

FOOTPRINTS

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

Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego



DENICHI KAWASAKI: OUR FIRST U.S. VETERAN?

By Mich Himaka

It was the day before our community's 2010 Memorial Day Service held annually in the Japanese section of Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Mary Takasaki, her nephew **Ron Sakamoto** and my wife **Naomi** and I began to post American flags at the Japanese American veterans' gravesites.

I grabbed one flag, strolled immediately to the gravesite of one **Denichi Kawasaki** and posted the first one with a small salute and a "Thank you, Ojisan."

It had been in mid-May, about two weeks before the Memorial Day observance, that the JAHSSD received mail from Mr. Kawasaki's grandson, **Ted Kawasaki** of Lakeside.

Ted said he had a copy of his grandfather's military records confirming that his grandfather had served in the U.S. Navy from 1909 to 1921, which included service during World War I.

Not only did he serve during World War I, but he survived the sinking of the cruiser *USS San Diego* off of New York, the result of the ship hitting a German mine laid by a submarine. Six men lost their lives in that incident.

But I'm getting ahead of myself.

Denichi Kawasaki was born Sept. 28, 1889, in Hiroshima, Japan, to **Mr. and Mrs. Umekichi Kawasaki**. (The Navy documents list his father as Ummekichi Kawasaki of Hiroshima, Japan. I took literary license to spell the first name with one "m" and "Hiroshima" with one "r.") His enlistment papers, dated Aug. 3, 1909, give his name as "Deyichi Kawasaki," his trade as waiter, citizenship as American, and place of birth as Honolulu, Hawaii. (Mr. Kawasaki also signed his papers as "Deyichi Kawasaki.")

The document lists his home address as 546 Grant St., San Francisco. (Ted says he believed his grandfather came to the mainland U.S. via Hawaii. He said the Navy recruiter who signed Mr. Kawasaki up probably took it for granted that he was American born in Hawaii.)

Mr. Kawasaki was described as 19 years, 10 months old, 5-foot-4, and weighing 122 pounds. He enlisted at Hunter's Point, Calif., and listed his father as beneficiary to receive

(Continued on Page 18)

VOL. 19 NO. 3

FALL 2010

Denichi Kawasaki: Our First U.S. Veteran?	1
COMMUNITY CALENDAR	2
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	2
JAHSSD Annual Meeting	3
2010 Kansha Award to Yukio Kawamoto	3
IN MEMORIAM	4
MEMBERSHIP NEWS	4
POVUCC Fall Festival	4
New Dates for Poston-Laughlin Trip	5
Local Nikkei Becomes JACL President	5
S. Hasegawa to Receive Regional Honor	5
IN GRATITUDE	5
CAUGHT DOING SOMETHING NICE	6
Ronson Archives Open House	6
WE GET LETTERS & E-MAIL	7
Complete Back Sets of <i>Footprints</i>	7
"Yellow Face" Benefit Performance	7
In the JAHSSD Library	7
CHANKO NABE	8
Local Yonsei Earns Recognition	9
MAZEGOHAN	10
Starting a New Journey	11
COMMUNITY SNAPSHOTS	12-13
Vietnam: My Generation's War	14
Mom and Dad Didn't Want to Hire	16
A MYSTERY OF HISTORY	17
CELEBRATIONS	19
2010 Asian Heritage Awards	19
Compelling Exhibit on JAs in the Military	20
JAHSSD Offers SDMA Docent Tour	21
Proposed Snoopy License Plate	21
FROM THE JAHSSD ARCHIVES	22

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

BTSD: Buddhist Temple of San Diego. JACL: San Diego 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. SDJCC: San Diego Japanese Christian Church. VFW: Asian Pacific VFW Post 4851.

Ongoing: TUES/FRIDAY SENIOR LUNCH PROGRAM

(12 noon), KG, 1260 Third Ave., Chula Vista. \$3. 619/422-4951.

OCT. 3 (Sun) – FOOD FESTIVAL (11 am-4 pm), BTSD.

Great food, silent auction (11-3 pm), benefit raffle (4 pm).

