

# FOOTPRINTS

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

## Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego



*The Obayashi Clan gathers for one last photo in front of the former Sun Cafe, 2009.*

*Seated from left: Eugene (Tote) Yamada, Tsukiko (Fukuto) Hosaka, Hanako (Fukuto) Konishi, Joe Yamada, Marilou (Obayashi) Seki. Standing from left: Jon Obayashi, Gary Ueno, Pamela (Obayashi) Springer, Glen Obayashi, Don Ueno, Becky (Urata) Obayashi, Norman Obayashi, Carole (Obayashi) Schaefer, Darryl Obayashi, Becky (Obayashi) Hatashita.*

### SUN CAFE CLOSES ITS DOORS

By Yukio Kawamoto

In 2009, the **Sun Cafe**—the oldest food establishment in San Diego to continuously operate under the same name—finally ceased to be called the Sun Cafe. The new restaurant that took over still includes it as part of its name and it is now called “Funky Garcia’s at Sun Cafe.”

When **Darryl Obayashi** (Walter and Mollie’s son) heard that Sun Cafe was to be sold and renamed, he got the family together for one last picture in front of the establishment before the big Sun Cafe sign was taken down. But when they met for the photo session, it was too late: the remodeling had started and the sign was gone. They had their picture taken there anyway.

In an article in the Fall 2000 issue of *Footprints*, **Don Estes** relates that **Mr. Uichiro Obayashi** purchased the building at 421 Market Street in 1918 and opened a shooting gallery. Later he closed the shooting gallery and opened Sun Cafe. In a later article in the Summer 2003 issue of *Footprints*, Don wrote that in 1963 the Obayashi family sold Sun Cafe to the **Jeong family**.

Recently, some of the Obayashi clan gathered at the home of **Marilou Seki** to reminisce about the Obayashis and Sun Cafe. This article includes some of the recollections from that gathering.

*(Continued on Page 17)*

**VOL. 18 NO. 4**

**WINTER 2009**

Sun Cafe Closes Its Doors .....	1
Community Calendar .....	2
An Ongoing Legacy .....	2
JAHSSD Elects 2010 Board .....	2
JAs Return to the Gaslamp Quarter .....	3
2010 Poston II Reunion Reservations .....	3
In Gratitude .....	3
In Memoriam .....	4
Membership News .....	4
Wabi Sabi .....	5
Obituary: 442nd Co. H Commanding Officer .....	5
Membership Dues to Increase .....	5
Caught Doing Something Nice .....	6
Local Nikkei Wins Educator Award .....	6
Tag Project Visits Poway High School .....	7
Mazegohan .....	8
Mink Coat That Went to Poston .....	8
“JAs in the Military” Contributors .....	9
2009 Annual Appeal Donations .....	9
Chanko Nabe .....	10
My Story: Isamu Nakamura, Part 2 .....	11
Community Snapshots .....	12
Logan Heights Sculpture Dedication .....	13
A “Novel” Idea! .....	13
Speakers Bureau Serves Community .....	13
Pearl Harbor Day .....	14
College Interrupted by Internment? .....	16
Learning About Santa Anita .....	16
A Mystery of History .....	16
Solved! Fall 2009 Mystery of History .....	17
Nikkei Research Continues .....	18
Fishing Net: Finding Internet Treasure .....	18
Interview with New JAHSSD President .....	19
We Get Letters & E-mail .....	20
Hatsuji Becomes Harry .....	20
From the JAHSSD Archives .....	22
JAHSSD Membership Application .....	23

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

**CANCELED! FEB. 19 JAHSSD Day of Remembrance event at the Veterans Museum in Balboa Park.**

**Ongoing: FRIDAY SENIOR LUNCH PROGRAM** (12 noon), Kiku Gardens Senior Housing, 1260 Third Ave., Chula Vista. \$3 for nutritional meal. Info: 619/422-4951

**Ongoing thru May 31: JAPANESE AMERICANS IN THE GASLAMP QUARTER 1942** presented by JAHSSD and Gaslamp Quarter Historical Foundation, William Heath Davis House, downtown Fourth & Island.

**Ongoing thru June 1: JAPANESE AMERICANS IN THE MILITARY** Exhibition presented by JAHSSD, Veterans Museum, Balboa Park. Info: 619/239-2300 or [www.veteransmuseum.org](http://www.veteransmuseum.org)

**FEB. 10 – FACES OF AMERICA: Our American Stories #101** (8 pm), KPBS Television. One-hour documentary will include JA internment and feature Olympic Gold Medalist Kristi Yamaguchi and her parents filmed at Poston.

**FEB. 11 – SD JACL ANNUAL MEETING/Appreciation Dinner**, China Camp Restaurant, Pacific Highway at Hawthorne, \$20. Reservations: 619/230-0314

**FEB. 12 – FACES OF AMERICA: Our American Stories #101** (2 pm), KPBS Television. Info same as for Feb. 10.

**FEB. 12 – DAY OF REMEMBRANCE**, UCSD Nikkei Student Union. (11:30 am- 3:30 pm), Price Center, UCSD

**FEB. 14 through July 10, 2010 – MATERIAL MATTERS: Selected Works by Allied Craftsmen**, Calif. Center for the Arts, 340 N. Escondido Blvd., Escondido. 23 juried artists including Wendy Maruyama's "Poston 2010," featuring the complete replicated name tags from Poston internees, \$10. Free parking adjacent to concert hall. Public reception Feb. 13, 7-9 pm. RSVP: 760/839-4120

**FEB. 27 – "PASSING POSTON"** (12:30 pm), documentary film, discussion presented by SD-JACL, Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, 9005 Aero Dr. Free. RSVP: 619/230-0314

**FEB. 27 – BTSD/VFW BINGO** (6-9 pm), BTSD Annex Hall. \$10 buy-in. Info: 619/239-0896

**MARCH 23 – SD JACL SUSHI SOCIAL** (6-8:30 pm), Villa Portofino Clubhouse, 10690 Aero Dr., Tierrasanta, \$35. RSVP by March 14: [eugenekaneko@gmail.com](mailto:eugenekaneko@gmail.com).

*JAHSSD welcomes notices of upcoming community events.  
 E-mail them to [footprintseditor@cox.net](mailto:footprintseditor@cox.net).*

## AN ONGOING LEGACY

by Gwen Momita, Outgoing President

*How are we doing, Don?*

During the past two years as JAHSSD President, I have often asked myself this question.

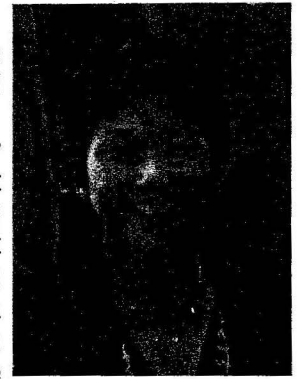
For those of you who did not know **Professor Donald H. Estes**, suffice it to say he was instrumental in holding this organization together. Whether it was creating a new exhibit, conducting in-depth interviews, or working on a Poston Reunion, Don was the one with the answers and the vision. When we lost Don suddenly in 2005, our organization momentarily teetered. Not only did we lose a dear friend, but we seemed to lose the compass which gave us direction.

However, gratefully, strong leaders stepped forward to fill the immediate void. And today, even though we remain a small group of core volunteers, JAHSSD has survived, grown and matured.

We still pause often to remember Don and his gift of leadership and insight. And so, to our mentor, leader, teacher and friend, I ask: *How are we doing, Don? I hope you agree with me: your ongoing legacy is alive and well.*

To the JAHSSD membership, it has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your president these past two years. Thank you for the opportunity and for your support. We still need YOU, so call for information on volunteer opportunities.

Sincerely,  
 Gwen Momita



## JAHSSD ELECTS 2010 BOARD

One of the official duties of the membership assembled at last October's Annual Membership Meeting was to approve a new board for the coming year.

JAHSSD Archivist and Volunteer Coordinator **Linda Canada** was elected President. Former Member-at-Large **Valerie Abe** will share duties as Vice President with **Debra Kodama**. Outgoing President Gwen Momita is Ex Officio, and the remaining officers remain the same.

The 2010 Officers are:

President: **Linda Canada**  
 1st Vice President: **Valerie Abe**  
 2nd Vice President: **Debra Kodama**  
 Secretary: **Karen Kawasaki-Williams**  
 Treasurer: **Grace Takeuchi**  
 Ex Officio: **Gwen Momita**

Serving as Directors at Large are: **Bob Batchelder**, **Jeanne Elyea** (Hospitality), **Michio Himaka**, **Dr. Yuri Kaneda**, **Craig Ozaki**, **Christina Pierson** and **Joyce Teague** (*Footprints* Editor).

Volunteers handling regular staff duties include: **Linda McElmore** (Corresponding Secretary), **Sumiyo Kastelic** (Membership Coordinator) and **Eddie Canada** (Web Editor). **Robert Ito** chairs our Austin Plus Committee.



## JAPANESE AMERICANS RETURN TO THE GASLAMP QUARTER!

At the invitation of the **Gaslamp Quarter Historical Association**, JAHSSD has created an exhibition focusing on the pre-war Japanese neighborhood at Fifth and Island Avenues. **Japanese Americans in the Gaslamp Quarter 1942: the End of an Era** will be on display through May 31, 2010 at the **William Heath Davis House** at the corner of Fourth and Island.

Sixty people attended an opening reception held January 10. In connection with the opening event, a walking tour of the block containing the Davis house was given, with commentary by JAHSSD members who lived in the area.

The exhibition will help viewers understand the many businesses and organizations, as well as the families, who called the area home. Businesses such as the Goban, Sun Cafe, and photography studios are included, as well as the origins of the Buddhist Temple of San Diego. In connection with the exhibition, members of the Shimizu and Kawamoto families agreed to record their stories of life downtown.

A number of related events have been scheduled to further explore the history of the area including a talk about **Clara Breed** and more oral history interviews. The tentative dates for these activities are February 21, March 28, April 11 and May 16.

All the activities on these dates are scheduled for 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at the William Heath Davis house. Please check our website to confirm the activities prior to these dates.

## MAKE YOUR 2010 POSTON III REUNION BUS RESERVATIONS

By Mich Himaka

Bus reservations are being accepted by Honda Tours now to attend the **14th Poston III Reunion** scheduled April 5-7, 2010, in Las Vegas. **Miki Honda** of Honda Tours has scheduled a special trip from San Diego for the reunion at the Golden Nugget Casino-Resort. The reunion is currently being planned by a Central California committee.

You can reserve a round-trip bus trip and a stay at a hotel near the reunion site (probably the Fremont Hotel) or just a round-trip bus trip and make hotel reservations on your own through the committee when flyers are sent out, probably within a month.

The price for round-trip and hotel through Honda Tours will be \$130 per person double occupancy, \$165 for single occupancy, or \$70 per person for bus trip only.

The Central California Reunion Committee has arranged \$49 per night double occupancy accommodations at the Golden Nugget for the reunion. However, the committee needs help in that they committed to fill at least 130 rooms. So, they have asked that as many as possible commit to stay at the Golden Nugget to fill their commitment.

Sign up for the Honda Tours bus trip has already started and space is limited to about 50 riders. A second bus list, or waiting list, can be started in case those who signed up first are not able to attend. If there is sufficient interest, a second bus can be chartered.

If you wish to get your name or names on, please call Mich Himaka at (619) 660-9865 or Miki Honda at (858) 278-4572. Everyone who attended any event at the last reunion in San Diego should be getting information on the upcoming event. If you don't get information, let us know and we'll see that you get a flyer.

