

# FOOTPRINTS

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

## Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego



Lane Nishikawa will keynote the 2009 JAHSSD Membership Meeting on October 10. He is shown in a scene from *Only the Brave*, his film about the famed 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team.

### JAPANESE AMERICANS IN THE MILITARY ARE FOCUS OF JAHSSD ANNUAL MEETING

The Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego will present its annual membership meeting and luncheon on Saturday, October 10, 2009. This year's theme is "Courage," chosen to describe Japanese Americans who serve or have served in our country's military. A special historical exhibit on the theme will be on display. The event will take place in the Buddhist Temple of San Diego's Annex Hall from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The program will include the presentation of the 2009 **Kansha Award** for community service. In addition to the exhibit, JAHSSD will make its media items available, the JAHSSD auxiliary **When's Lunch? Bunch** will host a table of its special handcrafts, and **Zenbu** will offer discounted tickets to the films that JAHSSD is co-presenting at the **San Diego Asian Film Festival** this year, with a portion of sales to benefit JAHSSD.

#### 2009 Kansha Awards

Coincidentally and appropriately, two of the three Kansha recipients this year are military veterans: **Martin Lloyd Ito** and **Masayoshi (Mas) Tsuida** both served with distinction during World War II. They, along with Mas' wife **Grace Tsuida**, will receive recognition for their lifelong community service. [See their profiles beginning on Page 5.]

#### A Man of Many Talents

Filmmaker **Lane Nishikawa** has been invited to talk about the making of his film, **Only the Brave**, the story of the dramatic rescue of the Texas "Lost Battalion" by the all-Nisei **100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team** during World War II. (Cont. on Page 3)

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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 Coordinating Council. JFG: Japanese Friendship Garden. JSSDT: Japan Society of San Diego & Tijuana.  
KG: Kiku Gardens. POVUCC: Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ.  
SDCC: San Diego City College. SDJCC: San Diego Japanese Christian Church

- Ongoing: FRIDAY SENIOR LUNCH** (12 noon), Kiku Gardens Senior Housing, 1260 Third Ave., Chula Vista. \$3 for nutritional meal. Info: 619/422-4951
- SEPT. 23 – JSSDT MEISHI MIXER** (6-8 pm), Numero Water Boutique, corner of India & Date. \$20 member/\$30 others. RSVP: 858/467-1727, [events@japan-society.org](mailto:events@japan-society.org).
- SEPT. 26 – CANNERY WORKERS TRIBUTE/Dedication** of new Port Commission park (10:30 am), Cesar Chavez Park in Barrio Logan. Free and public invited.
- SEPT. 26 – BTSD BENEFIT DINNER** (4:30-6 pm) featuring Mom's Meatloaf, Annex Hall. \$8 tickets: 619/239-0896; BTSD/VFW BINGO (6-9 pm), Annex Hall. \$10 buy-in.
- OCT. 3 – MOONVIEWING TEA GATHERING** (6-8:30 pm) by San Diego Urasenke Assn., Presidio Place Condo complex. \$25 includes bento. RSVP: Lisa Baird, 619/260-4073
- OCT. 4 – FOOD & MUSIC FESTIVAL** (11 am-4 pm), BTSD. Ethnic flavors, Hawaiian-style R&B, silent auction, raffle. Free admission. Info: 619/239-0896
- OCT. 8 – AKI NO MATSURI** (5:30-8:30 pm) featuring Anne Namba Fashion Show, JFG. \$45 members/\$50 others. Reservations: 619/232-2721
- OCT. 9 – ANNE NAMBA TRUNK SHOW** (10 am-7 pm), JFG. Info: 619/232-2721
- OCT. 10 – JAHSSD ANNUAL MEETING & Kansha Awards** (11 am-2 pm). Bento reservations: 619/690-1151
- OCT. 14 – BARONA CASINO** Fun-raiser Bus (9 am-3 pm). \$20 benefits BTSD. Free raffle for buffet lunch plus \$10 free play. All welcome. Reservations: 858/259-5412.
- OCT. 17 – FALL FESTIVAL** (11 am-4 pm), POVUCC. Food, entertainment, games, silent auction, raffle. Free admission. 619/276-4881
- OCT. 15-OCT. 29 – SAN DIEGO ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL**, Hazard Center Ultrastar Cinemas. Schedule: [www.sdaff.org](http://www.sdaff.org).
- NOV. 7 – BTSD/VFW BINGO** (6-9 pm), BTSD Annex Hall. \$10 buy-in.
- NOV. 8-JUNE 1, 2010 – JAPANESE AMERICANS IN THE MILITARY** JAHSSD exhibition, Veterans Museum, Balboa Park. Opening night reception is Nov. 8 (2-4 pm) hosted by VFW Post 4851. (See story on Page 4.)
- NOV. 12 – DOCENT TRAINING** for JAs in the Military exhibition (11 am-12:30 pm), Veterans Museum, Balboa Park. Info: 858/457-9676.
- NOV. 21 – RUMMAGE SALE** (8 am-1 pm), Vista Buddhist Temple, 150 Cedar St., Vista. Info: 760/941-8800.

Footprints welcomes submissions to its community calendar. Send info covering Dec. thru Feb. to [footprintseditor@cox.net](mailto:footprintseditor@cox.net).

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Gwen Momita, Board President

Dear Friends:

With the approaching end of our lease here in Spring Valley, the JAHSSD Board has decided to move to a more centrally located area. We hope the new location will encourage more volunteers to lend assistance as we organize and catalog our archives. Although annual leasing costs will remain about the same, we anticipate some moving and tenant improvement costs.

Other changes are taking place early in 2010. We reluctantly find it necessary to increase membership dues as the cost of printing and postage continue to rise. If you have not joined or renewed your membership recently, you still have time before rates increase. We thank you for your loyal support and understanding.

And, as my two-year term as president comes to a close, I'd like to thank the Board and special helpers for their support and assistance. Also, a heart-felt note of thanks goes out to **Susan Hasegawa** and **Robert Ito**. Neither individual is a Board member, but have spent many hours working on behalf of the organization.

Lastly, I'd like to thank the wider community for their support and kindness. It's been great getting out there to meet with you and work collaboratively on worthwhile projects. Arigato.



## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SEEKS FORMER STUDENTS

Last July, the University of California announced its decision to award honorary degrees to former students whose studies were disrupted in 1942 due to **Executive Order 9066**. UC Berkeley has reached out to the Nikkei community in San Diego to help the university get back in contact with these individuals and their families to ensure all graduates are honored.

The UC estimates 700 students—undergraduate and graduate included—were affected at one of four campuses: Berkeley, UC Davis, UCLA and UCSF.

Each campus will hold a separate ceremony later this year. For UC Berkeley, this will be December 13, 2009. Former Secretary of Transportation **Norman Mineta** will be the keynote speaker and Chancellor **Robert and Mary Catherine Birgeneau** will host a luncheon for the graduates.

"Though these past events cannot be erased, the University of California would like to honor these extraordinary individuals for the hardships they faced during their years on internment and beyond," writes **Scott Biddy**, Vice Chancellor University Relations at Berkeley.

Graduates and their families are urged to contact **Helena Weiss-Duman** at (510) 643-6493 or by e-mail at [hwd@berkeley.edu](mailto:hwd@berkeley.edu).

*Editor's note: Go to Page 19 to read a related story on San Diego State University which is also actively seeking former students whose higher education was derailed by Executive Order 9066.*



## "GOD'S COLORS OF AUTUMN" FALL FESTIVAL

**Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ** will present its **Fall Festival** Saturday, October 17, 2009 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission to the annual fundraiser is free and open to the public.

The festival will feature entertainment, games, crafts and a kids' zone. Food items will include teriyaki chicken, tacos, lumpia, yakisoba, sushi, and baked goods.

There will be a farmer's market, a white elephant store, and a silent auction. A raffle with a grand prize of \$500 will be held at 3 p.m. Winner need not be present. Other prizes (winner must be present) will also be given away.

The church is located in Clairemont at 2550 Fairfield Street, San Diego, CA 92110. From I-5, exit Clairemont Drive and turn right on Fairfield Street.

For more information: (619) 276-4881 or [povucc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:povucc@sbcglobal.net).

(JAPANESE AMERICAN VETERANS continued from Page 1)

Nishikawa is a writer, actor, director, and producer in theater, film, and television. His most ambitious accomplishment to date is **Only The Brave**, the full-length feature film inspired by his father, **Jimmy Nishikawa**, a member of the 442nd who lived and worked in San Diego for many years. Written, directed, produced and starring Nishikawa, **Only the Brave** was the closing night feature at the **San Diego Asian Film Festival** in 2005. It was also screened in San Diego in 2007, sponsored by Kyocera. Since its debut, the film has traveled to 18 film festivals across the U.S., Canada and Europe.

Nishikawa was born in Honolulu and raised in San Francisco where he attended San Francisco State University. He was the Artistic Director of the Asian American Theater Company of San Francisco for ten seasons. He has served as the artistic or resident director for, or has worked with, over 30 theatrical companies including the American Conservatory Theater, Mark Taper Forum and Old Globe Theater.

Film acting credits include *Eat a Bowl of Tea* by **Wayne Wang**, *Living on Tokyo Time* and *American Sons* by **Steven Okazaki**, and *Until the End of the World* by **Wim Wenders**. Nishikawa has taught at Stanford University, San Francisco State, C.S.U. Monterey Bay and Maui Community College.

Nishikawa has many playwriting credits including his critically acclaimed one-man show **I'm on a Mission from Buddha** which was adapted for television and produced through PBS affiliate KQED-TV. The show aired nationally on PBS and Nishikawa toured the show live across the U.S., Canada and Europe.

He also wrote, directed and produced two short feature films, **When We Were Warriors** and **Forgotten Valor**. They are part of his film series on the Japanese American experience and their military service during WWII.

Only **The Brave** will be screened at the **Veterans Museum** in Balboa Park by JAHSSD to augment its new exhibition on Japanese Americans in the Military (screening date TBA). The DVD is scheduled to have nation-wide distribution this Fall.

### Reserve Your Bento

The meeting program and exhibit are free and open to the public, but the bento lunch must be reserved and paid for in advance. Cost is \$18. Send your reservation and payment to JAHSSD by Sept. 28.

## IN GRATITUDE

JAHSSD gratefully acknowledges the following monetary gifts to the Society since our last newsletter. If your donation has not yet been acknowledged, please accept our sincere apologies. Notify Linda McLemore at 619/216-2910 for correction. These are donations received as of August 31, 2009.

**DOREEN N. KAMADA-FUJII**

*In appreciation of PROF. SUSAN HASEGAWA's  
help for son Darren Fujii's Career Day*

**JAPAN SOCIETY OF SAN DIEGO AND TIJUANA**

**Dave Tuites, President**

*Proceeds from Japanese Community Night  
at Petco Park, June 16, 2009*

**EDWARD KENJI KUBOTA**

**JACL PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**John Saito, President**

**SAN DIEGO CHAPTER JACL**

**Karen Tani, President**

**KAREN WADE**

*In memory of parents  
SUSUMU SATOW and TAMI (MATSUMOTO) SATOW*

**ROBERT SHIMAMOTO**

**PAMELA SPRINGER**

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

By Sumiyo E. Kastelic, Membership Coordinator

Welcome to **Karen Wade** and **Krystal Hauser** who have joined our organization since the publication of the Summer 2009 *Footprints*.

We appreciate the following for renewing their memberships in the month of August: **Jill & John Damrose, Asa & Jaime Enochs, Karen Hart, Chiz Imoto, Yuri Kaneda & David Fujikawa, Tetsuden Kashima, Eileen Katayama, Toshiye & Guy Kiyoi, Kenneth & Katherine Koba, Janet & Frank Koide, Hiroshi Kubota, Nancy Nabeta & Daniel Martinez, Mary Marumoto, Jodi Masumoto, Toshiko & Shin Matsuda, Tomi Morimoto, James Ochi, Meri & Satoshi Okamoto, Joy Sakae & Lee Plummer, Pam Springer, June & James Tajiri, Yoshiko Tajiri (gift of Mr. & Mrs. James Tajiri), Joe Takehara, Pat Takeshita, Bert Tanaka, Jr., Takeyuki Tsuda, Masaharu Tsuda, Taeko & Tom Udo, Takeko Wakiji, and Roy & Susan Yonekura.**

Please contact me at (760) 632-8386 if you have any JAHSSD membership inquiries.

## IN MEMORIAM

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

**HIROSHI UKEGAWA**  
1922 ~ July 3, 2009

**TAMI MATSUMOTO SATOW**  
1920 ~ July 11, 2009

**MANABU BOB UYEJI**  
September 26, 1924 ~ July 21, 2009

**KIYOKO OCHI**  
August 5, 1920 ~ August 11, 2009

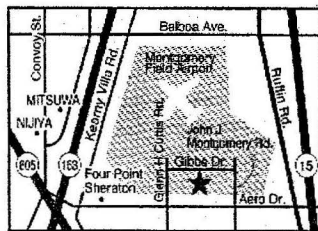
**TSUYAKO FLORENCE MIZUKI**  
August 24, 1935 ~ August 15, 2009

## OKAZAKI CHIROPRACTIC



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

**(858) 514-8320**



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

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

## JAHSSD TO OPEN MAJOR EXHIBITION AT VETERANS MUSEUM & MEMORIAL CENTER

On November 8 from 2 to 4 p.m., we'll be holding the opening reception for JAHSSD's latest exhibition, **Japanese Americans in the Military**. The exhibition, to be on display in Balboa Park over a seven-month period, will include materials from World War I through the Gulf Wars, and will be accompanied by a film series and panel discussions to explore how the experiences of Japanese Americans compare with the experiences of the general military population.