Free admission. Info: 610/239-1096.

OCT. 9 (Sat) – JAHSSD ANNUAL LUNCHEON MEETING

(11 am) with 2010 Kansha Awards, program, displays,

BTSD Annex Hall. Bento reservations: 858/505-9020.

OCT. 10 (Sun) – “YELLOW FACE” Benefit Performance (2 pm),

for JA orgs including JAHSSD. Mo'olelo Theatre, 930 Tenth

Ave., San Diego. \$16. Reservations: 858/505-9020.

OCT. 16 (Sat) – FALL FESTIVAL (11 am-3 pm), POVUCC.

Food, games, crafts, produce, entertainment. Free

admission. Info: 619/276-4881.

OCT. 17 (Sun) – JFG AKI NO MATSURI or FALL FESTIVAL

(4-6 pm) featuring ukelele virtuoso Jake Shimakuburo,

Balboa Theatre. Tickets \$22-\$52. Reservations/info:

619/232-2721.

OCT. 21-28 – SAN DIEGO ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL, Ultrastar

Cinemas, Hazard Center. Purchase discounted tickets from

BTSD/Zenbu (zenbu@cox.net) benefits both BTSD and

JAHSSD. Festival info: www.scaff.org.

OCT. 30 (Sat) – LENA'S SCRUMPTIOUS SPAGHETTI BTSD

BENEFIT DINNER (4:30-6 pm). \$8, VFW/BTSD BINGO

(6 pm), BTSD Annex Hall. \$10 buy-in.

NOV. 6 through JUNE 5, 2011 – “DREAMS & DIVERSIONS:

250 Years of Japanese Woodblock Prints,” San Diego

Museum of Art, Balboa Park. Dec. 20 is sign-up deadline

for JAHSSD's docent tour of the exhibit on Jan. 9, 1 p.m.

Tour reservations: 858/505-9020.

NOV. 21 (Sun) – POVUCC THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

SERVICE (10 am), followed by Thanksgiving potluck in

Fellowship Hall. All welcome.

NOV. 24 (Wed) – SDJCC THANKSGIVING DINNER (7 pm)

DEC. 12 (Sun) – SDJCC CHRISTMAS DINNER &

PROGRAM (5 pm)

DEC. 19 (Sun) – POVUCC CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

SERVICE, Sunday School Christmas Program, (10 am).

DEC. 24 (Fri) – POVUCC CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT

SERVICE (5:30 pm).

DEC. 24 (Fri) – SDJCC CHRISTMAS SERVICES: Japanese

(9 am), English (10:30 am).

DEC. 31 (Fri) – BTSD YEAR-END BELL RINGING

CEREMONY (11:30 p.m.), Shelter Island Japanese

Friendship Bell. Free, everyone is welcome. Dress warmly.

Info: 619/239-0896.

❖ Send COMMUNITY CALENDAR items to MICH HIMAKA, keidanfloral@yahoo.com ❖

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Linda Canada

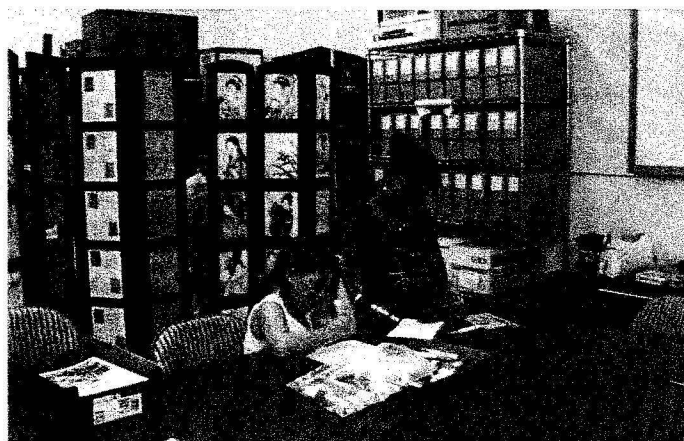
This summer at our new archives has been so pleasant! Not only are the working conditions much more comfortable, but we've had a wonderful group of new YOUNG volunteers. (No offense meant to our more mature and dedicated volunteers!) Our youngest this summer was little **Sarah Ozaki**, who at 3 years old, wields a mean dust cloth!