## IN GRATITUDE

*JAHSSD gratefully acknowledges the following monetary gifts to the Society since our last newsletter. If your donation has not yet been acknowledged, please accept our sincere apologies. Notify Linda McLemore at 619/216-2910 for correction. These are donations received as of January 22, 2010.*

### ANONYMOUS \$500 DONATION

#### ANONYMOUS DONATION:

*In honor of Mas and Grace Tsuida, 2009 Kansha Award recipients*

**H. ROY and ALICE ASAKI**

**NANCY S. BALDRY**

**NORMA and JOHN DESAEGHER**

**JEANNE K. ELYEA**

**TOSHIYE C. ESTES:**

*In honor of Dr. and Mrs. Frank A. Kastelic*

*and Dr. and Mrs. P. Michael Hasegawa*

**SUSAN HASEGAWA**

**JOHN and TSUNEO HASHIGUCHI:**

*In memory of Amy Hashiguchi*

**GARY and KAREN HIMAKA**

**AMY MAYA HONDA and WAYNE A. O'NEIL:**

*In memory of Masami Honda*

**DR. MICHAEL INOUE**

**YASUO and SUMIKO ISHIDA**

**ROBERT ITO:**

*In honor of Martin L. Ito, 2009 Kansha Award recipient*

**MARY KANEYUKI:**

*In memory of Carl Kaneyuki*

**DAVID and CAROL KAWAMOTO**

**EDWARD KUBOTA**

**HOWARD J. KUYAMA:**

*In memory of wife, Mae K. Kuyama*

**SHIZUE MARUYAMA**

**LEE and SUSAN MORIBE**

**JANE R. MORTENSEN**

**MARY F. PARROTT**

**SONYA REED**

**CHIEKO SAITO:**

*In memory of Albert Ichiro Saito*

**WAKAE SATO:**

*In memory of Satoko, Mariko and Jay Sato*

**KAREN H. SHEA**

**DALE SHIMAMOTO COE**

**DR. and MRS. PAUL SHIMIZU**

**NANCY K. SHIMAMOTO**

**HELEN B. STRAUER**

**ROSEMARY STROPP**

**KIYO UDA**

**MASAKO UYEJI:**

*In memory of Kattie Uyeji*

**TAD AND FRANCES WADA:**

*In memory of Mariko Sato*

## IN MEMORIAM

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

**DR. SAM S. KOMORITA**  
(Champaign, Illinois)

**MATSUYE "JUNE" MATSUMOTO**  
September 6, 2009

**HARUKO CRAWFORD**  
August 17, 1925 ~ September 13, 2009

**MITSUYE MARY HANANO**  
October 12, 1914 ~ September 29, 2009

**COL. CHRISTOPHER R. KEEGAN, USA (RET)**  
October 11, 2009

**ANNE KATSUIZUMI CHEW**  
October 16, 1920 ~ November 18, 2009

**AMY OTO LINDO**  
July 11, 1935 ~ November 21, 2009

**KASUKE OGATA**  
November 1, 1928 ~ December 3, 2009

**KAZUO "MATT" MATSUDA**  
November 29, 1921 ~ December 6, 2009

**IRENE YAEKO KOGA**  
October 31, 1917 ~ December 18, 2009

**AMY HASHIGUCHI KANEYUKI**  
August 21, 1927 ~ December 20, 2009

**DEBRA M. KAWAHARA, Ph.D.**

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**INDIVIDUAL, COUPLE & FAMILY COUNSELING**

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## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

By Sumiyo E. Kastelic, Membership Coordinator

We are pleased to welcome several new members who recently joined JAHSSD: **Alexandra & Bill Nishii**, **Dale Shimamoto Cole**, **Nancy & Alan Hayashi**, **Grace Honda**, **Yuri Tam** (gift of Hisae Batchelder), **Lynn Whitehouse**, **Linda Yamano** (gift of Hisae Batchelder), and **Gordon & Arlene Shimizu** (gift of Mich & Naomi Himaka). **Dr. Donald Hata** from Redondo Beach also joined and, in the process, gifted **Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga** and **Kenji Taguma** with new memberships.

In addition, two Individual Memberships converted to the Couple category resulting in **Joan Estes** and **Hiromi Morimoto** joining their respective spouses, **Kumao Estes** and **Marty Hiromi**, as members.

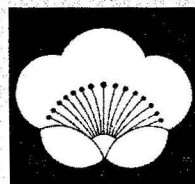
Many thanks to the following for renewing their memberships since the publication of the Fall 2009 *Footprints*:

**Melinda Albright & Craig Ozaki**, **Francis & Paul Arakawa**, **Alice & Roy Asaki**, **Sharon & Bruce Asakawa**, **Susan & Charles Bender**, **Jean & Frank Boyd**, **Teruko & Robert Brown, Jr.**, **Patricia & William Christopher**, **Nancy Cowser**, **Mary Doi**, **Michiko Eguchi**, **Janet Ochi & Humberto Fontanott**, **Edythe Harada**, **Barbara & Glenn Hashiguchi**, **Yoko Mayeda Hashima**, **Betty & Tom Hashimoto**, **Elizabeth Hatashita**, **Becky & Fred Hatashita**, **Sasako & Tetsuo Himaka**, **Miki Honda**, **Avis & Ralph Honda**, **Grace Igasaki**, **Margaret Ikeda**, **Sumiko & Yasuo Ishida**, **Grace Ishitani**, **Rose & Harvey Itano**, **Sakiko Kada**, **Mary Kaneyuki**, **Ray Kato**, **Glory & Ernie Katsumata**, **Umeko Kawamoto**, **Toshiko Kawasaki**, **Aiko Kida**, **Viola & Brian Kiyohara**, **Kikuye Koga**, **Nori Koromita**, **Sharon & Jim Kunugi**, and **Howard Kuyama**.

Also, **Reiko & John Maruyama**, **Shizue Maruyama**, **Chiyoko & George Masumoto**, **Masako Matsuhara**, **Yoshio Matsumoto**, **Linda McLemore**, **Shuji Miyasaki**, **Miyoko & Toshi Miyashita**, **Terry & Joe Mizufuka**, **Ruth Morishita**, **Takenori Muraoka**, **Sandy Nakamura**, **Kathleen & Glenn Negoro**, **Michiko & Oliver Nishimura**, **Michael Okuma**, **Mariam Oyama**, **Rajam Roose & Matthew Estes**, **Chieko Saito**, **Jiro Saito**, **Rev. Eric Segawa**, **Mary & Michael Segawa**, **Marilou Seki**, **Gerald Shepard**, **Irene & Lawrence Shimamoto**, **Robin Shimasaki**, **Helene & Paul Shimizu**, **Yone Shiwotsuka**, **Ruth and Tak Sugimoto**, **Yukiko Sugiyama**, **Allyne & Les Tachiki**, **Kimiye Tachiki**, **Helen & Akira Takeshita**, **Jane Takeshita**, **Mitsuo Tomita**, **Grace & Mas Tsuida**, **Peggy Tsurudome**, **Kenneth Uyeda**, **Christy Vikander**, **Frances & Tad Wada**, **Rose Watamura**, **Shizu Watanabe**, **Chiyeko Yagi**, **Sheila & Ron Yagura**, **Eugene Yamada**, **Mary Yamamoto**, **Sachio Yamamoto**, **June & Shig Yamashita**, **Rev. Jim Yanagihara**, **Alice Yano** and **Fusako Yokotobi**.

In the next issue of *Footprints* we will present a report on the number of members by membership categories and include a complete listing of all of our entire membership. Please feel free to refer any membership inquiries to me at (760) 632-8386 or [sumik@cox.net](mailto:sumik@cox.net).

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

By Linda Canada, Archivist

You've heard the expression, "Be careful what you wish for...you might get it?" Well, that seems to apply to the Archives these days. Thanks to the generosity of community members, we are overflowing with many recent gifts! Not only have we received new photographs, clothing, trunks, and other objects for the collection, we also recently received a very generous donation from an architectural firm of "flat files" they no longer needed.

**Valerie Abe** made this connection for us and **Duane Siefers** loaned us his pickup to bring these huge files home to Spring Valley from Del Mar Heights. With the help of the donor, we carted these HUGE and heavy file cabinets down to the truck and loaded them on. I drove the truck, and imagine my surprise when I went around the first corner and all the files dangerously lurched back and forth. We had to stop in a nearby parking lot, unload everything—just Valerie and me this time—and repack the load!

Now that we have the flat files, it turns out we can't use them for a while! Their approximate size is 40x72 inches and they stand four feet tall! We don't have enough floor space to set them up, so they will wait, stacked on their sides, for our eventual move to a larger space.

The files will be used to house our large documents and photographs which should be stored flat. We have about 40 rolled panoramic photographs which need to be straightened out so they can be stored in the flat files.

The photo straightening process itself also takes up space. Each rolled photograph must be gently unrolled and placed over a water bath. The humidity helps the photograph to flatten out. To make the water bath, I recycled a 40-inch long Rubbermaid plastic tub from home, and then laid a stainless steel shelf over it. It takes about three days over the water for each photo to uncurl, and then they must be laid flat with weights on them to allow them to dry in their new position.

Because of the very fragile condition of the rolled photographs, we won't be unrolling them until we are ready to process them. Who knows what surprises await us when we finally do?

## 442nd COMPANY H COMMANDING OFFICER BURIED AT ARLINGTON

*This obituary came to us in a roundabout way, and we thank **Mich Himaka**, **Yuki Kawamoto**, **Harry Honda** for their part in getting it to Footprints. Source is the Japanese American Veterans Assn. (JAVA) round robin dated January 4, 2010.*

**Col. Christopher R. Keegan**, USA (Ret), 94, a 30-year career U.S. Army officer, was buried at Arlington Cemetery on December 29, 2009 with full military honors. **Kelly Kuwayama** (442), **Grant Ichikawa** (MIS), **Lt. Col. Mike Yaguchi**, USAF (Ret) participated in the service as a JAVA contingent. Kuwayama and **Terry Shima** also served as representatives of the **442nd Regimental Combat Team**.

Keegan was born in New York City, raised in Cincinnati, Ohio, and drafted into the U.S. Army in March 1941. He arrived at Camp Shelby on February 3, 1943, serving as commanding officer of Co H, 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Except for the time he spent in field hospitals, Captain Keegan served in all 442nd campaigns: Rome-Arno, the liberation of Bruyeres, Belmont and Biffontaine in the Vosges forests of northeastern France which the Army called the Rhineland, Appenine, and Po Valley campaigns.

Keegan received three Purple Hearts for wounds sustained on three occasions. The first was in July 1944 near the town of Pastina in the Rome-Arno campaign when shrapnel was embedded in his hand. The second was in Bruyeres when an enemy artillery barrage lodged shrapnel in his back. He was confined to the Field Hospital during the rescue of the trapped Texas Battalion in the Vosges. In this operation, the 442nd sustained casualties four times the 211 men who were left to be saved. The third was in Italy at Mt. Belvedere, the western anchor of the German Gothic Line, when more than 50 pieces of shrapnel hit him and severed his Achilles tendon.

Captain Keegan was discharged after WWII but was recalled in August 1947 and assigned to Korea with the 31st Infantry on the 38th parallel. During the Vietnam War, he held the rank of Colonel and was assigned to Honolulu from where he made frequent trips to Vietnam.

In addition to the Purple Heart medals, he was awarded three Legion of Merit Medals, a Meritorious Service Medal, two Bronze Stars, the Combat Infantryman's Badge and many additional awards for combat and meritorious service.

Of his men in the 442nd, Col. Keegan...said, "My men in H Co were astounding individuals...it's a great honor to have served with them. You might call it gallantry, you might call it bravery...but I think it was more fighting for their honor than...to get medals."

**Isami "Mike" Tsuji** of Los Angeles, who served under Captain Keegan said, "He was a straight shooter, very strict but very compassionate. You usually don't get very close to the officers (during war), but after the war friendships blossomed...There was mutual admiration."

**Col. Joseph T. Kuroda**, a former Hawaii State Senator, who along with three other brothers answered the call to duty, including **Robert [Kuroda]**, a Medal of Honor recipient, said, "Col. Keegan had a nice sense of humor and was a friendly person. However, he was also a serious and stern military leader and I sensed that the veterans of H Company viewed their WWII company commander as a great leader."

Following his retirement in 1970 after 30 years of service to his country, Col. Keegan settled in San Diego where he became a community leader receiving various community and government awards including a resolution from the U.S. House of Representatives, the California State Assembly, and the County of San Diego commending him for his lifetime of community service.

He is survived by five children—Kathlyn Clare (Joseph), Christopher (Denise), Timothy (Mary), Dennis (Karen), and Thomas (Laura), 17 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

## JAHSSD MEMBERSHIP TO INCREASE

Rising costs eventually affect all of us, and that includes your Society. Did you know that JAHSSD has never increased its dues since its establishment? The Board has discussed it many times, and 2010 is the year a dues increase will become a reality.

Currently an individual membership is \$20 per year or \$30 for a couple. Seniors members (65 and older) are \$15 per year and \$25 per couple. Compared to membership fees for comparable organizations and especially considering our annual expenses of housing and maintaining our important collection, our member dues are low. While we thank those who so generously became Life Members, we expect the Board to close this membership category for future members.

If you would like to become a Life Member before this category ends, or renew your dues for several years at today's lower rate, you have until March 31 to do so. Please use the form at the back of this *Footprints*.

## 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.*

**Liz Yamada** (pictured below) gave a talk last October at UCSD for the Osher Lifelong Learning Program, Distinguished Lecture Series, which is sponsored by UCSD Extension. The audience was approximately 80 attentive learners, age 50 and older.

**Yuki and Mits Kawamoto** and **Gwen Momita** spoke at SDSU to a teacher training class. (For more information about our Speakers Bureau activities, see the article on Page 13.)

**Allen Group Architects Inc.** donated two metal flat files for the archives. Thank you to Board member **Valerie Abe** for the referral, and to **Duane Siefers** for the use of his truck to pick them up.