Of course, every exhibit on this topic must include the incredible achievements of Japanese Americans who served in the U.S. Army during World War II while their family members were held in internment camps. Members of the famed **100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team** will share their stories.

For this special exhibition, we've expanded the topic to include all of the conflicts in which Japanese Americans fought. Nor will we be ignoring Japanese American women who are veterans! We're also going to talk about what was happening on the home front, including the internment during World War II.

### Community Support

JAHSSD has received tremendous support for this exhibition from the greater Japanese American community as well as other organizations which appreciate our efforts. These supporters include: **Asian American Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 4851; Japanese American Citizens League, San Diego Chapter; Japanese American Citizens League Pacific Southwest Council Trust Fund;** and the **San Diego City College World Cultures program**. We are very grateful for the financial gifts from these organizations!

### Docents Needed

To assist us in relating the stories told by this exhibition, we need volunteers to be docents. An organizational meeting and docent training will take place from 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. on Nov. 12 at the Veterans Museum. Students from City College will be volunteering also, and earning community service credits for assisting us. Call **Linda Canada** at (858) 457-9676 for more information about becoming a docent.

Related programming includes a screening (date TBA) of **Lane Nishikawa's** film **Only the Brave** at the Veterans Museum. Mr. Nishikawa will attend to lead a discussion of the film. Other program information will be available in the next edition of *Footprints*.

### Veterans Museum Info

**Japanese Americans in the Military** runs through Memorial Day, May 31, 2010. The **Veterans Museum & Memorial Center** is located at 2115 Park Boulevard near the intersection of Park Boulevard and President's Way. It occupies the former chapel of the Naval Hospital on Inspiration Point on the EAST side of Park Boulevard.

The Museum's hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. Closed Monday.

General admission is \$5; Seniors (65 and older)/Veterans \$4; Students w/I.D. \$2; Active military/Kids under 12/VMMC members are free. As part of Balboa Park's "Free Tuesday" program, admission to the Museum is free every second Tuesday of the month.

For more information about the exhibition, call JAHSSD at (619) 660-0174 or e-mail jahssd@sbcglobal.net.

For more information on the Veterans Museum, call (619) 239-2300 or visit [www.veteranmuseum.org](http://www.veteranmuseum.org).



## THE 2009 KANSHA AWARD RECIPIENTS



### MARTIN LLOYD ITO: Community Service from the Quiet Side

By Linda A. Canada

"But I was just a farmer who liked to go fishing." That's how **Lloyd Ito**, recipient of the 2009 Kansha Award, describes his contributions to the Japanese American community. There is so much more to this quiet man's life.

Lloyd was born in Santa Cruz in 1917. He recalls his family moved to San Diego sometime before the Otay Flood in 1927. He attended San Diego High School while helping his family grow and sell avocados. During World War II, his family was interned at Poston, Arizona, where he eventually enlisted in the Army and joined the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team.

Many in the community, especially the Nisei, know of Lloyd's distinguished service with the 442<sup>nd</sup>. His courage, initiative and devotion to his wounded comrades in Europe earned him the Bronze Star for Valor and the Purple Heart.

After the war, Lloyd returned to San Diego and began farming avocados, tomatoes, celery and squash. Over the years, Lloyd has participated in many presentations for students about his experiences. His uniform has been used in more than one JAHSSD exhibition that included tales of the legendary 442<sup>nd</sup>.

What many people may not remember about Lloyd is his behind the scenes organization and leadership of community events like the JACL and other picnics on the Silver Strand and Crown Point. Remember the geta races that got everyone laughing so hard? Lloyd collected nylon stockings to braid for the upper part, and then hand crafted more than a dozen wood "geta" to be worn by 3 or 5 people at a time. Not everyone has the coordination to race to the finish line without falling down. Apparently the Ito clan was the team to beat in the 1970s and 1980s!

Many people also remember Lloyd hefting large bags of rice and other foodstuffs awarded as raffle prizes at the picnics. He's been described as "being everywhere," making sure people were having a good time and things were kept organized.

Food has seemed to attract his attention, since one of his key roles with VFW Post 4851 was to work in the kitchen! On Barbecue

*(Continued on Page 17)*



### MAS AND GRACE TSUIDA: Kansha Most Deserving

By Mich Himaka

My trusty Sanseido's New Concise Japanese English Dictionary defines kansha as thanks, gratitude; to express one's gratitude.

This year we have selected **Masayoshi Tsuida** and **Grace Tsuida** among three individuals deserving of our community's thanks and gratitude. Grace's late brother, **Joe Owashi**, is among previous distinguished Kansha recipients.

I've known Mas and Grace for many years now. Mas' father, **Motosuke Tsuida**, was the prewar skipper of the tuna clipper Westgate that included my father as a crewman. Grace and her family lived in Block 330 with our family in the Poston III Relocation Center during the war.

Like so many of our previous recipients, Grace and Mas have served the community with little notice. Need volunteers to help on a project? Grace and Mas have been there. The annual JACL community picnic? They were there at past picnics helping in some way, setting up the tents, filling the tubs with soda, water (and, yes, beer before it was banned), assisting at the annual raffle, helping to clean up the site.

Mas tells us every year, "This is my last year." Yet, he's always been there helping out—and he turns 90 years of age eleven days after he and Grace receive the award! Mas and his child bride of 65 years, Grace, celebrated their anniversary on Feb. 27.

Mas has been a member of **VFW Post 4851** since its formation. Without being asked, the couple have been on hand to help, especially at the VFW Memorial Day program held every year at Mount Hope Cemetery. They've helped at Japanese Friendship Garden functions occasionally, including the Christmas on the Prado, now know as December Nights. Grace has been active at the Japanese Christian Church, where she is a member.

And, of course, they have always made themselves available to the JAHSSD for any functions we have held since 1992 when we were organized.

Grace and Mas also have made themselves available as volunteers for every Poston III Reunion held in San Diego since the first one in 1978 and the last one in 2008.

*(Continued on Page 7)*

## 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.*

As you know, JAHSSD has been among the organizations helping to prepare senior lunches every Friday at Kiku Gardens. Different JAHSSD volunteers have stepped forward to help cook and serve the meals. On June 5 and Aug. 14, the coordinator was **Hisae Batchelder**. Her helpers in June were **Yuri Tam**, **Linda Yamano**, **Jeanne Elyea** and **Jocelyn Cerrillo**. We encourage other members and friends to help us every couple of months serve up a tasty and nutritional lunch at the senior housing complex.

Member **Shirley Omori** has offered to transcribe audiotapes from our oral history project. This is a time consuming task that Shirley is able to complete at home. Thanks, Shirley!

Just before school ended in June, JAHSSD member **Lisa Hendricks** invited the JAHSSD Speakers Bureau to make a presentation at Torrey Pines High School. **Rev. Jim Yanagihara** and **Mits and Yuki Kawamoto** talked about their experiences at Santa Anita racetrack and Poston and answered questions from the 120 AVID students gathered in the auditorium. (Editor's note: photos of this event appeared in Summer 2009 *Footprints*.)

Thanks to **Mits and Yukio Kawamoto** and **Jeanne Elyea** for talking to students at San Diego State University in a panel discussion moderated by **Linda Canada**. We had 32 future teachers interested in this presentation about civil rights and internment.

**Roy Asaki**, having completed detailed indexes of both people and topics that have appeared in *Footprints* articles, has now taken on the task of indexing the photographs that we have used in our newsletter over the years. Almost immediately we began using his indexes of articles in preparing for our upcoming military exhibition.

The **Womens History Museum** showed the short film, "Dear Miss Breed" and invited **Susan Hasegawa** and **Linda Canada** to lead a discussion about **Clara Breed's** important role in the local Japanese American community.

**Darren Fujii** did a "day at the archives" job exploration with Susan in June. He worked at cataloging and organizing our collection of audio and video tapes, CDs and DVDs.

**Garrett Kodama** did a summer internship with Linda, working in the archives on a variety of projects culminating in his preparation of the JAHSSD exhibition for the Bon Odori at the Buddhist Temple.

Even though she has turned over the membership processing to **Sumi Kastelic**, **Naomi Himaka** continues to pick up and sort the mail from our post office box. She also coordinates the mailing of *Footprints* and other membership mailings. Thank you Naomi!

We also give a shout out to the folks who helped JAHSSD and the Buddhist Temple with the **Zenbu Tag Project Activity & Potluck** on August 22 and with set-up the evening before. They were: **Wendy Maruyama**, **Bill Schairer**, **Mich & Naomi Himaka**, **Po Kaneyuki**, **Craig Ozaki** and his kids, **Mits & Yuki Kawamoto**, **Susan Hasegawa**, **Linda Canada**, **Valerie Abe**, **Gwen Momita**, **Joyce Teague** and **Debbie, Jilly and Garrett Kodama**. Special thanks to **Tim Kajita** and **Glenn Negoro** for setting up the audiovisual equipment and hanging the sample tags.

### Donations to the Archive

Recent donations or loans through August 31, 2009 include:

■ **Mary Yamada**: gift of historic photographs and wood carvings made in Poston from the collection of her late father-in-law **Sosuke Yamada**.

■ **Donna Kowase McGuire**: gift of trunk with kimono and other textiles and historic photographs.

■ **Ritsu Nabeta**: gift of WWII pamphlet on 442nd RCT.

■ **Harold Kuhn**: loan of insignia and medals from his Navy career.

■ **Himaka family**: loan for copying of various photos of family members who served in the U.S. military.

■ **Grace Segawa**: loan of scrapbook about her uncle, **Joe (George T.) Sakato**, and other 442nd veterans who received upgraded Medals of Honor.

■ **Mich Himaka**: loan of Air Force uniform jacket.

■ **Doris Wada, Mary Iguchi and Takeguchi families**: gift of wood stool made in Poston III.

■ **Japanese American Gallery at Pioneer Museum (Tim Asamen)**: loan of framed medals received by **James Matsumoto**.

### Contributions to Footprints

The Editors are very grateful to the following (non-regular) contributors of stories, information and photographs used this issue: **Amy Shinzaki**, **Bill Schairer**, **Bob Batchelder**, **Carol Estes**, **Dennis Andersen**, **Harry Honda**, **Ken Muraoka**, **Ron Krause**, **Sam and Pauline Nakamura**, **Vernon Yoshioka**, **Yuki Kawamoto** and **Wendy Maruyama**.

We also thank **Edward Kubota** for coming up with the idea for and generously subsidizing the half-page "**A Mystery of History**" space for two years in advance. What a creative and useful way to show your support of the JAHSSD!

## HOME COMMITTEE REPORT

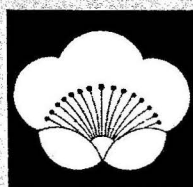
Your Home Committee has been meeting monthly to address our need for more space and recommend what action to take when the lease at Austin Drive expires at the end of November.

At the August 2009 Board meeting, the Home Committee made a recommendation to the Board that the lease not be renewed, but that we occupy the space on a month to month basis after November 30. In addition, the Committee recommended that the archives be moved to a location that would be more centrally located for volunteers and researchers. The Board unanimously adopted both recommendations.

After a thorough evaluation of the types of activities to be conducted in the space, the funding available, and the requirements of interns and volunteers, the Board declined to enter into a lease in the cultural and arts district at Liberty Station in Point Loma. Attention is now being focused on facilities similar to the Austin Drive space, located in the Kearny Mesa area.

Once a location is recommended and the Board enters into a lease, space planning and tenant improvements will take place. Board members **Valerie Abe** and **Linda Canada** will take the lead in planning for the move. We hope to announce our new location in the Winter edition of *Footprints*.

### 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 Nikkei history.*



## WABI SABI: What's New at the Austin Archives

By Linda A. Canada, Archivist

The key word in the Archives this quarter seems to be "connections," although there is an element of "serendipity" also.

JAHSSD member and fellow historian **Tim Asamen** of the Imperial Valley contacted us to see what information we might have about a photographer named **Shimotsusa**, who worked in San Diego in the 1920s before returning to Japan. Thanks to a donation from the **Ray Kuniteru Mayeda** family, we had quite a bit of material which was used by **Don Estes** to write a *Footprints* article about Ray's uncle, **Masashi Shimotsusa**. Within a week of giving copies of our materials to Tim, we received a large donation of materials from **Mary Yamada**, and among them was a photograph by Shimotsusa labeled, "Mrs. Muraoka." With the help of our JAHSSD **Roy Muraoka** family members, we hope to learn more about the woman portrayed in the lovely portrait, who may well be a relative!

Another connection: I attended a local museum conference a few days after meeting with **Lloyd Ito** to conduct the interview contained elsewhere in this *Footprints*. At her table was a museum professional from the La Jolla Historical Society whose brother is married to **Marlene Ito**, Lloyd's daughter. Who says it is not a small world?

