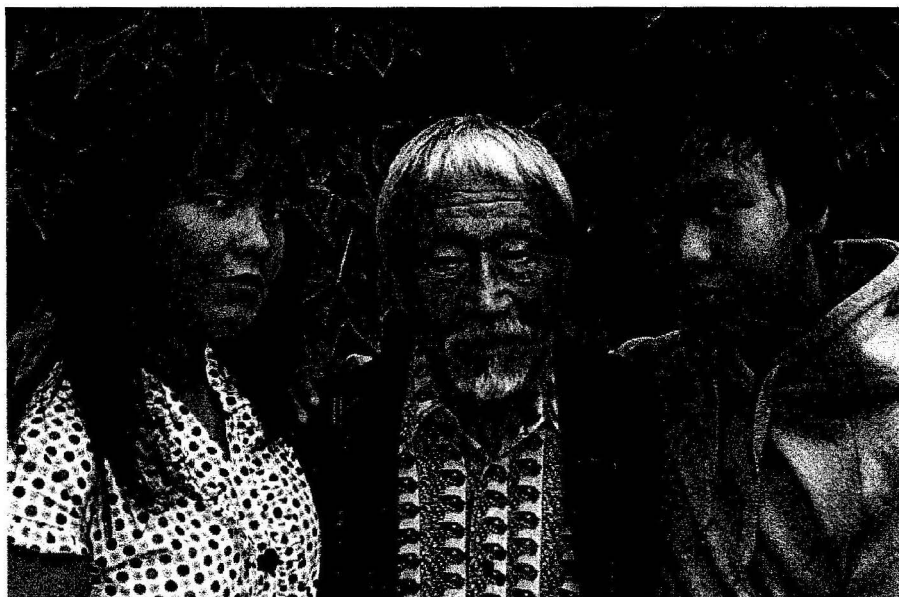


FOOTPRINTS

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

Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego



The late **Shinkichi Tajiri** flanked by his beloved grandchildren, **Tanéa Ferdi** (left) and **Shakaru Shin**. A member of the famed all-Nisei 442 RCT, Shinkichi later studied art in Chicago and Paris. His works are now in public and private collections worldwide. Photo taken August 2008 at Castle Scheres, the Netherlands.

FROM WATTS TO A CASTLE: The Life of Shinkichi Tajiri, December 7, 1923~March 15, 2009

By Elaine Hibi Bowers with Jon H. Bowers

On December 7, 1923, a son was born to **Ryukichi and Fuyo Tajiri**, an immigrant couple living in the Watts neighborhood of Los Angeles, California. This story ends in Castle Scheres halfway around the world in the Netherlands. Between transpires the story of a very special person, **Shinkichi Tajiri**, multi-media artist, who passed away March 15, 2009.

Shinkichi was the fifth of seven children. The Tajiri Family's Japanese ancestry, traceable and verifiable to the Year 270 A.D., was written in beautiful calligraphy on a fragile gold scroll. When lovingly reproduced in a book, the family history occupied 15 pages. Heredity was a strong presence in Shinkichi's art.

Shinkichi's family moved to San Diego before the outbreak of World War II. They were evacuated to Poston Camp III, Arizona, where he met and taught art classes with the sculptor **Isamu Noguchi**. Like many young men, he volunteered for the military out of camp. As a member of the all-Nisei **442nd Regimental Combat Team**, Company M, Shinkichi experienced the horrors of war in Italy, France and Germany, sustaining a leg wound from which rocks and shrapnel remained as an unwelcome souvenir of battle. Thus, his WWII experiences also strongly influenced his work. He hoped for a sense of exorcism of the war through his art.

Fortunately, the G.I. Bill helped provide for Shinkichi's education in 1947-1948 at the Art Institute in Chicago. He had returned to the U.S., but even as a veteran still encountered intolerable prejudice and discrimination for "looking like the enemy." He finally decided to go back to Paris where he was accepted on his merits and never returned to the U.S. to live. In Paris, he studied painting and sculpture for two years with **O. Zadkine** and **F. Leger** at the Academie de la Grande Chaumiere.

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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.

- JULY 18 – JAHSSD Board Retreat** (8 am), Austin Archives
- JULY 25 – “Becoming One With Buddha Every Day,”** lecture
by Rev. Laverne Sasaki, Emeritus (1-2:30 pm), BTSD
Sangha Hall. Free. 619/239-0896
- JULY 25 – VFW CHICKEN DINNER** (4-5:30 pm), BTSD Annex
Hall. \$8 donation. Info: 619/276-2497
- JULY 25 – BTSD/VFW BINGO** (6-9 pm), BTSD Annex Hall.
\$10 buy-in
- JULY 26 – HATSUBON** (9 am), OBON SERVICE (10 am), BTSD
- JULY 29 – MEISHI MIXER SUMMER LUAU** (5:30- 8 pm)
co-sponsored by Asian Business Assn. and JSSDT,
Catamaran Resort. \$15/\$20. Info & RSVP: 858/467-1727
or events@japan-society.org
- AUG. 1 – BON ODORI: Festival of Joy** (5-9 pm), BTSD. Dance,
music, food, kids' crafts, Obon Again Asianwares Shop and
more. Free and public welcome
- AUG. 2 – POVUCC TAG PROJECT/Benefit Chicken Bowl Teriyaki**
Luncheon (12 noon), Fellowship Hall. 619/233-3920
- AUG. 15 – FESTIVAL of the AUGUST MOON** (5-9 pm) JFG.
Includes dinner, tribute to Agnes Benson, entertainment,
silent auction. \$55/\$60. Info: 619/232-2721
- AUG. 15 & 16 – TEMPLE RUMMAGE SALE** (Sat. 8 am-3 pm;
Sun. 8 am-noon), BTSD
- AUG. 22 – ZENBU TAG PROJECT ACTIVITY & POTLUCK**
(11 am) featuring artist Wendy Maruyama, BTSD Annex Hall.
Free. Bring a dish to share. RSVP: 619/527-7855
- AUG. 23 – BTSD GOLF TOURNAMENT**, Eastlake CC
- AUG. 29 – BTSD/VFW BINGO** (6-9 pm), BTSD Annex Hall.
\$10 buy-in
- SEPT. 20 – KEIRO KAI LUNCHEON** honoring elders (12 noon),
BTSD Annex Hall
- SEPT. 26 – BINGO BENEFIT DINNER** featuring Mom's Meatloaf
(4:30-5:45 pm), BTSD Annex Hall. \$8 donation
- SEPT. 26 – BTSD/VFW BINGO** (6-9 pm), BTSD Annex Hall.
\$10 buy-in
- OCT. 10 – JAHSSD ANNUAL MEETING/2009 Kansha Awards**
(10 am-2 pm), BTSD Annex Hall. Free program. Bento
reservations: 619/660-0174

*Please support the businesses and
organizations that partner with
and support JAHSSD!*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Gwen Momita, Board President

Dear Friends,

I'm consistently amazed and gratified to see how much we can accomplish when the community works together. The following three examples explain what I mean.

First, the **Community Interfaith Service**, held May 25, Memorial Day, at Mt. Hope Cemetery, once again was a meaningful event. Two Christian churches and the Buddhist Temple, joined by numerous civic organizations, offered a fitting tribute to the men and women who sacrificed all for their country. The **Japanese American Veterans Memorial**, itself a testament to this community's commitment, served as the ideal focal point for the day. (See photos and a related informational article regarding Mt. Hope Cemetery in this issue).

Secondly, JAHSSD is now developing plans for a major Japanese American Veterans exhibit which will open November 8 at the Veteran's Museum in Balboa Park. We are grateful to the following organizations for their financial support of this educational endeavor:

Asian Pacific VFW Post 4851

San Diego Chapter of the JACL

San Diego City College World Cultures Department

More information will be forthcoming soon.

Lastly, the **Buddhist Temple of San Diego** and JAHSSD will partner in supporting local artist and SDSU professor **Wendy Maruyama** and her ongoing "Tag Project." Wendy's goal is to replicate the identification tags worn by each of the 120,000 individuals of Japanese ancestry upon entering one of the ten internment camps during WWII. I'm certain we as a community will eagerly step forward and support this inspirational project. To learn more about how you can help with the Tag Project, see the article in this issue of *Footprints*.

Thanks to each of you who participated, or will participate, in these events. I look forward to seeing you out there, making a difference while working together.

SAVE THE DATE!

JAHSSD's

**ANNUAL LUNCHEON MEETING
& 2009 KANSHA AWARDS**



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

OUR FOCUS WILL BE

JAPANESE AMERICANS IN THE MILITARY



KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

LANE NISHIKAWA

DIRECTOR OF

"ONLY THE BRAVE"

JAHSSD PLANNING MAJOR EXHIBITION ON JA MILITARY

The Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego will tell the stories of military members who are of Japanese descent in a special exhibition at the **Veterans Memorial and Museum** in Balboa Park. The exhibition will enjoy a six-month run at the museum from November 8, 2009 to June 1, 2010.

The exhibition 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 military personnel in general.

The core of the exhibition will be 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/442nd battalions will share their stories.

Women veterans will not be excluded, and the activities of those on the home front will be explained.

Support of this exhibition comes from the **Asian Pacific Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 4851**, the **San Diego Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League**, and the **San Diego City College World Cultures Program**.

An opening reception, hosted by the **Asian Pacific VFW Post 4851**, will take place November 8 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the museum.

For more information, contact JAHSSD at jahssd@sbcglobal.net. Details of the exhibition and attendant programs will be included in the Fall Issue of *Footprints*.

JAHSSD NOMINATED FOR ASIAN HERITAGE AWARD

For the second time, JAHSSD has been nominated for an **Asian Heritage Award** in the category of Cultural Preservation. Other nominees in the Cultural Preservation category this year are the Filipino American Library, House of China San Diego, Buu-Van A. J. Rasi, and three dance organizations: Pakaraguan Kulintang Ensemble, San Diego Chinese Folk Dance Ensemble and Heilili Polynesian Revue.

The awards were created six years ago by **ASIA, The Journal of Culture and Commerce**, to honor the heritage and achievement in the local Asian Pacific Islander community. The 2009 awards will be given at a gala aboard the USS Midway on July 25. This year's theme is "Legacy and Legends" and includes a salute to the Armed Forces and in particular to Major Gen. Antonio Taguba. Gala proceeds will benefit the **Asian Heritage Society** which cosponsors the awards.

For the sixth year, individuals, businesses and organizations in several categories are nominated by ASIA's readers. Winners were determined by an online vote conducted during the month of June.

Nominees for the Asian Heritage Awards used to be exclusive to San Diego, but since ASIA expanded its readership north to Los Angeles County, the nominations have been opened up to any individuals or groups including national organizations. A local individual might find herself competing against the national organization of which she is a member, as in the case of Calif. Deputy Attorney General **Erika Hiramatsu**. Hiramatsu, a board member of the **San Diego Chapter of the JACL**, finds herself pitted against the National JACL, founded in 1929, in the Legal category.