Her brother **James** helped with assembling new furniture, and later Board member **Karen Kawasaki-Williams** brought her stepdaughter **Sarah** and friends **Alicia** and **Marilee Passaretti** to assemble the storage boxes. The invitation for our open house was designed by **Michelle Guerrero**, a recent graduate of Our Lady of Peace High School. Volunteers **Dr. Francis Tanaka** and **Ben Segawa** were quite fascinated by Michelle's use of new computer technology to create the drawing and the postcard.



Above: “Senior” volunteers Dr. Francis Tanaka (left) and Ben Segawa watch as Michelle Guerrero navigates graphic design software, July 2010.

Below: Alicia Passaretti (left) and Sarah Williams take a coloring break from their task of assembling boxes at the Ronson Archives, July 2010.



Garrett Kodama returned this summer for a full day of volunteer work, and managed to complete a long list of tasks for us, including scanning photographs of relatives he didn't realize he had!

Finally, we made a significant new friend in **Jeff Sera**, a senior at SDSU and the president of the new **SDSU Nikkei Student Union**. Members of this group are committed to hold a Day of Remembrance ceremony in February 2011, and are willing to help us with many volunteer projects during the coming school year. Jeff spent time helping set up the shade canopy and setting out tables and chairs for the Open House on August 29.

(Continued on Page 3)

(PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued from Page 2)

All these young volunteers are key to the longevity of JAHSSD. They are learning to respect the past, and to understand why preserving parts of it are so important.

You may have noted that we have created two new membership categories for JAHSSD in order to encourage members to include their children and grandchildren in our activities. Those who join or renew at the Family level will receive student mentoring or research assistance, and those who select the Patron level will receive this membership benefit plus an 8"x10" copy photograph of their choice from our collection.

Mentoring help is important because most high schools and colleges now require both community service work and a senior project as a condition of graduation! JAHSSD benefits from the help of these students. But the students also benefit. We plant seeds about the history of Japanese Americans, and the importance of learning about those who have gone before us. Some students are exposed to career paths that they might never have heard about if they hadn't volunteered with us.

To date, JAHSSD has assisted a student in completing his Eagle Scout project, has enabled high school students to complete their community service requirements, and has assisted with research questions from eighth graders through college students.

Each of these contacts with youngsters assures that JAHSSD will live on in the minds of the students, who will eventually become our members and senior volunteers!

YOU'RE INVITED! JAHSSD'S ANNUAL MEETING AND KANSHA AWARDS

The Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego cordially invites its members and friends to the 18th Annual Membership Meeting and Kansha Awards on Saturday, October 9, 2010, at the Buddhist Temple of San Diego. Doors will open at 10:30 and the program will begin at 11:00 a.m.

This year's theme is *Kenshin* (Dedication). The 2010 Kansha Award will be presented to a truly dedicated and exemplary community volunteer, **Yukio Kawamoto**, a former JAHSSD Board member who has quietly helped others for most of his adult life.

Our exhibit, which opens at 10:30 a.m., is entitled "Where Were You in '42?" and depicts the activities of some of our members and friends during that year.

Our Keynote Speaker is **Sy Brenner**, an American POW held in Germany during WWII. One of his fellow prisoners was 442nd member **Masa Uchimara** of Seattle. The two of them, trained only as medical aides, not doctors, cared for their fellow POWs in a converted stable in Ludwigsburg, Germany. Brenner has made it his life's mission to talk about his WWII experiences, which are described in his recent book, *The Night I Got Killed and What I Did Later*. Besides speaking to school children and veterans groups about his experiences, Brenner has lobbied in Washington, D.C. to get Uchimara the military medals and recognition he deserves.