Planning the new exhibition at the Veterans Museum and chasing down the various donors and lenders was the responsibility of a committee of JAHSSD members who attended several meetings during the last nine months. Members of the planning committee for the **Japanese Americans in the Military** exhibition were **Valerie Abe, Linda Canada, Jeanne Elyea, Susan Hasegawa, Mich and Naomi Himaka, Yuki and Mits Kawamoto, Harold Kuhn, Gwen Momita, Joyce Teague** and **Rev. Jim Yanagihara**.

**Nancy Shimamoto** worked on her first history project for JAHSSD. She created the large map which appears at the entrance of the Veterans Museum exhibit. The map shows where Nikkei families were living before World War II.

Our thanks to **Jeff Boaz**, a museum preparatory in San Diego, who volunteered an entire Saturday to help with the exhibition at the Veterans Museum. Thanks also to **Susan Hasegawa's** students at City College who helped on Friday, Saturday and Sunday of the installation weekend.

**When's Lunch? Bunch** (and you know who you are!) made extra hand-crafted objects which were sold at the JAHSSD sponsored lunch at **Kiku Gardens** on November 13. With the help of the large turnout attracted by **Hisae Batchelder's** traditional Japanese lunch, JAHSSD sold close to \$250 that morning!

**Nancy Shimamoto** invited (her sister!) President **Gwen Momita** to speak at a book group in the North County. Gwen's comments helped group members understand internment as described in the novel, *The House at the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, and resulted in donations of more than \$200 to JAHSSD.

### Annual Meeting Acknowledgments

JAHSSD appreciates the help of all those who made the Annual Meeting a great success. **Linda Canada** coordinated the program, filmmaker **Lane Nishikawa** was our engaging keynote speaker, **When's Lunch? Bunch** handled sales, **Jeanne Elyea** and friends handled the drawing, and **Bob Shimamoto** made beautiful leis for the **Kansha Award** recipients. **Jeanne and Bill Elyea**, who ordered and delivered the bentos, also generously underwrote all the paper supplies and



other indispensables required to serve the bento to 150 people. Board members and other supporters who donated items for door prizes helped make the lunch fun and rewarding. Our woodworking wonder, **Yuki Kawamoto**, made not only the beautiful Kansha Award plaques but also donated two other handmade items for the door prize drawing. Thanks to everyone for their help!

### Mailing Crews

**Dr. Francis Tanaka** spent a long day copying, folding, stuffing, and preparing the mailing of the annual appeal letter with **Linda Canada, Saki Kada** and **Mich and Naomi Himaka** took care of mailing the postcards announcing the Veterans Museum exhibition. Another postcard mailing—this one announcing the opening of our exhibition at the **William Heath Davis house**—was handled by Mrs. Kada, Naomi, Linda, **Bob Shimamoto** and **Gwen Momita**.

The Fall *Footprints* mail crew consisted of Mrs. Kada, Mich and Naomi, **Taka and Beverly Sawasaki, Yuki and Mits Kawamoto, Jeanne Elyea, Mas and Grace Tsuida** and **Po Kaneyuki**. The same group with the addition of **Rev. Jim Yanagihara** folded flyers for another mailing. Many thanks!

### Footprints Acknowledgments

Your Editors are grateful to the following non-regular contributors for their stories, information, photographs and other generosity this issue: **Densho, Harry Honda, Mike Inoue, Robert Ito, Yuki Kawamoto, Karen Kawasaki-Williams, Patricia Kiyono, Frank Koide, Sam Nakamura, Marilou Seki, Jim Tajiri** and **Dr. Francis Tanaka**.

We also welcome a new advertiser, **Island Style Cafe** in Tierrasanta. It has become a local favorite for many. Check it out!

## LOCAL NIKKEI WINS NATIONAL EDUCATOR AWARD

On November 16, 2009, seated in an assembly of students and fellow faculty inside San Diego High School's gymnasium, English teacher and JAHSSD member **Jaime Yumiko Enochs** listened with interest as guest speaker **Lowell Milken** described the criteria for the **Milken Educator Award**, a national recognition.

Then he suddenly announced the real reason for his appearance at the school—to present the prestigious award to Enochs.

The stunned teacher, youngest at the School of International Studies, was called to the podium by a standing ovation. Pregnant with her second child, she said later it felt like the baby was doing "flip flops" as she approached the stage.

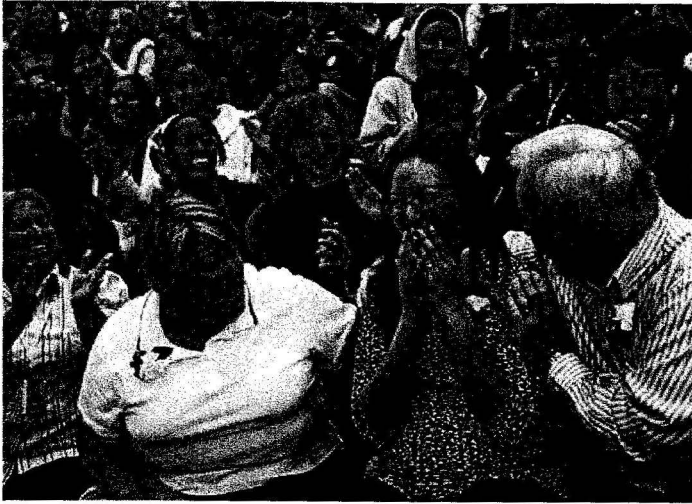
"I didn't feel well that morning and had thought about calling in sick," she admitted afterwards. "I knew that **Jack O'Connell** [State Superintendent of Public Instruction] was going to be observing in my classroom, but the students and I had no clue why he was really on campus that day."

Apparently only a handful at the assembly knew that the real reason for the program was the surprise award.

Established in 1987, the Milken Educator Award is accompanied by a no-strings-attached \$25,000 prize. Sometimes referred to as the Oscars of the education profession, the recognition surprises approximately 50 teachers, principals and specialists throughout the U.S. each year. Teachers cannot apply for it and there is no formal nomination process. Blue-ribbon panels appointed by each state's education department recommend candidates to the Milken Foundation.

*(Continued on Page 7)*





San Diego High School teacher **Jaime Enochs** reacts in disbelief on hearing her name announced as the winner of a prestigious teaching award, November 2009. Photo courtesy of the Milken Family Foundation.

The award is meant to inspire young people to enter the teaching profession. It finds special teachers early or mid-career when the award will make the most impact. Criteria for the award includes "exceptional educational talent as evidenced in the classroom, school and profession; outstanding accomplishments and strong long-range potential for professional and policy leadership; and an engaging and inspiring presence that motivates and impacts students, colleagues and the community."

The Foundation stated, "By shining a national spotlight on exceptional people like Jaime Enochs, the Milken Educator Awards send a powerful message of the critical role that talented teachers play in preparing young people for a bright future."

Enochs was recognized for developing innovative ways to help her students pass the International Baccalaureate English language exam. Almost all of the seniors taught by Enochs have gone on to pass the rigorous test. The worldwide average for passing the test is 60 percent.

The Foundation also cited her role in 2008 as the school's coordinator for the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) committee. "Under her leadership, the School of International Studies received the highest rating possible with a six-year accreditation. This was the first time a San Diego school had received this level of accreditation in nine years."

On its website, the Foundation reported that Enochs "is so dedicated to her students, she called her school's principal on the way to the hospital, ready to give birth to her first child, so that she could give her directions about the...exams [she was to have administered]. Her unwavering commitment to the school's success is undeniable."

Enochs has been teaching English for seven years at San Diego High School which is also her alma mater. She currently chairs its International Baccalaureate English Department. She received her B.A. in English at UC Berkeley, teaching credential at San Diego State University, and her M.A. in Education at the University of San Diego.

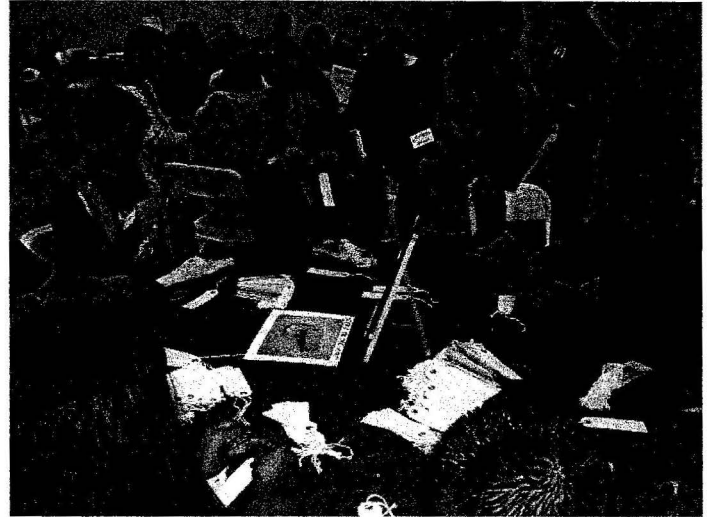
Her husband, **Asa Enochs**, teaches video game art and design at the Art Institute of California at San Diego. They have an 20-month-old son, **Makoto**, and are expecting another child in Spring 2010.

You can see a video of the surprise award posted by the Milken Foundation at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfJJ0PhmBf8>.

## TAG PROJECT VISITS POWAY HIGH SCHOOL AVID

Poway High School AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination) students got a taste of **Wendy Maruyama's Tag Project** when **Linda Canada** and **Gwen Momita** visited the campus on October 9, 2009. Linda gave a brief presentation on the Japanese American experience in World War II internment camps and introduced the students to the Tag Project.

The 150 students, who are in grades 9-12, also had the chance to participate in this community art project. Students tied strings, stamped tags, and wrote on tags from the Manzanar database. At the end of three class periods, PHS AVID students had worked on about 5,000 tags.



Students commented that they were "very honored to be a part of the project," and discovered the social aspect of working on tags. Working on individual tags and making a connection to the 120,000 people helped reinforce to the students the magnitude of WWII internment. Many students became inspired to participate in other Tag Project events in San Diego.



As part of the AVID program, these students are required to complete 20 hours of community service. The Tag Project was a perfect combination of history, tolerance, and community service. PHS AVID teachers **Karen Kawasaki-Williams**, **Sherry Lockie** and **Megan Ellsworth-Reinero** expressed their thanks to JAHSSD, Linda Canada, Gwen Momita, and Wendy Maruyama for making this powerful experience possible for their students.

## MAZEGOHAN

By Michio Himaka

Not all military medals for heroism are earned for wartime action. On July 2, 1926, Congress introduced the Soldier's Medal as a military award.

The criteria for the medal: The Soldier's Medal is awarded to any person of the Armed Forces of the United States or of a friendly nation who, while serving in any capacity with the Army of the United States, distinguished himself or herself by heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy.

The medal is awarded for risking one's life to save another's. It is awarded for peacetime acts of heroism held to be equal to or greater than the level which would have justified an award of the Distinguished Flying Cross, had the act taken place in combat and involved actual conflict with an enemy.

The Soldier's Medal ranks just below the Distinguished Flying Cross and above the Bronze Star medal and is equal to the Navy and Marine Corps Medal, Airman's Medal and the Coast Guard Medal.

Notable recipients of the Soldier's Medal include **Gen. Colin Powell**, who was injured during his second tour in Vietnam in a helicopter crash while rescuing two comrades from the burning wreckage.

But before Gen. Powell earned his Soldier's Medal, San Diego's **Masaharu "Fatty" Tsuida** earned one on January 20, 1946.

If you have visited the exhibit **Japanese Americans in the Military** at the Veterans Museum in Balboa Park, you probably read about it. The exhibit will be on display through Memorial Day 2010.

Fatty was a T/5 serving with the 379th Anti-aircraft Artillery Battalion in Bremen, Germany, on January 20, 1946. His citation for the Soldier's Medal states, "for heroism not involving actual conflict with the enemy... Technician Fifth Grade Tsuida, a cook in the mess hall, without hesitation and with utter disregard for his own personal safety, picked up a flaming gasoline burner of a field range, which had exploded, and carried it out of the mess hall. During this action, he received serious burns on his hands, arms, face and shoulders but he prevented injury to military personnel and saved destruction of valuable government property."

An article in the Bremen base newspaper pointed out that Tsuida was formerly an internee in the Poston, Arizona relocation center before his service.

His commander, Lt. Col. **Lester R. Lopus**, stated, "it is gratifying to note that you have carried on the high standards established by other Japanese-Americans whose part in the prosecution of the war is one of the outstanding achievements of that war."

After leaving Poston, Fatty had relocated to Chicago where he was working when inducted into the Army in October 1944. The article also noted that Fatty's brother, **Masayoshi Tsuida**, had served five years with the 100th Battalion and the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team, participating in the Italian and French campaigns before he was wounded.

To those who have yet to visit the exhibit, please do so. JAHSSD archivist and incoming President **Linda Canada**, SDCC Prof. **Susan Hasegawa** and BOD member **Valerie Abe** were in charge of putting up the exhibit and planning the future programs for the display. Considering the limited space made available, I think they have done a great job of paying tribute to all of our community veterans who have served from World War I through Iraq.