Connection number three: while taking a break from researching the role of Japanese nationals in the military in San Diego in 1905, I was flipping through the new catalog from Oasis, an adult education program. I found a listing for a talk on the Bennington disaster of 1905 and called the speaker, who was able to share some unpublished information. In exchange, I gave the speaker information from an article I wrote in 2005 (the anniversary of the Bennington disaster) that was new material for the speaker!

So, what messages come from these connections?

First, donations by members enable us to keep updating what we know. When Don Estes wrote his Shimotsusa article, the Muraoka connection wasn't known. Now we may have another piece of the mosaic of the past put into place.

Next, talk to everyone about what we do, and be proud of it. You never know to whom you may be speaking (or who they might be related to)!

Finally, keep your eyes and ears open, and take action when you hear something that might be of interest. Share what you know. JAHSSD is part of the larger historical community in San Diego, and there is much to be gained by working together.

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## "A MYSTERY OF HISTORY" FEATURE DEBUTS THIS ISSUE

In our overflowing archives at our Austin Drive site, we have some objects that are like question marks, meaning their background or sources are otherwise unknown.

Sometimes we don't know who the donor was, and other times we don't even know what the object is, how it was used and by whom.

We can use your help in supplying information about these mystery objects. With the generous sponsorship of **Edward Kubota**, we'll be publishing photographs and descriptions of these mysterious objects...plus any clues we might have as to their origin...in the hope that one of our readers—perhaps you—will know something about it.

Go to Page 16 to try your hand at solving one of our archives' many mysteries of history!

(MAS AND GRACE TSUIDA continued from Page 5)

And most importantly, Mas honorably served with the **100<sup>th</sup> Battalion** and the **442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team** during World War II suffering a wound during their rescue of the Lost Battalion, which military historians have included among the top 10 battles in history.

He still carries the "souvenir" in his right leg.

Mas was drafted into the Army in February 1942 and served through December 1945. It was during one of his visits to see his parents, **Motosuke and Namie Tsuida** in Block 322 of Poston III Relocation Center that he met **Grace Kaminaka**. She was visiting her sister, **Mary Hatashita** and her family, who lived next door to the Tsuidas.

They were introduced by Mas' sister, **Masako**, after he had asked, "Who's that girl?" as she walked to the Hatashitas' unit. You get the idea it was love at first sight for him, but Grace chuckles and says kidding it was "love at first fright" for her!

Being the romantic that he was, Mas said he offered her a bottle of Coke to break the ice, which she refused.

"She sure was stuck-up," Mas said of that first sighting. The second offer must have worked because they married Feb. 27, 1944, at Fort Riley, Kansas, where Mas was stationed.

They had three children, **Mark, Glenn and Nadine**. They also have three granddaughters and recently became great-grandparents to **Carina Aiyana Womack**, born June 30, 2009, to granddaughter **Lisa and Billy Womack**. Proud grandmother is **Carolyn Ochi Tsuida**.

Mas, who was born in Terminal Island and moved to San Diego at the age of six months, is the oldest of six Tsuida children. His siblings include sister, **Masako Matsuhara**; brother, **Masaharu (Fatty) Tsuida**; and sisters, **Kiyo (Parker) Uda** and **Hideko (Bubbles) Shimasaki**. Another brother, **Ben**, died in infancy.

Grace is the oldest daughter of the late **Kamekichi and Haru Kaminaka**. In addition to sister **Mary Owashi Hatashita**, Grace also had two older brothers, the late **Joe Owashi** and the late **Leo Owashi** and a younger brother, **Ray Kaminaka**, who died in 1947 at age 15. She also has an older sister, **Martha Owashi Deguchi** of Chicago.

My wife, Naomi, and I are very proud to be included in Grace and Mas' wide circle of friends. We congratulate and thank them for all they have done for our community. They are most deserving of being honored with the 2009 Kansha Award.

## AGNES BENSON HONORED AT AUGUST MOON FESTIVAL

By Joyce Teague

The Japanese Friendship Garden's August Moon Festival on August 15, 2009 featured live taiko and koto music, a tasty dinner, an amusing magician and a popular silent auction. The fall festival is one of the most important of the Garden's yearly fundraising events. Attendance was reportedly "maxed out" at 300 guests, with some people requesting last-minute reservations turned away disappointed.

The highlight of the pleasant evening was a moving testimonial to **Agnes Sachiko Benson** by the Garden's president, **Dennis Otsuji**. In introducing her as the **Niwa Award** recipient for 2009, Otsuji acknowledged some of her many accomplishments and contributions to the community, but said in the end he was most proud to be able to call her his mentor and friend. His sentiment likely echoed that of many in the audience who could have stood up and made the same personal claim. Mrs. Benson has been a generous and selfless supporter of many local causes and good works, and both friend and role model to those who have had the privilege to know her.



*Dennis Otsuji (left) introduces Niwa Award recipient Agnes Benson to guests of the August Moon Festival.*

Mrs. Benson has claimed many "firsts" in her career. Among them was as the first Japanese American to be hired by a local bank following World War II. While working for **Sumitomo Bank**, she became San Diego's first Japanese American woman to be named a bank officer. Throughout her career, she has maintained a heavy schedule as a volunteer, helping the Downtown YWCA, the Guardians of the San Diego Hebrew Home for the Aged, the YMCA and the United Negro College Fund.



*Friends at the Festival congratulating Mrs. Benson are (from left) Jim Pullen, Gale Kaneshiro and Akie Tomiyama. Photos courtesy of the author.*

Among accolades she has earned, Mrs. Benson received the JAHSSD **Kansha Award** for community service in 2001; a certificate of appreciation for her service and leadership from the **Japan Society of San Diego & Tijuana**; and was among a handful of women named "San Diego Pioneering Woman" by the local **Catfish Club**.

Mrs. Benson is also an accomplished student of ikebana. She currently serves as a consultant to **California Bank & Trust**.

## VETERANS EXHIBITION IS A REAL TEAM EFFORT

by Linda Canada

Putting together our new exhibition, **Japanese Americans in the Military**, has been a real team effort!

We met monthly at our archives during the summer. In addition to sharing some good snacks (thank you, Gwen) we had a lot of fun pooling information about possible community contacts and identifying artifacts to borrow.

In addition to these meetings, some of our regular archives volunteers did directed research. **Dr. Francis Tanaka** reviewed our copies of the *Santa Anita Pacemaker*, *Poston Chronicle* and student newspaper files to give us insight into the war on the home front. **Ben Segawa** reviewed historic photographs to flesh out the World War II era information.

**Harold Kuhn**, recently relocated to San Diego, joined the committee representing the **Asian American Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4851**. He also loaned his personal Navy insignia, badges, and medals for our use. Since Harold's Navy career spanned WWII, Korea and Vietnam, he was a valuable resource!

Committee member **Jim Yanagihara** remembered that he was interviewed by researchers at Cal State Fullerton, and our JAHSSD contacts there quickly furnished transcripts of his interview and also that of **Hank Wada**. (Imagine the surprise on both their faces: **Stephanie George**, our Cal State contact, was visiting her dentist in Orange County and mentioned the JAHSSD exhibition, that we were looking for oral histories, and that a name that I asked about was **James Yamate**. The dentist turned out to be his daughter, **Carolann**!) (See *Wabi Sabi* on Page 7 for other "connection" stories.)

Community member **Steve Arata**, whose stepfather **Sam Handa** served with the 442<sup>nd</sup>, just happened to visit the **Veterans Museum** recently and was told about our upcoming exhibition. He made contact through our website, and has shared photographs of himself in Vietnam, and of his stepfather Sam, for use in the exhibition.

Beginning with the research by Dr. Tanaka, and continuing with the organizational efforts of **Garrett Kodama**, we have a great beginning for our **Japanese American Veterans Registry**. We hope to have a record for every San Diego Japanese American who has served in the U.S. Armed Forces. We continue to receive new submissions weekly and as of this writing we have more than 100 entries!

This work would not be possible without the generosity of our donors. Major funding for his exhibition was received from the local chapter of the **Japanese American Citizens League**, and also the **JACL Pacific Southwest District Council**. **VFW Post 4851** is sponsoring our reception on November 8, and has made a donation, too. The **World Cultures** program at **San Diego City College** has agreed to print the programs and brochures for the exhibit and is helping with recruitment and training of student volunteers.

As you can see, curator **Susan Hasegawa** has had great help in gathering the stories and materials that will help Japanese Americans in the Military be a great success. Committee members, volunteers, and contributors include: **Susan Hasegawa**, **Gwen Momita**, **Valerie Abe**, **Linda Canada**, **Jeanne Elyea**, **Rev. Jim Yanagihara**, **Mich Himaka**, **Naomi Himaka**, **Yuki Kawamoto**, **Mits Kawamoto**, **Ben Segawa**, **Grace Segawa**, **Dr. Francis Tanaka**, **Joyce Teague**, **Harold Kuhn**, **Nancy Shimamoto** and **Tim Asamen**.

The exhibition opens November 8, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. For more information, see the related article on Page 4.



## JAHSSD TO SUPPORT S.D. ASIAN AMERICAN FILM FEST

The Society will again co-present several films being screened at the annual **San Diego Asian Film Festival (SDAFF)**. Now in its tenth year, the festival has expanded to 15 days, October 15–29, 2009. The film festival will take place at Mission Valley's Hazard Center Ultrastar Cinemas where there is ample underground parking.

Co-presenting organizations are listed as supporters in the SDAFF program and introduced at screenings, helping raise their visibility in the community. As it has in recent years **Zenbu**, the social adjunct of the **Buddhist Temple of San Diego**, will coordinate discounted ticket sales for both the temple and JAHSSD. This year, BTSD and JAHSSD will share \$1 per Zenbu group ticket sold.

JAHSSD will co-present three documentaries about Japanese Americans:

- **You Don't Know Jack: The Jack Soo Story.** Born **Goro Suzuki**, Soo was best-known as the wry, dead-pan detective Nick Yemana on the popular 1970s sit-com, "Barney Miller." A fascinating portrait of a consummate entertainer made 30 years after his death.

- **Transcending: The Wat Misaka Story.** Misaka was the first person of color to play for the Basketball Association of America, later to become the National Basketball Association. This talented 5' 7" player was drafted by the New York Knicks in 1947 and even offered a job with the Harlem Globetrotters.

- **Patsy Mink: Ahead of the Majority.** An award-winning portrait of the feisty Hawaii native who championed women's and minority rights and even ran for the presidency. "Patsy Mink offers a phenomenal political story, because she was so outside what you would expect of a woman, of a Japanese American and of a member of Congress."

The temple is co-presenting:

- **Old Partner**, a documentary from South Korea about an old farmer and his hard-working ox that is a moving study on loyalty and on the passing of a way of life;

- **Kabei: Our Mother** a three-hanky drama by **Yoji Yamada** (who directed the Tora-san series and the more recent, excellent **Twilight Samurai** trilogy);

- **Between the Folds**, a fascinating, thought-provoking look at the art, science and life lessons of making origami.

Schedules and discounted group sales tickets will be available at the BTSD's **Food & Music Festival** on Oct. 4 and at JAHSSD's annual meeting on Oct. 10. You can also reserve Zenbu tickets from Joyce Teague at (619) 527-7855 or e-mailing [zenbu@cox.net](mailto:zenbu@cox.net).

### OOPS! WE (STILL) MAKES MISTEAKS

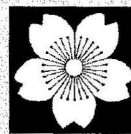
- Summer 2009, on both Page 7 (Celebrations!) and Page 18, baby **Carina Aiyana Womack**'s name was misspelled.

- Summer 2009, Page 10, two sections of **Mich Himaka**'s MAZEGOHAN column about his new grandson were inadvertently switched in the digital printing process. The letter to little **Trevor William Himaka** which began in the right hand column should have followed Trevor's photo in the left hand column.

- Summer 2009, the same type of glitch occurred in the cover story on **Shinkichi Tajiri** by **Elaine Bowers** and **Jon Bowers** in the Summer 2009 issue. On Page 20, the first five lines in the right-hand column beginning, "A defining work was the Sentinels," should have appeared in the left-hand column under the photo caption for The Sentinels.

The Editors sincerely regret the errors.

## CELEBRATIONS!



**Kellen Katsumi Furuya** arrived on August 3, 2009, a healthy baby boy! Grammy **Gail** and Grandpa **George Furuya** went to Hawaii for 3-1/2 weeks for the big occasion and report that Kellen's sister **Mia** loves being a helpful big sister and is all smiles when she gets to cuddle him.



**Kuniko Okamoto Nishimura** celebrated her 88th birthday on July 11, 2009 while visiting from Hilo, Hawaii. Back row from left are **Sakiko Kada**, **Mutsuyo (Booty) Ozaki**, **Kuniko Nishimura** and **Satoshi (Lefty) Okamoto**. Seated with them are the great-grandchildren of Saki, Kuni and Lefty.



On August 14, **Harry Honda** celebrated his 90th birthday at the Fremont Country Club in Los Altos Hills. On the left is his daughter, **Patty Arra** and his granddaughter, **Nicole Arra**. Congratulations, Harry!

## MAZEGOHAN

By Michio Himaka

Ask a war vet to talk about their war experiences and they look at you with a look that says, "Are you kidding? Talk about our war experiences? Not me!"