The exhibit and meeting are free and open to the public, but bento reservations must be made by Saturday, Oct. 2, to assure a lunch. Phone or e-mail in your order to the Ronson Road office at (858) 505-9020 or jahssd@sbcglobal.org. Provide your name and contact information, number of bentos desired, and the names of those attending.

Come early, browse at the craft booth, visit with friends, and help us express thanks to Yuki for all he has done and continues to do for us.



This year's Kansha Award winner Yuki Kawamoto and his wife Mits celebrated their Golden Anniversary in 2008. They met at a youth group dance in 1955.

A BIG 2010 "KANSHA" TO YUKIO KAWAMOTO!

By Mich Himaka

Kansha, a Japanese expression of gratitude, was what the late **Don Estes**, JAHSSD's first historian, had in mind when he created the Kansha Award to honor community members who give so much for so little in return.

Surely one of those individuals Don had in mind was **Yukio Kawamoto**, whom the Society honors as the lone recipient of the 2010 Kansha Award. How appropriate it is to honor one of the original members of our Board of Directors all by himself? If anyone is deserving of the spotlight in this manner, it's Yuki.

Yuki has always made himself available for speaking engagements when schools, colleges or groups interested in learning of the Nikkei experience want a speaker. He's always contributing a variety of interesting and readable articles for *Footprints*, our quarterly newsletter. Even after he retired from the Board five years ago, he's made himself available for anything, like building furniture for our archives.

Yuki continues to make the beautiful plaques for the Kansha Award winners every year. He displays his carpentering skills in the beautiful items he's made to be given away at our annual meetings, or as prized items for the Buddhist Temple's silent auction. He used his skill in creating picture frames for the Poston Restoration Committee, using wood recovered from the Poston barracks.

And Yuki has worked on all four Poston III Reunions that have been held in San Diego, either as a committee co-chairman or as a volunteer in some capacity or another. And if any one of our younger folks want to plan another reunion in San Diego, he probably will make himself available in an advisory capacity. (*Take note of that, young people.*)

But long before all those activities, Yuki was the volunteer secretary, maintenance man, office worker, janitor and *Bussei Script* newsletter staffer for the Buddhist Temple of San Diego. He also developed a computer system to record and list the temple membership. Eventually, all that led to part-time employment with the temple, he said, but he was always putting in far more hours than what he was paid for. That covered a period of almost 15 years.

Prior to that, Yuki worked with the federal civil service for about 30 years at Camp Pendleton and North Island Naval Air Station as supply clerk and with data processing and computers. Those jobs involved a lot of traveling to Washington, D.C. and other points. Yuki retired from federal service in 1980 and worked as a data processing consultant for a private firm.

(Continued on Page 11)

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.*

HARVEY AKIO ITANO

November 3, 1920 ~ May 8, 2010

KAZUMI MIZUNO

January 22, 1933 ~ May 12, 2010

JOHN E. BENSON

May 3, 1921 ~ May 20, 2010

ANDREW YOSHIO TAKEUCHI

April 16, 1968 ~ June 25, 2010

JOANNE SACHIKO NOJIMA

1933 ~ June 29, 2010

RONALD IGUCHI

1954 ~ June 30, 2010

ALLEN KATSUKI YASUKOCHI

February 4, 1938 ~ August 9, 2010

GARY HANDA

December 21, 1942 ~ August 17, 2010

WALTER RAYMOND ITO

July 5, 1929 ~ August 28, 2010

FLORENCE "BABE" KIDA UYEDA

July 21, 1926 ~ August 29, 2010

FLORENCE FUMIKO YAMASHITA

March 9, 1913 ~ August 29, 2010

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

By Sumiyo E. Kastelic, Membership Coordinator

Welcome to **Susan & Richard Hori** and **Setsuko & Yoshikuni Kaneda** who have joined JAHSSD since our Summer *Footprints*; and to **Douglas J. Urata**, whose membership is a gift of **Helen & James Urata**.

We extend special appreciation to the following individuals who, in renewing their memberships, converted from the Couples category to new Patron memberships: **Melinda Albright & Craig Ozaki**, **Yuri Kaneda & David Fujikawa**, and **Toshiye & Guy Kiyoi**; and also to **Jill & John Damrose** for converting from a Couple to the new Family membership.

