Taro remained a loyal brother and visited her daily until her death in 2000. Taro died shortly after on April 29, 2001 at the age of 82.

Taro lived a full and active life. He loved driving his shiny red Mustang around town and was an avid Chargers fan, attending many home games. His service, loyalty and kindness made him a much-respected member of San Diego's Japanese American community.

### ROY S. YONEKURA Certified Public Accountant

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BONITA, CA 91908-1647  
(619) 482-0275  
FAX: (619) 482-0242

## CELEBRATIONS!

Congratulations to **Rev. Yushi Mukojima** and his wife **Mika** on the birth of their daughter, **Kurumi**, on August 24 at Mary Birch Hospital. Rev. Mukojima is the resident minister of the Buddhist Temple of San Diego where he has served since 2005.



**Yushi Mukojima**, holding **Kurumi**, and **Mika Mukojima** were paid a visit at their Chula Vista home by **Ritsa Nabeta** (center) on the day the baby turned a month old, September 24. Photo courtesy of Joyce Teague

Congratulations to the congregation of **Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ** which celebrated its new sanctuary with a special dedication service on October 12. Photos and a story will appear in the Winter Issue of *Footprints*.

**Aiko Owashi**, seated, celebrated her 90th birthday in the company of family and friends this summer. To the right are **Agnes Benson** and **Sadako Oehler**. Photo courtesy of Gwen Morita



Hearty best wishes to JAHSSD member **Rev. Akira Hata** who will celebrate his 88th birthday on December 1. Having served at Jodo Shinshu temples throughout California for over 30 years prior to his retirement, Rev. Hata now lives in Carmel Valley with his daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren. He is an associate minister at the Buddhist Temple of San Diego where his special birthday will be celebrated by the sangha on Bodhi Day.

**Rio Imamura** of Kitakyushu, Japan, has reported that San Diegan **Roy Muraoka** has been awarded The Order of the Rising Sun (*Kyokujitsu sho*), Gold and Silver, by the Japanese government. Established in 1875 by the Emperor Meiji of Japan, the special badge recognizes outstanding civil or military merit. The Order has several classes and is the second most prestigious Japanese decoration after the Order of the Chrysanthemum. Given in the name of the Emperor, non-Japanese recipients were made eligible for this honor beginning in 1981. In recent years, Roy has received several well-deserved community recognitions including the 2006 Kansha Award. Congratulations to Roy on this great honor!

*Footprints* always welcome news worth celebrating. Send or e-mail your special announcements and photos to JAHSSD or [footprintseditor@cox.net](mailto:footprintseditor@cox.net).

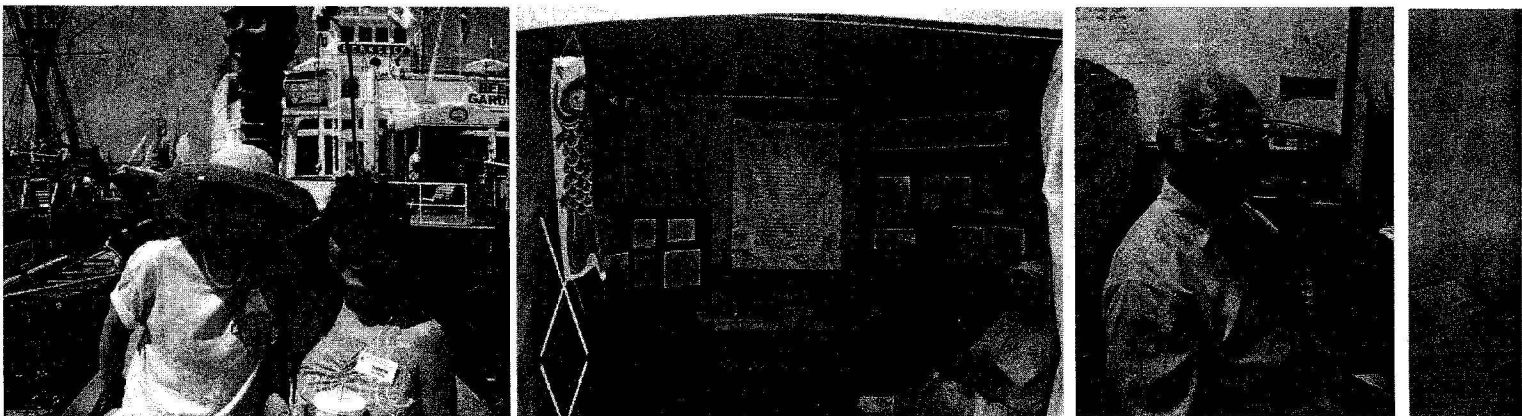
# COMMUNITY



TOP ROW: San Diego ACLU marked the 60th anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court case, *OYAMA V. CALIFORNIA*, at the Japanese Friendship Garden on Sept. 24, 2008. (above, second photo from the right) pictured with his wife and with San Diego JACL President **Miyo Reff** on his right. SECOND ROW: Guests at the Japanese Friendship Gar



THIRD ROW (left to right): **Sam and Pauline Nakamura** and those at the JAHSSD table enjoyed the Autumn Moon Festival; BOTTOM ROW (left to right): **Margaret Piatt** and **Gwen Yosh Kawahara** working on JAHSSD's Bon Odori exhibit (center); **Julie Lin** observes as daughter Kristi works on the **Taro Matsui** exhibit at the Austin Archives; summer inter





# SNAPSHOTS



Special guests included **Fred Oyama** and **Alice Yano** (above, second photo from left), children of **Kajiro Oyama** who brought the original suit; and the Honorable **H. Lee Sarokin**. The annual August Moon Festival fundraiser enjoyed dinner, musical entertainment, a silent auction, and an awards presentation, all in the lovely outdoor garden setting.