Look for future programs scheduled for the exhibit, including panel discussions, videos and movies of our veterans, past and present.

We also thank the **VFW Post 4851**, who helped with the opening reception on Nov. 8, and the **JACL Southwest District** and **San Diego Chapter of the JACL** for their contributions which allowed us to purchase a video kiosk to use at this and future exhibitions.

Most importantly, we thank our veterans and their families for loaning us their photos and artifacts to put on display.

We hope you, too, will enjoy the exhibition.

## THE MINK COAT THAT WENT TO POSTON

By Marilou (Obayashi) Seki

This story is as it was told to me.

When I was born, my dad, Al Obayashi, was so happy to have a girl after having two boys that he went out and got my mom, Emiko, a mink coat. This was a couple of months before Pearl Harbor, so when the evacuation order came with the two suitcases per person limit, Mom insisted on taking the mink coat. No way was she going to leave it behind or sell it.

So imagine her packing for a family with three small children—the oldest three years and the youngest an infant in diapers—but still managing to squeeze in a mink coat! I doubt that there were too many internees in Poston with a mink coat.

It did survive the internment though, because many years later, Mom had the then out of style mink coat taken apart and made into a very stylish jacket and a matching hat.

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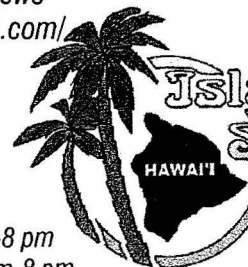
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## CONTRIBUTORS TO "JAPANESE AMERICANS IN THE MILITARY"

JAHSSD is most grateful to the following individuals and organizations for donating or loaning photographs and artifacts for our ongoing exhibition at the Veterans Museum in Balboa Park. Please note the exhibition also includes military materials collected by and donated to the Society since its beginning which are not included on this list.

### AMERICAN FAMILY STORIES

(Alan Hayashi audio tape)

Steve Arata (photographs)

Tim Asamen, JAPANESE AMERICAN GALLERY,

PIONEER MUSEUM, El Centro, California

George Furuya, Jr. (medals)

Stephanie George, Archivist,

Cal State Fullerton (oral history transcript)

Alan Hayashi (photographs)

Gary Himaka (photographs, medals)

Michio Himaka (photographs, uniform jacket)

Norman and Kathy Himaka

Miki Honda (photographs)

Kimi Kaneyuki (photographs)

Paul "Po" Kaneyuki (photographs)

Yasuichi "Jimmy" Kimura

Harold Kuhn (Navy medals)

Julie Kikuta Lindley (Suzie Suwa

uniform, photographs)

### DAVID MARSHALL POSTCARD COLLECTION

(USS Bennington postcards)

Shuji "Bob" Miyasaki (photographs)

Roy Muraoka (photographs)

Fred Nakatani (photographs)

Hideo Ochi family (photographs)

Craig Ozaki (photographs,

shadow box, uniform parts)

Taka Sawasaki (photographs)

Karen Scanlon (photographs of Japanese

Navy at Bennington Monument)

Ben and Grace Segawa

("Uncle Joe's scrapbook")

James Tajiri (photographs)

Joyce Teague ("Nisei in Uniform" pamphlet)

Masaharu "Fatty" Tsuida

(photographs, citation materials)

Mas Tsuida (photographs)

Motoo Tsuneyoshi (photographs)

Saburo Uyeji

Susan Uyemura (Shoho), Institute of

Gerontology, CAL STATE FULLERTON

Frank Wada (photographs, miniature room,

pillow, 442 banner, copies of newspapers)

Hank Wada (photographs)

Austin Tanaka Waller

(Dr. Francis Tanaka's WWII anatomy book)

Rev. Jim Yanagihara (photographs)

## 2009 ANNUAL APPEAL DONATIONS

The Board of Directors gratefully acknowledges the generous donations made to JAHSSD in response to its first ever Annual Appeal to our members and friends. Names omitted this issue will be acknowledged in Spring 2010. Kindly inform our Corresponding Secretary of errors for correction next issue.

Valerie Abe

Anonymous (3)

George & Toshiko Asakawa

H. Roy & Alice Asaki

Bob & Hisae Batchelder

Susan Bender

### BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SAN DIEGO

Linda Canada

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Toshiye E. Estes

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Ruth Voorhies

Frank & Jean Wada

Takeko Wakiji

Rose Y. Watamura

Arnold Watanabe

Rev. Jim Yanagihara

## CHANKO NABE

By Joyce Nabeta Teague

### Hey, Baby, What's Happa-ning?

One of the many pleasures of my full and at times hectic life is the time I spend with our grandson Makoto, 20 months old at this writing. It doesn't matter how many projects are waiting for me on the computer or how many dirty dishes are piled in the sink, when we are together, he deserves and gets my full attention.

How quickly Mako went from a tiny swaddling who liked to be cuddled...to a wide-eyed chubster with a bald head as big as the moon, "crooning" and "dancing" vigorously in his bouncy chair...to his current incarnation as a skinny, inquisitive toddler so enamored of anything with wheels that he probably says "car" and "bus" more than a hundred times a day.

Every stage has been a delight to observe and I am grateful to be around to enjoy them. From his first tumble off the bed (on Baachan's watch—oops!) to his first steps to his first word, I am loving every moment as he develops.

Of course, I also reveled in the various stages of our daughter's wondrous childhood, but gee, *that was over 30 years ago*. Does my memory even go back that far? Often my daughter will ask me things like, "When did I get my first tooth, Mom?" I usually reply in a way that is disappointing to the both of us: "Well, gee, I can't remember." So probably my fascination with Mako's changes has a lot to do with the fact that it feels as if I'm observing them in a child for the first time!

Jaime began talking at an early age and had dozens of words in her vocabulary before she could walk. Then as soon as she mastered walking at 12 months, she began stringing words together to make sentences. People in the supermarket would turn to stare at her, a bald little toddler seated in the shopping cart, as she explained earnestly what was on her mind, gesturing as she talked.

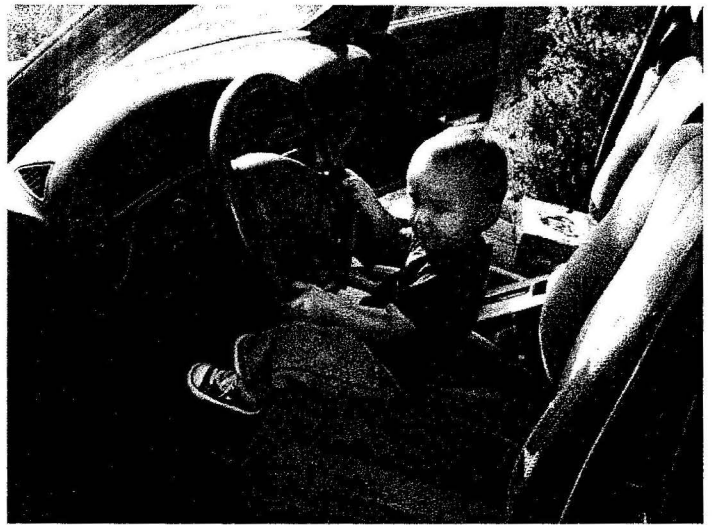
Not Mako. His first distinct word was "cat," uttered several months ago. I was so delighted, I recorded him saying charmingly, "cat-tuh, cat-tuh," many times. Since then, he has basically added only four or five sounds that pretty much get him everything he needs.

His favorite and most useful is, "Eh?" with a finger pointed in one direction or other. This gets us to ask, "What do you need? Toy? Snack? Drink? Diaper change? An interview with the Pope?" When eventually we mention the thing he wants, he gives a firm nod of his head. Then we are off to dial up the Vatican or whatever else he was able to convey he wanted with a simple, "Eh?" So why should he bother learning to say anything when we eventually will say it for him? Very resourceful, this kid.

Mako can actually say several words but the problem is they sound very much the same. *Ba* is ball, bowl, goodbye, bus, button, baby and baa-chan. *Ma* might be Mom, more, again, another, mine. *Ka* can be "I see a car," "There's a car," "Look, more cars!" "See that car?" "I have a car," "Can we watch 'Cars' (the movie)?" "Can I watch 'Cars' with the Pope?" and so on. Although he certainly understands everything we say, communication isn't quite a two-way street yet.

Thinking about how much Mako is absorbing right now, I found myself wondering what he might retain of the Japanese things he is being taught? After all, as a Gosei, he is now five generations removed from his immigrant great-great grandparents on both sides of his family. Both his parents are happa who have Sansei moms and Caucasian dads. None of us are fluent in Japanese.

The Japanese phrases I might use with him, or the children's songs and rhymes my mother sings when she is with him...will any



"Ba?" (Translation: Baachan, can you hit the accelerator for me, please?)

of it stick? And does it matter?

Some Japanese words we use that he understands are body parts, like *heso* (belly button) and food names, of course. There's a clapping song I learned from my mother and which I taught Jaime. It goes: *Chou-chi chou-chi cho-chi-chi* (clapping in rhythm)... *kaikuri kaikuri kaikuri ko* (making rolling motion with hands)... *otsumu ten-ten!* (patting head with hands). He loves this as much as "Twinkle, Twinkle," "Itsy Bitsy Spider," and so on. But will taking time to teach him *Chou-chi* mean much when he is older?

I am thinking about the young American, Jerome Charles White, Jr., whose Japanese grandmother met and married an African American soldier in Japan after World War II. Eventually the couple settled in Pittsburgh with their daughter, Harumi, Jerome's mother. Jerome's parents divorced when he was young and he was raised with a strong sense of Japanese culture. At age six, he was singing *enka*, a style of emotive folk singing that became popular during the 1940s, and of which his grandmother was a great fan.

After his graduating from college where he studied Japanese language, Jerome went to Japan and found work teaching English, all the while intent on fulfilling his grandmother's wish that he appear in a popular televised national singing contest. Within a few months of his arrival in Japan, he was actually able to live his grandmother's dream, though sadly she had died some years before. He appeared on countless television shows, signed a recording contract, and is now accepted as a popular *enka* singer known as Jero. Jero has found his own style, dressing in colorful hip-hop garb instead of a kimono. Even die-hard traditionalists hope his unique talent will infuse youthful interest in a dying genre. He will be appearing in San Francisco and Los Angeles on tour this March.

I bring up Jero because we cannot predict how much of what we teach our youngsters will "stick," especially when it comes to elusive things like cultural and family traditions.

I love all kinds of Japanese food but never learned how to cook much of it, so as a result I didn't pass down any Nihon culinary secrets to our daughter. Yet as a teenager, she took it upon herself to learn how to make *kuri manju* (sweet bean cakes) from my grandmother, Hatsue Uyeno, when she was still alive. Similarly, our Yonsei nephews, now in their 20s, have become adept at creating *makizushi* (sushi rolls) because they wanted to learn how to do it.

So while I am certainly curious, I am not worried about Mako and what he will or won't retain of our paltry efforts to incorporate Japanese into his life. We can only share what we know. It will be up to him much later to figure out how meaningful or useful any of it is.



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

*This is the concluding part 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. Part I appeared in the Fall 2009 edition of Footprints.*

The following year, 1943, I went to Chicago, Illinois, and found employment at International Harvester Truck Division inspecting crankshaft and connecting rods for size with snap gauges, and cracks with magaflex machines. I rode the trolley to work and it was always packed full with riders. I worked second shift so it was always dark on the way to my lodgings.

During the summer months it was muggy hot. After work, before retiring, I had to take about three baths to get clean (there were no showers), then would sweat all night long. We stayed in cheap lodging so we usually had bed bugs for company.

With winter approaching and knowing how cold it gets in Chicago, I decided to return to Poston [Relocation Camp] III. The following year, 1944, I left camp for Cleveland, Ohio, to work as a warehouse man at the U.S. Steel warehouse.

After a few months employment, I suffered a ruptured appendix and spent 18 days in the hospital, paid for by welfare since I didn't have much money. I was still draining from my operation when I was called for a physical from my draft board. Even in my poor condition, I was classified as 1A, so I returned to Poston III, wrote my doctor, and received a one-year deferment.

In 1945, I entered the U.S. Army. I was inducted at Salt Lake City, then sent to Camp Hood (not Fort Hood), Texas, for basic training. On the bus to Texas, I noticed that all the whites sat in front while all the blacks sat in the rear. I didn't know where to sit, so sat in the center which worked out okay. But when we got to Texas, the toilets were also segregated. I went to the white toilet without incident.

While at basic training, the war ended. After finishing basic training, I was transferred to Fort Snelling to study Japanese language. After graduating from Military Service Language School at Fort Snelling, I went to the Presidio of Monterey. A group of us volunteered to go to Japan to participate in the Occupation Service for one year as either

interpreters or translators. At the time we volunteered, we were all promoted from Buck Private to Technician 4th Grade. On the transport to Japan from San Francisco, we were known as the Zebra Battalion as we all had three stripes or more.