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 June 17, 2009.

ROY ASAKI
and AETNA FOUNDATION

ASIAN PACIFIC VFW POST 4851
Veterans Photo Restoration Project

LINDA CANADA
In memory of DONALD ESTES

JEANETTE DUTTON

MICHIKO EGUCHI

KAREN FUJIKAWA HART
LAURENCE M. HART
In memory of MIKE KAWAMOTO

SUSAN HASEGAWA

MICHIO AND NAOMI HIMAKA
In honor of birth of grandson
TREVOR WILLIAM HIMAKA

SAN DIEGO JACL
Veterans Museum Exhibition Project

TONI KASTELIC
In memory of DON ESTES

EDWARD K. KUBOTA
(Two gifts)

ROY MURAOKA and SABURO MURAOKA FUND
Annual gift to organizations preserving Japanese Culture

STEPHENS N. SATO
In memory of NOBUKO SATO

YUKIKO SUGIYAMA

JAMES, JUNE & YOSHIKO TAJIRI
In memory of SHINKICHI TAJIRI

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.*

IRIS KONISHI

Sept. 5, 1927 ~ February 23, 2009

SAM "GOOCH" YAMAGUCHI

August 11, 1924 ~ March 7, 2009

DENA EMIKO ENDO

January 11, 1977 ~ March 13, 2009

EDGAR AKIKAZU SHIMAMOTO

January 21, 1922 ~ March 28, 2009

YOSHIKO KAWATO

Sept. 2, 1919 ~ March 28, 2009

MICHIKO BUNGE

July 9, 1932 ~ March 31, 2009

NOBUKO SATO

November 29, 1910 ~ April 4, 2009

JUDI SHIGEKO SHINOHARA

October 5, 1928 ~ April 18, 2009

SHIMAKO UDA

July 30, 1922 ~ April 26, 2009

BERNICE AYAKO KODAMA

June 26, 1924 ~ June 8, 2009

TERESA NAKAHARA APPEL

1933 ~ June 9, 2009

GUADALUPE G. KAMIURA

April 20, 1925 ~ June 13, 2009



*Taisuke Yasukochi is the man on the left in the white flat cap.
This photograph was taken at his San Luis Rey Valley farm in 1933.*

BUILDING CONNECTIONS WITH THE NORTH COUNTY

by Linda Canada

Just as families and friends sometimes fall out of communication, occasionally that happens with organizations, too. On March 30, volunteers at the Austin Drive archives were treated to a rebuilding of a connection with the Yasukochi family of the San Luis Rey Valley.

Donal Yasukochi had made contact with JAHSSD through our website to inquire about the availability of photographs of his family's farm in Oceanside. Primarily growers of tomatoes and strawberries, the Yasukochis market their produce in the system of Farmers Markets that meet in various locations throughout San Diego County.

An interesting community outreach in which Donal is involved is called "Farmer in the Classroom" which is a program of the Los Angeles Unified School District. In the five years that he has participated in the program, Donal has brought plants, fruits and vegetables, fertilizer, and beneficial bugs into the classrooms of underprivileged youth from kindergarten to sixth grade to educate the children about farming.

Donal and volunteer **Ben Segawa** spent an hour or so going through photographs in our collection. The first file Donal took out of the box contained a photograph of his grandfather, **Taisuke Yasukochi**, out in the field! With Ben's history in the farm supply business, Donal and Ben spent a happy hour catching up about mutual friends and acquaintances in the North County.

Making (and maintaining) connections within the Japanese American community is one of the happy byproducts of the work done by the Historical Society. Why not plan a visit to the archives to see what you might find there?

TARO MATSUI EXHIBIT AT KG

If you missed seeing the display about **Taro Matsui** and his watch shop created by the **Lin sisters** during their internship last summer, you have another chance! The materials are now on exhibit at **Kiku Gardens** Senior Housing, 1260 Third St., Chula Vista.

According to information supplied by **Fudo Takagi** in last quarter's *Footprints*, Taro was considered the best watch technician in San Diego if you needed a spring-wound watch repaired.

You'll see some of Taro's watch repairman tools and equipment in our exhibition, together with memorabilia from his many decades of involvement with Buddhist Temple of San Diego.

WABI SABI: WHAT'S NEW AT THE AUSTIN ARCHIVES

By Linda A. Canada, Archivist

There have been some interesting inquiries coming into the JAHSSD website over the last three months, some of them leading to some great new connections being made.

During the spring, we were contacted by a producer from New York who was doing the preliminary work for a film biography of **Kristi Yamaguchi**. Did you know that this world-class figure skater had grandparents who lived in San Diego? At the same time, I worked with a woman who was trying to find an appropriate museum home for an item given to the commanding officer of the Destroyer Base in San Diego in the 1960s. Researching both of these requests was possible due to the work of many volunteers in organizing and maintaining our collections.

We also had an inquiry from the **Yasukochi** family of Oceanside whose member, Donal, was scheduled to give a talk to school children and who wanted to know whether we had family photos in our archives. This was a particularly exciting contact, since one of the things we have not been able to do since **Don Estes'** death in 2005 is maintain the contacts he created with Japanese Americans in the north part of San Diego County. In late March, **Donal Yasukochi** came into the archives to look at our many photos of his family, and we not only made a loan, we made strides in reestablishing our relationship with this important North County family.

Relationships are at the heart of the work that we do. Donors need to trust us to handle their objects and donations appropriately. For volunteers, it is the relationships that develop as they work together that bring them back to help with additional tasks. We are able to accomplish the many exhibitions and public programs that we do because we have demonstrated to the historical and museum community that we are trustworthy and capable of performing what we set out to do.

We are in the enviable position of having people find us to get help with their research needs. Isn't it great that we have the volunteers and the time to help them? It is because of our hundreds of donors and supporters that we are able to do this work. Thank you!

KANSHA AWARD NOMINATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

JAHSSD members are invited to nominate local individuals for the **2009 Kansha Award**, which each year recognizes those who have made extraordinary contributions to the well-being of the community through selfless dedication and service.

Names and a brief description should be e-mailed to Lcanada509@aol.com or mailed to the Kansha Awards Committee c/o JAHSSD by August 1, 2009.

You may also phone any JAHSSD Board member (contact info on the back cover) with your nominations.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

By Sumiyo E. Kastelic, Membership Coordinator

Having spent a few months now trying to fill **Naomi Himaka's** shoes, I want to acknowledge the time and effort she devoted to JAHSSD in maintaining the membership rolls in addition to everything else she does for the organization. A special thank you to her for always being available to answer questions and help me out.

We extend a special welcome to the following individuals who have become new members since the last edition of *Footprints*: **Honorable Gale Kaneshiro & James Pullen**; **Aiko Morishita** (gift of **Ruth Morishita**); **Mary Ann Fujii McClain** (gift of **Frances Uyesaka**); and **Pete Kirchmer** (gift of **Edward Kubota**).

We appreciate the following renewals which were received as a result of contacts made while Naomi was still Membership Chair: **Michi & Isamu Akamatsu**, **Iona Batchelder**, **John Bucher**, **Madeline Clogston**, **Joseph Correia**, **Ruth Fujimoto**, **Taye Hashiguchi**, **Holly & Ronald Hiding**, **Setsuko Himaka**, **Sasako & Tetsuo Himaka**, **Louise Iguchi**, **Carol & Kenji Ii**, **Emi & Miyoshi Ikeda**, **Emiko & Lloyd Ito**, **Karin & Kenn Kashima**, **Carrie & Jon Kawamoto**, **Tami & Frank Kinoshita**, **Eiji Kiya**, **Kuniko & Harold Kuhn**, **Kathleen & Robert Lui**, **Theresa & Ray Mayeda**, **Linda McLemore**, **Judy & Ken Miyamoto**, **Ruth Morishita**, **Chieko Moriyama**.

Also: **Chiyo Nakagawa**, **Fred Nakatani**, **Kuniko Nishimura**, **Jane & Charles Ogino**, **Jean Okazaki**, **Terri & Ford Omori**, **Kenji Sato**, **Beverly & Taka Sawasaki**, **Larry & Irene Shimamoto**, **Hideko Shimasaki**, **Fusa Shimizu**, **Shizuko Shinzaki**, **Liz Suhama**, **Allyne & Les Tachiki**, **Nobe Takashima**, **Cookie Taniguchi**, **Mitsue Tanaka**, **Anna Marie & Carl Thompson, Jr.**, **Aki & Steve Tomiyama**, **Stephen Yahiro**, **Florence Yamashita**, **Yuri & James Yamate**.

February renewals: **Jeanette Dutton**, **Karen & Dwayne Eto**, **Michele & Ty Hoffman**, **Jeanie Kashima**, **Pauline & Sam Nakamura**, **Yuri Owens**, **Fudo Takagi**, **Kiyoye Bene Takahashi**, **Grace Takeuchi**, and **Mary Yamada**. March: **Misako & Harry Honda**, **Therese James**, **Masako Shima**, **Elsie & Gene Shimamoto**, **Nancy Shimamoto & Dan Collins**, **Karen & George Shinzaki**, and **Kiyo Uda**. April: **Tom Arata**, **Tsutomu Date**, **Michiko Eguchi**, **Ryo & Jim Hashiguchi**, **Dick Jensen**, **Larry Kida**, **Patricia & Allan Koba**, **Roslyn & Glen Masumoto**, **Ritsuko Nabeta**, **Janice & Wilbur Shigehara**, **Helen & Richard Takashima**, **Kiyoko Takemoto**, **Takao Takeuchi**, **Frances Uyesaka**, and **Mr. & Mrs. George Wakiji**. May: **Tim Asamen**, **June & Thomas Hamada**, **William Hashiguchi**, **Sakie Kawahara**, **Peggy & Tyler Tanaka** and **Hesaa Takahashi**.

I welcome any membership suggestions or inquiries at (760) 632-8386.

DEBRA M. KAWAHARA, PH.D.

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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.

Your Help Is Valuable!

Thanks to the following dedicated volunteers who helped with the set up and break down of the **Beauty in Captivity** exhibition at San Diego City College which closed May 21, 2009: **Valerie Abe, Mits & Yuki Kawamoto, Beverly & Taka Sawasaki, Po Kaneyuki, Susan Hasegawa and Ben & Grace Segawa.**

For Asian Pacific Heritage Month at Mesa College, **Yosh Kawahara** took the initiative to arrange a poster exhibition on JA history at the Learning Resource Center.

Our appreciation to **Gwen Momita and Linda Canada** who set up the **Taro Matsui** exhibition at Kiku Gardens. **Yuki & Mits Kawamoto** took the extra step of delivering our two exhibition cases to Kiku where they are being used for the display.

Speaking of Kiku Gardens, our ongoing participation in their Friday Senior Lunch program would not be possible without the roll-up-your-sleeves-and-get-to-it attitude of folks like those who helped "head chef" **Hisae Batchelder** put together a tasty lunch on June 5: **Yuri Tam, Linda Yamano, Jeanne Elyea and Jocelyn Cerrillo.** Hisae will also be coordinating our next KG lunch on August 4 and plans something special, so be sure not to miss out on the best \$3 meal in town. Thank you, all!