**LEFT:** San Diego County Supervisor **Ron Roberts** is recognized for his long-time support of the Japanese Friendship Garden. JFG President **Tom Yangihara** made the award presentation at the Autumn Moon Festival.

**RIGHT:** JAHSSD presented an exhibit and kids activity table at the Buddhist Temple's Bon Odori: Gathering of Joy on August 2. (Left to right): **Kristi Lin** (Mickey Mouse shirt), **Chris Schmidt** (standing) and **Chad Sakamoto**; **Kelly Lin** (long hair) with **Debbie Shimizu** and child in far right photo. Kids created fun items using recycled materials.

**Kristi Lin** and **Kelly Lin** pose in front of the exhibit they worked on together.



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

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

## JAPANESE, LANGUAGE OF LOVE:

### Thoughts of a Parttime Sansei

by Bert Tanaka, Jr.

*Bert, a computer programmer who lives in West Covina, grew up in San Diego. His grandfather, Kyuji Aizumi, partnered with Tokunosuke Abe to establish a major fish brokerage, Southern Commercial Co., in San Diego during the 1930s. We thank Bert for permission to include his ruminations in this issue.*

In a recent letter to me, Linda Canada used the word "intergenerational" to describe a type of communication she hoped to initiate. First of all, I had to look the word up to make sure it was a real word. Like a lot of other ideas she has, it set me to thinking and reminded me about my own weak connection with the Japanese culture. When I was young, I didn't care. Now that I'm older, I don't go into a dark depression thinking about it, but I do have regrets.

In dance, when movement and music are combined thoughtfully, the audience will experience a synergistic effect where one plus one equals three. The right movement at just the right moment in the music gains a power that surpasses the sum of each element considered just by itself. In the case where a choreographer fails to create a dance sequence to match a high point in the music, some call it "a missed opportunity."

You can see and feel the success of this synergistic effect in any number of skating routines by Kristi Yamaguchi, Michelle Kwan or Sasha Cohen. In the original show, "Riverdance," you are able to experience the power of Michael Flatley's choreography throughout the whole presentation. Music is also beautifully married to image in many movies, such as the visually stunning "March of the Penguins" or the wonderful animated film "Happy Feet."

I don't speak Japanese, but my grandfather, born in Japan, did. So did my grandmother who was also from Japan. This proves that the Japanese speaking gene is recessive because I only speak English, along with a little broken Spanish I learned in high school.

My grandfather's level of fluency in English was quite high. He spoke with a thick accent but had a tremendous vocabulary—way beyond just conversational English. When I was a little boy, he used to read to me, and when I was a little older, he bought me my first books. He bought me my first pocket watch, a Big Ben from a drugstore in Pacific Beach, and taught me how to tell time so I would know how late I was.

Later on, Grandpa often demonstrated how not to drive a car just before my uncle took away his driver's license and car keys. I think it was hiding the car keys that was the main factor that kept Grandpa off the road because, as he used to say, "I don't need no stinkin' license."

Grandpa and Grandma lived in the back in a garage that had been converted to their living quarters. My uncle insulated all the walls, installed a complete bathroom and ran a gas line for their stove. He knocked out some spaces for windows and brought in furniture that made the place just right.

When I would visit Grandpa, we would sit at his desk and talk. He might show me some of his latest projects he had made out of stones, his stamp collection, or some books he was reading. Just chit-chat. He died of cancer. By the time the doctors had diagnosed it, it was all throughout his body and he didn't last long after that. I regret that I never thanked him for all the time that he had spent with me, and that I hadn't been more thoughtful when I was older and knew better. I thought he would live forever.

I tell everybody that I never went to Japanese school but actually, I did attend one that was held by the church for 2 or 3 weeks. It was held for a few hours just once a week. It ended due to lack of interest. I don't know how you would measure it, but I don't think knowing how to count up to four qualifies as having learned to speak Japanese.

I didn't get as close to my Grandfather as I might have liked because he lived in L.A. and I lived in San Diego. But I still got to know him pretty well, all things considered. Better than my Grandmother who actually lived with us after Grandpa passed away.

Unfortunately, Grandma was like me and could only count up to four, but in English. She understood a lot of English, but just couldn't speak it. Her last years were spent mostly in the house as a semi-invalid. She must have been lonely. Grandpa had pretty much done everything for her, and after all the years of having him tell her what to do, she seemed lost and disoriented. They had really loved each other and had had a great marriage. Grandma was still able to smile for us after her loss and it's been only recently that I've been able to truly appreciate what a brave heart she had.

Looking back on these things, it seems most likely that the main cause for my poor connection with the Japanese culture is language. Or, more precisely, the lack of it. My inability to speak Japanese left me with a perspective that is on the outside of the culture. To be able to experience the culture from within, the minimum requirement is to be able to view it through the sense of its own words.

I was lucky enough to be able to get to know my own grandfather better than some other Sansei knew theirs because mine could speak English. A common language was the key to being able to have an intergenerational relationship, Linda's big word that means we could talk to each other.

Language can certainly be an important key to learning to love things from Japan like: her art, architecture, movies, music, the culture, and understanding or even getting a feel for what being from Japan is like. Speaking Japanese is intergenerational. Especially for those of us that still have grandparents and other relatives from Japan.

I don't know what the right thing to do might be. Times have changed a lot. Still, years go by filled with unseen dance and silent music. I feel empty with missed opportunity.