Many thanks to the following for renewing their annual memberships: **Jaime & Asa Enochs**, **Karen Fujikawa Hart**, **Grace Igasaki**, **Chiz Imoto**, **Sumiko Ishida**, **Karin & Kenn Kashima**, **Tetsuden Kashima**, **Janet & Frank Koide**, **Hiroshi Kubota**, **Nancy Nabeta & Daniel Martinez**, **Mary Marumoto**, **Jodi Masumoto**, **Toshiko & Shin Matsuda**, **Tomi Morimoto**, **Mary & Satoshi Okamoto**, **Jean Okazaki**, **Joy Sakaue & Lee Plummer**, **Helene & Paul Shimizu**, **June & James Tajiri**, **Yoshiko Tajiri**, **Patricia Takeshita**, **Bert Tanaka, Jr.**, **Peggy & Tyler Tanaka**, **Masaharu Tsuida**, **Kenneth Uyeda**, **Takeko Wakiji**, **Miyoko & Toshio Miyashita**, **Wakae Sato**, **Pam Springer**, **Taeko & Tom Udo**, **Susan & Roy Yonekura**, **Roy & Alice Asaki**, **Krystal Hauseur**, **Eileen Katayama**, **Ray Kato**, **Glory & Ernie Katsumata**, **Viola & Brian Kiyohara**, **Terry & Joe Mizufuka**, **Marty & Hiromi Morimoto**, **Evelyn Chieko Saito**, **Jiro Saito**, **Eric Segawa**, and **Yone Shiwotsuka**.

Please feel free to contact me regarding membership inquiries at (760) 632-8386 or sumik@cox.net.

POVUCC FALL FESTIVAL IS OCT. 16

Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ (POVUCC) announces its annual Fall Festival on Saturday, October 16, 2010, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This community-wide fundraiser promises fun for all ages. Free craft projects and treats for kids, plus carnival-style games!

Come and enjoy the festive atmosphere, lively entertainment and mouth-watering multicultural food items including sushi, tacos, lumpia, chicken teriyaki, yakisoba and more! There will also be plenty of baked goods, homemade crafts, silent auction items for bid, as well as door prizes and a fabulous produce market.

POVUCC is located at 2550 Fairfield Street, San Diego, CA 92110. For information, call (619) 276-4881.

NEW DATES FOR PROPOSED TRIP TO POSTON/LAUGHLIN

The November trip to Laughlin, with a possible side trip to the Poston Relocation Center, has been rescheduled to November 15-17, 2010, Monday through Wednesday. **Miki Honda** of Honda Tours is offering her regular trip to Laughlin but has offered to take a side trip to Poston if there is enough interest. The side trip remains tentative at this point until there is sufficient interest.

If you are interested in the regular Laughlin itinerary and the Poston side trip, please call Miki at (858) 278-4572, **Jeanne Elyea** at (619) 690-1151 or **Mich Himaka** at (619) 660-9865, as soon as possible. Leave your name and telephone number to add to the list of Poston visitors.

Once we have sufficient numbers, we can start arranging with Colorado River Tribal officials for a brief tour of the camp area. We need at least 30 more people to fill a second bus for the Poston/Laughlin trip. The Honda Tours Laughlin trip will go on regardless whether the Poston side trip is finalized or not.

LOCAL NIKKEI BECOMES NATIONAL JACL PRESIDENT

On July 3, 2010, at their biennial Convention in Chicago, the National Council of the **Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)** elected **David Kawamoto** as the 2010-12 National JACL President. He became the first San Diegan to hold the title.



David Kawamoto (foreground) is sworn into office by former Dept. of Transportation Secretary **Norman Mineta**, July 3, 2010.