Naomi Himaka deserves a shout out for continuing to pick up and sort the mail from our P.O. box in spite of having retired as our Membership Chair. She probably can drive there with her eyes closed, that's how long she has been taking care of this important weekly task for us.

Speakers Bureau

Members who made recent presentations to a variety of college and high school groups include the following:

- **Liz Yamada and Ben Segawa** at **Merne Aste's** Introduction to Diversity class at SDSU on April 10. **Linda Canada, Gwen Momita and Grace Segawa** also attended. The students in the class are all future teachers.

- **Susan Hasegawa and Linda Canada** coordinated a question and answer session at the Women's History Museum after a showing of UCLA's 13-minute film, "Dear Miss Breed," as part of that museum's celebration of Asian Pacific Heritage Month.

Susan and Linda also spoke at San Diego City College last April on methods to preserve your heritage.

- **Yuki Kawamoto and Jim Yanagihara** spoke to **Lisa Hendricks' AVID** class and 120 history students at Torrey Pines High School on May 18.

Recent Gifts and Donations

Susan Hasegawa, who authored *Japanese Americans in San Diego* for JAHSSD last year, has donated all the royalties from the book sales to JAHSSD. We are very grateful for this and to her many ongoing contributions to the Society.

Thank you also to the following for their recent gifts:

- **Valerie Abe** - Magazine files which will help keep our growing collection organized.

- **Yuki Kawamoto** - A dolly to help us move our artifacts around.

- **Roy Muraoka** - A rolled copy of Executive Order 9066; 1973 San Diego Buddhist Church telephone directory; photos from the Gakuen monument dedication in Chula Vista.

- **Bert Tanaka, Jr.** - DVD labeled "Alton Chung" containing interesting and valuable information about Japanese Americans.

- **Steve Sato** (in memory of **Nobuko Sato**) - Twelve panoramic group photos, most relating to the **Japanese Congregational Church.**

- The **Mary Iguchi and Takeguchi** families - Wooden stool made in camp.

- **Fudo Takagi** - A model airplane engine used at Poston III.

Contributions to Footprints

The Editors are very grateful to the following (non-regular) contributors for stories, information and photographs used this issue: **Aya Ibarra, Carol Estes, David Lugo, Elaine Hibi Bowers, Jaime Enochs, Jon Bowers, Giotta Tajiri, Harry Landon, Japan Society of San Diego & Tijuana, Jeanne Elyea, Jim Tajiri, Keiko Lopez, Mike Inoue, Nobuko Kemmotsu, Pat Takeshita, Patricia Kiyono, Ritsu Nabeta, Sachi Nishida, Takashi Saito.**

OLD J-TOWN WALKING TOURS

Most tourists and even long-time San Diegans who enjoy the upscale eateries and nighttime activities offered in downtown San Diego's so-called Gaslamp area have no idea that this is where Japanese businesses and families thrived prior to WWII.

One of the activities JAHSSD has been coordinating over the past several years is a walking tour of San Diego's Old Japanese Town. Members of our Speakers Bureau—**Mich Himaka, Yuki Kawamoto and Jim Yanagihara**—who lived in San Diego prior to their 1942 evacuation lead a group on foot over several blocks, pointing out landmarks. They tell stories about what the city looked like when they were growing up, what life was like in the 1930s and '40s, about their families' businesses, where they went to school and where they lived and played.



Sometimes those participating on the tour are former J-Town residents themselves who want to take the tour for nostalgic reasons. They often contribute to the experience with their own remembrances and revelations.

The morning tour has usually concluded with an optional lunch at a downtown eatery that evokes that old-time feel. Until recently, the **Sun Cafe**, established by the **Obayashis** "back in the day," offered American standards with a mix of Japanese and Chinese standards through several owners. But earlier this year, the neon sign was removed and "Sun Cafe" painted over by new owners who have changed the menu to Mexican food.

(Continued on Page 7)

(OLD J-TOWN WALKING TOURS continued from Page 6)



Mich reports he recently took some out-of-towners on the Old J-Town tour and they ended up at **Nicky Rotten's Hamburgers** where the Kawamoto Family's **Frisco Cafe** once stood. Located on Fifth Avenue just south of Market Street, the main elements of the original restaurant are still recognizable, the proprietors are nice and Mich says the burgers are dee-licious!

The free walking tours are offered once or twice a year and the number of walkers who can join is limited. Readers interested in signing up for the next one can call JAHSSD (619/660-0174) and leave your name and phone number, or e-mail jahssd@sbcglobal.net indicating you would like to be notified when the next tour is scheduled.

MT. HOPE CEMETERY OPENS NEW DIVISION

By David Lugo and Gwen Momita

Mt. Hope Cemetery is pleased to announce the opening of a new division located directly north of the Japanese American Veterans Memorial.

For the first time in many years, new locations allowing for cremain and full-body burial have been developed near this important and historic Old-Japanese area.

The new section allows for monuments, uprights and flat markers, with many options to create family plots, if desired. Because Mt. Hope is a San Diego Municipal cemetery, it is supported by taxes. Therefore, prices are fixed at affordable City Resident and Non-Resident rates.

The Cemetery staff is excited about the new division and looks forward to enhancing the offerings and services to the community. For information regarding this new area, please call Mt. Hope Cemetery at (619) 527-3400 or stop by and visit.

Due to the high interest in this new division, an appointment is recommended, though not necessary. For a limited time, Saturday appointments made in advance will also be available. To help make your estate planning easier, two-year payment plans are available at 0% interest.

For further information, contact **M. David Lugo**, San Diego Cemetery Manager, City of San Diego, 3751 Market Street MS#072, San Diego, CA 92102.

CELEBRATIONS!



On February 7, 2009, **Wendy Chizu Nakamura** (above left) was given the professional name "Kakushu" (Japanese *tsuru* or crane) by Washu Sensei **Kazuko Reynolds**. The honor is a teaching license marking the completion of a 10-year course of study in Sumi-e, Japanese brush painting.

On April 30, 2009, **Brendan Tanaka**, graduating sixth grader at Thurgood Marshall Elementary School, received the Chula Vista Masonic Award for citizenship. Recipients are selected by teachers at each school in the district. Looking on proudly were parents **Dr. Brian & Maria Tanaka** and grandfather **Dr. Francis Tanaka**.

Congratulations to **Justin Bacheller**, grandson of **Liz and Joe Yamada**, on receiving a \$2000 Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival Community Scholarship. Justin is planning to attend Brown University in the Fall, majoring in neuroscience. Justin created a program in the Lafayette, California area to raise money and supplies to send to U.S. soldiers in Iraq. He has also been awarded a Diablo Magazine Thread of Hope award and the Coldwell Banker Kids in our Community award.

Grandbabies Galore

© **Trevor William Himaka** born April 1, 2009 to **Keith & Dawn Himaka**. Grandparents: **William & Barbara Jenkins** and **Michio & Naomi Himaka**. (For related story, see Mazegohan, Page 10.)
 © **Sage Seymour** born June 23, 2009 to **Sean & Leslie Seymour**. Grandparents on Mom's side: **Lee & Susan Moribe**.
 © **Carina Aiyama Womack** born June 30, 2009 to **Billy & Lisa Womack**. Grandparents: **Carolyn Ochi Tsuida** and **Warren & Danita Womack**, Great Grandparents: **Mas & Grace Tsuida**.

Glad for the Grads

Congratulations to the following San Diego area graduates listed by high school: **High Tech**: **Neg Oka**; **Hilltop**: **Kevin Okamoto**, **Carol Taira**, **Daniele Torimaru**, **Alex Torio**; **La Jolla**: **Ellie Fujimoto**; **Mira Mesa**: **Naomi Vogt**; **Morse**: **Tina Kobayashi**; **Mt. Carmel**: **Kevin Fujii**; **Patrick Henry**: **Melanie Himaka**; **Steele Canyon**: **Jessica Himaka**; **Torrey Pines**: **Cameron Shimizu**; **Westview**: **Sara Matsumoto**.

Congratulations to these recent college graduates: **Biola**: **Elna Oka Park**; **Notre Dame**: **Warren Scott**; **San Diego State University**: **Mieko Arai**; **UC-Berkeley**: **Christina Samons**, **Kimi Schell**; **UC-Merced**: **Nick Nakamura**; **UCSD**: **Daniel Sugimura**; and **University of San Diego**: **Chelsea Kott**.

PICTORIALS HIGHLIGHT SO. CAL JA COMMUNITIES

By Joyce Nabeta Teague

The following book review was originally written for ASIA: Journal of Culture and Commerce last Spring. The article is a place holder this issue for Joyce's regular Chanko Nabe column.

Arcadia Publishing has released two new books in its Images of America series which focus on Southern California Japanese Americans (JAs). Both books cover early immigration, setting down roots, forced evacuation from the west coast following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and the subsequent postwar resettlement.

Dale Ann Sato's *Japanese Americans of the South Bay* refers to those of Japanese ancestry (Nikkei) living in Los Angeles County communities south of the city of Los Angeles. Included among others are Gardena, Torrance, Lomita, Dominguez Hills and Palos Verdes. The book is based on oral histories collected by the **Japanese American Historical Mapping Project (JAHMP)** which Sato founded after realizing there are still gaps in historical research on the Issei, or first-generation Japanese immigrants.

The first Issei in California were often contract farm, railroad or mine workers recruited from impoverished parts of Japan. When some of the jobs proved too dangerous or short-lived, these immigrants turned to truck farming, fishing, shopkeeping and entrepreneurial efforts to earn a living. Prevented by California's alien land laws from owning or leasing land, Issei managed to do so in the names of their U.S.-born offspring.

Unlike the Nikkei living in Los Angeles' concentrated Little Tokyo, those who settled in the South Bay were part of a large, diverse community and could not depend on location to provide racial or ethnic boundaries.

Vintage photographs in the 128-page book came from the albums of over 50 South Bay families as well as museums, historical societies and educational institutions. Sato would like her book to inspire other Nikkei to make their photographs available to historical societies and research organizations to enrich JA visual history.

San Diego's own "South Bay" refers to its coastal communities just north of the Mexican border and south of downtown San Diego. **Susan Hasegawa's** book, *Japanese Americans in San Diego*, however, includes families living throughout San Diego County.

The arresting cover of *Japanese Americans in San Diego* depicts an elderly Issei man seated with several small children in his care in an enclave known as **Fish Camp** during pre-World War II years. Their parents were likely away on tuna fishing boats based in San Diego Bay or working in a nearby fish cannery. The image is from the large photo archive of the **Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego (JAHSSD)** from which this pictorial history is drawn.