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## BREED BOOK TRANSLATION WAS A LABOR OF LOVE

*JAHSSD founding member Rio Imamura's Japanese translation of Joanne Oppenheim's book Dear Miss Breed was published last summer by Kashiwashobo Press in Tokyo. Rio was in San Diego recently to meet with friends and present a copy of the book to the San Diego Public Library. In a recent e-mail to Michael Inoue, Honorary Consul General of Japan in San Diego, and in his online blog, Rio recounts how he met Clara Breed while employed by Kyocera in San Diego; what inspired his determination to make the book available to Japanese readers; and the process of finding a publisher for his translation. Rio's notes are edited for length and reprinted with his kind permission.*

I wrote in my translator's notes [in the Japanese edition of *Dear Miss Breed*] that my motivation was based on the fact that Clara and I worked together one time on the Japanese Friendship Garden project in Balboa Park in the 1980s. She was called in as a substitute secretary, perhaps by Liz Yamada, one of the Breed children Clara had [affectionately corresponded with] during the Japanese American internment camp days of WWII, and I represented my employer as a community citizen.

A Japanese Tea Pavilion and garden were built in 1915 for the Pan American California Exposition in Balboa Park, (Continued on Page 15)



(BREED BOOK TRANSLATION continued from Page 14)



*Publisher's proof of the spine and cover of Joanne Oppenheim's book, Dear Miss Breed, which was translated into Japanese by Rio Imamura and published by Kashiwashobo Press in Tokyo in June 2008.*

but demolished when the San Diego Zoo was constructed. The City of San Diego had promised 10 acres inside Balboa Park, so, the San Diego-Yokohama Sister City Society and the Honorary Consul General, **Wil Hippen**, led the formation of the NPO Japan-U.S. Friendship Garden Society, with the slogan, "Rebuild the Garden."

Recruited were corporate members, namely Kyocera, Sony, Union Bank of Calif., etc., and many local Japanese Americans, **Joe and Liz Yamada**, **[Saburo] Muraoka**, **[Moto] Asakawa**, etc. Sounds so easy and simple now but literally it was a tough job, beginning with fundraising campaigns and plans which took decades to conclude.

More than 20 years have elapsed since its completion and San Diego now has one of the best Japanese gardens which can proudly compete with any of the west coast Japanese gardens. The garden website reads, "the expansion is on the way and forthcoming."

Clara attended the Board of Director meetings on occasion and took wonderful meeting minutes in shorthand. In the early 1990s, I retired and left San Diego for Japan.

I visit the U.S. every year to see our children who stayed in California. I came across Clara's obituary in the paper during one of those visits and discovered who she was (besides being a wonderful stenographer) and what she did during the war [including] her constant commitment to the Japanese American children in their internment through letters which she kept.

I called Liz Yamada to locate these letters and Liz said she had donated all the letters to the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles. [Through Liz] I also met **Tets Hirasaki**, who was close to Clara...I visited Tets at his home right away. Tets said he owed Clara a lot and wanted to see a legacy. I found Tets worked at General Dynamics, and was a man of knowledge and quite a speaker. He had an extensive vocabulary.

I visited the Los Angeles [Japanese American National] Museum. The letters were in the process of being sorted and digitized. The librarian assured me by the next return, I would see them online.

I visited the Museum again in 2004 after the Miss Breed Corner had been established. I was told that **Joanne Oppenheim** had started interviewing Miss Breed's "children." I decided to wait for [her] book to be published. Two years later, I read the book and found it truly inspirational.

I was determined to translate *Dear Miss Breed* into Japanese for young Japanese readers so that they could learn about what transpired. I wanted them to know...that there was a remarkable librarian named Miss Breed who loved the young disciplined Japanese Americans and gave them strength and inspiration by tirelessly sending them books.

These interned children were confined and isolated, sent away to remote concentration camps. A collection of letters written by Miss Breed's children would surely strike the hearts of the Japanese young readers.

I expressed my wish to be a translator both to the author and publisher as soon as *Dear Miss Breed* was published in April 2006. The publisher replied in June and stated that I had to go through a Japanese book underwriter/publisher.

I had a number of such publishing houses in mind but I realized that they would immediately ask for a manuscript, which I didn't have. I know translation without any publisher endorsement was risky, but I felt such a strong commitment to do it anyway. There's a Japanese saying, *Knowing what is right without participating in it betrays one's cowardice*. I knew that there was a risk of not obtaining translation rights.

In early 2007, **Dr. Keiichi Ogawa** (former President of Yokohama City University) paid his courtesy visit to the San Diego City Library, representing Yokohama City Library, since San Diego and Yokohama are sister cities. He happened to witness the 100th birthday celebration of Clara Breed, the Head Librarian, and he was presented Oppenheim's book by **Anna Tatar**, [then] Library Director.

Upon his return [to Yokohama] and after finishing the book, he introduced "Miss Breed" in the local Kanagawa newspaper. The paper stirred readers' interests and ardent wishes to read it in Japanese. I was about half finished with the translation when I noticed this interest...I redoubled my efforts with the help of compassionate friends.



*Rio Imamura presents (left) a copy of the Japanese version of Dear Miss Breed to San Diego Library Director **Deborah Barrows** (center) and **Lynn Whitehouse**, August 21, 2008. Photo courtesy of Joyce Teague*

I had finished two-thirds of the book in August 2007. I sent the first third of the translated manuscript out in May/June 2007 as a sample to find a publisher. I sent it to several publishers without much luck. Then I saw a translation of **Michael Moore's** book published by Kashiwa. Encouraged, I sent Kashiwa a copy and they showed interest.

By October, the full translation was completed and submitted. The first proofs arrived in April. The next three months were spent mostly finishing the bibliography, indexing, more proofreading, translating Joanne's preface to the Japanese readers, etc. The book was finally released on June 25, 2008.