Get them with other vets and they seem to open up. Like the recent meeting I had at **Rev. Jim Yanagihara's** home with **Grace and Mas Tsuida** to gather some background info for an article for this newsletter on the Tsuidas nominated for the Kansha Award for 2009.

Rev. Jim was a combat medic during the Korean War. Mas was a veteran with the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion and the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, the most decorated Army unit of its size during WWII.

Mas was drafted in February 1942 while he was on a fishing trip to Panama after the war started and was sent home from Panama with orders to report for military training. Mas was sent to Fort McArthur where he volunteered to become a paratrooper.

He along with other drafted Niseis were subsequently sent to Fort Riley, Kansas. There, a little known incident occurred involving President **Franklin D. Roosevelt**, who was visiting the troops.

"We were all looking forward to seeing the president when all the Niseis were ordered to report to a certain barrack," Mas said. "No one said why but there we were, all gathered together. I thought maybe the president was going to visit us.

"Instead," Mas said, "they posted armed guards outside surrounding the barrack and we were prohibited from seeing the president at all.

"That was kind of disappointing," he said. "But, you know, I felt sorry for the black soldiers there. I don't think we were treated as bad as they were, except for the incident involving the presidential visit. Yeah, that was disappointing. That hurt."

It was while he was at Fort Riley that Grace joined him and they were married on Feb. 27, 1944. She stayed with him on the base until he was sent to Fort McClellan, Alabama, for additional training and then on to Naples, Italy, to join the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion as a replacement.

Grace, meanwhile, went to Chicago to join her sister, **Martha Owashi Deguchi**.

"There were only three members of the original 100<sup>th</sup> left and they were assigned to train us," Mas said, recalling his days before he went into combat. Mas recalled there were other San Diegans who served with him either with the 100<sup>th</sup> or the 442<sup>nd</sup>.

"There was **Jimmy Kimura, Sam Handa, Yas Nakamoto, Sam Yamaguchi, Bert Tanaka** (who earned a Silver Star and eventually a battle field promotion to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant), **Harry Kowase, Harry Kawamoto, Ben Honda, Frank Wada, Abe Takehara, Min Sakamoto,**" he said.

"I'm surprised no one from San Diego was killed. I think everyone of us was wounded."

Mas suffered a shrapnel wound to his right leg. The shrapnel remains there even today. Mas recalls that **Hank Hashiguchi** also suffered a major wound in the neck but recovered.

Mas eventually served with Co. C, 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon of the 442<sup>nd</sup>. He and a number of other San Diegans participated in the rescue of Texas' 36<sup>th</sup> Division's "**Lost Battalion**" in a memorable battle that some Army historians have included in the Top Ten battles fought by the Army in its 230-year history up to that time.

The 442<sup>nd</sup> suffered almost 1,000 casualties in a five-day battle to rescue the 200 soldiers of the Lost Battalion. In that effort alone, the unit earned two presidential unit citations, according to former Army historian **Eric Saul**. Saul said the 100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup> started off with 4,000

men in February 1943 and was replaced nearly 3½ times so that eventually 14,000 men served in the combined units. Of those 14,000 men, they earned more than 18,000 medals for heroism and service.

And yet, not many people know of their stories.

The stories in Europe are only part of the Nisei military story.

On the other side—the Pacific War—more than 6,000 Niseis served throughout the Pacific Theater of operation.

They broke secret Japanese codes, interrogated Japanese prisoners of war, provided valuable information that served for propaganda purposes, translated millions of pages of captured Japanese documents. For all of these efforts, **Gen. Douglas MacArthur's** chief of intelligence credited the Niseis for shortening the Pacific War by at least two years, saving millions of American lives.

Saul recalled that after the 442<sup>nd</sup> returned stateside after the war, President **Harry Truman** held a special ceremony at the White House for them. It was raining and the presidential aide urged him to cancel the ceremony. Truman refused saying, "After what those boys have been through, I can stand a little rain."

With the regimental standard bearing their motto, "Go For Broke," Truman told the troops: "I can't tell you how much I appreciate the opportunity to tell you what you have done for this country. You fought not only the enemy, but you fought prejudice and you won. You have made the Constitution stand for what it really means: the welfare of all the people, all the time. Keep up the fight."

Let's gather some of our WWII vets with Korean War vets, Vietnam War vets, Desert Storm War vets and Iraqi-Afghanistan War vets. Let's have our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren listen to them. They too will be able to feel the pride come through.

Some day, maybe we can write of other battles they have stored in their memory banks.

Thank you, Mas, Rev. Jim and others. Thanking you in advance.

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## MY STORY: AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF ISAMU "SAM" NAKAMURA

*This is the first of two parts of native San Diegan and World War II veteran **Sam Nakamura's** life story which appears here with his kind permission. We thank **Georgina Foster** for transcribing Sam's writing and **Sumi Kastelic, Linda Canada, Mich Himaka, Joyce Teague, Sam and Pauline Nakamura** for their time in editing and proofreading the drafts of this autobiography. We think you will enjoy Sam's look back.*

I was born April 22, 1924 at 1315 Crosby Street, known as **Fish Camp**, located near the **Van Camp Seafood Cannery**. My father, **Fukumatsu "Frank" Nakamura**, and my mother, **Fuji Minami Nakamura**, were Issei from Japan. My father arrived in the U.S. about 1895 and mother later via *shashin kekkon* (picture marriage).

Father worked as coolie labor on the railroad, as a farm laborer, and later for the Van Camp Seafood Co. as a fisherman on a small boat. Father was captain and his brother, **Kinjiro**, was the crew. They would go out daily and fish for whatever was biting, or net mackerel or sardine for fertilizer.

I remember fishing with Dad off Point Loma where the ocean was so clean we could see the fish biting our hooks way down deep. Now you can't see anything.

We were very poor, so we ate fish every day. Once in a while my Dad would harpoon porpoise to eat. It was real good and tasted like beef. Because I ate fish every day during my childhood, I refused to eat fish for many years.

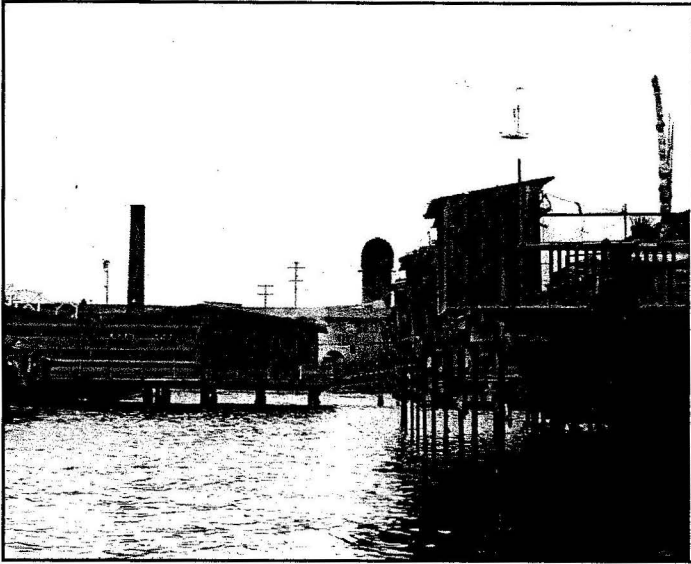
*Continued on Page 11*



(MY STORY continued from Page 10)

My mother worked at Van Camp Seafood Cannery. I think she and other ladies of Japanese descent were the first "fish cleaning" women. They worked "piece work" which meant the faster you cleaned the steam-cooked fish, the more money you made. Needless to say, they worked like mad.

My sister, **Mabel Hibi**, was one of the fastest, if not the fastest, fish cleaners. During childhood, I would run home from Logan grammar school and go fishing on the wharves at Van Camp fish camp until dark.



*Fish Camp (on the right) was home to many Nikkei families working in the fishing industry in the 1930s. It was situated on two piers adjacent to both fishing docks and to the Van Camp Cannery (on the left). Photo from the JAHSSD Archives.*

### Evacuation and Internment

On April 8, 1942, all Japanese, citizens or not, were evacuated from the West Coast after a week's notice and were informed that we were allowed one suitcase each. We bought a new 1942 Pontiac for \$1,200 in anticipation of the trip but had to sell it cheap. Luckily we had purchased a house at 2270 Irving Avenue for \$3,000, where we eventually returned after the war was over.

I was going to graduate from **San Diego High School** in June of 1942, but since we were evacuated on April 8, San Diego High would not give us our diploma. **Sweetwater High School** did. Later I wrote San Diego High, asking for my diploma. They agreed, under the condition my grades would be downgraded. I refused.

We were evacuated from San Diego to the Santa Anita Racetrack, then to Poston Camp III at Parker, Arizona. Our Class of '42 was the first class to get our high school diploma from **Poston III High School**.

### Work Furlough Adventures

Shortly after graduation, a group of us Niseis volunteered to work at Preston, Idaho, to thin sugar beets on the farms to help with the war effort. [Ed.'s note: Individuals could get permission to work on the outside for a specific period of time.] Thinning sugar beets is backbreaking work and not for "city slickers." Thinning is leaving plants six inches apart. I remember the work as unbearable with very little pay. Pay was rated by "piece work" and my production was minimal. The only good I can remember about it is how good and cold the Artesian well water was, especially on a hot day.

**Harry Segawa** and I left the farm shortly after to cut timber at Island Park, Idaho, located north next to the Wyoming border, high in the timberland. Our job was to cut down pine trees marked by forest

rangers. The air was very thin, making it very difficult to breathe, so at first I had to rest several times to fell one tree.

Our tools of trade consisted of a double-headed axe, a two-man saw, a three-inch tool for peeling bark, and a bottle of kerosene to keep the saw blade clean of tree sap. After a day or so, we worked continuously from sun up to sundown, seven days a week, cutting down pine trees which were about 8" in diameter at the trunk, about 50 feet tall with no low branches.

Our job was to cut the felled trees into 5 feet-6 inches and 7- and 8-foot lengths for tunnel supports at mines in Utah.

We got so good at knocking down trees, we could survey a tree, determine which direction it would fall, and place the tree exactly where we wanted. The pine forest was very dense, so it was critical to knock the trees between other trees.

After cutting the trees to size, we debarked them and propped them up to dry. It was very dry there. Crackers would stay crisp for days. We made haul roads by stumping the trees for lumber trucks to haul the cut trees out. In some areas, the topography was so hilly that we had to use horses to pull the cut trees down to lower work levels.

Island Park was so isolated, Harry and I used to run around naked, drink the stream water, and take a bath in the same streams. Our boss would fish for trout in streams and beaver dams and always gave us fish to eat. We lived in two tents—one for cooking and one for sleeping—with approximately eight feet between tents.

We dug a hole and kept our pork (had a hog dressed at Idaho Falls) underground to keep the animals out. A grizzly bear smelled the pork and would be in the area every night. We used to grab our two-headed axe every night and slept very lightly. We were scared. We could not tolerate this, so our boss set a bear trap which consisted of a metal trap chained to a log. A bear hit the trap and took off between the trees, bellowing all the way, breaking the log in pieces. The next day the boss, with help, shot the bear with 30:06 rifles.

It snowed about seven feet during the winter so we decided to go to Idaho Falls even though the owner wanted to "freeze" us on the job. (During the war years it was legal to keep you on the job.)

At Idaho Falls, **Sam Itami** and the **Sugioka families** from Chula Vista were farming. Harry and I "bumped spud" for **Sam Itami** who was in the trucking business.

Bumping spuds consisted of one worker throwing a sack of potatoes on the truck in "granny gear" (slowly) while the other stacked the sacks on the truck going down the rows of sacked potatoes. The sacks weighed approximately 40 pounds, but it was easy work after cutting timber in the mountains. The Sugioka family and Itami families cooked meals for us, which was a real treat for us after our home cooked meals in the mountains.