Hasegawa, a professor of history and political science at San Diego City College, wrote the book for JAHSSD using their photographs centered around regional occupations like farming and fishing; community activities; the Nisei (second generation); internment; and Nikkei in the military. Hasegawa also points out noteworthy contributions to the commercial fishing and farming industries that were pioneered by local Nikkei. The final chapter of the book, titled "Creating a Legacy," describes the cultural traditions which the fading Nisei generation hopes younger generations will consider worth preserving.

Both books serve as significant introductions to the JA population of each region.

ANOTHER "MYSTERY OF HISTORY" SOLVED, PARTIALLY



This portion of a 1960s-era photograph too large for our scanner was featured in "From the JAHSSD Archives" on Page 22 of the Winter 2008/Spring 2009 Issue. Thanks to **Marilou Seki**, some of the former **Miyako Restaurant** waitresses in the photo have been identified. Can anyone fill in the following blanks?

Waitresses from left to right: **Susie Cravens**, _____, "Squeaky" **Keiko Mason**, Mitsue (Mitzi) _____, _____ Kawasaki, Jeannie _____.

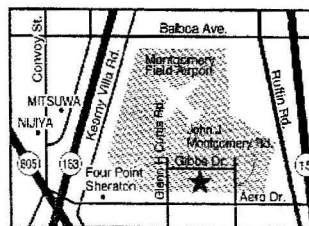
Don't all those blank spaces bother you? They do us! if you can recall more of these ladies' names, or if you have remembrances you'd like to share of this long-time favorite but now-defunct restaurant, call the Archives, (619) 660-0174. or e-mail **Linda Canada** at Lcanada509@aol.com.

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FOLLOWING HIS BELIEFS LED HIM TO MANZANAR

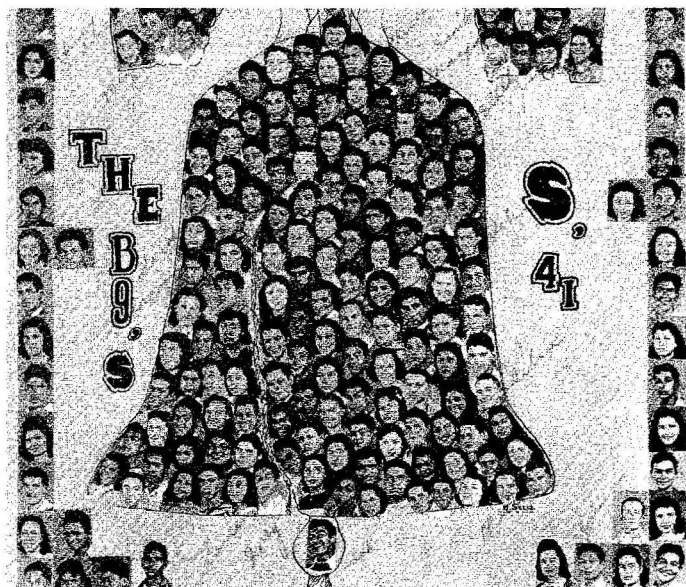
This article appeared in the Belmont High School Alumni News in Winter 2008 and is reprinted here with the kind permission of president and editor Harry Landon. It has been edited for length.

Manzanar, California, May 1942. It's a warm morning at the dusty, inhospitable World War II internment camp on the bleak edge of the Owens Valley. Latino teenager **Ralph Lazo** arrives by bus to join his Japanese American friends from Belmont High School.

Lazo, a 16-year-old Mexican-Irish American, was motivated by loyalty and outraged at the internment of his friends. He became the only known non-spouse, non-Japanese who voluntarily relocated to Manzanar.

"Who can say I haven't got Japanese blood in my veins?" Lazo told the Los Angeles Times in a 1981 interview. The Los Angeles Unified School District recognized Lazo's act of friendship and loyalty last week as the Board of Education presented his relatives with a certificate for his contributions to the Japanese American community.

Lazo was "an individual who showed courage. He stood up for his neighbors, doing the right thing at a difficult time," said **John Esaki**, who wrote and directed the 2004 film "Stand Up for Justice: The Ralph Lazo Story."



*Cropped page from 1941 Central Jr. High School yearbook.
Lazo is the bell clapper (circled). Image courtesy of **Ritsu Nabeta***

"This a story has been told hundreds of times, but never through the eyes of a Mexican American. He was legendary, winning the hearts of everyone at Manzanar, and it was hard to ignore such a powerful and enduring character."

The film was produced by Visual Communications, an Asian Pacific media arts center, and funded by the California Civil Liberties Public Education Project. It recreates the period after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. More than two months later, on Feb. 19, 1942, President Roosevelt signed an executive order for the internment of 120,000 Japanese Americans on the West Coast, believing them to be a threat to national security.

Lazo, who was born in Los Angeles in 1925, grew up in the Temple Street neighborhood on Bunker Hill, a melting pot of Japanese, Basques, Jews, Latinos. Anglos, Filipinos, Koreans and African Americans.

As he watched posters go up in community churches giving instructions for the internment process, "it really hit home," he told the Times in 1981. Anger overwhelmed him as he helped his friends hurriedly sell their belongings for a pittance. "Internment was immoral," he said. "It was wrong, and I couldn't accept it."

His father, **John Houston Lazo**, was a widower who supported Ralph and his sister, **Virginia**, by working for the Santa Fe Railroad and painting houses. When his father was on the road, Ralph Lazo often ate at the homes of Nisei friends — second-generation Japanese Americans. He also played basketball on a Filipino community church team.

In May 1942, prodded by Japanese American classmates "to come along," Lazo slipped aboard a train. He'd told his father that he was going to camp with his Japanese American friends but was vague about the particulars.

"I think he thought I meant weekend camp," Lazo told the Times. But when his father learned that his son was at Manzanar, he made no effort to bring him home.

"He was a wise man," Lazo said, "He knew I was safe."

No government official asked about his ancestry, he said. "Being brown has its advantages."

Despite Manzanar's name, Spanish for "apple orchard," the area had been left barren decades earlier when Owens Valley water was diverted to Los Angeles. But Lazo helped to make the place as attractive as possible by planting trees. He also delivered mail and kept spirits up by holding holiday parties that featured punch, deviled egg sandwiches and the **Jive Bombers**, the camp's dance band. He even played cupid, matchmaking several friends, according to filmmaker Esaki.

"He was enthusiastic. He spoke a little Japanese and was a cheerleader who fired up the crowd at all the sporting events," Esaki said.

Lazo told the Times that camp inmates tried to make the best of their situation. "We didn't just sit around and complain," he said. "In the summer, the heat was unbearable; in the winter the sparsely rationed oil didn't adequately heat the tarpaper-covered pine barracks with the knotholes in the floor. The wind would blow so hard, it would toss rocks around."

When everything looked grim, **Toyo Miyatake**, renowned photographer who captured poignant scenes at Manzanar with his contraband home-made camera, "would always point out the beauty around us," Lazo said.

In 1944, Lazo was elected class president of Manzanar High School, even though he graduated at the bottom of a class of 150. "I didn't mind being at the bottom of that group," he told the Times.

Government officials finally realized Lazo was not Japanese-American when he was drafted in August 1944. The U.S. Department of the Interior's War Relocation Authority touted the fact with a news release: "America's only non-Japanese evacuee, Ralph Lazo...of Los Angeles will leave Manzanar Relocation Center soon to join the United States Army."

In fact, there were other non-Japanese at internment camps — spouses of Japanese Americans and Japanese citizens.

Army Staff Sgt. Lazo served in the South Pacific during the campaign for the liberation of the Philippines.

"The American G.I. couldn't tell the difference between a Japanese and a Filipino. That's why they assigned me." Soldiers "were killing the Filipinos and letting the Japanese go," he told The Times. He was awarded a Bronze Star for heroism in combat.

After the war, Lazo graduated from UCLA and earned a master's degree from Cal State Northridge. He became a teacher and joined the struggle to win reparations for Japanese Americans, helping raise funds for [a] threatened class-action lawsuit.

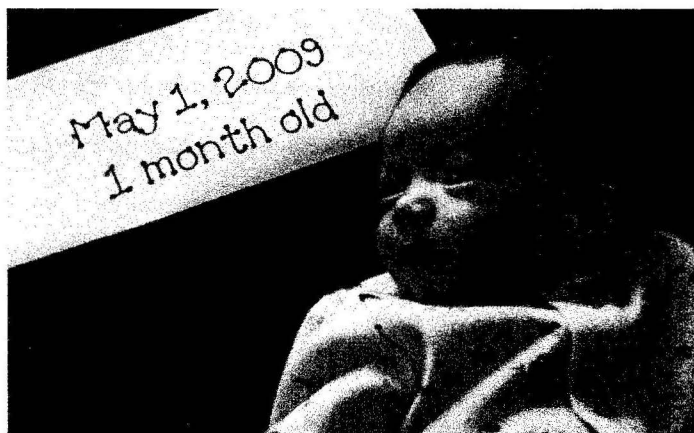
(Continued on Page 14)

May 1, 2009

MAZEGOHAN

By Mich Himaka

At my advanced age of 77, I never thought I would ever get to celebrate the birth of a grandchild. Lo and behold! At 6:57 a.m. on April 1, 2009, our daughter-in-law, Dawn Jenkins Himaka, delivered a beautiful, 6 lbs., 15 oz. boy she and our son, Keith, named Trevor William Himaka. It was no April Fool's joke and we will never consider Trevor an April Fool. I wrote Dawn and Keith a letter of thanks telling them Trevor was the best gift Naomi and I would ever receive and that they never again would have to give me any kind of gift for future birthdays, Christmas, Father's Day or whatever. I will treasure this gift of life forever, however long that may be. On Trevor's first-month birthday, I wrote him a letter for myself and Naomi and I opt out of writing this column by sharing our thoughts with you.



Trevor at one month old

Of course, your one-month-old birthday celebration today means that your Grandma and Grandpa Himaka also are celebrating with Grandma and Grandpa Jenkins our first month as grandparents.

Yes, your presence has made this "a wonderful world."

WONDERFUL WORLD

*I see trees of green, red roses, too.
I see them bloom for me and you.
And I think to myself, WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD.
I see skies of blue and clouds of white.
The bright blessed day, the dark sacred night.
And I think to myself, WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD
The colors of the rainbow so pretty in the sky,
Are also on the faces of people going by,
I see friends shaking hands saying, "How do you do?"
They're really saying, "I LOVE YOU!"
I hear babies cry, I watch them grow.
They'll learn much more than I'll ever know.
And I think to myself, WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD!
Yes, I think to myself, WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD!!*

These are our exact sentiments, Trevor William, as we celebrate your first month with us.

Happy Birthday!!

With all our love,
Grandpa and Grandma Himaka

Dear Trevor William,

Happy birthday, Trevor "Weeyum!" (That's just a little nickname Grandpa came up with as I sat at my computer thinking of what I would like to write you on your first month birthday.)

While we waited for you to join us that Wednesday morning, April 1, 2009, at Sharp Mary Birch Hospital, I thought, "What kind of troubled world will we leave for our precious grandbaby?"