In Japan, we were to be classified as translators or interpreters.



*Technician 4th Grade Sam Nakamura was stationed as an Occupational Service translator in Tokyo after the war ended. He and fellow G.I.s used to take this jeep to visit local scenic spots. Photo courtesy of the author.*

Our test was to translate a Japanese newspaper article. Those who were good in English were classified as translators and the Kibeis (educated in Japan, so regarded as weak in English) were classified as interpreters. I was patting myself for translating the article, but in reality I probably flunked the translation. As translators, we were stationed at 5250 Technical Intelligence Battalion at Ojiku in Tokyo. I spent all day long trying to decipher the Japanese documents by counting strokes in a Japanese dictionary for each kanji character. Then you had to determine what the conjugation meant. I am sure I made a lot of mistakes.

At Ojiku we were stationed in a former Japanese Armory, a two-story building. Our sleeping quarters were upstairs and the main floor was our dining area. We ate in a sit-down dining area (no chow line) with young Japanese girls as waitresses. Needless to say, many of us walked the girls home. The girls told us they did not want to get serious with us because we were returning to the U.S. in ten months or so. I used to walk a party to her home and I was very well-accepted by the family.

Tokyo in 1946 had been devastated by aerial bombs, but some homes were spared, as was the Imperial Palace area. While doing translation work we were assigned a Jeep once a month. Four of us G.I.s shared a Jeep every week. We visited most of the scenic spots, mostly temples. On one weekend, I went by Jeep to Ibaragi Prefecture to visit my sister's husband's folks and friends. I also went to Osaka to visit my stepsister. While in Osaka, I participated in a tea ceremony and it was miserable. I took a duffle bag of miscellaneous stuff, including a box of cigars. The men folks really enjoyed the smokes.

I also took a train to Kushimoto in Wakayama Prefecture to visit my folks' kin. Couple of funny things happened. The first was I took coffee and sugar but no milk or cream. They made coffee but when I asked for cream they didn't have any. Then one of the relatives said, "Wait a minute." She returned with a container of something. I found out later it was milk from a pregnant woman. Not bad.

The second incident was when I took one of the young ladies to see *shibai* [local folk entertainment]. The mistake I made was holding her hand. When I left to return to Tokyo she was crying and carrying on. I found later that holding hands was a commitment.

I visited Japan again in 2000, some of my relatives remember me as the *heitaizan* (soldier). By that time Ojiku in Tokyo where I had worked as a translator no longer existed.

*(Continued on Page 14)*

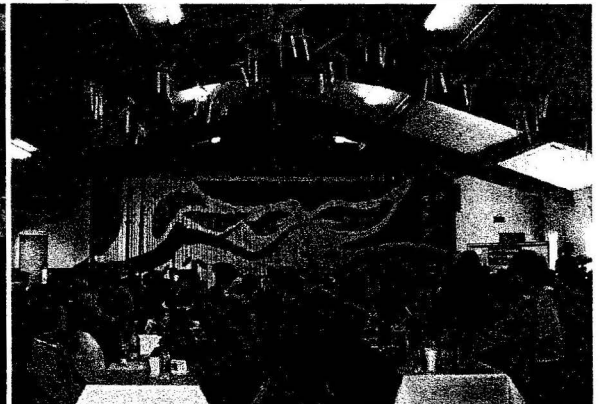
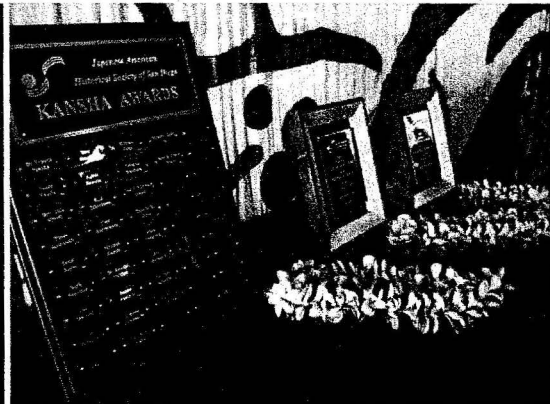


*Buck Private Sam Nakamura in San Diego prior to overseas deployment, 1946.*

# JAHSSD SNAPSHOTS



2009 ANNUAL MEETING: Above left, Kansha Award recipient Lloyd Ito and Family. Above right: Emi and Lloyd Ito with Robert Ito, who presented the award to his father.



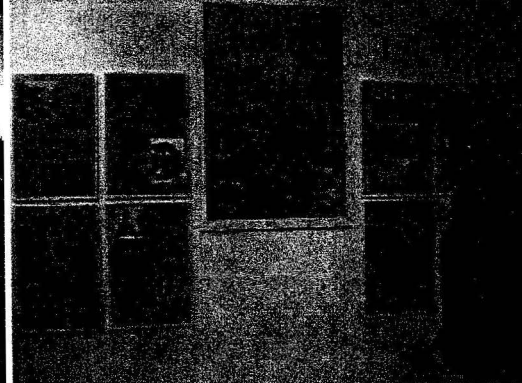
Above from left: 2009 Kansha Award recipients Grace and Mas Tsuida; Kansha Awards and leis displayed; large gathering in the BTSD Annex Hall await the program.



From left:  
Annual meeting  
keynote speaker  
Lane Nishikawa,  
JAHSSD outgoing  
president Gwen  
Momita, MC Karen  
Kawasaki-Williams,  
Kansha Award  
presenter Mich  
Himaka. Right: Rod  
Melendez, Executive  
Director of the  
Veterans Museum



Below from left: Opening reception at the "Japanese Americans in the Military" at the Veterans Museum; Korean War panels; Roy Muraoka talks about VFW Post 4851.





## LOGAN HEIGHTS SCULPTURE DEDICATION HONORS TUNA CANNERY WORKERS

By Frank Koide

On September 28, 2009, a dedication ceremony for a sculpture depicting a tuna bridge was held in Logan Heights to honor the cannery workers of San Diego. The dedication, sponsored by the Port of San Diego, took place at Parque Del Sol in Logan Heights, not far from where the canneries were active for several decades.



*Frank Koide, Jeanne Elyea and Hisae Batchelder represented JAHSSD at a booth at the Parque Del Sol dedication which honored several generations of cannery workers. The lofty tuna sculpture and the Coronado Bay Bridge are in the background.*

Cannery workers were honored for their dedication and service to the tuna industry. Through the years, cannery employees included Japanese Issei and Nisei, Portuguese, Italian, and Hispanic workers. The Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego exhibited photos of the canneries and displays of the barbless hooks that were used to catch various types of tuna.

I grew up in Logan Heights and lived in Fish Camp with the Nikkei fishing families. These houses were located along the pier over the water on San Diego Bay next to where the tuna boats were docked.

I remember when we heard the loud sound of the horn from Van Camp, it meant that the tuna boat had arrived at the dock and the fish were ready to unload and be processed in the cannery. All cannery workers from the surrounding area would rush to work to process the tuna which including packing in cans and ready for shipment onto a freight train located at the other end of the cannery.

My mother was a cannery worker at Van Camp Seafood Co., and she was one of the fastest tuna cleaning processors. When my mother retired, she received two lapel pins, each with three and four diamonds representing 35 years of service.

I also worked as a cannery worker and a fisherman for several years. When the boats were ready to be unloaded, I worked in the "ice and ammonia refrigeration hole," placing tunas into a large bucket from which the fish were later dumped into a long water conveyor system where they traveled to the cannery.

During the processing phase, I stacked the tuna next to each other vertically and cut the waste from each one using a long knife and a "two-stroke technique" as they came down the conveyor. From there, I also placed cut fish into high racks and then into a large oven. The tuna from the oven were processed by the "women in white" who cleaned the tuna for canning. Finally, the tuna cans were placed into boxes for loading onto the freight train.

Later, I was a fisherman on the *Rose Marie* under Captain **Motosuke Tsuida** and on the *Magellan* skippered by Captain **Anthony Mascarenhas** who later was instrumental in erecting the Tunaman Memorial on Shelter Island. My father was a fisherman and owned the fishing boat *Enterprise*.

Several old time fishermen I met at the dedication indicated that if it were not for the Nikkei fishermen from Japan, the San Diego tuna industry would not have been as large as it was in the 1950s when it grew to \$65 million. It was a transfer of technology from Japan which impacted the growth of the San Diego tuna industry. Japanese fishermen introduced this technology to other San Diego fishermen. The technology transferred was the Japanese fishing technique using bamboo poles and specially designed barbless hooks, thus providing greater productivity.

Today, the barbless hook and the bamboo pole that pioneered the Pacific Coast tuna industry is, like the San Diego canneries, past history.

## A "NOVEL" IDEA!

By Gwen Momita

Recently, my sister, **Nancy Shimamoto**, invited me to speak about JAHSSD to the Fallbrook/Escondido Book Club. The book selection was **Jamie Ford's** novel, *The Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*. The book relates the experiences of two young Asian Americans, one of whom is sent away to an internment camp in 1942.

During our discussion, Nancy and I were able to share some of our mother's comments which she gave in an interview by **Don Estes**, and which we found in our Archives! The discussion became even more relevant as we discussed issues facing our nation post 9/11.

It was a pleasure to meet some new friends, talk about old times, and introduce others to JAHSSD. Thank you to Nancy and the F/E Book Club for their generous donation of \$250! The monies will be used to further our mission, which includes saving historic documents and educating others about the contributions of Japanese Americans in San Diego.

Perhaps YOU belong to a community group (garden, golf, hiking, etc.) that would like to learn more about JAHSSD and what we do. Give us a call!

## SPEAKERS BUREAU SERVES COMMUNITY

Did you know that JAHSSD offers speakers or panels for schools and community organizations? We receive one or two requests each month for people to talk about internment and the experiences they or their parents had. In addition, we receive requests to assist with a variety of training opportunities including doing family history research.

There are many of our members who are still willing and able to go to schools to talk about their personal memories of internment and camp life. It's exciting to know that these speakers addressed almost 1,100 people this year!

We've added a new speaker recently. Our Ex Officio, **Gwen Momita**, has begun sharing stories and memories that her parents, aunts and uncles told her. For our outreach efforts to continue, we'll need more Sansei to volunteer to join the panels and tell their family stories.

If you are interested in helping with the Speakers Bureau, contact **Linda Canada** at (858) 457-9676.

## PEARL HARBOR DAY

By Robert P. Ito

*The following essay and profile first appeared on the San Diego Union-Tribune Opinion page on Dec. 7, 1999. It's reprinted with Robert's kind permission.*

On Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Day, I get a cold, clammy sensation inside of me. It's a feeling of dread that I've experienced since about the age of seven.

At 49, and with the prodding of a colleague, I am sharing my feelings so I can, hopefully, experience some catharsis, and put into perspective what other Americans of Japanese descent like me might be feeling.

It usually has started during the days preceding the anniversary of Pearl Harbor with media coverage about coming memorial services, and newspaper articles detailing the "sneak attack by the Japanese."

As a boy who looked Japanese, growing up after World War II in a Navy town, I felt somewhat conspicuous and began thinking that everybody must think that I was sneaky, too, and couldn't be trusted. "But I'm an American," I would think, trying unsuccessfully to reassure myself.

My grandfather, **Yenkichi Ito**, immigrated to the United States through San Francisco in the early 1900s along with hundreds of other Japanese seeking the land of opportunity. Like the wave of immigrants who entered the United States through Ellis Island about the same time, my grandfather came to this country with a dream of making a better life for his family. He originally settled in Santa Cruz where my father, **Martin "Lloyd" Ito**, was born in 1917.

In the mid-1920s, my grandfather moved the family to San Diego where he started a produce farm in Encanto, growing mostly tomatoes, bell peppers and squash.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and as his family was arrested and interned with 120,000 other Americans of Japanese descent in relocation camps in the Midwest, my dad volunteered for the U.S. Army's 442nd Combat Infantry Battalion where he fought in the European theater. The Japanese-American 442nd, whose motto was "Go for Broke," earned the distinction as the "Purple Heart Battalion" because of continuous heroism in the face of heavy casualties.

Most notable was the three-day bloody rescue of the "Texas Lost Battalion" during the last days of World War II in which the 442nd suffered nearly 800 battle casualties while freeing 221 survivors of the Army's 36th Infantry Division (Texas), 1st Battalion, 141st Regiment who had been surrounded by Nazis.

Two other regiments tried earlier to rescue the 141st but were driven back after suffering heavy casualties. My dad, an American of Japanese descent, returned to the United States as a decorated war hero, a recipient of both the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

So with this proud family history, why does this feeling of dread still persist?

Even as an adult, when I see "Pearl Harbor Survivor" placards and car license frames, I still feel guilty for what happened on that December day—long before I was born.

Why have I assumed this shame?