David brings a wealth of experience to the job, having served JACL on the Chapter, District and National levels. He had served as the San Diego Chapter's President for six separate terms (1991-93 and 2003-05). He also served two terms as JACL's Pacific Southwest District Governor from 1995 to 1999. From 2000 to 2004, he served as the National JACL Vice President of General Operations (1st Vice President), under then National President (now JACL Executive Director) **S. Floyd Mori**. David also served as National JACL Vice President for Planning & Development from 2008 to 2010.

His role, along with the National JACL Board, is to oversee the operations of the national organization's programs during these financially challenging times. He will also represent the JACL on numerous committees and at numerous events.

David is the son of **Harry and Umeko (nee Mamiya) Kawamoto**, and he has a brother, **Gary**. David is a native San Diegan, graduating from San Diego State University and Thomas Jefferson School of Law. He recently retired from his career in Pretrial Services with the U.S. District Court in San Diego.

David is married to the former Miss **Carol Iguchi** and the couple have two sons, **Kevin** and **Keith**. In accepting the two-year leadership position, David expressed gratitude for the support of his family, as he is a total volunteer for all of his work with the JACL.

SUSAN HASEGAWA TO RECEIVE REGIONAL HONOR

Susan Hasegawa, Professor of History at San Diego City College, and author of *Japanese Americans in San Diego*, will be honored at the 14th Annual Awards Dinner of the JACL Pacific Southwest District on October 9, 2010, in Long Beach.

Each JACL chapter in the Pacific Southwest District selected a chapter member for their service and commitment to their community. At their board meeting on July 21, the San Diego JACL voted unanimously to honor Prof. Hasegawa for her outstanding and ongoing commitment to education and issues of civil rights and liberties as a teacher, historian, author and community advocate.

IN GRATITUDE

We gratefully acknowledge 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. Includes donations received by Aug. 31, 2010.

MR. AND MRS. H. ROY ASAKI
and AETNA FOUNDATION
Volunteer Matching Grant Program

ANONYMOUS
In memory of John Benson

MRS. LILY T. HATANAKA
In honor of friendship with Howard Jun Kuyama

EDWARD K. KUBOTA

LINDA MCLEMORE
In memory of Andy Takeuchi

DR. AND MRS. PAUL SHIMIZU

DR. DAVID D. SMITH
In honor of Michio and Naomi Himaka

CRAVING THE ISLANDS?

Come in for
2 for \$20 Weekend Specials
~Island BBQ ~Hamburger Steak ~Chicken Katsu ~Saimin

2 entrees/2 soft drinks/dessert
Dine In Tues-Thurs. after 4 pm



VOTED #1!
See our reviews
at www.yelp.com/sandiego

Tu-Th 10 am-8 pm
F-Sat 7:30 am-8 pm
Sun 7:30 am-3 pm
www.islandstylecafe.com

DINE IN or TAKE OUT!
Call for quick pick-up!

5950 Santo Road
Right off Hwy 52
(858) 541-7002

New South Bay location!
1067 Broadway #102
Chula Vista
(619) 422-1900

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.

If you attended our **Ronson Road Open House** on August 29, then you know we have successfully moved into our versatile new space in Kearny Mesa. This was accomplished with the great help of many members and friends. We are beholden to the following individuals for their time, labor and other contributions during our settling-in period:

- **John Cox**, a friend of **Linda Canada**, who assembled our new bookcases.
- Furniture assemblers **Craig, Melinda, James and Sarah Ozaki, Robert Ito, Derrick Ito, Duane Siefers, Valerie Abe** and her husband **Jon Linton**.
- **Mich and Naomi Himaka** for providing coffee to keep our volunteers awake!
- **Dr. Francis Tanaka** for donating paper goods to help keep us clean and tidy.
- **Carol Estes**: an electric fan and a dictation transcription unit to help with the oral history project.
- **Craig and Melinda Ozaki**: a folding table and a wet/dry shop vacuum for use at the new space.
- **Frank and Sumi Kastelic**: Postage stamps for JAHSSD mail.
- **Michelle Guerrero**, a new volunteer, designed the invitation for our Open House. Mich and Naomi picked them up, applied the mailing labels, and put them in the mail for us. Michelle also designed a color flyer announcing the free film, "Shall We Dance?" to be shown outdoors at Kiku Gardens on September 16.