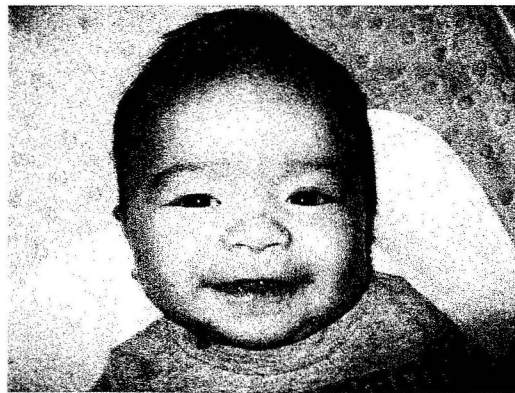
You know what? When Daddy came out to tell us that your Mommy delivered us a grandson, all our worries, all our troubles just seemed to melt away.

It's amazing how such a tiny (6 lbs., 15 oz, 19 inches) little man like yourself can make such a big world like ours seem so much better, so much nicer, so much more beautiful. You and all your other little brothers and sisters born with you worldwide at 6:57 a.m. on April 1, 2009, truly made this "a wonderful world."

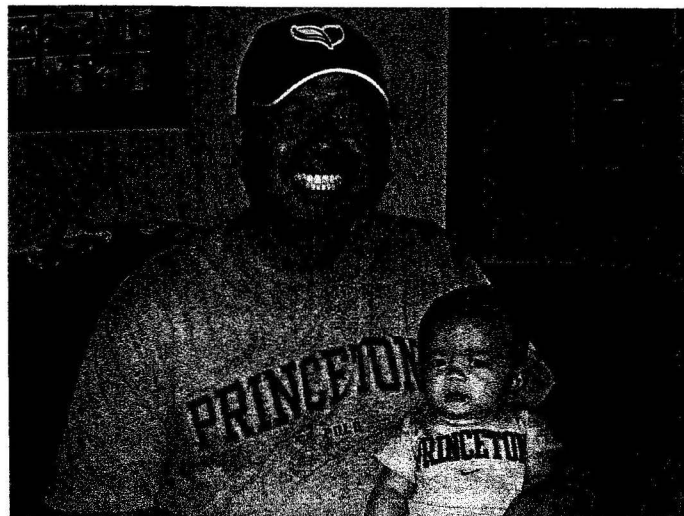
Many things have happened in the one month that you've been with us. You have grown up before our eyes and how! Mommy told us today that you weigh 9 lbs., 8 oz. and measured 22 inches! That's really wonderful!!

You tell little **Tim-bo Ellingson**, "Look out, Li'l Bro! I'm catching up to you!" (Tim-bo Ellingson is the newborn son of **Caitlin and Derek Ellingson**, who are Keith and Dawn's really close friends. Tim-bo was born a week after Trevor in Long Island, New York, a little smaller but taller. After all, Dad Derek stands about 6-foot-7.)

We know you're going to get bigger and stronger and you're surely going to be much handsomer than your Grandpa Himaka ever was! (Have to be honest...that won't take a whole lot of effort on your part, Trevor "Weeyum." Just take a look at his old photos!! On the other hand, maybe you shouldn't! Don't want to scare you!)



Trevor at three months old (left) and with his Daddy (below). Photos courtesy of Naomi Himaka.



A YOUNG COUSIN REMEMBERS NESAN

By Takashi Saito

Shimako Saito Uda passed away April 26, 2009, at the age of 86. A memorial service was held May 4 and her cousin, Takashi, delivered her personal history. He gave us permission to share excerpts here for which we are most grateful.

Another life – and her life's story – has come to an end.

It is difficult to trace a person's history since we are individuals. I would like to try my best to tell you what I know about Shimako Uda, who I fondly called "Chan."

Shimako Uda lived most of her life during the 20th century in the United States. She was born during the period they called the Roaring Twenties and spent her youth in the Otay Valley of San Diego County. Her father, my uncle **Jinsaku Saito**, owned a farm among other Japanese family farmers.

San Diego was a much smaller city than it is today. My father was a photographer and I have a picture of the region where we had to cross the Otay River by car to reach her home. The house was on the side of a rolling hill as I remember it when I returned to the U.S. in 1958. Today, I don't know if any part of the house remains.

In the 19th century, poet John Donne wrote a poem that expresses my exact sentiment today.

*No man is an island, entire of itself.
Every man is a piece of the continent,
A part of the main.
If a shore be washed away by the sea,
Europe is the less.
As well as if an estate of your friends or of your own were
Any man's death diminishes me.
Because I am involved in mankind
And therefore never send to know
For whom the bell tolls. It tolls for thee.*

Shimako experienced World War II in Japan where she spent most of her time in Kumamoto Prefecture. As a result, she was fluent in both English and Japanese. After the war, she worked as an interpreter with the U.S. occupational forces in Kyushu.

She returned to the U. S. in the later 1940s. She met and married **George Uda** and they had three children, David, Geoffrey and Georgiana.

When I returned to the U.S. in 1958, I stayed with Shimako's mother, my aunt **Shizue Saito**. The time I lived with the Saito family were the most peaceful times ever for me.

Every weekend, we would gather to watch "The Ed Sullivan Show." Sometimes we had barbecues in the backyard with friends and visiting Japanese naval officers. We would go to the San Diego Buddhist Temple on Sunday to watch Japanese movies.

Even after Shimako's family moved to Chula Vista, we would continue to get together on weekends and enjoy dinners together. Those are some of my fondest memories of Shimako.

Every person carries with them the memories of individuals who are significant to family members, society and communities. With a person's passing, that story ends except in the minds and memories of siblings, friends and other family members who carry on her memory.

I am not a historian but I sometimes regret my ignorance in not recording so many stories of loved ones. I especially regret not recording those stories told by my aunt, friends of my parents, and other older members of San Diego's Japanese community.

Shimako will be remembered as a member of the San Diego Japanese community who lived in those days we all cherish as "the good old days." May her soul rest in peace with the folks who have preceded her and shared their lives with us.

PEACOAT

By Pat Takeshita

Pat Takeshita née Goto is the oldest of four children of Issei parents. Pat was born and raised in San Diego until World War II started and her family was evacuated to Santa Anita Assembly Center, then relocated to Poston III, Arizona, where she lived with her family for 3½ years. After the war, the Goto family relocated to West Los Angeles where Pat married **Sam Takeshita** whom she had met in Poston. After a short stay in San Diego, the couple moved to West Los Angeles where they operated a nursery for 25 years. After retirement, they moved to Westchester in western Los Angeles where she currently resides. We thank Pat for permission to reprint her story here.

As always, we find ourselves in a long line, [this time] anxiously waiting to get a warm jacket called a peacoat.

"Mama, isn't it great the government is issuing us peacoats, whatever that is?" All I can say is, "I'll take anything that will keep me warm. Since the awful rainstorm last week, the weather has gotten bitterly cold."

Mama nods her head in agreement. As we get our coats, I anxiously say, "Let's hurry and immediately try them on."

"Wow, I can't believe this. It's big enough to cover an elephant," I cry in disappointment. The collar is way up to my head as I pull it on, the sleeves are way past my hands, dangling, and the length is covering me down to my ankles.

"Is this a jacket?" I ask as I sulk, almost in tears. "I look like a scarecrow."

Mama tries to comfort me by saying, "The label says, 'One size fits all.'"

"Well, it certainly doesn't mean me," I am grumbling to myself.

The next day, I see my girl friends and the topic is nothing other than the peacoat. Being tiny teenagers about five feet tall, weighing about 90 lbs., we are all in the same boat as far as the peacoat is concerned. Tonight is movie night. "Should we wear our oversized jacket or not?" Decisions, decisions.

"Helen says, 'It's horribly cold out doors, where our so-called theatre is.'"

"You are right," we all agree.

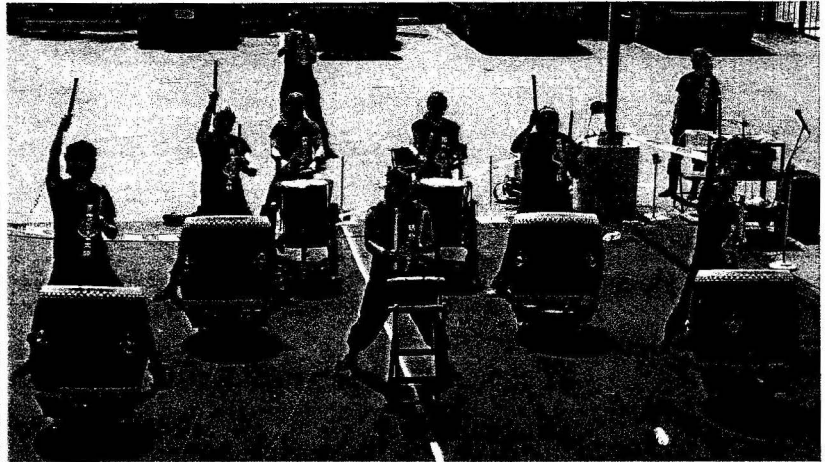
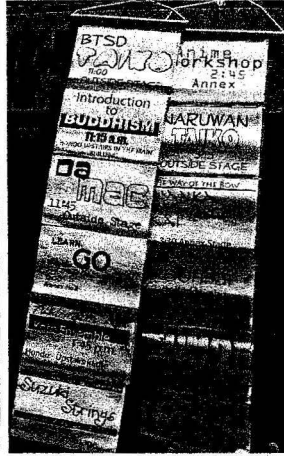
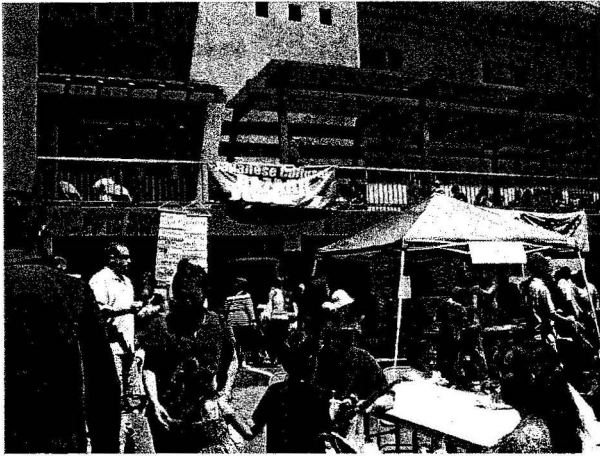
"I guess we have no choice but to wear it, but maybe we can wait till it's almost dark, so people won't see us," answers Anna.

"You mean, so they won't recognize us, Anna," I say kidding. We all burst out laughing!

Taking my primitive homemade stool to sit on and picking up Helen, Anna and the rest of my friends along the way, we head towards our outdoor theatre. With the cold, biting wind blowing at us, I quickly turn up my large collar which covers the whole back of my neck and head. I button up the long full length coat which protects my whole body. Then, gratefully, I tuck my hands in the extra long sleeves.