### A Job at Tule Lake

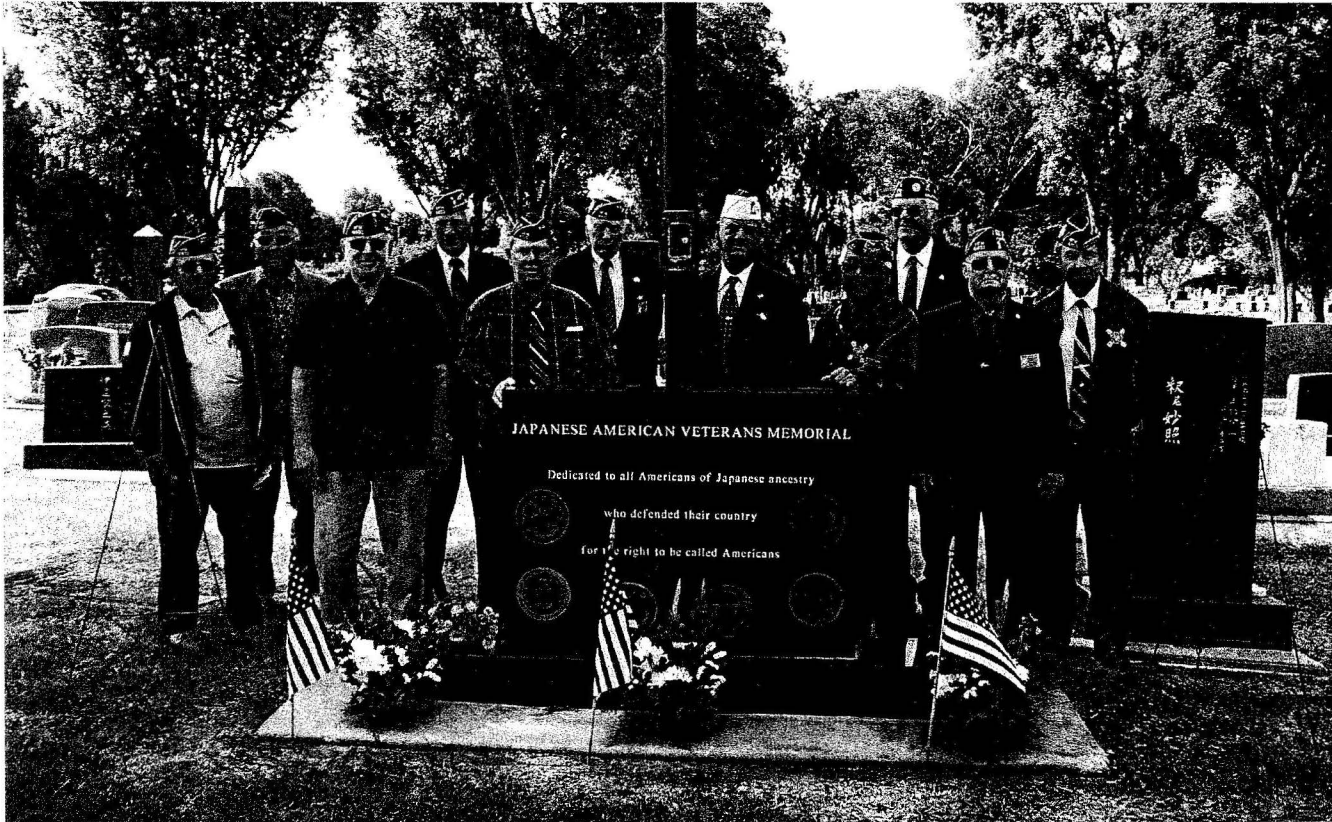
After bumping spuds, Harry decided to stay [in Idaho Falls]. I checked with the [Poston Camp] employment office and found a job as tractor operator at the **Tule Lake Relocation Center** [another concentration camp located in California]. I never was on a tractor before, but when you're young and foolish you take a chance.

At Tule Lake, a group from Poston III preceded me and luckily **Kattie Uyeji** was in the group. Kattie showed me how to crank start the International Harvester wheeled tractor. He also showed me how to operate the potato digger. At first I was digging too shallow so I left a bunch of sliced potatoes on the field.

I didn't know at the time that the workers at Tule Lake were on strike to protest the low wages, approximately \$8 per month. We were strike breakers!

*Continued on Page 17*

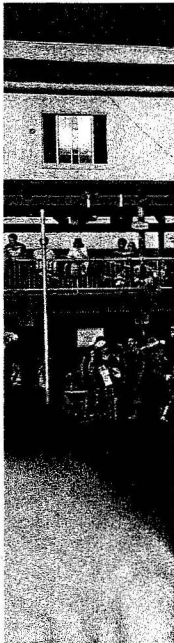
# COMMUNITY



**Memorial Day 2009:** Members of **Asian Pacific VFW Post 4851** pose at the **Japanese American Veterans Memorial** at Mt. Hope Cemetery. Each year, Post 4851 helps organize the tri-faith community service presented by the **San Diego Japanese Christian Church**, the **Buddhist Temple of San Diego** and the **Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ**. Left to right: **Joe Correia, Oscar Kodama, Mike Kessloe, Lou Gutzman, Bob Cottle, Gene Davies, Buzz Buzzard, Roy Muraoka, Bob Poston and Ken Knoof**. Photo courtesy of Ron Krause.



Photos to the left: Participants in the **Japanese Friendship Garden's Festival of the August Moon** on August 15, 2009 enjoy a performance by **Shokenji Taiko** during dinner.

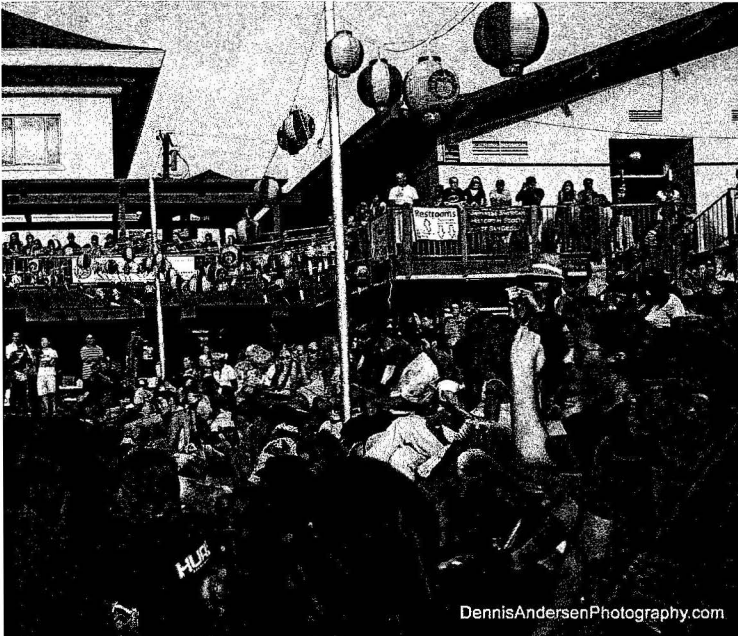


The **Buddhist Temple** to the **Grant Hill** neighborhood summer garb move.





# SNAPSHOTS

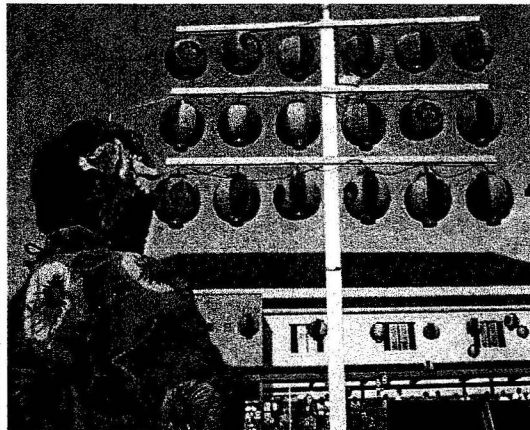


DennisAndersenPhotography.com

**San Diego's Bon Odori: Festival of Joy** attracted an estimated 1,000 celebrants in San Diego's Little Tokyo neighborhood on August 1, 2009. Below: Dancers in both traditional yukata and casual wear. The music in rows of circles. Images courtesy of **Dennis Andersen Photography**.



DennisAndersenPhotography.com

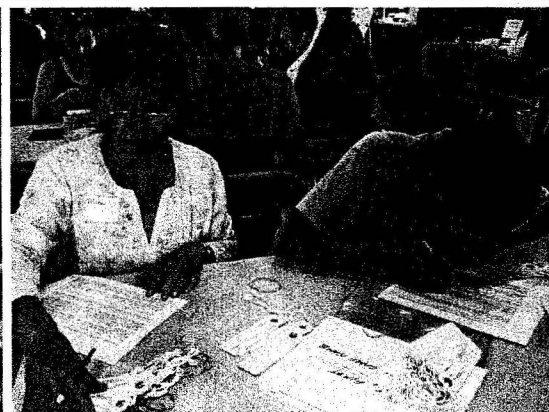


Lighted paper lanterns made a welcome comeback at the Bon Odori this year. Special entertainment throughout the evening was provided by **BTSD Taiko**, **Naruwan Taiko**, and **San Diego Taiko**. Below: **Anton Palma** (left) and **Chelsey Nakao** of San Diego Taiko perform with gusto.

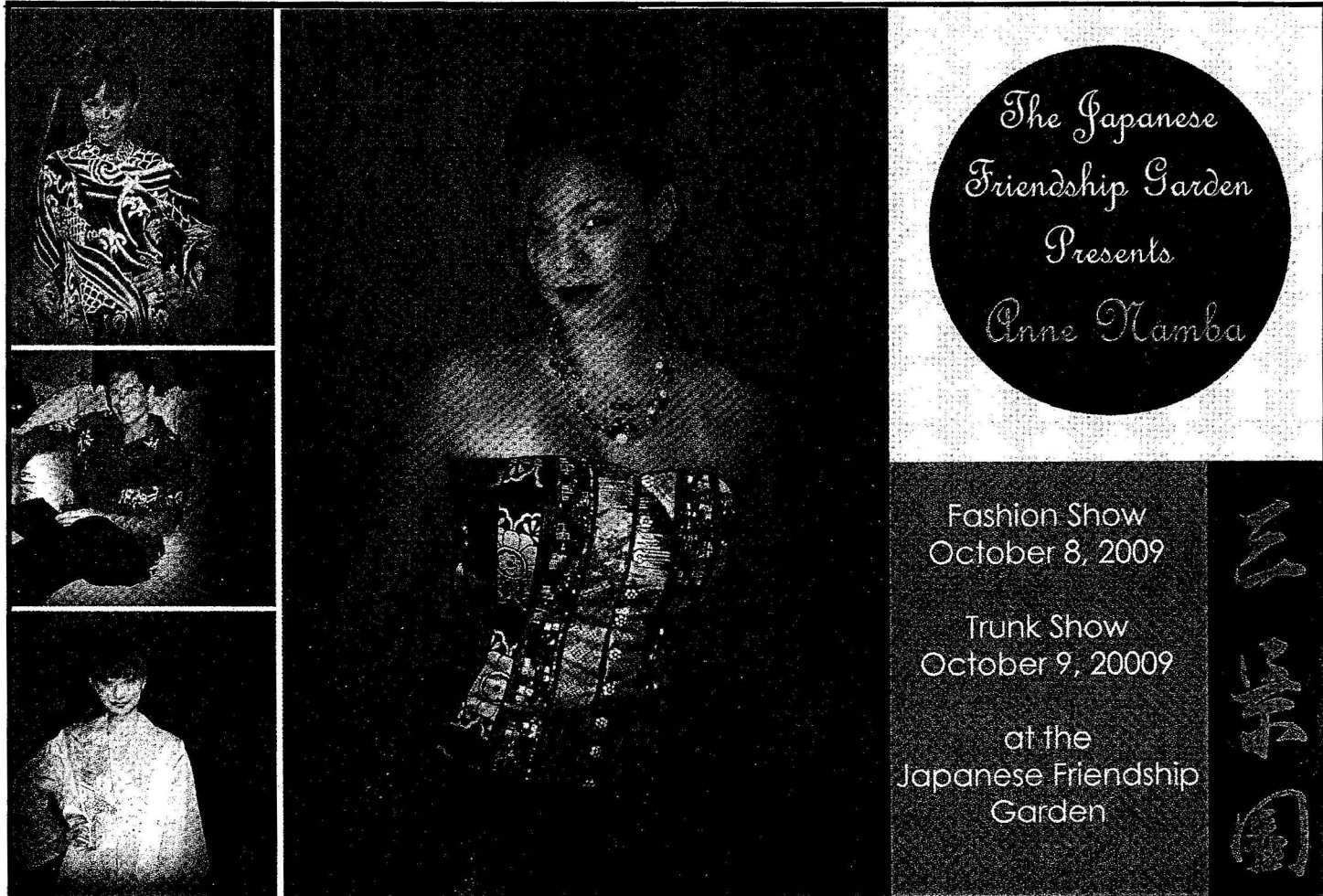


DennisAndersenPhotography.com

During the Bon Odori, the **Japan Society of San Diego & Tijuana** demonstrated how to wear a yukata and tie an obi. They also provided an appropriate craft project for kids. The **Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego** offered a photographic display mounted by JAHSSD summer intern **Garrett Kodama**, pictured at right.



**The Tag Project** visited **Pioneer Ocean View Church** on Aug. 2 and the **Buddhist Temple** on Aug. 22. Near left: **Alice (Akiko) Matsumoto** works alongside high school student **Darren Fujii**, using printouts of a government list of evacuee families to write their names on tags. This is one of several steps that must be completed before the final one, weathering the tags with a coffee solution and distressing them to make them look worn.



The Japanese Friendship Garden  
Presents  
Anne Namba

Fashion Show  
October 8, 2009

Trunk Show  
October 9, 2009

at the  
Japanese Friendship  
Garden

## GARDEN'S AKI NO MATSURI TO FEATURE "KIMONO COUTURE"

The **Japanese Friendship Garden** in Balboa Park will celebrate its annual Aki no Matsuri (Fall Festival) on October 8, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Guests will preview the latest in Kimono Couture and Asian-inspired fashions for both women and men in a fashion show by award-winning designer, **Anne Yuri Namba**.

Namba, a native of Hawaii, graduated from New York's prestigious Fashion Institute of Technology and worked as part of New York's garment industry, honing her design and technical skills. In 1985, she returned to Hawaii and began designing one-of-a-kind garments made from vintage Japanese kimonos and obis. She opened her boutique in Manoa Valley in 1989 and **Anne Namba Designs** was born.