I have enjoyed the privilege of befriending many Japanese Americans in San Diego, [among them] **Ben Segawa**, **Liz and Joe Yamada**, **Saburo Muraoka**, **Moto Asakawa**, **Jack Hamaguchi**, and **Joyce and Bill Teague**. It has been very rewarding and an honor to be involved in Clara Breed's legacy.

## A TALK WITH BETTY INAHARA

by Linda Canada

At the Buddhist Temple's Bon Odori on August 2, 2008, I had a chance to talk with **Betty Miyoko Hashiguchi Inahara** about her life in San Diego.

When Betty's father left Japan, he first went to Mexico. Betty says his Spanish was actually better than his English. After coming to San Diego, he arranged for a bride from Japan whom he married, and eventually there were eight children in the family. Her parents, **Frank Kasuke Hashiguchi** and **Fuji Kusakizako Hashiguchi**, had a business at Fifth and Fir Streets called **Sunrise Laundry and Cleaners**.



3500 block of Adams Avenue, once the site of the Sunrise Laundry and Cleaners

Around 1926, the business moved to the 3500 block of Adams Avenue, following the path of new home construction out into the Normal Heights area. (The building still stands, but is occupied by Reynolds TV and Video.) Her father had a car so they could do pick up and delivery for the laundry business.

Betty also rode the streetcars down Adams Avenue and remembers having to ride the car downtown for school. After school, Betty had to work in the cleaners because her mother spoke very little English.

Betty went to Poston with her family but only stayed one year. She went to barber school and worked in the camp cutting hair as a helper to **Mrs. Mamiya**, one of two women who had barbershops in Poston Camp III.

Later, Betty went to Chicago and worked in a candy factory with other Japanese Americans. This photograph (above) of her working at the candy factory is from a collection found in the Online Archive of California ([www.oac.cdlib.org](http://www.oac.cdlib.org)).

Betty lived in Chicago 20 years before moving to Los Angeles where she also lived for 20 years. She is now retired and lives in Rancho Bernardo.



Betty (Hashiguchi) Inahara worked in a candy factory in Chicago after World War II

## Young Voice:

### REVIEW OF "BEAUTY IN CAPTIVITY"

by Kelly Lin

Last June, the Japanese Friendship Garden in Balboa Park introduced a new exhibit titled, "Beauty in Captivity," displaying some of the art created by Japanese Americans in the internment camps during World War II. After its opening, I had a chance to visit the gallery and was amazed by the art that I saw.

For the internees, art not only helped pass time but also gave people a chance to pursue interests that they might not have explored, if not for the camps. The internees had limited supplies to make their creations and thus were forced to be creative when it came to selecting the tools and materials they used. Art materials were often found in the camp trash heap or were natural objects such as rocks and wood found lying around the camp.

One of my favorite pieces in the exhibit was a gold and black painted butsudan, or Buddhist home altar, that had intricately carved symbols etched into its doors. The craftsmanship of the piece was incredible and it was hard to believe that the piece was made with the limited tools available to the internees.

Another amazing piece in the exhibit was a chest of drawers that was made out of fence posts by a fourteen-year-old internee. What I found even more amazing about the piece was that it was made without nails! The only experience I've had with wood shop was about five years ago when I made (or rather my dad made) an amateur birdhouse at Home Depot as part of the kids program there....so the fact that someone around my age was able to make such a nice piece like that without nails was mind-boggling to me.

The exhibit concluded with art by contemporary artists inspired by the internment camps. These pieces offered a contemporary interpretation of camp life and will help to make sure that the experiences of internees in the camps are never forgotten. Overall, the exhibit was fascinating to see and helped me to better understand internment life.

## ACLU MARKS 60<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF OYAMA V. CALIFORNIA

On September 24, the San Diego chapter of the **American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)** marked the 60th anniversary of the **Oyama v. California** landmark Supreme Court victory with a celebration at the Japanese Friendship Garden. (See photos in Community Snapshots.)

Special guests at the event were the Honorable **H. Lee Sarokin**, Retired U.S. Court of Appeals, Third Circuit; and ACLU client **Kajiyo Oyama's** children, **Fred Oyama** and **Alice Yano**.

"Sixty years ago, famed ACLU attorney **A.L. Wirin** represented a Chula Vista family, the Oyamas, whose house and land had been seized by the government under California's **Alien Land Act**, which forbade "aliens ineligible for citizenship" [non-whites] to own land," wrote the ACLU in its invitation for this event.

"Wirin and the Oyamas lost in the lower courts, but ultimately overturned the discriminatory land seizures. The U.S. Supreme Court victory applied new legal standards that paved the way for subsequent decisions affording equal rights to all Americans of all colors, races and ethnicities."

Among the attendees representing the local chapter of the JACL board were **Miyo Reff** and **Erika Hirasaki**. Representing the JAHSSD board were **Linda Canada**, **Susan Hasegawa** and **Gwen Momita**.



## WE GET LETTERS (& E-MAIL)

Dear Gwen and Joyce,

Thank you so much for giving us your event information. I was so touched by "Beauty in Captivity" at the Japanese Garden. I really appreciate all your efforts.

I'm looking forward to the other JAHSSD exhibit at BTSD for Bon Odori. It will be a great opportunity to learn what Japanese American Issei, Nisei, and Sansei did for the country and people. I always believe they made the concrete ground for all future Japanese Americans including new immigrants. Hope many people come join you for OBON.

Thank you,  
Ayako Katayama Stott  
Editor, JCC Coordinator

Dear Board and Committee Members of JAHSSD:

We are delighted and excited to be awarded the Kansha Award from you. We did our work individually and together, much of which was outside the Japanese American community organizations. We had not considered our activities as contributing to our community but were always aware that we were representing you as the "diversity factor" wherever we served professionally or as volunteers.