In talking with other Americans of Japanese descent, I find that mine is a common response, a shared experience. This year I've come to accept the fact that history took place, that I cannot change it, and that I had no part in it.

What I've learned is that I have a better appreciation for what immigrant groups like Iranians, Vietnamese and Somalis experience

as they acculturate to American society—and as their own children enlist in the U.S. Army.

On this day, let us remember the courageous U.S. soldiers who were killed during the Pearl Harbor invasion. But in doing so, let us not forget the selfless contributions immigrants of all colors have made, and will continue to make, to defend and preserve this great country.

*Ito is chief executive officer of Occupational Training Services, Inc. and the San Diego Community Housing Corporation. He recently was named the recipient of the "2000 Distinguished Alumni Award from the College of Health & Human Services" by the SDSU Alumni Association.*

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(MY STORY continued from Page 11)

Before returning from Japan, I was asked to "sign up" for the Army Reserves. Stupid me did and I barely missed the Korean War. While on duty in Japan, we were asked to go in front of the military board to sign up as Second Lieutenant.

I asked, "What should I say if asked why I want to be a Second Lieutenant?" I was advised to say anything, as the Army was desperate for officers. When in front of the board, they asked why I wanted to be an officer. I answered truthfully: more pay and prestige. I flunked the test. I am glad I did not pass, as many of those that did ended up in the Korean War.

After returning to San Diego after being discharged from the Army, I went to National Schools on the G.I. Bill to train as a diesel mechanic. After graduating from school, I worked with Mr. Sato two days a week as a gardener's helper at \$10 per day. I also received \$20 per week from the G.I. Bill for 52 weeks, so I made \$40 a week which wasn't too bad at that time.

While helping Mr. Sato, I met Mrs. Gunn, the wife of the owner of San Diego Tractor Co., the Caterpillar dealer in San Diego. She told me to see her husband for work, which I did. He gave me a job and I worked there about 40 years. I started as janitor and worked up to Parts Manager when I retired.



*Sam and Pauline Nakamura at the Japanese Friendship Garden's Festival of the August Moon, 2008. Photo by Joyce Teague.*

I have been happily married for over 60 years to **Pauline Masako Date** and have one son, three daughters and three grandkids.



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## COLLEGE INTERRUPTED BY INTERNMENT?

In our last newsletter, we highlighted San Diego State University's efforts to locate former students whose college education was interrupted because they were forced to evacuate San Diego during World War II. Late last year, CBS Sunday Morning had a segment about honorary degrees being awarded to Japanese Americans whose college careers were interrupted because they were sent to an internment camp.

JAHSSD has received many inquiries from colleges trying to acknowledge those students, and to award honorary degrees to them or their survivors. If you or a member of your family had to leave college to go to camp, would you please contact **Linda Canada** at (858) 457-9676 or [Lcanada509@aol.com](mailto:Lcanada509@aol.com) so that we can help colleges and universities in this important effort.

## LEARNING ABOUT SANTA ANITA

By Dr. Francis Tanaka

My first assignment as a volunteer for JAHSSD was to go through the obituaries from newspaper clippings that **Don Estes** and others had religiously accumulated over the years. Newspapers begin to crumble and turn brown after a few years. My chore was to make copies of them on acid free paper for preservation...a really dead job for someone whose profession for 50 years was to save lives.

A few weeks later, I was assigned to a more interesting and educational subject. The subject I am presenting reviewing is the beginning stages of relocation camps, such as Santa Anita, Poston, Jerome, Tule Lake and others.

The year is 1942 and the location is the Santa Anita assembly center. About 18,000 Japanese Americans were ordered to move to Santa Anita, a community formed in the race tracks. This community settled into horse stables that were whitewashed and the floors tarred over. But the stench of the horses and their products lingered on.

So did romance, and romance led to marriage. The first marriage occurred on June 1, 1942. **Toyo Matayoshi** was married to **Pete Miyashiro**. In order for this marriage to have occurred, the couple had to go to the social welfare office and see **Margaret Fujita** who assisted them in securing a permit to go to the Pasadena City Hall for their license and examinations by **Dr. Wallace Chapman** of Center Hospital. Then the marriage was performed.

As in any community, there were medical and surgical problems that arose. Fortunately, there were physicians in this camp who were able to take care of these problems. The first major surgery at Camp Santa Anita occurred at 11:45 p.m. and it was on a 60-year-old woman, **Taka Mori**, for acute appendicitis. The surgeon was **Dr. Norman Kobayashi**, assisted by (my brother) **Dr. Roy Tanaka** and **Dr. Fred Fujiwara**. The patient had an uneventful post-operative course.

The first birth at Santa Anita occurred during the wee morning hour of 3:45 a.m. to a **Mr. and Mrs. Roy Yoshida** of Torrance. It was a boy. Had "he" been a "she," would you have named her "Anita?" She would be a 67-year-old lady this year.

There are other memories of life at the assembly center. Remember the days when Coke came in distinctive glass bottles? The bottles had to be returned to the store. When 5,000 empty bottles purchased by Santa Anita residents were not returned, the store owner threatened to stop selling Coke. But the threat faded away as Cokes were soon on sale for 7 cents and then down to 5 cents. Cokes were

cheap, but do you remember the monthly pay scale in camp in those days? It was set by the Army officials:

\$8 – Unskilled workers

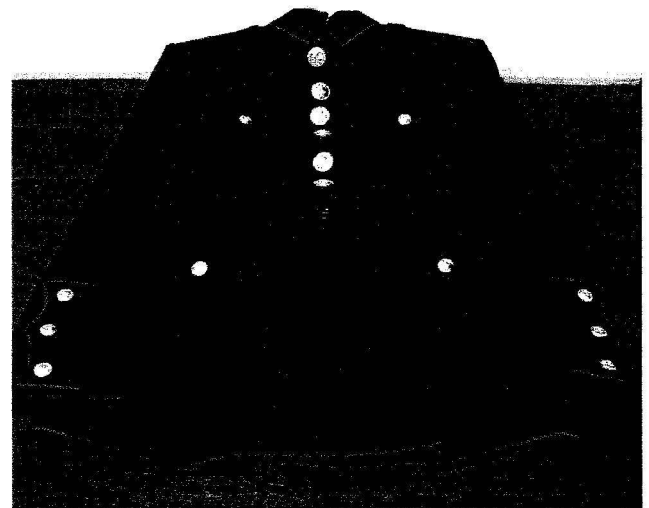
\$12 – Skilled workers

\$16 – Professional and technical

Even in those days, it would have been difficult to make a living on those wages.

Have you wondered what made the Japanese Americans, especially the Nisei, so loyal to a country that denied their citizenship and interned their parents in relocation camps set in desolate locations only fit for lizards, snakes and horses? I have wondered this many times, haven't you? The terms *kansha*, *on* and *giri* come to mind. But these are subjects for another time.

## A MYSTERY OF HISTORY



The mystery is not what this object is, as we know that it is part of a Marine Corps dress uniform. What we don't know is who donated the item?

When doing the research for the current JAHSSD military exhibition, we thought at first this jacket belonged to **Alice Kurashige**, who served in the Marine Corps in the 1970s. Imagine our surprise when dressing the mannequin at the Veterans Museum to discover that the jacket belonged to a male!

**DO YOU KNOW WHO MIGHT HAVE  
WORN THIS DRESS UNIFORM  
AND WHO DONATED IT?**

If you can help us with this mystery, please call our archivist at (858) 457-9676 or e-mail [jahssd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jahssd@sbcglobal.net).

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

**EDWARD KUBOTA**



## SOLVED! FALL 2009 MYSTERY

A response to our inaugural "A Mystery of History" featuring the wooden frames from camp days came from the feature's own sponsor, **Eddy Kubota**. He wrote, "My father, **Hiroshi Kubota**, told me...the frame marked "**M. Ohara**" belonged to the mother of the late **Takeyoshi Ohara**. They were used for needlepoint during their time in camp."

Later we received a corroborating note from member **Yuki Kawamoto**, who also got his information from the same source! He wrote, "My brother, **Hiroshi Kubota** (father of **Edward Kubota**), tells me that the frames...are for doing a Japanese embroidery called *shishu*. The frames were probably made in Poston and donated by the **Ohara** family. The name "**M. Ohara**" is **Mrs. Mitsu Ohara**, the mother of the late **Ohara** brothers, **Takenori** and **Takeyoshi**. My brother recalls that several women, including **Mrs. Ohara**, would gather in Block 329 of Poston III to do *shishu*."

(SUN CAFE CLOSES ITS DOORS cont. from Page 1)

The family members at the gathering were **Marilou Seki** and **Becky Hatashita** (daughters of **Al** and **Emi Obayashi**), **Pam Springer** and **Carole Schaefer** (daughters of **Bill** and **Yuri Obayashi**), **Gary Ueno** (son of **Florence Obayashi Ueno**), **Hanako Konishi** and **Tsukiko Hosaka** (sisters of **Emi Obayashi**), and **D-Ann Konishi** (daughter-in-law of **Hanako**). **Marilou's** brother, **Jon**, came for the gathering, but was late and missed the main part of the discussion.

The patriarch and matriarch of the **Obayashi** family were **Uichiro** and **Suye Obayashi** who had four children: **Al**, **Florence**, **Bill**, and **Walter**. Included in the **Obayashi** family were three **Tanaka** children from **Suye Obayashi's** prior marriage, **Mariam (Yamauchi)**, **Mary (Yamada)** and **George Tanaka**.

According to **Pam Springer**, her father, **Bill**, was given the Japanese name **Shigeru** at birth, but **Uichiro** did not want his son to be called **Shigeru**, so he was also gave him the American name **Edward**. His mother could not pronounce **Edward** so he also was given the nickname "**Bill**" which she pronounced as "**Beeru**." Incidentally, **Suye Obayashi** was a licensed midwife who delivered many **Nisei** born in pre-WWII **San Diego** and surrounding communities.

Because he was unable to own property due to his Japanese citizenship, **Uichiro** bought both the **Sun Cafe** and the **Obayashi** home on **Eighth Avenue** in the name of his oldest son, **Al**. So throughout the time the **Obayashis** owned and operated **Sun Cafe**, **Al** was the actual owner, although prior to the evacuation of the Japanese during **World War II**, it was **Uichiro Obayashi** who actually ran the business.

During the evacuation, **Sun Cafe** was leased to a Greek family. When the Japanese were allowed to return of the **West Coast** in 1945, **Al** returned to **San Diego** and took over operation of **Sun Cafe** with his father, **Uichiro**.

After **World War II** when employment opportunities were extremely hard to come by for Japanese Americans, **Sun Cafe** provided jobs for many returning **San Diego Nikkei**. Among those employed by the restaurant were **Helen Hagio**, **Mary Okamoto**, **Umeke (Mamiya) Kawamoto**, **Chieko (Moriyama) Yano**, **Tsuki (Fukuto) Hosaka**, **Hanako (Fukuto) Konishi**, **Florence Ueno**, **Amy Hashiguchi**, **Ann Kaneyuki**, **Walt Obayashi**, **Bill Obayashi**, **George Nishigaki**, **George's father Mr. Nishigaki**, a **Mr. "Oba" Obayashi** (no relation to the **Obayashi** family) and **Masaru Yanagihara**.

During this time, **Uichiro Obayashi** was still active in helping run the business. **Tsuki** recalled that orders were never written down until the check was given to the customer. The orders were given to the cooks verbally and they memorized them all, even during rush hour.

The girls mentioned a fireman named **Ole Olson** who was friendly with **Al's** youngest son, **Jon**, but when **Ole** was drunk, he was terrible. Also, that there were waitresses who worked at **Sun Cafe** other than **Nisei**. There was a black woman named **Zenobia**, a **hakujiin** (Caucasian) girl, and a girl from **Japan** who didn't know how to use a broom.

**Don Larsen**, a pitcher for the **New York Yankees** renowned as the only one ever to have pitched a perfect game in the **World Series**, was a friend of the **Obayashis**. He was a regular customer at **Sun Cafe** and later at the **Miyako**.

**Tsuki** mentioned the beautiful light waffles that **Bill** used to make; no one else could make waffles that tasted as good as his did. On days when someone else made the waffles, it just didn't taste as good and **Bill** would have to "doctor them up."

There was a Japanese cook who was single, who saved all his money, and had a beautiful headstone made for himself. He is buried at **Mt. Hope Cemetery**.

Not only did the **Obayashis** provide jobs for many returning **Nikkei**, they also provided temporary housing for many employees and for other returning **San Diegans** until they could find their own place to stay. The big **Obayashi** home on **Eighth Avenue** with its 13 bedrooms could accommodate a lot of people. **Marilou** remembers taking loads of laundry (sheets) to the back shed where the washing machine was; then she and her mother would hang them on clotheslines to dry.

Among those who lived with the **Obayashis** for a while were the brothers, **Dr. Shig Hara** and **Dr. George Hara**, the **Yanagihara family (Rev. Jim, Tom, Mari and parents)**, the **Sawasaki family (Taka, Hiro and parents)**, and **Hank Wada**.