Namba has since taken Kimono Couture to new heights. Her designs have been featured in high-end department stores throughout the U.S. and she has produced fashion shows in the U.S. and around the world.

At a cocktail reception following the show, guests will be able to meet the designer and purchase the fashions highlighted that evening. For those unable to attend the Fall Festival event, a trunk show will follow at the Garden on Friday, Oct. 9 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Tickets are \$45 for JFG members and \$50 for others. Proceeds will benefit the Garden's expansion project which will make the Garden one of the largest public Japanese-style gardens in the U.S.

To reserve a seat at the fashion show, contact **Lovelynn Hansen** at (619) 232-2721 or lovelynnb@niwa.org.

## CANNERY WORKERS TRIBUTE IS SET FOR SEPT. 26

After three years and many delays, the **Port of San Diego** will celebrate the installation of the **Cannery Workers Tribute** artwork at Parque del Sol (Cesar Chavez Parkway & Crosby Rd.) in Barrio Logan. The dedication ceremony will be held Saturday, September 26, 2009, at 10:30 a.m. The public is invited, and those who worked in the canneries and their families will be acknowledged during the program.

Several organizations aided the Port District in readying the tribute. With **Susan Hasegawa** in the lead, JAHSSD provided information and advice to those coordinating the tribute and made sure signage in the park acknowledged the contributions of Nikkei workers in the canneries. Among other JAHSSD members who contributed to the project were Mich Himaka, Linda Canada, Gwen Momita and Joyce Teague. Other community members who helped with the tribute were **Maggie (Piatt) Walton** of the Maritime Museum; **John Alvarado** of the Historic Barrio Logan Cannery Workers Group; and **August Felando**, past General Manager of the American Tunaboat Association and historian of San Diego's fishing industry.

Some of the Port staff involved are **CJ Lucke**, community services coordinator, and **Sheila Kanoya**, event coordinator. Two other staffers have created a video of some of the people who worked in the canneries, including JAHSSD's **Kiyo Uda** and **Masato Asakawa**. The video is about the history of the canneries and those who worked in them.

Members of JAHSSD should have received postcard invitations to the event. Info: (619) 686-7246. We hope to see you there.



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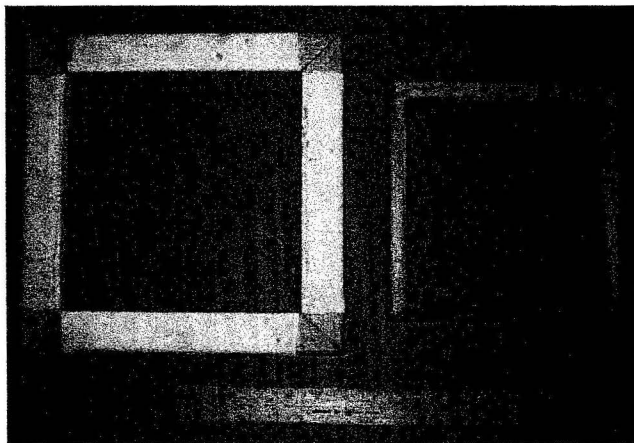
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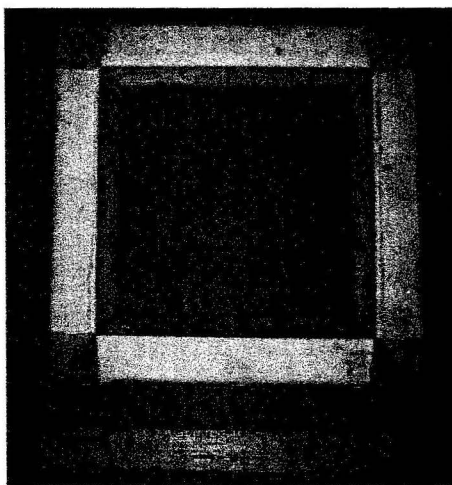
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## A MYSTERY OF HISTORY



DO YOU KNOW WHAT THESE ARE  
AND HOW THEY WERE USED?



These three wooden objects are part of the JAHSSD collection. They look like frames that may have been designed for a certain type of craft, like embroidery. Was the white canvas around the outside decorative, or was there a special purpose for it? We believe they may have been made in Poston Internment Camp, but there is no notation who donated them.

**Clue A:** Two of the frame-like forms have "M. Ohara" engraved in the upper left-hand corner.

**Clue B:** The forms were found among items in our former historian Donald Estes' home.

If you know anything about these objects, please call our archivist at (858) 457-9676 or e-mail jahssd@sbcglobal.net.

*This mystery of Nikkei history  
is brought to you by*

**EDWARD KUBOTA**

## FIGHTING ABROAD FOR RECOGNITION AT HOME: A Japanese American WWII Vet Tells His Story

*The following piece is from the Sept. 8, 2009 e-mail newsletter for the Japanese American Veterans Assn. (JAVA) and Asian Pacific American Veterans (APAVET). In it, World War II U.S. Army veteran (and former San Diego area resident) George Mukai was interviewed in New York by the Mainichi Shimbun, a Japanese language newspaper. The farm mentioned in the story by George was in Spring Valley along Sweetwater Road. George was one of six siblings: Tom (deceased), Susan (living in Utah), Henry (living in Los Angeles), Cromwell (deceased) and Abe (deceased). Thanks to JAHSSD members Harry Honda for sharing the article and Yuki Kawamoto for providing information on the Mukai family.*

In October of 1944, the U.S. Army was locked in heavy fighting with German forces in the mountainous Vosges region of central-eastern France. One American battalion had been encircled, and the **442nd Regimental Combat Team** was dispatched to break through to the trapped unit. At the end of a fierce fight through forested terrain, the men of the 442nd saved the battalion, and made a name for themselves in the process. What made the 442nd particularly remarkable was that the unit was composed almost entirely of Japanese-Americans. The unit was formed in June 1942 of second generation Japanese-Americans, or Nisei, who called on the government to let them prove their loyalty to the United States.

The battle in the Vosges cost the 442nd dearly, as more than 800 men were injured, many of them fatally, in its effort to save the 211 surrounded by the Germans.

"Enemy bombs and shells would come down and hit trees and branches, so there were explosions in places you'd never expect. We took a lot of casualties that way. Some guys lost their eyes, too," recalls second generation American and 442nd veteran **George Mukai**, now 89.

Mukai's parents had emigrated from Osaka and ran a farm near San Diego, California. Just after Mukai expressed his wish to join the U.S. Army, the Imperial Japanese Navy attacked Pearl Harbor.

"At school, I always sang 'The Star Spangled Banner' in front of the Stars and Stripes," Mukai says. "I had no doubts about fighting for the United States. I was a little worried about anti-Japanese sentiment, but I was never bullied in the Army."

In spite of Mukai's patriotism, in the wake of the Pearl Harbor attack the U.S. government categorized all Japanese-Americans as "enemy aliens" and forced them into internment camps. Mukai's family had to give up nearly all their possessions when they moved to one such camp in Arizona.

"I wanted to prove that we were good Americans by fighting in the war," recalls Mukai.

While Mukai's family waited out the war in the camp, and Mukai's unit battled Germany forces through Italy and France, the Japanese military was slowly being ground down on battlefields across the Pacific.

"When I heard that Japanese soldiers were eating grass to stay alive and keep fighting, I felt sorry for them," Mukai says. "We (Nisei soldiers) were Americans, but then we were also Japanese, so it was a complex feeling."

After the war, Mukai held a variety of jobs, including at a design office, and started a family with a Japanese-American woman.

In 1988, the United States government formally admitted that

*(Continued on Page 17)*



(FIGHTING ABROAD FOR RECOGNITION continued from Page 16)

the internment camps had been a mistake founded on racism, and apologized to the Japanese-Americans who had been forced into them. Japanese-Americans in the U.S. military also saw their star rise, and in January this year President **Barack Obama** appointed retired general and third generation Japanese-American **Eric Shinseki**, born in Hawaii one year after Pearl Harbor, to the post of Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

"After fighting in the war with the 442nd, it seemed like we Japanese-Americans could finally hold our heads high as Americans," Mukai concludes, giving voice to one face of this vast immigrant nation, which only saw Mukai and those like him as true Americans when they took up arms in its defense.

(MARTIN LLOYD ITO continued from Page 5)

Chicken Night you'd find him working away in the kitchen. He said he'd much rather be there than working on some committee somewhere! Lloyd's knife-honing skills were so well known that VFW members would set aside knives at home to take to Barbecue Chicken Night so he could sharpen them up.

Lloyd has loved to fish since he was young. After he stopped farming full time, a large part of his volunteer work has revolved around both lake and ocean fishing. Lloyd and his wife Emiko would meet clients from Blind Community Center at Lake Henshaw on Thursdays to help blind youngsters and adults enjoy fishing. He also helped for years at the Day at the Docks program where underprivileged children learned to fish from the shores of San Diego Bay.

Lloyd and Emi have been together 62 years and still live on their Encanto farm. They have four children (**Mike, Robert, George and Marlene**), seven grandchildren (**Amy, Brianne, Derek, Bobby, Taylor, Travis and Todd**), and four great-grandkids (**Matthew, Maryn, Luke and Jacob**).

JAHSSD is proud to honor war hero, community servant, and all around good guy Lloyd Ito with a 2009 Kansha Award.

(MY STORY continued from Page 11)

If I had known at the time, I probably would not have gone to Tule Lake.

It was very cold at night. We were housed in tents, army cots with army blankets and a pot-bellied stove for heat. I remember sleeping wearing all my clothing, covered with several layers of newspaper, army blankets on top of the papers, and I was still cold in the morning when the pot-bellied stove was out.

We put in long hours and were paid by the hour. I don't remember our hourly wage, but it was a lot better than \$8 per month. Since Tule Lake is located near a bird reserve, we entertained ourselves by tying two potatoes together with a string and trying to lasso low-flying ducks and geese.

After completing the harvest at Tule, I returned to Poston III via Greyhound bus through Salt Lake City. At Salt Lake City, I was stuck for several days because the military kept bumping me. Not expecting the delay, I spent a lot of hard-earned money on food and drinks.

This concludes Part I of Sam Nakamura's autobiography.  
Part 2 will appear in the Winter Issue of *Footprints*.

## "I NEEDED A HAIRCUT"

By Lloyd Ito

*Back in 2005, Terry Nicholas interviewed 2009 Kansha Award recipient Lloyd Ito primarily about his World War II experiences in the 442nd RCT. Lloyd's description of an incident that took place after his return home is excerpted from that interview with permission. The prompt was, "When you came back stateside, did you encounter much prejudice or discrimination?"*

Up in L.A. is where I got discharged...I still had my uniform on and I went to a restaurant and they said they wouldn't serve me. That was the first time.

The other time happened when I got back to San Diego, right down here in Encanto where there used to be a barbershop. I think the war had ended, and I needed a haircut, so I went down...walked in and had a seat in the chair and sat and waited...and waited.

People would come in and get their haircut, but not me. This went on for a while and finally, everyone had left and it was just the two of us and I says, "How long do I have to wait for a haircut?" and he said, "For you! You're not gonna get a haircut from me!"

So I calmly asked, "Why is that?" He replied, "Your people killed my son." And I answered, "The U.S. Army didn't kill your son."

"Well, you're Japanese, right?"

"Yes, I live right up the hill there."

"Yeah, I know who you are, but your people killed my son."

I said, "I couldn't have. I was fighting for the United States Army. I just got back from overseas. I got a Purple Heart serving our country. Your son and I used to be friends." He replied, "Yes, but then..."

I told him, "I'm sorry about your son."

Well, he waited and waited, and finally he said, "You was in the U.S. Army?"

"Yes, sir."

"You knew my son?"

"Yes, we went to school together. Right up here."

He looked confused and says, "Aw, I don't know what to do...I lost my son." I told him, "I can't take his place, but I'll try. I'll come and get my hair cut here all the time."

So he looks at me and says, "Come on." So he put me in his chair and gave me a haircut.

When I asked, "How much do I owe you?" he says, "You don't owe me nothing."

I said, "I'd like to pay you something." He says, "I acted too fast," and then he apologized to me.

From then on that's the only place I ever went to get a haircut.

## WANTED: JA VETS TO SIT AND CHAT

On November 12, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., come join other veterans for an informal meeting at the Veterans Museum. You'll have a chance to tour the exhibition **Japanese Americans in the Military** and talk with students from **San Diego City College** about your experiences.

The students will be there to learn how to be guides for the exhibition. If you'd like to sign up to be a gallery guide as well, the schedule will be available that day.

Vets from all decades and conflicts are welcome to get together for a relaxed get-together. **The Veterans Memorial & Museum** is located at 2115 Park Blvd. near the intersection of Park Blvd. and President's Way. It occupies the former chapel of the Naval Hospital on Inspiration Point on the EAST side of Park Boulevard.

Questions? Call Linda Canada (858) 457-9676.



Wendy Maruyama's Tag Project brought together friends and strangers alike to help the SDSU professor meet her goal of creating 120,000 tags. Pictured here at BTSD are (left to right): Taeko Udo, Thomasina Hargraves-Stancil, Wendy Maruyama and Georgiana Uda. Photograph courtesy of Bill Schairer.