"Girls, I have to eat my words and apologize to Mama. My 'one size fits all' peacoat is WONDERFUL and don't mind looking like a scarecrow after all!"

COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT



AMBASSADOR FUJISAKI DINNER:
 Above center: **Mayor Jerry Sanders** welcomes Japanese Ambassador **Ichiro Fujisaki** to the City. 100 local dignitaries and representatives of San Diego's Nikkei organizations attended the dinner.

PADRES JA COMMUNITY NIGHT:
 Far left: **Wendy Nakamura** and **Valerie Abe**. Left: seating in the Toyota Terrace was arranged by the Japan Society and was a fundraiser for several Nikkei orgs. Right: **Mas Tsuida** (foreground) seated in front of **Mits & Yuki Kawamoto**. Right center: **Eddie & Linda Canada** (foreground). Far right: **Bill Elyea** is seated behind **Jim Yanagihara** and **Naomi & Mich Himaka**.



1st and 2nd rows: JAPANESE CULTURAL BAZAAR, Buddhist Temple of San Diego - June 1, 2009
 3rd row: DINNER FOR AMBASSADOR ICHIRO FUJISAKI, S.D. Natural History Museum - June 12, 2009
 4th row: PADRES JA COMMUNITY NIGHT, Petco Park - June 16, 2009

S



(FOLLOWING HIS BELIEFS continued from Page 9)

In 1988, Congress passed a law to award each surviving internee \$20,000.

Lazo taught at San Fernando Junior High School, then at Grand and Monroe high schools before becoming a counselor at Valley College in 1970. There, he also mentored students who were disabled and worked to persuade more Latino parents to encourage their children to go to college and register to vote.

Lazo retired from Valley College in 1987 and died of liver disease on New Year's Day 1992, at age 67. He had three children.

Despite his courage and role in history, Lazo remained a quiet, private man, deflecting attention from himself. He told the Times that the real issue was the injustice of the internment, not his behavior. "Ralph Lazo is just a consequence."

REMEMERING RALPH LAZO

By Sachi Nishida

Sachi (Urata) Nishida was born and grew up in uptown Los Angeles. Just before World War II, her family moved to San Diego and from there they were evacuated from their home, along with some 2,000 other San Diegans of Japanese ancestry, eventually ending up in Poston Internment Camp III. Sachi's friend **Ritsu Nabeta** of El Cajon contributed background information to this remembrance. Ritsu grew up in L.A.'s Little Tokyo and attended Central Junior High with Sachi and Ralph. Sachi's photo and the collage from the CJH yearbook appear here courtesy of Ritsu.

I met **Ralph Lazo** about 1939 upon entering Central Junior High School in Los Angeles. He was one grade lower than me in school. We grew up in the same neighborhood, just north of Broadway and Lil Tokyo in an area called Uptown where my parents ran a grocery store. I attended Belmont High School briefly where he was also a student but my family moved to San Diego during my freshman year.



Close-up of a flag collage from **Ritsu Nabeta's** 1941 CJHS yearbook. **Sachi Urata** is fourth from the left.

I wasn't surprised when I got the word that Ralph had entered Manzanar to be with his friends from school. He always mingled with us Nisei. While at Central, he took some Japanese lessons at night school. At one time he was quoted as saying he thought in his heart he was Japanese.

Another friend, the late **Sue Kunitomi Embrey**, who used to lead the annual pilgrimage to Manzanar, said Ralph was "a very gentle man



Sachi Urata,
Poston, Arizona,
June 16, 1945

and a loyal friend of ours." As he got older, he realized what a terrible injustice it was. When a young Sansei asked, "Why did you go? You didn't have to go." He answered, "None of us should have had to go."

In later years, he spoke before student and teacher groups. He was always donating books about the camp experience to the libraries.

Dr. Yoshindo Shibuya, a dentist now retired in Chula Vista, who also grew up in Los Angeles, remembers Ralph as a "real hustler who always made everyone laugh."

Ralph, who had a slight build, became the cheerleader for the camp football team which played all their games at home since they were not allowed to leave camp!!! He was by far the most popular student in the Manzanar High School Class of 1944.

There is a portrait of Ralph in the **Japanese American National Museum** in Los Angeles which I hope they never take down. He truly was a good friend to all of us Niseis.

Public Service Announcement: NIKKEI RESEARCH CONTINUES

By Nobuko Kemmotsu

Thank you to those who participated in our Nikkei aging study on smell and cognition in Nikkei individuals. I have moved to Florida for one year for training, but our study still continues. So far we had about 50 individuals participate, and we are looking for about 50 more.

Yurika Enobi will be leading this project. 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 to participate.

You will be asked to perform tests of smell and cognitive functioning, such as memory and language. The study takes place at 6363 Alvarado Court, Suite 101, and it will take 2.5-3 hours. You will be paid for your time.

The results from this study may inform researchers and doctors about important cultural aspects of the Japanese American community, and may also lead to improved diagnostic accuracy of smell and cognitive evaluations of Nikkei individuals.

Please contact Yurika to make individual appointments at (619) 594-5970 (voicemail: ext. 2), or e-mail her at lifespan@sciences.sdsu.edu.

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\$ BINGO \$

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CORPORATE MATCHING GIFTS HELP JAHSSD

Did you know that some local employers, like Qualcomm, have a commitment to match the amount that an employee donates to a nonprofit organization like JAHSSD?

Roy Asaki, one of our members and a retiree from Aetna Life Insurance Co., uses his company's program to boost the amount of his donations to the Society. Typically called "matching gifts," these programs let corporations "invest" in causes and organizations that are important to their employees.

Why not see if your employer has a matching gift policy? We'd love to help you apply for a matching gift to JAHSSD!

K E I D A N
 F L O R A L D E S I G N S

NAOMI HIMAKA

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2009 MS WALK ACHIEVEMENTS

By Carol Estes

JAHSSD was pleased to sponsor **Bob's Buddies** at the 2009 MS Walk last April. Named in honor of JAHSSD Board member **Bob Batchelder**, the small but intrepid group of 22 not only walked the Walk, but they definitely talked the talk, raising an astounding \$16,240 in pledges to help the Multiple Sclerosis Society fund its good works.

Bob garnered an Elite Feet Award along with fellow buddies **Dan Collins** and **Nancy Shimamoto**. Three members of our team are among the top 50 fundraisers in the entire Walk of over 11,000 walkers! To cap off this stellar year, Bob was also chosen as 2009 Most Inspirational Walker.

Bob's Buddies would not have been so successful if it hadn't been for the continued, generous support of our family and community friends. So a lot of this credit goes to each and every one of you who supported our team. Some of you even sponsored more than one walker! We extend to you our heartfelt gratitude.

We are among the smallest teams in the MS Walk, but we're right up there running in the high middle of the pack in spirit and achievement.

The following names were provided to *Footprints* at the time of printing. We apologize to anyone whose name may be missing or misspelled.

Adrien Lanusse & Ken Cerniglia, Aki Tomiyama, Alecia Routt, Alice Yamamoto, Allyne & Les Tachiki, Andy Orozco, Ann Ong, Antonio & Jocelyn Cerrillo, Arlene Shimizu, Arnold Friedman, Art & Judy Hibi, Art & Pat Walshe, Barbara & Bill Waite, Barbara & Curtis Wright, Barbara Ikejiri, Barbara Renne, Betty Torio, Beverly Shimamoto, Bill & Nancy Weller, Bill Elyea, Bob & Margie Clark, Bob Batchelder, Bob Shimamoto, Brenda & John Churchill, Bruce & Sharon Asakawa, Bud & Vonda Webb, Carol Cohn, Carol Fredrick, Christa Wegner, Chrys & Nancy Ishida, Chuck West, Claire Estes, Cynthia Selbrede, Dale & Charlie Coe, Dale Kusumoto & Kazi Ishii, Dale Kusumoto, Dan & Carolyn Bamberg, Daniel Himaka, Dave & Joyce Costello, Deb & Will Wilkie, Deb Kodama, Debra & Ken Kodama, Dennis & Ellie Knight, Diane & Jack Jansen, Dick Takeuchi, Don & Betsy Frazier, Don & Sally Smithgall, Donny & Kerry Kawano, Duane Siefers, Ed & Michi Akamatsu, Eddie Canada, Edith Takeshita, Elizabeth & Dave Davis, Elizabeth Leigh, Ellen Black, Eloise Anderson, Emily Igarashi, Faith & Hayden Lee, Frank & Marian Johns, Frank & Sumi Kastelic, Freddie & Merv Parrott, Fumiko Ohara, Fusa K. Shimizu, Gabriel Henao, Gail Hill, Gary Fong, Gary Himaka, Gene & Arlene Hasegawa, Gene & Bonnie Sullivan, George & Betty Wakiji, George & Karen Shinzaki, George & Naomi Koyayashi, Gerald & Nancy Yamada, Gerri Patterson, Ginny Kendall, Glenn & Alyce Fukuma, Glenn Torio, Gordon & Linda Aoyagi, Gordon Ziegler, Grace Honda, Gwen Momita, Hakan Ozkocak, Harry & Misako Honda, Hatsune Mukai, Heather Dewitt, Helen Strauser, Herk & Helen Miyake, Hideko Shimasaki, Hiro Kubota, Hisae Batchelder, Hugo & Wakako Seligman, Iona Batchelder, Jack & Evelyn Kline, Jae & Pauline Sim, Jagan Narayanan, James & Yuri Yamate, Jan & Carl Wiegmann, Jane & Dick Holbrook, Jane & Mike Mortensen, Jane Yagade, Jean & Jerry Byma, Jean Fujisaki, Jean Goggins, Jeanne Elyea, Jeff Ikejiri, Jen & Mike Hogsett, Jenny & Earl Cole, Jerry & Kimberley Herman, Jessica Himaka, Jim Davis, Jim Yanagihara, Joan Egerton, Joanna Malvino, Joe & Dixie McCurdy, Joe Correia, John & Blythe Van de Ven, John & Jeanne Bucher, John & Reiko Maruyama, John & Tsune Hashiguchi, John Dormann, John Tschample, Jon &



In front of stage from left: Bob Batchelder, Kira Batchelder Thompson, Matt Thompson; Kneeling: Jessica Himaka; Row 3: Linda LcLemore, Naomi Himaka, Jeanne Elyea, Mitsuko Kawamoto; Back row: Mich Himaka, Yukio Kawamoto.