Our only regret is that Liz will be out of the country on the 11th, but Joe will be attending with pride and a grateful heart. Daughter Joan will be flying in to represent Liz, and David Kikuchi will also be attending. We are grateful to be so honored by our community and thus consider this award the most meaningful.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth and Joe Yamada

Dear Gwen and JAHSSD Board!

Thank you for all you do to keep the heritage of the Japanese American history alive.

With God's richest blessings,  
Norma and John DeSaegher

## FRIDAY SENIOR LUNCHES CONTINUE AT KIKU GARDENS

The Friday Senior Nutrition lunch program launched last July at by and at **Kiku Gardens** has been a big success. It was created to augment the already well-established Tuesday lunch program at the senior housing complex.

The Tuesday meals are planned and prepared by Kiku Gardens staff and volunteers. Community groups that take turns providing the Friday menus are **Asian Pacific VFW Post 4851, Buddhist Temple of San Diego, Japanese Friendship Garden, Japan Society of San Diego & Tijuana, Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ** and the **San Diego Chapter of the JACL**. The participating groups are asked at minimum to prepare the main dish for 90 diners and to bring a small crew to cook and clean up. Kiku Gardens pays for all supplies and, as needed, will purchase supplies, provide kitchen helpers, and prepare rice, salad, a vegetable and a dessert.

These nutritional lunches are open to the public. Diners pay \$3 for lunch, which usually covers costs though Kiku Gardens subsidizes any cost overruns. If you would like to be added to Kiku Gardens' menu announcements, send your e-mail address to Kiku Gardens, [kiku@kiku.coxatwork.com](mailto:kiku@kiku.coxatwork.com).

# \$ BINGO \$ \$ BINGO \$ \$ BINGO \$

JOIN US THE LAST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH

BINGO HELD at the **BUDDHIST TEMPLE of SAN DIEGO**

Sponsored by the **Buddhist Temple of San Diego**

and the **Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4851**

*Funds generated by Bingo go to the community activities of BTSD and the Asian Pacific VFW Post 4851*

BUDDHIST TEMPLE ANNEX HALL  
2929 Market St.

San Diego

Plenty of Parking & Refreshments

B I N G O					
7	26	35	51	73	
14	23	44	55	63	
6	19	FREE 14733	48	64	
12	22	32	54	70	
11	16	33	47	69	

BINGO 6:00 pm \$10 buy-in

Two Winners Every Game

Additional cards .50 cents each

Pull Tabs on Sale

# MANZANAR PILGRIMS

by Rio Imamura

*As I came to understand what Manzanar had meant, it gradually filled me with shame for being a person guilty of something enormous enough to deserve that kind of treatment. In order to please my accusers, I tried, for the first few years after our release, to become someone acceptable. I both succeeded and failed. By the age of seventeen I knew that making it, in terms I had tried to adopt, was not only unlikely, but false and empty.... It took me another twenty years to accumulate the confidence to deal with what the equivalent experience would have to be for me.*

~Jeanne Wakamatsu Houston  
Farewell to Manzanar

I rented a car in Los Angeles in the summer of 2008 and traveled for two days to Manzanar where more than 10,000 Japanese Americans were interned during World War II. About 250 miles, or 405 kilometers, one way to get there. Drove the familiar State Hwy. 14 that I took to see California State flower poppies some years ago. Passed Lancaster and Mojave and I stayed at Ridgecrest overnight to take it easy.

Mojave is the gateway to Death Valley. Right after Mojave, I stopped the car to photograph the Red Rock Canyon cliffs, with its colorful layers of pink, red and brown, which I took as a welcome sign. Ridgecrest has many hotels and gas stations as my American son-in-law told me before my departure.

I asked the hotel clerk, as I checked in, about the town population. 20,000 was her answer. She said that more than 10,000 people work at the Naval Weapons Test Center in China Lake. The temperature read 97° Fahrenheit at 4:00 p.m.

I started at 7:30 a.m. the following day as I was told I would have more than an hour drive. I aimed to finish my visit before it got hotter. Highway 395 leads to Mammoth Lake, the ski resort. It's a scenic back road with snow covered Sierra Nevada ranges. Sequoia National Park on the other side of the ranges. Slowed down as I entered the town of Lone Pine, 10 miles south of Manzanar. While wondering where the exit might be, the sign "turn left here for Manzanar" suddenly appeared.

Two way road. I yielded to cars from the opposite. A dusty and bumpy road, and finally Manzanar.

The sentry stands on both sides, and you face awesome Mt. Williamson. I thought I was the first to arrive there but there were a few visitors waiting already ahead of me.

Manzanar is in the Owen Valley. In 1872, a severe earthquake buried Owen Lake. However, the snow-fed streams formed Owen River and the local people cultivated apples. Manzanar means apple orchard. The city of Los Angeles with increasing population, sought sources of water and built a long aqueduct from Owen. The orchards disappeared in the 1930s. The Manzanar internees siphoned water from the aqueduct and cultivated vegetable farms.

There are many photographs of the Japanese incarceration at Manzanar as compared with other detention camps and I wondered why. At one time, cameras were forbidden as they were considered to be a spy act. The chivalry of the great Sierra Club photographer **Ansel Adams** (1902-1984), as well as the arduous artistry of **Toyo Miyatake** and others succeeded in getting the ban removed.

In the summer of 1943, Adams received a visit at his Yosemite home from **Ralph Merritt**, an old Sierra Club friend and then the Director of the Manzanar War Relocation Camp. Ralph was concerned with the sudden arrival of 10,000 interned Japanese Americans and the impact on the community and the environment. He was desirous of Adams monitoring the impact but said: "I cannot pay you a cent, but I can put

you up and feed you, plus gas for transportation."