## AMBITIOUS "TAG PROJECT" ATTRACTS PARTICIPANTS

Local artist **Wendy Maruyama** has just completed three highly successful local work parties centered around her ambitious **Tag Project** which she began by herself in November 2008. The Tag Project is an attempt to replicate 120,000 name tags like the ones worn by people of Japanese descent who were evacuated from the West Coast and incarcerated during WWII. The name, internment camp and I.D. number of an actual evacuee is duplicated on each stringed tag. The tag then goes through a weathering process to make the tags look aged. Her goal is to create a giant art installation to impress on the viewer the number of individuals impacted by **Executive Order 9066**.

Last August, some local organizations joined together to bring the project and several hundred enthusiastic volunteers together.

The first one planned was a collaboration between **JAHSSD** and the **Buddhist Temple of San Diego** (specifically its adjunct social group, **Zenbu**)—to present the art project as a social event at the Buddhist Temple on Saturday, August 22. **Joyce Teague** coordinated the event with the help of Wendy, **Valerie Abe**, **Gwen Momita** and **Linda Canada**. The event included a potluck; a visual presentation by the artist on her project and what inspired it; a historical display of how evacuation and internment affected San Diegans; and the actual tag-making. One hundred people of all ages participated, creating over 6,000 tags. 4,000 additional tags were taken by volunteers to complete at home.

The **Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ (POVUCC)** and the **San Diego Chapter of the JACL** joined together at POVUCC on Aug. 2 following a teriyaki chicken lunch fundraiser and a host of scrumptious desserts prepared by church members. Event organizer **Coreen Fujinami** asked the assembled group to divide themselves into one of three groups: tag string knotters, tag stampers and tag writers. Wendy gave a short presentation about her inspiration, and then young and old alike began working on the tags. The room soon filled with chatter and laughter. It wasn't long until the "runners" assigned to gather tags from one station and deliver them to their next stop were really running. In about two hours, the group of 60 had processed nearly 5000 tags!

On August 30, the **San Diego Japanese Christian Church (SDJCC)** in Golden Hill took up the tag-making challenge. **Jenny Higashi** and **Sharon Kunugi** were the organizers of this gathering. Approximately 75 people prepared 4,000 tags. In addition to members of the Christian Church, there were repeat volunteers from POVUCC and BTSD, as well as friends and family.

"I am particularly grateful," Wendy said after the SDJCC event, "because many people sacrificed watching the Little League finals just to help with this, and many were from Chula Vista!"

Because of the great interest in the project, Zenbu is likely to co-host another Tag Project event in 2010. To be kept apprised of Zenbu activities by e-mail, send your address to [zenbu@cox.net](mailto:zenbu@cox.net). To be notified of JAHSSD's events, be sure we have your address at [jahssd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jahssd@sbcglobal.net). To follow Wendy's progress about her project, go to her blog at <http://eo9066.blogspot.com>.



This group of 5,000 tags, approx. 8 ft. in length, were hung from the ceiling of the Buddhist Temple's Annex Hall on Aug. 29 to illustrate what work is still ahead for the Tag Project. Photo courtesy of Amy Shinzaki.

## WE GET LETTERS and E-MAIL

Hi Joyce,

I think someone should do a story on the new look of Kiku Garden's dining hall and patio as well as the continued success of the rotating luncheon program there. It is a great example of the power we have when the community really comes together and shares resources. I'm all about building community programs that are high-impact, feasible, and sustainable (not burning volunteers out).

I remember our first luncheon there at Kiku Gardens and all of my volunteers afterwards taking a tour of the place. Most of us had never been there and many wanted to help more than just the luncheons. Since then, our volunteer Yumi Furukawa, an interior designer, has been working with Kiku Gardens to brighten the communal spaces. It's been great getting a report of the progress and being able to see it with my own eyes every time I've gone there.

Last week was very inspiring for me after making lunch. Fellow JSSDT volunteers, who greatly enjoy coming to Kiku, were giving even more suggestions to improve the space and bring in more community resources. This is the sort of organic project model that we need to establish to address other issues in our community.

Aya Ibarra, Program Director  
Japan Society of San Diego & Tijuana



## WE GET LETTERS and E-MAIL

Dear JAHSSD Board members,

Tonight [July 29, 2009] at the San Diego JACL Board meeting, I received on behalf of JAHSSD a check in the amount of \$3,000 from the Pacific Southwest District Council JACL Trust Fund.

This grant was the result of the application submitted to the District and is for the JAHSSD JA Veterans Exhibit. Carol and David Kawamoto as well as Karen Tani were instrumental in making this happen.

Congratulations,  
Robert Ito, Board member  
San Diego Chapter of the JACL

*Editor's note: The following is open letter from Wendy Maruyama posted on Facebook to fans of the Tag Project. It has been edited for length.*

Dear all who have volunteered to help:

I momentarily had a freak out session when my mother came over yesterday to ask for more tags. I was in the middle of preparing my syllabi for this semester and felt overwhelmed. It has passed however. I am so glad there is a lot of momentum and enthusiasm—it's at a fever pitch.

I finally decided to be less of a control freak and realized that I can't do every step by myself. I also feel that my work is in the assembly of the tags. And also the main purpose of this is to involve communities!

I have a lot of volunteer names on the blog site who are waiting to receive tags to work on but with no mailing addresses. So if any of you are willing to help with tags, PLEASE E-MAIL ME YOUR MAILING ADDRESSES ASAP so I can start a database. If you sent it to me already in various modes—Facebook, e-mail, letters, etc.—PLEASE send them AGAIN to [wendymaruyama@mac.com](mailto:wendymaruyama@mac.com). My mom, auntie and I are going to start preparing packages to send out. Please note now that the work is going to include tying strings, stamping and writing, not just writing. Stamps will be included.

Another phase will be in stamping numbers. I will be sending out written tags to be stamped with I.D. numbers. So if you are good at reading numbers backwards and setting the stamps then you are the person for that job!

Secondly, I need some help pulling names off the database on the web and onto a spreadsheet. If anyone is willing to copy and paste names onto an Excel spreadsheet, that would be terrific. So if any of you are great with computers, please contact me.

Thirdly, those of you who are craft-art oriented and are willing to soak and age tags, please let me know. You need to be willing to buy cheap coffee and live in a place that is dry so the tags dry quickly—can't let these things get moldy!

Finally, those of you who are local: does anyone have a space that has ceilings that are at least 20 feet high that I can use to assemble the group of tags? A warehouse or something with a dedicated space that is clean and not in anyone's way? I need to begin adding length to the tags. Please contact me. Right now the assembled tags are wrapped in plastic and hanging in the middle of my living room and, well, it looks like a dead body! Even my dogs are afraid of it.

Thank you all for reading this through! I appreciate everything you all have been doing!

Best,  
Wendy

Joyce and friends,

Today I saw the Ansel Adams exhibit at the Museum of Photographic Arts (MoPA) in Balboa Park.

During WWII, Mr. Adams went to photograph the internment camp at Manzanar, east of the Sierra Nevada that he loved. Through the Manzanar photos, Adams tried to convey a sense of the life spirit the prisoners put into camp life and into their farming there, despite the loss of home and freedom they had all suffered.

Though a small part of the overall exhibit, the Manzanar photos were interesting and historic, as was the story of the troubles he and his associates encountered in trying to exhibit and publish these photos during the war years.

I have seen many of Ansel Adams' photos in books, etc.—though I did not previously know about the Manzanar photos—but seeing the real deal is a different experience altogether. I'm sure glad that I went. The Ansel Adams exhibit ends October 4th.

Sincerely,  
Paul Schlomann

Susan,

The reason for my message is that the provost at SDSU has asked me for some help which I believe you might be able to help me with. The CSU has passed a resolution requiring SDSU and other universities to provide honorary degrees to those whose academic career was interrupted by internment during WWII.

The problem we faced is determining who might have been affected. I imagine we might be able to find enrollment data from the 40s and look for those with Japanese surnames. Even if we are able to do this, we can't figure out how to determine if their failure to graduate was due to internment. Do you know of any databases or other documents regarding Japanese Americans from San Diego who were interned that we might consult? Any ideas you might have would be greatly appreciated.

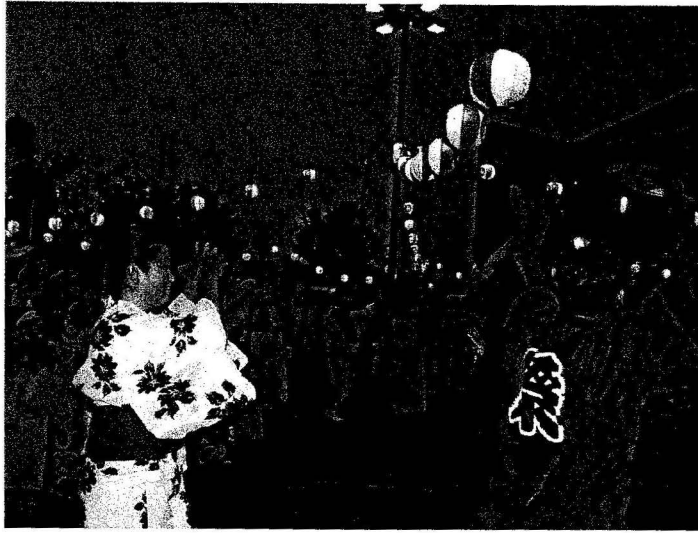
John Putman, Ph.D.  
Dept. of History  
San Diego State University

## SDSU SEEKING STUDENTS FROM 1940s

JAHSSD is helping **San Diego State University** by actively seeking individuals who were attending classes there at the time of WWII evacuation, even if the student later obtained a degree at another institution. Some of these students were members of an on-campus group, **Nu Alpha Chi**, and some names were obtained from yearbook photographs of this group.

If you are aware of anyone who was a Nikkei student at SDSU in 1941-42, please notify **Prof. Susan Hasegawa** at (619) 388-3370 or e-mail her c/o [jahssd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jahssd@sbcglobal.net). To date, the names we have compiled include: **Kiyoko Matsumoto, Viola Takeda, Tsuneko Hironaka, Aiji Esaki, June Kushino, Shoji Nakadate, Noboru Takashima, Iwao Ishino, Azusa Tsuneyoshi, Lillian Sogo, Mariko Nakaji, Ellen Kuyama, Midori Takeda, Carl Yoshimine, George Ono, Minoru Kojima, Takeo Asakawa, Grace Umezawa, George Kita, Misao Furuta, Arnold Watanabe, Chiyoko Fujiura, Kakuya Nakadate, Yo Matsumoto, Josephine Sogo, Masato Nakagawa, Toshiko Kojima, Takemitsu Ito, Marion Sogo, Helen Nikuni, Henry "Hank" Koide, Mariko Iwashita, Ryo Morikawa.**

Unfortunately, we don't have contact information for all of these individuals or their families, so if you can provide that to us, please do so.



## LIGHTED LANTERNS RETURN TO THE BON ODORI

by Ken Muraoka

When I was a child, I remember the **Buddhist Temple's Bon Odori** being such a festive occasion, with the brightly colored kimonos and happi coats, the drum beating, the dancing, and the beautifully lit lanterns hanging overhead.

Around 25 years ago, it was determined by the temple leaders that the lantern lights that circled the odori dance circle had become too hazardous to use. Many years of the heavy cords being pulled and tugged at finally left the light sockets in disrepair. Because the bulbs had to be installed the day before, having them hanging overnight was a magnet for vandals. Because of the height, replacing individual bulbs broken in the hanging sockets was time consuming and even dangerous for someone balanced on a tall ladder. So while the temple's Bon Odori tradition continued, the paper lanterns that were hung went empty and unlit.

To compensate for the loss of light, halogen lights were placed in each corner of the odori circle, and in the center was a four-headed street light. The event was still beautiful at the beginning of the dance, but when the sun set, the new lights could never replace the beauty of the lit lanterns. Also while the odori dance area was sufficiently lit, the audience had to make do with the parking lot lights. As a result, many families would simply leave at sundown before the odori was over.

Over the last five or six years, the temple's Bon Odori committee discussed the lighting situation. More temporary security lights were added to encourage families to stay longer into the evening. Though the committee wanted to light the lanterns, the expense of professionally-made custom lights could not be justified. Different alternatives were explored each year, but it wasn't until this year that we discovered a reasonable "do it yourself" option.

While we had figured out how to make the socket and the cord economically, an affordable bulb would be elusive. The more wattage a light bulb consumes, the brighter it will be. But the more wattage a bulb consumes, the more power is required. The do it yourself cord was not designed to pull large amounts of power and could melt if too much wattage was sent through it. By using smaller wattage lights the cord would be safe, but the lanterns would be too dim.

After trying out many different lights, the committee found compact fluorescent lights to be have the best of both worlds. They would consume only 7 watts of energy, yet produce 30 watts of light. (In contrast, the original lanterns used 30 watt incandescent bulbs which

consumed 30 watts of energy.) The cost of a compact fluorescent light is about 4 times more than its incandescent counterpart, but we were able to reduce that to about 2.5 times by ordering by bulk wholesale.

The few days that led up to the August 1 Bon Odori had **Michael Kinoshita, Kevin Lee, Trevor Kinoshita** and me working late into the evening setting up the support poles, wiring and lights. We did not want to leave anything for chance the night of the odori, so everything needed to be tested the evening before the dance. Fortunately everything worked as planned.