Carrie Kawamoto, Joyce Teague, Judy & Dennis Shimamoto, Judy Teshima, Julie Le, June Kushino, Justine Tachiki, Karen & Steve Davenport, Karen & Tom Shea, Karen Himaka, Karen Kawasaki, Kathy & Gene Striebel, Kathy & Norman Himaka, Katsumi Kida, Katy Dewitt, Kaytee Sumida, Kazi Ishii, Kei Dan Floral Design, Keith & Dawn Himaka, Ken Muraoka, Kirsten & Georg Siebert, Kiyo Uda, Kristine & Derek Blackwelder, Larry & Irene Shimamoto, LeRoy & Yoko Snider (for Tina Snider), Leslie & Gordon Purtell, Leslie Hasegawa, Linda & Duane Linderman, Linda Kida, Lois Roche, Lori Hara, Lorin Sasaki, Louise Iguchi, LuAnn Lee, Lynn Fuchigami, Margy & Frank Campos, Marianne Widen, Marie Potocki, Marika & Jared Doob, Marilou Seki, Marley Bates, Mary Ellen & Len Alton, Mary H. Stephens, Mary Wendland, Mas & Grace Tsuida, Masako Shima, Masato & Dottie Asakawa, Matt & Kira Thompson, Matt Thompson, Melinda Tachiki, Mich Himaka, Michael Kinoshita, Mike & Joni Stames, Miki Honda, Millie & Bob Stanley, Mitzi Norred, Moto & Angie Tsuneyoshi, Moto Asakawa, Motoo & Angie Tsuneyoshi, Mr. & Mrs. George Masumoto, Myles & Linda Clowers, Nabeeh & Barbara Totah, Nancy & Ken Baldry, Nancy Martinez, Nancy Okada, Nancy Shimamoto & Dan Collins, Naomi & Darrell Shimamoto, Naomi M. Himaka, Neda & Fred Killian, Noby Reidell, Pastor Norma DeSaegher, Pat & Charleen Dewitt, Patty Hasegawa, Paul & Janice Davis, Paul Kaneyuki, Phylis Shimamoto, Ponce & Mary Duran, Ralph & Avis Honda, Ray & Florence Uyeda, Ray & Susie Quon, Reiko & John Maruyama, Reiko Maruyama, Renata Schneyer, Robert & Sue Roeder, Robert Hasegawa, Rod & Marilyn Thompson, Ron & Sheila Yagura, Ron Teshima, Rosemary & Al Stropp, Roy & Susan Yonekura, Rudy & Toni Kastelic, Ruth M. Fujimoto, Ruth Takeshita, Saeko Shimamoto, Sakiko Kada, Sam & Pauline Nakamura, Sandi Wong/Gary Selick, Sets Himaka, Setsuko & Yoshi Kaneda, Sharon & Marshall Woolner, Sherry & Rick Kataoka, Shirley Price, Shizue Maruyama, Sho & Misako Fukuma, So Yamada, Sonya Reed, Stacy Momita, Steve Azuma, Steve Sato, Sue Soracco, Sumi Yanagihara, Susan Askliadis, Susie Hill Azevedo, Suzy Henline, Sylvia Ohanesian, Tachy Wakiji, Tae & Tom Udo, Taka & Beverly Sawasaki, Telos Capital Management, Teresa Gubi, Terry Smith, Thomas & Lynn Steinke, Tina & Alan Tiso, Tom & Aya Segawa, Tom & Betty Hashimoto, Tom & Lynda Kira, Tom & Sumi Yanagihara, Tom & Tae Udo, Tom & Toshiko Rudd, Tom & Yo Honda, Tony & Annabel Bienes, Trace & Mildred Kawasaki, Virginia Loh, Walt & Chio Fujimoto, Walter Hatashita, Yukio & Mitsuko Kawamoto.

DOMO ARIGATO GOZAIMASU!!!

MARUYAMA'S "TAG PROJECT" INSPIRES AUG. 22 EVENT

The **Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego** and the **Buddhist Temple of San Diego**—specifically its adjunct social group, **Zenbu**—will collaborate with local artist **Wendy Maruyama** to present a community activity and social event in the Buddhist Temple's Annex Hall on Saturday, August 22, 11 am-2 pm.

Wendy is an art professor at San Diego State University who began **The Tag Project** in November 2008. She is replicating the name tags worn by the 120,000 people of Japanese descent who were evacuated from the West Coast during WWII and sent to concentration camps in remote areas. Her goal, inspired by the masses of origami cranes she once saw displayed at Hiroshima's Peace Park, is to create a giant art installation to impress on the viewer the number of individuals impacted by **Executive Order 9066**.



Tag Project creator **Wendy Maruyama** (left) stopped by the Austin Archives last June for a tour and met JAHSSD volunteers **Gwen Momita**, **Linda Canada** (face hidden) and **Dr. Francis Tanaka**. Photo by **Joyce Teague**.

Once the enormity of her project began to sink in, Wendy began enlisting friends to help make the tags which she estimates could take two or three years to complete. This led to a website devoted to the project (<http://eo9066.blogspot.com>) and an invitation to interested individuals to join in making the tags. She mails kits of 200 tags to volunteers who would like to help her make the reproductions. It is a several step process which includes using a government-generated list of internees by location, writing an internee's name on a custom-made tag and affixing a string to it. Wendy later hand stamps the evacuee's actual government-issued I.D. number to each tag and puts it through a weathering process which includes staining, wetting, stressing and drying the tag.

The schedule for the **Zenbu Tag Project Activity** includes a community potluck; a visual presentation by the artist on what inspired the project; a historical display of how evacuation and internment affected San Diegans; and the actual tag-making. After lunch, the group will spend about an hour making tags, assembly-style. Because the majority of San Diego Nikkei were interned in Arizona, the activity will be transferring names of actual Poston internees.

This multi-generational event is free and open to the community. Bring any dish to share for the potluck. A pot of rice will be provided and drinks will be available.

RSVP is requested so adequate supplies can be readied. To reserve a spot, contact **Joyce Teague** at (619) 527-7855 or zenbu@cox.net.

WE GET LETTERS

Dear Ladies!

Last week, John and I came home from our 10 day vacation with stacks of mail. I quickly picked out the important stuff and kept the newsletters at the bottom of the pile. But I noticed one in "color" so I pulled it out. Imagine my surprise when I was staring at me! Then to have the ukelele choir on the front page! I must say, I sat down and read the entire newsletter!

Joyce, as editor you did a great job in layout, etc. I especially enjoyed the article about your trip to Japan. I learned we have something in common. Your grandfather came from Fukuoka as did my Dad. I have been there twice and always feel my roots! Also, enjoyed the article about Eric Shinseki, and the one by Dr. Tanaka. I chuckled thinking all three of us were born on Kauai...a dinky little island.

Gwen, thank you for writing such a wonderful article. You are so thoughtful. Also a thank you to all of you for the Best Wishes ad! I was reeaally surprised.

When things quiet down a bit, I will be sending a contribution to the wonderful work that you are doing for the JAHSSD. We have always enjoyed all the programs you have provided.

Domo Arigato Gozaimasu! Many Blessings!

Norma DeSaegher, Chula Vista

Dear JAHSSD,

Thank you for taking the time to help me with the Career Day assignment. I really appreciate all you did to help. I enjoyed working with Professor Hasegawa. She was very helpful when I had questions and assisted me when getting started with sorting the videos.

It was fun to spend the day at the Historical Society. I was able to learn what it is like to be an historian. It's hard work, but it's fun at the same time. Thank for you for making this a great experience for me. Please find enclosed a donation to the Historical Society as a thank you.

Sincerely,

Darren Fujii, San Diego

Dear Editors,

Enclosed is a donation in memory of my brother Shinkichi. [Editor's note: Please see cover story.] Keep up the great job you and the others are doing.

I enjoy reading the *Footprints* which not only keeps me up to date on activities in the San Diego area, but I also find interesting articles about our past Nikkei experience.

Sincerely,

James M. Tajiri, Pebble Beach, Calif.

Dear Mrs. Canada and JAHSSD,

It gives me great pleasure to notify you that you have been selected as a recipient of the *IMLS Connecting to Collections Bookshelf*. This collection of essential texts, charts, online resources, and other materials has been carefully assembled with the help of experts throughout the nation. We hope that the Bookshelf will prove itself useful to you and your colleagues in ensuring that your valuable collections receive the best possible care, so that they can be preserved for future generations.

Sincerely,

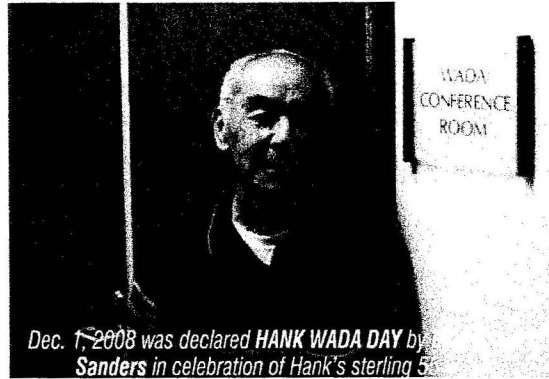
Anne-Imelda M. Radice, Ph.D.

Director, Institute of Museum and Library Services
Washington, DC

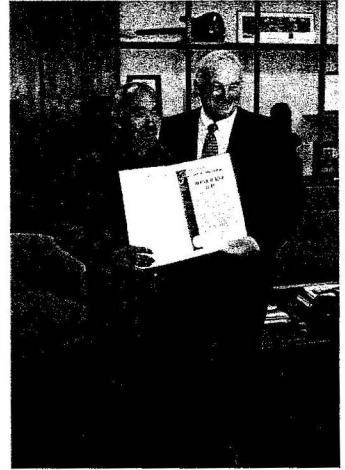
MORE COMMUNITY SNAPSHOTS



Yukiko Sugiyama celebrated her 88th b'day at Seau's on Feb. 15. Left: Karen & Gary Himaka. Center: Yukiko with Junior Seau. Above: Garrett and Todd Himaka.



*Dec. 1, 2008 was declared **HANK WADA DAY** by **Sanders** in celebration of Hank's sterling 50 years of service in the City's water division. The second 20 years were after his retirement in 1988! Above: Hank outside the City conference room that now bears his name. Right: with Mayor Sanders.*

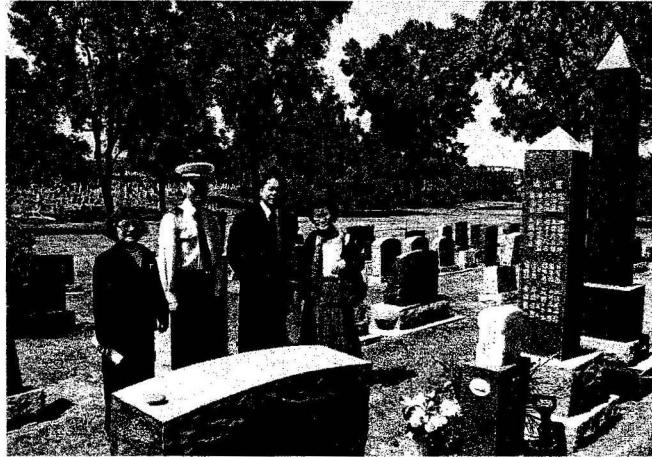


*Above left: **Yuki Kawamoto** (left), **Linda Canada** (center) and **Jim Yanagihara** (second from right) spoke at Torrey Pines High School last May. Above right: Torrey Pines teacher **Lisa Hendricks** (back row, left) and her AVID class joined 100 history students at the presentation about WWII internment. Below left: **Sean & Leslie Seymour** with their baby **Sage** on the day she was born, June 23, 2009. (See Celebrations, Page 7.) Below center: Sweet little **Carina Aiyama Womack** was born June 30, 2009. (See Celebrations, Page 7.) Below right: **John & Norma DeSaegher** at Norma's Aloha retirement celebration, Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ, April 26, 2009.*





The community honored Pastor Norma for over eight years of service to POVUCC. Among the many who shared the Aloha spirit were re...Above left: **John & Reiko Maruyama with Louise Iguchi**; Center: **Patricia & George Kusaka**. Above right: **Kuniko Kuhn, Shinobu Yoshioka (standing) and Harold Kuhn**.