A **Sun Cafe** dinner menu for **May 9, 1950**, was passed around by **Marilou**. It lists, among many entrees, half broiled lobster for \$1.25, fried abalone steak for 90¢, broiled **New York** steak for \$1.25, and old fashioned strawberry shortcake for 25¢. What bargains! Also on the menu were some unusual items that you never see on any restaurant's menu today, such as boiled pig's knuckles, boiled pig's feet a la **Creole**, and fried young rabbit. Not shown on that particular menu, but a favorite among many **Nisei** including **Joe Yamada**, was grilled weenies with rice and brown gravy.

In 1949, **Al Obayashi** opened a second restaurant, **Miyako Sukiyaki**, on **Fourth Avenue**, just south of **Market St.** In 1954, **Al** leased the old **Tops** restaurant and drive-in site at the corner of **Pacific Highway** and **Hawthorne St.** and moved **Miyako Sukiyaki** to that location.

He also leased out **Sun Cafe** and operated the drive-in and coffee shop at the **Pacific Highway** location with employees from **Sun Cafe**. **Becky** remembers working as a carhop at the drive-in. **Marilou** remembers her father and her brother, **Al Jr.**, having loud arguments. She said her father yelled at everyone except her because he knew that she'd cry (and that, no, he never did make her cry). **Gary** said he worked as a bartender at **Miyako**. **Marilou** recalls that at the time, the city would not allow **Miyako** to cook **sukiyaki** at the table, but as a concession allowed the waitresses to bring the cooked **sukiyaki** from the kitchen on a **hibachi** with live coals.

The old **Tops**, being a night club as well as a restaurant, was on two or three levels. **Pam Springer** remembered that **Hanako** (also known as "**Hankie**") **Konishi** and **Tsuki Hosaka** worked the lunch shift and were running back and forth to the kitchen on the lower level. Because the girls were tiny, a customer on the upper level wanted to know why they were running on their knees. (Continued on Page 18)

(SUN CAFE CLOSES ITS DOORS continued from Page 17)



A new Mexican eatery at 421 Market Street pays homage to the former Sun Cafe by incorporating the original name into the new one, but for the Obayashi family, the Sun Cafe is no more.

In 1976, the owner of the Tops complex sold the building and the new owners would not renew the lease, so Miyako Sukiyaki had to be closed. Sometime after that.

Jon opened a New Miyako restaurant on Rosecrans St. in the Midway District.

### All Things Must Pass...

Pam Springer said that after she arrived at the restaurant site for the group photo last winter, the old Sun Cafe sign in front had already been torn down, but that some of the demolition debris was still in a truck in front of the cafe. She managed to salvage the "S" part of the sign, although it was pretty well beat up.

Gary Ueno reports that the exterior of the new restaurant remains about the same as before, except for the new signage and a fenced sidewalk eating area. However the interior has been completely remodeled. And another part of our history bites the dust!

On a personal note, I worked at Sun Cafe for two weeks sometime around 1946. **George Nishigaki**, who worked there as a dishwasher, wanted to take a vacation and asked me to fill in for him while he was off. For two weeks, I was Sun Cafe's chief dishwasher and mashed potato maker.

During the late '40s and '50s, I enjoyed many meals at Sun Cafe with my buddies, **Taka Sawasaki** and **Jim "Head" Hashiguchi**. Their favorite meal there, like Joe Yamada's, was grilled weenies with rice and brown gravy. Mine was pork fried rice.

The Sun Cafe is gone, but what fond memories we have of it.

## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT: NIKKEI RESEARCH CONTINUES

By Yurika Enobi

Thank you to those who have already participated in our Nikkei aging study on smell and cognition in Nikkei individuals. The study has been continued into 2010 so that we may recruit about 30 additional participants.

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 me to make individual appointments at (619) 594-5970 (voicemail: ext. 2), or [lifespan@sciences.sdsu.edu](mailto:lifespan@sciences.sdsu.edu).

## FISHING NET: Finding Internet Treasure

**Media Arts Center** is a local organization that in 2006 partnered with the **San Diego Public Library** to film stories of the past, three to five minutes long, by 400 San Diegans. Under the guidance of librarian **Lynn Whitehouse**, the San Diego Story Project was so successful that it has inspired similar projects at libraries throughout California:

[http://www.mediaartscenter.org/site/c.dflIJP0vHoE/b.4829349/k.964C/Asian\\_American/apps/nl/newsletter3.aspof](http://www.mediaartscenter.org/site/c.dflIJP0vHoE/b.4829349/k.964C/Asian_American/apps/nl/newsletter3.aspof)

Use the link above and you'll find the following stories on the first page: **Gwen Momita, Bob Miyasaki, Dr. Frances Tanaka, Alan Hayashi, Fred Nakatani, George Furuya, Jr., Harold Kuhn, Linda Canada, Jim Tajiri and Rev. Jim Yanagihara**. On subsequent pages, you will find other familiar names.

The website **Reel Nikkei Stories** includes simple tutorials to show people how to videotape and preserve their family's stories. You can also upload your videos and share them with your family and anyone else interested in Nikkei stories. The link to this site was shared by our friend, **Lynn Whitehouse**, recently retired from many years of dedicated service as a San Diego City librarian.

<http://www.reelnikkeistories.magnify.net/>

We have shared the next link before, but member **Harry Honda** reminds us it's worth checking out again if you haven't visited recently. The site is a wonderful description and exploration of California's remaining Japan Towns: <http://www.californiajapantowns.org/index.html>

The last link is about San Diego's Japan Town, and includes a photo of Sun Cafe, the subject of our cover story:

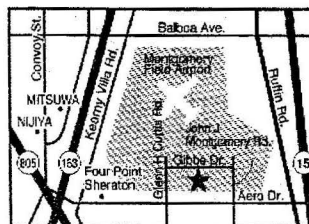
<http://www.californiajapantowns.org/sandiego.html>

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## INTERVIEW WITH NEW JAHSSD PRESIDENT

By Joyce Teague

*At its November meeting, JAHSSD Archivist and Volunteer Coordinator **Linda Canada** was elected unanimously by the Board of Directors to serve as President for the next two years. Although our readers know how involved Linda has been with the Society over the past several years, I conducted an interview with Linda so that our membership could learn a little more about our new President. The interview took place on December 11, 2009.*

**JT:** Linda, you joined the JAHSSD Board five years ago after the untimely death of historian and founding board member **Donald Estes**. What was your connection to Don and why did you decide to become a JAHSSD volunteer?

**LC:** Don and I met during the 1996 JAHSSD exhibition at the San Diego Historical Society where I was the Education Coordinator. Over the years, Don was my "go-to" person for Japanese American and Buddhist questions for my own research, especially in connection with the children's exhibition I created about Balboa Park. Japan was the only international government to send exhibition materials to the 1915-16 Exposition.

Back in 2004 when JAHSSD needed help deciding whether to create a museum or move into an archives/storage space, Don recruited me to serve with **Robert Ito, Ben Segawa, Liz Yamada, Bob Batchelder** and **Debra Kodama** on the original "Home Site" Committee.

When Don died, I'd been working with that committee for about a year, and we were just ready to move into the Austin Drive site. I thought about what I could do to honor Don's kindness and generosity, and to acknowledge the voluminous information he had collected about the Japanese American community, so when the Board asked me to consider becoming a member, I decided doing so would be a way to honor him.

**JT:** What were the tasks you took on when you first joined the organization and what have been your responsibilities prior to agreeing to serve as our President?

**LC:** In addition to continuing to serve on the Home Site Committee (which we now call "Austin Plus"), I have been acting as the archivist, working with volunteers to organize and categorize the many photographs, written documents, and artifacts of all types that make up our collection.

Using my contacts in San Diego's historical community, I have worked to create partnerships for exhibitions which have included: Japanese Friendship Garden, San Diego Historical Society, Parker, Arizona public library, North University City public library, Veterans Museum and Memorial Center, and Gaslamp Quarter Historical Foundation.

Working with **Susan Hasegawa** and **Valerie Abe**, we've curated and planned many exhibitions, which were installed using a dedicated group of JAHSSD volunteers!

**JT:** What insights have you gained about the organization and its supporters since you became active in it?

**LC:** I am so impressed with the generosity of our members, and their genuine friendliness. I've made some great new friends since I've been active with JAHSSD.

I think that the historical society is in a state of change, as the hard-working Nisei are gradually turning the operations over to the Sansei. One of my goals is to earn their confidence and to honor the strong foundation they created. I want to continue to involve students and interns in doing research, learning museum skills, and planning

exhibitions since they are the ones who will ultimately have the responsibility of telling the Nikkei stories.

**JT:** I think JAHSSD is doing a good job of following its mission and also in educating the public about JA history with exhibitions, publications and speakers program. What do you think is our most important responsibility as an organization?

**LC:** With all the many things that compete for time and attention, I think our responsibility is to make sure that the role of Japanese and Japanese Americans in San Diego's history is not forgotten!

We need to continue to encourage members to speak up and tell their stories. For example, creating the **Japanese Americans in the Military** exhibition gave us the chance to interview men and women who served during the Korean, Vietnam, and Gulf Wars—a population we haven't really studied before. From these interviews we gained much better insight into the impact on the Sansei and Yonsei of having a father or uncle who was a 442nd or 100th<sup>h</sup> or MIS veteran.

**JT:** Having worked with you for several years, I know you as a very capable archivist, historian, curator, as well as a thoughtful "people person." But you have an interesting background most of us are unaware of. Can you share some of it?

**LC:** I have one sister, a library technician in Escondido, and my mom who lives one mile away from me (and who enjoys bingo at the Buddhist Temple!). I had one son who died in 2001 in a traffic accident. No grandchildren. I have cousins in Arizona, New York (my birth state) and Florida. My husband Eddie's family is all on the East Coast.

Some of my past jobs have included telephone operator, escrow officer, restaurant owner and lawyer. I put myself through college and law school (at night) working part-time during those eight years. I'm the first woman in my family to graduate from college, and the first lawyer! I practiced law for 20 years, 13 of them here in San Diego.

In 1995 when the bank I was working for was closed, I "reinvented" myself as a historian of local history. To do this, I volunteered full time for three years at the San Diego Historical Society, and then worked three years for Old Town Trolley Tours. My first year I actually drove one of those orange and green trolleys and gave city tours. I still hold a commercial driver's license. Also I assisted in the creation of the little museum in Old Town in the Casa de Aguirre.

In addition to the volunteer work I do for JAHSSD and other organizations, I have a small history consulting practice in which I am paid to do historical research and create occasional exhibitions.

**JT:** How did you meet Eddie [**Eddie Canada** who currently serves as JAHSSD's Web Editor]?

**LC:** We met in a church singles group here in San Diego. I asked him out first (all the other women were doing it—he was a prime catch). We were married in 1987.

**JT:** You and Eddie do a lot of traveling, but some of them sound like "working vacations."

**LC:** Our working vacations are of two types. As a doctor, Eddie goes to many conferences. If the location has some interesting history, I usually go with him. Then there are the medical "missionary" trips we've been doing for about five years with a group from Mercy Hospital called the Mercy Outreach Surgical Team. The trips last a week, and we go to Mexico with a team of 48 people to do corrective surgery on children's cleft lips, crossed eyes, and other physical problems.

**JT:** What do you enjoy doing in your "down time"...if you have any down time!

**LC:** Current hobbies: travel (big surprise!), reading, jewelry making, sewing and crafts. I like softball and skiing. I also play cards with my mother and take her on outings and trips. I think I got my "travel bug" from her!

## WE GET LETTERS and E-MAIL

Dear Gwen:

We have been in San Diego for nine years and during this time it has been a blessing to be with the Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ and to have the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego keep us informed and educated about the historical events in the life of our Nikkei community.

We wish to say thank you to your past president Mitch Himaka, to your current president, Gwen Momita, and your executive board for the dedication and good spirit you brought to this community. I am also pleased that my former physician, Dr. Francis Tanaka, has been involved in this work since his retirement.

John and I will have moved to Hawaii and we will take fond memories with us of the community that projects positive images to make us proud of our heritage. I have always enjoyed Footprints and wish to thank Joyce Teague, editor, for her labor of love in this endeavor.

Gwen, when we are settled I will send you my new permanent address. Again, thank you for the wonderful work you do! May God bless you as you have richly blessed us.

Aloha,  
Norma DeSaegher  
Waipahu, Hawaii

Dear Joyce and Mitch,

Thank you for the tribute to my brother Shinkichi in the excellent article by Elaine Hibi Bowers and son, Jon [Footprints Summer 2009]. At the end of WWII, Shinkichi returned, a wounded 442nd RCT veteran with a maturity enhanced by Army training, combat, and having experienced the devastation of Europe. He was still going by the name George.