Adams took the job and visited Manzanar. Not just once. Four times! I saw Adams' photos titled "Owen Valley" produced before the war started. I figure the valley was one of his favorite places.

"My first impression of Manzanar," he wrote in his autobiography, "was of a dry plain on which appeared a flat rectangular layout of shacks, ringed with towering mountains. The shacks created a mood that was not relieved by the entrance gate and its military guards.... However, the interiors of the shacks, most softened with flowers and inimitable taste of the Japanese for simple decoration, revealed not only the family living spaces but all manner of small enterprises: a printing press that issued the *Manzanar Free Press*, music and art studios, a library, several churches, a clinic hospital, business offices, and so on....I was profoundly affected by Manzanar."

The photographic essay and album, "Born Free and Equal," published late in 1944, did not draw the expected attention to the chaos of war. It is only very recently that the republished album attracted renewed enthusiastic attention.

**Jeanne Wakamatsu Houston**, the author of *Farewell to Manzanar*, was eight years old when interned directly from Los Angeles. She left the camp at the age of ten. Her scars, however, remained quite long, as I quoted above. Her father, who owned a fishing boat in Los Angeles, had been arrested and sent to the Federal North Dakota prison suspected of providing oil to the Japanese submarine that attacked a beach near Los Angeles. When [he was subsequently] cleared, he was sent to Manzanar to join his family.

Jeanne returned to Manzanar, accompanied by her family, in 1972 from Santa Cruz where she and her husband taught at the University of California. She showed her sharp observation as former internee rather than a casual visitor. The barbed wire surrounded the housing area of 550 acres, but the original camp which included farm and cattle feeding land, was ten times that size.

She spotted a white obelisk gleaming in the distance and marking a subtle line where the plain begins gradually to slope upward into the alluvial fan that becomes the base of the mountains. She visualized the ruins of a variety of gardens handmade; everywhere designated as firebreaks, which impressed Ansel Adams. She heard ghostly voices of the deceased in the wind. She even remembered the insistence of her father to leave "in style." He went to the town of Lone Pine and brought back a salvaged blue Nash four-door with two flat tires. He honked and cruised around to show off. Jeanne wrote that the car sounded like a boxer working out on a flabby punching bag.

The only remaining building was the senior high school auditorium. In 1972, the auditorium was the servicing station for Los Angeles City Power and Water. In 1992, this auditorium was turned into the National Park museum and Manzanar became the national historic site to represent the ten detention camps. Its objective: to tell the future generations the importance of preserving civil rights, not to repeat the same mistake.

After the museum and driving around the camp, I spent some time praying in front of the memorial tower. Maybe 20 minutes or so. Cars came, stopped, some walked to the tower, retreated, and left.

One of them asked me what is meant by the character on the stone. No English explanation. To console the spirit of the dead and pray for their eternal peace. I exchanged conversation with him. He said he came from the south, not so far. Seems an American youth of sincerity. I gave my e-mail address saying if you come up with anything about Manzanar, write to me. I said, "I will promise to answer."

It was in 1963 that President Kennedy spoke to university students a few months before he was assassinated: (Continued on Page 19)



(MANZANAR PILGRIMS continued from Page 18)

*What kind of peace do I mean and what kind of a peace do we seek? Not the peace of the grave or the security of slave. I am talking about genuine peace, the kind of peace that makes life on earth worth living and the kind of that enables men and nations to grow, and to hope, and to build a better life for their children—not merely peace for Americans but peace for all men and women; not merely peace in our time but peace in all time.*

I heard the news of his assassination in Manhattan while working.

"Impossible," was my cry and tears rolled down my face to the floor.

## COLORADO LEGISLATURE, BOOK HONOR RALPH CARR

by Joyce Teague

An article in the Denver Post reported that the first of many road signs to honor former Colorado governor **Ralph Carr** were unveiled on August 11, 2008, on the steps of the State Capitol. Last Spring, Colorado state legislature approved the renaming of a portion of Highway 285 in Carr's honor.

Carr served as Colorado's governor from 1938–1943 as a reformist bent on sweeping cronyism and corruption out of state government. Once elected, he did as he had promised and began systematically changing "business as usual," irking those imbedded in self-serving bureaucracies and winning the admiration of his electorate with a no-nonsense forthrightness.

After the outbreak of World War II, under enormous pressure from his constituents, he went on record cautioning against wholesale condemnation of Japanese Americans based on ethnicity. He was the only governor who welcomed Japanese Americans displaced by the mass evacuation from the west coast ordered by the President, offering them support while all others were denying these citizens basic respect much less their rights as Americans.

"By his humanitarian efforts no Colorado citizen was deprived of his or her basic freedoms," said current Governor **Bill Ritter** in his remarks at the State Capitol. "He stood alone, saying something other people considered a...fatal error for him." It is widely acknowledged that Carr's political career was adversely affected by his unpopular defense of citizens of Japanese ancestry.

In June of this year, Gov. Ritter also signed legislation to build a new state judicial complex in Denver to be named after Carr, whom he described as one of his heroes. "More than 60 years after standing up for the rights of Japanese-Americans, and by extension the rights of us all, Ralph Carr is finally getting the recognition he deserves."

### The Principled Politician

In late 1999, the *Denver Post* named Ralph Carr as the "Colorado Person of the Century." The reasons for this accolade are made clear in a remarkable biography of Carr published earlier this year by **Adam Schrager**, a reporter for KUSA-TV in Denver.

Schrager is a young journalist who animates his subject through substantive interviews and research. Retrospectives sometimes try to impress by piling in detail for detail's sake but that is not the case here. The book makes good use of historical fact while using surprising and telling anecdotes about Carr, his colleagues and their times. Schrager creates a vivid portrait of the man, his actions, and even his thought processes by using the man's own words left behind in extensive notes and correspondence. The author also recreates the tone of the times, including wartime hysteria and unchecked racism.