Above left: **Chieko Campbell, Masahito Kinoshita, Masanobu Kinjo and Aiko Hillman** attend the 2009 Memorial Day Community Service at Mt. Hope Cemetery. Above right: POVUCC's **Dennis Shimamoto** leads the Pledge of Allegiance. Behind him (left to right): **Pastor Yoshi Kaneda (POVUCC), Rev. Yushi Mukojima (BTSD) and Rev. Ichibei Honda and Rev. Makoto Okura (SDCC)**. Third row: Japan Society of San Diego & Tijuana hosted its 7th Annual Beer & Sake Festival at the San Diego Marriott Del Mar on July 8. Below left: **MC Sam Zien, aka Sam the Cooking Guy**, with Benihana Regional Sushi Chef **Jun Fukushima**. Below left center: **Jeff Roberto** competed in the Sushi Masters competition; **Laura Murphy** of the California Rice Commission which hosted the competition and **Aya Ibarra** of the Japan Society.



7th Annual BEER & SAKE FESTIVAL:

Nearly 700 guests enjoyed an evening of food and entertainment while sampling 100 varieties of beer and sake. Above far right: Judges rate the chefs' presentations in the annual Sushi Masters competition. Left: Hakutsuru, the world's largest sake brewery, was represented. Right: The group ceremoniously breaking into the sake kegs are, from left: **Laura Murphy, Tim Johnson, Joe Emma, Albert Lee, George Ekita, Hisashi Sakashita, Kenji Funahashi and Dave Tuites**. This year's festival will be featured on the Food Network's "Glutton for Punishment" in early 2010. The show will follow host **Bob Blumer** as he learns how to make sushi, then goes up against some of the best chefs in the Sushi Makers competition.



(FROM WATTS TO A CASTLE continued from Page 1)



Shinkichi Tajiri in his bunk in Camp Shelby, Mississippi, circa 1944.

Shinkichi's first participation in an art exhibition was in 1949 at the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam. This began a series of exhibitions continued worldwide every year thereafter for more than 50 years. Some of the more prominent were: Paris (many); Amsterdam (numerous); New York Museum of Modern Art; Seattle World Expo; Venice 31st Biennial; Tokyo Gallery's Tokyo Biennial; London Hamilton Galleries; Copenhagen Court Gallery; Bruxelles Palais des Beaux Arts; Basel Kunsthalle; Osaka World Exposition; Taipei Fine Arts Museum; St. Petersburg Hermitage; and Documenta III & IV, Kassel, Germany.

In 1956, Shinkichi moved to Amsterdam, Holland, where he married **Ferdi Jansen** whom he had met in Paris. Daughters **Giotta Fuyo** and **Ryu Vinci** were born in 1957 and 1959 respectively.

In 1962, then aged 39, Shinkichi moved to Castle Scheres in Baarlo, Netherlands, which was to become his home for the rest of his life.



The Sentinels (de Wachters, Ronin) guard the bridge between Venlo and Blerick.

violence and war. Completed in 2007, the Sentinels stand out prominently and are visible from the train from Amsterdam to Baarlo.

Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands knighted Shinkichi as Officer in the Order of the Orange-Nassau. He was again knighted in 2007 with the Order of the Dutch Lion.

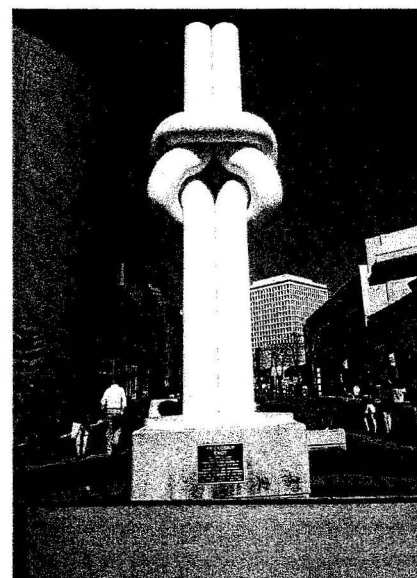
Talented in several media, Shinkichi received a First Prize at the Cannes Film Festival for his short film "Vipers" in 1955. He was the recipient of a sculpture grant from the William & Norma Copley Foundation, New York; a grant from the John Hay Whitney Foundation, New York; Gold Medal San Marino, Italy; and many others in different countries.

Examples of his work can be found throughout the world including in the Museums of Modern Art in New York, Paris, and Stockholm; the Nelson Rockefeller Estate, New York; Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam; and the City of Los Angeles. The latter comprises the iconic **Friendship Knot** in Little Tokyo on Weller Street, pictured below.

A defining work was the Sentinels (de Wachters, Ronin), a pair of 16-foot sculptures on each end of the Maasbridge, a critical connection between the cities of Venlo, Netherlands, and Blerick. The bridge had been destroyed twice during WWII. The commission was for a permanent "guard" for the bridge to provide a unique statement worldwide against



*Above:
Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands (left),
Suzanne Tajiri van der Capellen and Shinkichi Tajiri at the dedication of The Sentinels at the Maasbridge, May 2007.*



*Left:
The Friendship Knot is a familiar sight to visitors of Little Tokyo in downtown Los Angeles, standing at the Weller Street entrance. It was inspired by the artist's study of string knots.*

Shinkichi also had a professorship at the Berlin Hochschule der Künste (Art Institute), commuting bi-monthly from Baarlo to Berlin for 20 years, retiring with a pension. During his travels, he became interested in the Berlin Wall and eventually made a book of some 550 photographs. The impressive pictorial is an inch-and-a-half thick and weighs four pounds. He also filmed the Wall with a Sony PortaPak from a helicopter.

This is just a synopsis of Shinkichi Tajiri's oeuvre. Because he was truly a unique person, his work is reflective and has that most elusive quality: a recognizability and a personality to it. Obviously, an accomplishment of this magnitude expended over a half century exceeds the proverbial "99% perspiration, 1% inspiration," by even the most extremely talented, creative, and industrious artist.

At 85 years of age, in the vernacular and opinion of youth, he was still "cool" and "had it." Sir Shinkichi Tajiri has triumphed.



Editor's note: A service was held for **Shinkichi Tajiri** on March 19, 2009, in the Netherlands. He is survived by his third wife **Suzanne Tajiri van der Capellen** whom he married in 1976; his first wife, **Denise Martin**; daughters **Giotta** and **Ryu**; his beloved grandchildren, **Tanéea Ferdi** and

(Continued on Page 21)

(FROM WATTS TO A CASTLE continued from Page 20)



Shinkichi at Castle Scheres with his sculpture, Shin Ronin II.

Shakuru Shin; and sister **Yoshiko** of Berkeley and brother **James** of Pebble Beach. Biographical information included is courtesy of the Tajiri Family, Japanese American Veterans Assn. (JAVA) and Asian Pacific American Veterans (APAVET). Additional photos courtesy of **Giotta Tajiri**. To learn more about Shinkichi, go to www.shinkichi-tajiri.com.

Of her connection to Shinkichi, **Elaine Bowers** writes: "Pre-war San Diego, most of us in the Nikkei community (it wasn't large in those days) sort of had an idea who and where the families were. I'd barely turned 10 when Pearl Harbor happened, the Tajiri boys were in high school, and I doubt they even noticed me. Ditto in Poston III. But circumstances had thrown us all in the same pot...The real catalyst for my trip to Holland was Shinkichi's blanket invitation around 1996 to all JAHSSD members to visit him. Since to my knowledge nobody had gone over, I decided I'd do it when I went to England on my next trip. I saw Shinkichi's brother **Jim Tajiri** at our 2008 Poston Reunion, was in touch with him, and through him I e-mailed Shinkichi who immediately replied in spite of his illness. My son **Jon**, who lives in England, accompanied me on a wonderful day with Shinkichi at Castle Scheres which I will never forget."

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

LOOK WHO'S LOOKING... AT FOOTPRINTS



*These photographs may look staged, but the lively post-dinner conversation at **Island Style Cafe** really did come to a stop as the group of Sansei friends otherwise known as Bonbu Club became absorbed in the latest issue of **Footprints** handed around the table. At left, **Miyo Hill**, **Jeanie Kashima** and **Keiko Negoro**.*



*The Bonbu Club friends like to try a new eatery every time they meet. **Island Style Cafe** in Tierrasanta offers tasty Hawaiian favorites including what frequent diner **Wayne Tsukamoto** (not in picture) has described as "best Kalua Pig in San Diego." From the far end of the table: **Junko Kajita**, **Susan Moribe**, **Valerie Abe**, **Doreen Kamada-Fujii** and **June Yamamoto**. Photos by **Joyce Teague**.*

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FROM THE JAHSSD ARCHIVES...



Lillian (Yuriko) Kawasaki and her brother Tsuneyuki (Trace) Kawasaki in front of 528 Fifth Avenue, San Diego, circa 1945. In August 1945, their father, Sanroku Kawasaki, brought his family back to San Diego after their World War II incarceration at Poston Camp III in Arizona and reopened his grocery store, S & K Market, pictured here.

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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 + \$1.55 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.

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

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

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

_____ \$12 + \$.93 sales tax ADD \$4.80 postage (Priority Mail)* = _____

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

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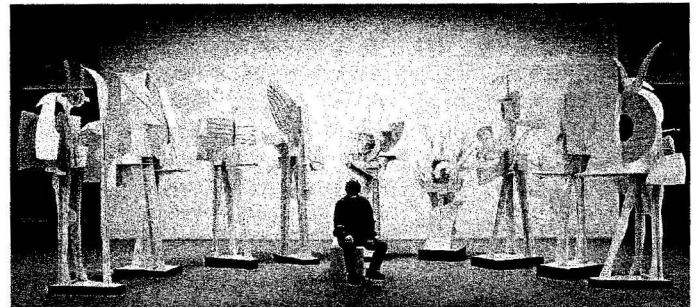
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OUR COVER STORY:

Former San Diegan **Shinkichi Tajiri** poses with his "Ronin" made out of Centa Foam, a material architects use to make three-dimensional models. An inventive sculptor who worked in many media including painting and film, Tajiri found inspiration for his work in many places, including Japanese history. This picture was taken at his show at the van Bommel van Dam Museum in Venlo in 2000. Photograph courtesy of **Giotta Tajiri**.

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

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