In early years, the Nisei were often given Japanese first names. As we started school many acquired Anglo names. So, in our family, Taneyoshi became Larry, Takeshige became Vince; Shinkichi, George; Minoru, Tom; and Makoto became, Jim. Our sister, Yoshiko, somehow retained her given name. As Shinkichi pondered more on his cultural background, he reverted to his original first name. I recall the time, just before he left the States, when I called to him "George!" and he turned, responding in a stern voice, "Who's George?"

In the next 60 years, he became a permanent resident of Europe where he attained his reputation as an artist. His last work, "de Wachters, Ronin," may be considered his magnum opus. It was inspired by, and based on, the Japanese legend of the 47 Ronin, where 47 samurai, having avenged the assassination of their master, paid the decreed penalty for their actions by committing harakiri. So the sentinels guarding the Dutch bridge are four samurai. Queen Beatrix, by bestowing Knighthood on Shinkichi not once, but twice, has symbolically made him a Dutch Samurai. He became a Dutch citizen in 2007.

Elaine honors him in the last sentence of her article when she addresses him as "Sir," even though she realizes that the Dutch do not formally address their Knights as the British do. I recalled the remark she made as she wondered if Shinkichi would be embarrassed if addressed as "Sir." She quipped, "At least I'm not calling him, 'Sir, Sir,' (in recognition of his double Knighthood).

On her visit to Shinkichi last year, she proved to be a fine emissary for the JAHSSD. Following the custom of omiyage, she arrived with a suitcase packed full with Japanese foodstuffs and goodies, items hard to find in Holland.

Your article allowed me to reflect on the past. Like the day when Shinkichi was too ill to complete his paper delivery route, I stepped in as his little brother, three years younger and smaller in stature.

Mimicking his actions, I folded each newspaper, stuffed them tightly into a canvas bag and managed, somehow, to swing the heavy load onto the rear tandem of the bicycle. Pushing the bike forward, I hopped on the seat and was immediately thrown off backwards as the front wheel rose up in the air, the weight of the newspapers having caused the [front of the] bike to rise up vertically.

When the Evacuation Order was issued, we dismantled the bicycle, hiding it in a large bundle covered by a comforter and tied with rope. The three of us, Shinkichi, Tom, and myself, made a pact to share in the carrying of the bundle, in compliance with the ruling that one could take, only that which could be carried.

Having the only bicycle in the Santa Anita Racetrack Assembly Center, I believe Shinkichi was given a job as a camp messenger. If so, he was paid the meagerly sum of eight dollars a month. Maybe not all that bad, since the salary included room and board. His room, however, was one shared with the entire family. That is, five of us at the time—three boys, a sister and a widowed mother. A ridiculous situation because our room was actually a stable, in which the previous occupant was one horse. The government, in its wisdom, must have considered it suitable by figuring that the total weight of the five of us—not one of us averaging over 110 pounds—was much less than one horse.

This occasion provided me the opportunity to reminisce about an older brother and the times when I still called him just plain "George."

Jim Makoto Tajiri  
Pebble Beach, Calif.

## HATSUJI BECOMES HARRY: NAMES AND NISEI IDENTITY

By Patricia Kiyono

*This article originally appeared in the May 2009 Densho eNews. It is reprinted with the kind permission of Densho: The Japanese American Legacy Project. Visit the Densho website ([www.densho.org](http://www.densho.org)) to subscribe to the free monthly eNews and to view the extensive digital collection that documents the Japanese American experience.*

What we call ourselves says much about how we want the world to see us. Aspiring entertainers adopt stage names; militants drop the surnames of their oppressor ancestors; immigrants voluntarily or involuntarily end up newly dubbed in their new country. Usually outsiders don't presume to rename someone else's child. But time and again in the years preceding World War II, Nisei children had "American" names bestowed on them by Caucasian customers, playmates, and teachers who could not—or would not—grapple with the strange-sounding names given by their Issei parents.

Densho's interviewees share stories of how they went from Hatsuji to Harry in neighborhood streets or classrooms. Other Nisei assumed European names to blend in, or to declare their American identity. With raised awareness during the redress era, still others reverted to the culturally rich names their parents brought from the old country. Each choice reveals where Japanese Americans fit into the mainstream.

Growing up in Seattle, **Tatsuru Kimura** became exasperated with teachers stumbling over the "tsu" sound in his name. By high school he decided to become Eugene rather than be called "you" by teachers.

Ungainly results could come from the renaming game. **James Suzuki**, for example, laughs as he explains, "I was given the name

(Continued on Page 21)



(HATSUJI BECOMES HARRY continued from Page 20)

Turk, a nickname, because my Caucasian friends could not pronounce Teruyuki, so they shortened it and called me Turk. And similarly with my brother, he was Terumichi, and they called him Term." Brother "Peter" had been Teruhisa at birth. The name changes erased a symbolic connection to the boys' father, Teruhisa (*teru* = radiance).

Psychologist **Stephen Fugita** notes that the Issei gave their children both Japanese and European names, even within the same family, perhaps depending on their expectations of returning to Japan. The back-and-forth pattern was the case with **Frank (Hideo) Yamasaki's** family. His sister Yaiko loved the name Dorothy; brother Harry wanted to be called Kazuo; there was Masao and then the youngest one, George. When asked why his parents flipped between English and Japanese, and why he changed his own name, Frank said:

*I often wonder, too. Because most of the Isseis, at least my parents, were not educated and they come to a new country with very low exposure to other cultures. And someone must have told them, "Well, you're in America, so you better have, name your son Harry." But all his playmates, they all had Japanese names. So he preferred to be called Kazuo and Kaz for short.*

*Now, with my brother Masao and myself, Hideo, it was in high school. All the while I was going to grammar school, whenever they came to my name, they would pronounce it Hidy-ho, Hedy-o. And... they always stalled when they came to my name, so I finally changed it to Frank and never had any problems... It's just that when it became so awkward for the teacher to always, you know, it did become somewhat embarrassing at times. Whenever it came to my name I used to know that Yamasaki followed "W," and so when Jack White's name is called, I know what's going to happen next. There's going to be a stall there and, "Hedy-ho, Yama...Yama..." You know, Yamasaki. Oh, my gosh.*

Name changes for the Nisei are intricately involved in their self-identity, reflective of their self-respect or self-suppression as a racial minority. Upon leaving Minidoka incarceration camp, third-grader **May Sasaki** deliberately stopped answering to her Japanese name, with the affectionate "chan" ending. In her child's logic she believed if she changed to "May," she could avoid further punishment for being Japanese. Years later, as an adult going through cultural awareness training, she realized the loss.

*Well, it must have left something because up until the time I had gone into camp, everyone referred to me with my Japanese name, which was Kimiko. And so I was always Kimi-chan, Kimi-chan, and that was okay. But I began to sense that it was because I was Japanese that I was in this camp because I looked around and we're all Japanese. And I think that's when I came to this decision that whenever I get out of here, I'm not gonna be Japanese anymore.*

*At that age, it doesn't make any sense but that's what I decided. I never said anything to anyone but I remember that near the end when we were ready to leave, when people would call me Kimi-chan, I would pretend not to hear them. And I could hear them muttering and everything but I wouldn't hear them, and I figured, "That's the way I'm going to do it. I'm not going to be Kimiko anymore. I'm going to be May because that is my name also." And...I never used my name Kimiko after.*

*...Yeah, this was when I was doing some training. And she had said, "I don't know why you're doing this when you don't even use your Japanese name." And I just started crying. And here I was an adult and you'd think... and then later I explained to her how I lost that name...but I thought, "Gee, why am I crying about that?" It doesn't seem like anything that would, that I should just get mad at her, but I couldn't. Because I was ashamed that I gave up that name.*

Upon returning to Seattle after release from camp, May attempted to erase her Japanese identity even further:

*MS: So I remember coming back to Seattle and starting school, and I do remember one incident where a young Caucasian boy came up to me. And I knew he was not friendly because he had this very, well, he had this face, a look about him—and he said to me, "What are you?" And I knew what he was looking for, but I said, "I'm Chinese." And he looked straight at me and says, "No you're not. You're a Jap." And I recall that so much, I was thinking, "How did he know?" 'Cause I was using my name May, and Chinese and Japanese look the same. And that kind of still reinforced that there's something dirty or something bad about being Japanese. So I didn't realize how strong that was in me, but even when I got married and had kids, I didn't try to share with them too many Japanese things. And when they were born, I made sure none of them had Japanese first names.*

*Densho: It was a conscious decision?*

*MS: It was. I remember my parents asking me why don't I give them Japanese first names, and I said, "No, that'll only hurt them, so we'll just give them American names."*

Virtually all Nisei gave their children Western or "all-American" first names. A telling shift in Sansei middle names took place around the incarceration. Prior to and during the detention, 20% of Sansei were given European middle names. During the resettlement years, 70% of Sansei received European middle names. In the 1960s, there was a swing back to Japanese middle names at 60%. Scholars surmise that the shift indicated the Nisei generation's desire to leave their foreign roots behind, while ethnic pride began to take hold during the civil rights era.

Some Nisei who became involved in the civil rights and redress movement experienced a conflicted or dual identity, which was expressed in their names. Former detainee **Tsuguo "Ike" Ikeda** of Seattle was an active youth volunteer in church, and went on to lead a nonprofit devoted to social justice and racial equity. Ike explains his evolution from the quiet acceptance of his culturally Japanese upbringing to an American-style assertiveness:

*And once I had this unique opportunity of being involved in a broader society, broader systems, educational system or whatever—you name it, these chances, opportunities were made to me. So then I began to have a two-faced thing about myself. In the Japanese Methodist Church, I was Tsuguo Ikeda, and in the broader society, I was Ike Ikeda. So it was a real fight internally, trying to be Japanese American, but at the same time, be more American, too, for a change, rather than primarily Japanese... It's unusual how labeling changes your behavior, but that's what I did.*

As the painful years of detention receded, **Aya Medrud**, a Quaker activist in Boulder, Colorado, decided to return to her Japanese name, which suits this compassionate pacifist well:

*Well, as you know, Mariagnes is, as I said earlier, an Irish Roman Catholic name. I was named after the mother of a Catholic priest who baptized me. And one day, three or four years ago, I was writing my name on something and I thought, "I'm not really Mariagnes, I'm really Aya." Mariagnes is a Roman Catholic name, which I have not been a practicing Roman Catholic for 42 years, and Aya is my real name, and it's a name that my grandparents and my parents gave me, and it means "love and affection." And I thought, "Well, that seems to me [to] be me more than anything else."*

*So that's when I told friends that I was gonna use the name Aya, and that my friends can use, keep calling me Mariagnes. But it's really for myself that I'm doing it, so, "Don't feel bad if you don't remember."*

## FROM THE JAHSSD ARCHIVES...

This photograph from the JAHSSD collection is of **Lawrence Madalena**, who was an English teacher at San Diego High School following World War II, years unknown. He was the faculty advisor for the campus **Nisei Club** 1949-1951 and possibly longer, though former club members lost track due to the Korean War. The photograph, source unknown, was likely taken during the 1950s in San Diego's Little Italy community where Madalena grew up.

**Mich Himaka**, a member of the Nisei Club, had Madalena for at least one of his English classes at SDHS and regarded him as a "great teacher." "He was very helpful in making our club viable. I know we used to have after-school donut sales almost every week and made a lot of money for our treasury. One of our big functions was to have an off-campus dance at the Buddhist Church every so often which we opened up to our community. There we made a LOT of money. Madalena...told us that we were the first on-campus organization to go off campus to sponsor a function and make money. He told us how proud of us he was and that we were the talk of the faculty for what we were able to accomplish. "

Mich recalls that during the Korean War, he heard that Madalena had quit teaching to write a book, *Confetti for Gino*, which was about an Italian American fisherman in San Diego.

According to critic **Kenneth Scambray**, who named *Confetti for Gino* as one of several notable Italian American novels of the era, Madalena was a San Diego native who attended SDHS and earned his B.A. at San Diego State College in 1941. He served as an officer in an African American unit during World War II. After the war, he earned his M.A. at Claremont College, writing his thesis on "Negro suffrage." He taught at both SDHS and San Diego Community College before earning a Fullbright Scholarship to teach in Italy for a year.

*Confetti for Gino*, with the author credited as **Lorenzo Madalena**, was originally published in 1959. (It is scheduled for reprint in 2010 as a trade paperback by Guernica Press.) Madalena left San Diego for Fontana, California in 1963 and taught at Fontana High School till forced by illness to retire in 1975. According to Scambray, Madalena also served in the Korean conflict in some capacity. He remained active in the Army Reserve until his death in 1983. This enlarged photograph, mounted on a presentation board, bears an inscription assumed to be by the photographer: "To Larry, Your book gave me a new inspiration in photography. Ted Lau." (The Editor thanks Mich Himaka and **Michael Mirolla** of Guernica Press for their assistance in the compilation of these notes.)



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