By the end of the book, you have learned about a man whose unwillingness to compromise his principles made him a hero to Japanese Americans at the time. The book makes a good case that Carr should be considered a hero by anyone who thinks honor and integrity should be a requirement of our elected officials.

"He knew what price he would pay, and he was still willing to pay that price," Schrager has said in describing Carr. "Ralph Carr did not retain his office, but Ralph Carr retained his conscience."

*The Principled Politician* is an extremely readable look at Carr's life and career. If you are, as I was, unaware of his remarkable place in Japanese American history, the book is an eye-opening and inspiring read. JAHSSD members are welcome to borrow the book from the Austin Archives.

In recent correspondence, Schrager has indicated San Diego could be a stop on his book tour, as one of Carr's granddaughters resides in San Diego. If you would like to be notified of a possible local appearance, please make sure JAHSSD has your e-mail address.

For more information on *Ralph Carr, The Principled Politician* or to read an interview with the author, go to [www.adamschrager.tv/index.html](http://www.adamschrager.tv/index.html).

## MINGEI MUSEUM HIGHLIGHTS JAPANESE FOLK ART AND DESIGN

Opening Sunday, November 9, 2008, **Mingei International Museum** in Balboa Park presents an exhibition of metal, textile, wood and ceramic from the museum's permanent collection of Japanese art and design. Highlights of the exhibition include kimono and textiles by **Keisuke Serizawa**; indigo-dyed, stencil-painted and *sashiko* decorated rural and village textiles, and recent Museum acquisitions. The Mingei will also display some of the classic ceramic works of master craftsman and Japanese National Treasure **Tatsuzo Shimaoka**.

The exhibition is planned in collaboration with **San Diego Museum of Art** and the **Timken Museum of Art** to complement their exhibition *Kimono Redefined: The Landscape Art of Itchiku Kubota*, on view from Nov. 1, 2008 through Jan. 4, 2009. *Japanese Folk Fashion* continues through February 8, 2009.

For more information, go to [www.mingei.org](http://www.mingei.org).

## THE FOOD-O-PHILE FILES by Your Eat-it-tor, Certifiable Foodhead

He's here! He's here!

BEARD PAPA has arrived in San Diego.

And just who is he? We're talking about a simple white-haired cartoon face with a decidedly "Japanese English" name who is the mascot for a chain of Japanese cream puff bakeries. Folks seem happy to stand in a long line to order these by the half dozen and carry them home in a cold pack to be devoured before the next sunrise.

Why? Well, these cream puffs are made fresh daily and filled with custard only when you place your order. Because they aren't full of emulsifiers and preservatives, you must eat them before they spoil. These "shu cream," as cream puffs are called in Japan, are rich but not overly sweet. They are gooshy and messy and may make you consider licking custard off the floor if that's where some has fallen.

Beard Papa sells fancy pastries as well, but listen to your faithful Eat-it-tor: don't bother with them. Just stick with the "shu cream."

You can have your Beard Papa experience inside the Plaza Bonita Westgate Mall off the 805 freeway at Sweetwater Rd.

## BUDDHIST TEMPLE DEDICATES NEW HEIGHTS IMPROVEMENTS

Three years ago, the **Buddhist Temple of San Diego** announced plans for an ambitious two million dollar improvements project that included restoration of the Onajin, or central altar area; an exterior elevator; an elevated walkway and improved access ways to connect the temple to the two-story annex; and a redesign of the first floor of the temple.

The completion of the first two phases of the project—everything but the main building do-over—was celebrated September 21, 2008, with a special dedication service and luncheon. The festivities began with a group photo taken outdoors, a ribbon cutting ceremony, and a special dedication service led by resident minister **Rev. Yushi Mukojima** with the assistance of **Rev. Akira Hata** and **Rev. Jim Yanagihara**.



*The BTSD Sangha and friends await the beginning of the special service to dedicate the temple's altar restoration, new elevator tower and elevated walkway.*

The ministers, a color guard of young Scouts and a *chigo* (children's) processional in traditional costume, led the gathering up a new stairwell and into the Hondo (main hall) of the temple. Some members rode the new elevator for the first time. The service, chaired by New Heights campaign manager **Ralph Honda**, continued with congratulatory messages from Rev. Mukojima and temple president **Joyce Teague**.



*Ann Ong, kneeling, adjusts Evan Ong's cap and pillow for the chigo processional from the temple parking lot to the second floor Hondo, Sept. 21, 2008. Photos courtesy of Joyce Teague*

The special guests recognized at the celebratory luncheon in the Annex Hall were the **Keiro Kai** (temple elders who are 80 years or older) and **Dr. Michael Inoue**, Honorary Consul General of Japan. The hall was decorated with large, colorful origami cranes representing each campaign pledge and donation.

Also recognized were lead architect **Jim Shimozone**; architect and project manager **Michael Kinoshita**; and the construction contractors, Online Builders. Temple member **Dennis Otsuji** related childhood memories of growing up at the temple and expressed what its presence has meant to him and the community



*Lead architect **Jim Shimozone** (left) and architect/project manager **Michael Kinoshita** Ichiban of Hillcrest and the cakes were provided by **LuAnn Lee**.*

over the years. Because fundraising is ongoing, Otsuji urged members and friends to continue supporting the project to help ensure the temple's future.

The celebration committee was chaired by **Ralph Honda**. **Ken Muraoka** designed a photographic display and slide presentation showing the project from planning to completion. The bento luncheon was catered by

## FISHING NET:

### Trolling for Internet Treasure

by Joyce Teague

The 2008 **San Diego Asian Film Festival** was held October 9-16 at the Ultrastar Cinemas in Mission Valley, bringing its mind-boggling variety of global and homegrown Asian-themed films to San Diego. In recent years, **JAHSSD** has been the proud community co-presenter of new work we think will be of special interest to our membership.