During the odori intermission, M.C. **Bill Teague** led a count down to light the lanterns. Unfortunately because compact fluorescents don't get bright till they warm up, and the initial lighting was less than spectacular. But as the evening darkened, the lanterns' glowing beauty became apparent. By sundown, it seemed like old times with the brightly colored kimonos and happi coats, the drum beating, the dancing, and of course the beautifully lit lanterns.

The evening of the Bon Odori was the first time anyone, including myself, had seen how beautiful and effective the new lights are. After realizing the amount of light the lanterns generate, we have plans to expand the coverage of the lanterns to the trellis on the upper deck, our budget permitting.

Over the decades, the BTSD Bon Odori has grown beyond a meaningful temple event for its members. It now attracts hundreds from the community who appreciate a lively activity centered around remembering the sacrifices and contributions of our ancestors. Newcomers attend our dance practices in July. Many construct a simple paper lantern to be hung in memory of a loved one during the dance. Particularly with the input of **JAHSSD, the Japan Society**, local taiko groups and other community organizations who help, the Bon Odori has become a must-do event for an increasing number of locals. We estimate over a thousand visitors have attended each of the last two years.

As committee chairman of the past several Bon Odori festivals, I would like to thank the many volunteers who have helped make this annual dance more than just a temple event, but a true community event. Our thank you is extended not only to members of the temple, but to our friends in so many other groups like JAHSSD that just pitch in to make our gathering a joyous celebration of life.

## 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 our community, 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.



## NIKKEI RESEARCH CONTINUES

Graduate student **Yurika Enobi** is still seeking Nikkei men and women to participate in the San Diego State University study on smell and cognition. Enobi has been volunteering her time at various local fundraisers and activities hoping to enlist people in her research. She still needs about 50 more individuals to participate.

If you are an individual of Japanese ancestry and 45 years or older and if you speak English (you can be bilingual), you may be eligible. You will be asked to perform simple tests of smell and cognitive functioning, such as memory and language. The study takes less than three hours to complete and takes place at 6363 Alvarado Court, Suite 101. You will be paid for your time.

Several JAHSSD members have participated in this interesting study as a way to contribute to the advancement of scientific discoveries while thanking Yurika and her predecessor **Nobuko Kemmotsu** for volunteering their time at Nikkei events. Please contact Yurika to make individual appointments at (619) 594-5970 (voicemail: ext. 2), or e-mail her at [lifespan@sciences.sdsu.edu](mailto:lifespan@sciences.sdsu.edu).

## CHANGES IN FOOTPRINTS MAILING

You may have noticed a difference in the appearance of the mailing label on *Footprints* when you received the last issue. In fact, we learned some of you did not receive the Summer Issue at all!

We have switched our membership records to a new computer system, and volunteer **Sumi Kastelic** has been diligently working to update records and make corrections. Last quarter's *Footprints* was the first time we used the new system to print our mailing labels. As with most conversions, there were a few "glitches," but we think we have figured out why some newsletters did not make it to everyone.

We hope that the mailings of the annual meeting announcement and the Fall *Footprints* have gone more smoothly. Don't hesitate to let us know if you think something is amiss with your JAHSSD mailings.

Please contact Membership Coordinator Sumi Kastelic at [sumik@cox.net](mailto:sumik@cox.net) or (760) 632-8386 with any comments or concerns about our newsletter or other membership-wide mailings.

## MEMORIAL GIFTS HELP US MEET OUR MISSION

Over the years, some of our members have made monetary gifts to JAHSSD in memory of their friends and relatives. Recently, we received a very generous gift from **Karen Wade** in memory of her parents, **Susumu and Tami Satow**. Other members, like **Mary Yamada**, have designated JAHSSD as recipients of *koden* (monetary gifts given to grieving families on the loss of a loved one).

Whether the gift is financial or involves objects, we appreciate very much being considered as your beneficiary. If you care to name the historical society in your will, you can use our full name: Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego.

We deeply appreciate gifts made to JAHSSD in memory of someone special. These gifts from family members and friends enable us to produce publications and curate exhibits to share with the community and to keep memories alive.



## BOB BATCHELDER NAMED MOST INSPIRATIONAL MS WALKER

On June 24, JAHSSD Board member **Bob Batchelder** was away on vacation, happily doing one of his favorite things while afloat in a boat in the middle of a lake: fishing. In the meantime, his friend Carol Estes, captain of the Society's **MS Walk team Bob's Buddies** was at the Del Mar Marriott to accept on Bob's behalf the 2009 MS Walk award for most inspirational walker. We are sharing Carol's acceptance speech because it is such a nice tribute to a man we also hold in high esteem.

It is an honor and privilege for me to accept this award for Bob Batchelder. Unfortunately, Bob is off on his annual fishing trip. He doesn't let the fact that he gets around in an electrical wheelchair stop him from enjoying life. Whenever we meet at the Batchelder home, Bob is always the chief BBQer.

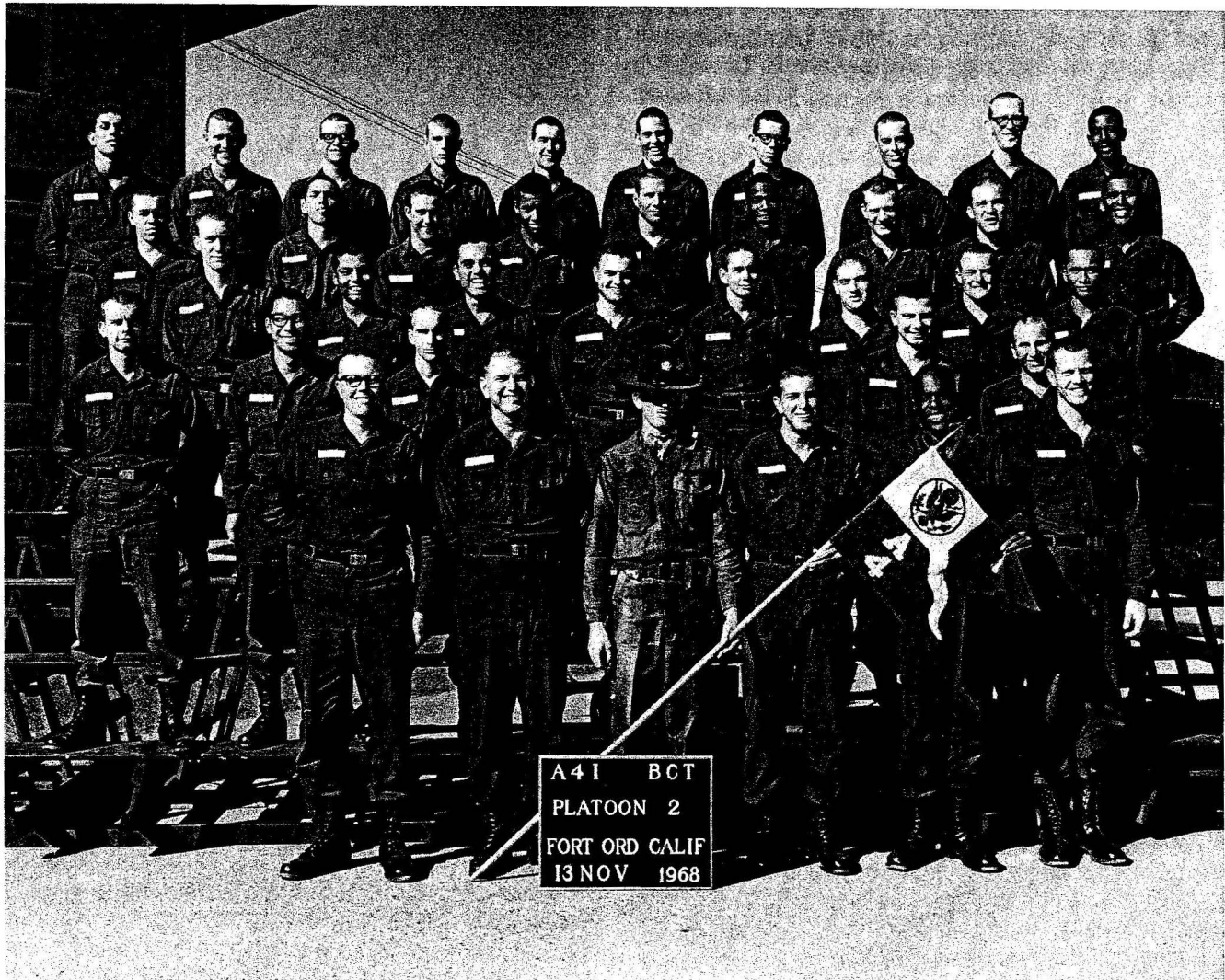
Bob's Buddies participated in our first MS Walk in 2001, raising a measly \$1,700+ dollars. As we discussed ideas for a team name, everyone on the Board of Directors of the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego unanimously decided our team should be named after our Treasurer, Bob Batchelder. Each year Bob has been the top fundraiser in Bob's Buddies, leading our Team to higher and higher goals.

He has been an inspiration for all of us who have had the honor to come into contact with him. When Bob stepped forward to volunteer as the Treasurer of our Historical Society, our organization was indeed fortunate to have a man of such financial and legal knowledge and great integrity take over this important job. Unfortunately Bob had to step down as our Treasurer couple of years ago because of the advances of multiple sclerosis. However, that has not stopped him in his yearly fundraising efforts for the Multiple Sclerosis Walk. He still continues to be our Team's top fundraiser.

So many people in the Japanese American Community, and many outside our community, have rallied behind Bob's Buddies that even in this bad economy, Bob's Buddies has been able to increase our goal each year, although we still continue to be one of the smaller teams in the Walk. This year Bob's Buddies team of 22 walkers raised \$16,240, thereby continuing to increase the amount raised each year that our Team has participated in the Multiple Sclerosis Walk.

I just wish Bob were here to personally receive this wonderful, well deserved accolade. Thank you for honoring Bob this year as the most inspirational fund raiser/walker.

# FROM THE JAHSSD ARCHIVES...



Can you spot recruit **Gary Kazuo Himaka** shown here with his platoon? Hint: he is the one of five soldiers wearing glasses. (He is second from the left, second row back.) Gary was drafted into the U.S. Army in October 1968 and served until June 1970. He was on the battlefields of Vietnam for fourteen months in 1969 and 1970. Gary earned the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Air Medal, Army Commendation, National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Ribbon (with a star for each of four major battles engaged in) and a Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. He wrote about his wartime experience for the Spring 2005 issue of Footprints. "I came out of the experience with a different perspective on life. I came to realize what was important. I became a different person," he wrote. Gary and his wife **Karen** reside in National City and have two sons, **Todd** and **Garrett**.

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

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(A year's membership includes 4 issues of FOOTPRINTS quarterly newsletter)

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Ad will appear in four consecutive issues. Advance payment required. One-time-only ads available, space permitting. Please provide camera-ready ad or business card. Free design assistance. Make check payable to JAHSSD and mail to: **Footprints Ads, P.O. Box 620988, San Diego, CA 92162-0988.**

JAPANESE AMERICANS IN SAN DIEGO (Susan Hasegawa, JAHSSD ©2008): First-ever pictorial history of San Diego's citizens of Japanese ancestry covers first immigrants, families, communities, occupations, evacuation and internment, postwar resettlement, achievements, past and current organizations.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 + \$1.75 sales tax    ADD \$4.80 postage (Priority Mail)\* = \_\_\_\_\_

DEMOCRACY UNDER PRESSURE (JAHSSD ©2000): The World War II evacuation and incarceration of 2,000 San Diegans of Japanese ancestry as told by two local citizens who lived it. This moving and informative 26 min. documentary is available as a close-captioned DVD, suitable for middle school age and up.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15 (member) + \$1.31 sales tax    \_\_\_\_\_ \$20 (nonmember) + \$1.75 sales tax    ADD \$4.80 postage (Priority Mail)\* = \_\_\_\_\_

TEACHER'S GUIDE to DEMOCRACY UNDER PRESSURE: Updated lesson plans, activities and resource materials for classroom or workshop use.

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BEFORE THE WAR: The Japanese in San Diego (Donald H. Estes): Reprint of the article from Journal of San Diego History.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$5 + \$.44    \_\_\_\_\_ ADD \$4.80 postage (Priority Mail)\* = \_\_\_\_\_

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. With photographs, annotations, index.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$12 + \$1.05 sales tax    ADD \$4.80 postage (Priority Mail)\* = \_\_\_\_\_

MOHAVE LAND: 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.

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LAST DANCE: The 13th Poston III Reunion: 88-page color program booklet from the 2008 reunion held in San Diego includes 10 essays reflecting on camp life.

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DEAR MISS BREED (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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*After a couple of decades without lights, the paper lanterns hanging over the dance circle at the Buddhist Temple's annual Bon Odori: **Festival of Joy** were ceremoniously lit at this year's festival. See story on Page 20.*

JAHSSD is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to recognize the contributions Japanese Americans have made to the San Diego region by preserving and making available artifacts, photographs, and other information chronicling their history and experiences. *Footprints* is JAHSSD's quarterly publication, 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 e-mail [footprintseditor@cox.net](mailto:footprintseditor@cox.net).

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