This year, in cooperation with the **Japan Society** and the **Buddhist Temple's** social adjunct **Zenbu**, and **San Diego JACL**, **JAHSSD** helped promote "Passing Poston," a documentary about former WWII Poston Camp internees **Ruth Okimoto**, **Leon Uyeda**, **Mary Higashi** and **Kiyo Sato**. Filmmakers Joe Fox and James Nubile focused on how the four have come to view their incarceration experiences. The above-mentioned community groups offered discounted tickets to the special screening and donated \$2 of each sale to the **Poston Restoration Project**, which had an informational table at the festival.

You can find out more about "Passing Poston" as well as a fraction of the films you may have seen (or wished you had seen) last month by using the links below.

#### Documentaries

- ♦ "Passing Poston" (USA) a documentary featuring four former Poston Internment Camp internees. <http://passingposton.com/>
- ♦ "Against the Grain" (USA/Peru): A look at "four young, provocative artists in post-Fujimori Peru." <http://www.pacificcitizen.org/content/2008/entertainment/july4-lin-kaneko-peru-1073.htm>
- ♦ "Wings Of Defeat" (USA): An intimate documentary exploring the human experience of surviving kamikaze pilots. <http://www.edgewoodpictures.com/wingsofdefeat/>

#### Feature films

"Always Sunset on Third Street" and its sequel, "Always Sunset on Third Street Part 2," won awards, rave reviews, and the hearts of fans charmed by the CGI-enhanced tale of postwar survivors in 1958.

- ♦ "Always Part 1" (Japan): <http://www.lovehkfilm.com/panasia/always.html>
- ♦ "Always Part 2" (Japan): <http://www.scifijapan.com/articles/2007/11/12/always-sunset-on-third-street-2/>
- ♦ J-pop lovers know s.m.a.p., a long-lived "boy" group whose members are now all grown up. **Takeshi Kaneshiro**, arguably the

*(Continued on Page 21)*





# HOLIDAY GREETINGS



Show your support of JAHSSD! Send out a shout to your friends in San Diego and beyond! Personal, organizational, business or in memoriam messages welcome. They will appear in the Winter Issue of *Footprints* to be published in December 2008. Sorry, color not available. Please provide business card or print your message below. We'll format your greeting for you.

Name or organization (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address, City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Check No. \_\_\_\_\_

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Message (attach addl. wording if necessary): \_\_\_\_\_

**~ All amounts are suggested donations to the Society. Thank you for your kind support! ~**

Mail your order and check to: JAHSSD HOLIDAY GREETINGS, P.O. BOX 620988, San Diego, CA 92162-0988.

Your photo/logo (high resolution) can also be e-mailed to the Editor at: [footprintseditor@cox.net](mailto:footprintseditor@cox.net).

Deadline for Holiday Greetings is November 30, 2008

## 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.

(FISHING NET continued from Page 20)

most recognizable of its members, has successfully crossed over to TV dramas and international filmdom. In "Accuracy of Death" (Japan), Kaneshiro does a sly turn as a contemporary, music-loving grim reaper. <http://www.festivefilms.com/accuracy/>

♦ "Dororo" (Japan): A woman helps a samurai regain 48 body parts taken from him by demons...definitely not a documentary! <http://www.squidoo.com/Dororo>.



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## *FROM THE JAHSSD ARCHIVES...*



*This 1926 photograph of retired fisherman Tochiki Namiki and the children he babysat at Fish Camp for parents who worked at the canneries along the San Diego Bay serves as the cover for JAPANESE AMERICANS IN SAN DIEGO published October 2008 by Arcadia Publishing. Written by Susan Hasegawa for the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego, the book contains over 200 images from JAHSSD's photographic archive.*

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

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\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 + \$1.55 sales tax    ADD \$4.80 postage (Priority Mail)\* = \_\_\_\_\_

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**MOHAVELAND:** In 1945, the Poston III Young Buddhist Association published this 70-page book as a remembrance of life in the Colorado River War Relocation Center. It contains hundreds of photographs depicting camp life and its residents. Of interest to former Poston Camp internees, their children and grandchildren, and anyone interested in internment history.

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**DEAR MISS BREED (SIGNED BY AUTHOR)** (Joanne Oppenheim ©2006 Scholastic Press): Award-winning story of San Diego's brave Children's Librarian, Clara Breed, who carried on a three-year correspondence with children behind barbed wire during World War II. The letters offer insight into camp life and the hopes, dreams, and tenacity of young Americans branded "enemy aliens" by their country.

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

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**ONLY THE BRAVE DVD.** Full-length feature film is a dramatic retelling of the WWII 100th/442nd RCT rescue of the Texas Lost Battalion...and their loved ones back home, prisoners in their own country. Stars filmmaker Lane Nishikawa, Tamlyn Tomita, Jason Scott Lee, Jeff Fahey, Pat Morita. Limited number with covers signed by the principals.

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# JAPANESE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SAN DIEGO



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*Susan Hasegawa (left) with Fred Oyama and Alice Yano at San Diego ACLU's 60th anniversary celebration of Oyama v. California. Story on Page 16.*

JAHSDD 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 JAHSDD's quarterly publication for its membership. Subscription is free with membership. We welcome your articles, stories, letters and comments. Send them to: FOOTPRINTS EDITOR, P.O. Box 620988, San Diego, CA 92162-0988, or send e-mail to: [footprintseditor@cox.net](mailto:footprintseditor@cox.net).

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