Thanks also to those who contributed to the success of our Ronson Road Open House: **Linda Canada, Yuri Kaneda, Debra Kodama, Craig Ozaki, Valerie Abe, Bill Teague, Karen Kawasaki-Williams, Gwen Momita, Dr. Francis Tanaka, Carrie Tanaka, Ben Segawa, David Fujikawa, Eric Fujikawa, Jeff Sera, Coreen Fujinami, Susan Hasegawa** and the **When's Lunch? Bunch**.

Donations to JAHSSD

Sincerest thanks to those who have made the following recent donations to the Society, recorded as of August 29, 2010:

- **Professor Terry Thomas**: Sister Cities Choral Concert CD, donated in honor of **Roy Muraoka**.
- **Fred and Nancy Nakatani**: Two items built by **Susumu Kawato** including a chest with drawers with sliding doors, made from scrap lumber and lug boxes; and a wooden ironing board top. Both items were used at Poston Camp III. Also, mochitsuki equipment used by the Kawato and Nakatani families, including mochi pounding sticks fashioned from the branches of a lemon tree owned by Nancy's aunt and uncle, **Toyoko and Frank Yonekura** of Chula Vista; and wooden mochi boxes, handmade by Mr. Kawato.
- **Frank Wada**: Three CDs titled, "Remember Poston," "The Color of Honor," and "Frank Wada 2004 Interview."
- **Navy Region Southwest Public Affairs Office**: 2010 commemorative medallion from the 50th Anniversary of Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security, and various printed materials related to events surrounding the visit of the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force to San Diego, June 25-27, 2010.
- **Carol Estes**: Three engraved plaques honoring **Donald H. Estes**; two folders of awards and commendation letters; one file drawer of drafts of various scholarly articles and publications authored by Prof. Estes. Second donation: Sumitomo Bank notepad holder engraved

with **Donald H. Estes'** name; collection of San Diego High School yearbooks, printed history, newsletters and various other school publications; *Journal of the West* 1999 (15 copies); miscellaneous storage boxes; rolling cart with origami supplies. Third donation: *100 Year Road* exhibit noren; miscellaneous publications.

- **Harvey Schertzer**: Collection of letters, cards, photographs, and miscellaneous paper ephemera; U.S. Army New Testament c. 1942; all materials formerly owned by **Frank Torio**.
- **Leland Bolt**: Kimono and plexiglass case.
- **Larry Kida**: Photographs documenting history and members of **OMS Holiness Church**, now known as **Japanese Christian Church**.
- **Yuki Kawamoto**: 2010 Poston Reunion souvenir book.
- **Mary Yamada**: Child's kendo outfit worn by **Dr. Hank Yamada**.
- **Tommy Hamada**: Copies of elementary school class photographs taken at Poston Camp.
- **Kiku Gardens**: Two framed photographs of Kiku Gardens.

Footprints Contributors

Your Editors would like to thank the following (non-regular) contributors of information, stories and photographs to this issue of *Footprints*: **Alan Hayashi, Asia Journal of Culture and Commerce, Aya Ibarra, Bob Batchelder, Bonnie Bowler, Carolyn Tsuida, David Kawamoto, Donald H. Harrison** and www.examiner.com, **Eugene Kaneko, Gwen Momita, Jeanne Elyea, Kay Ochi, Len Novarro, Rio Imamura, Robert Ito, Roy Asaki, San Diego Yuyu, Steve Sato, Susan Hasegawa, Valerie Abe, and Yuki Kawamoto**.

RONSON ARCHIVES HOLDS ITS FIRST OPEN HOUSE

More than 100 members and friends of JAHSSD dropped by on Sunday afternoon, August 29, to share sushi, cake and fellowship at our Open House at the new Ronson Road Archives.

JAHSSD President **Linda Canada** acknowledged those who made the move to the new location possible, including **Robert Ito**, who headed the site committee that helped locate the space, and the San Diego chapter of the JACL, which donated funds that provided new furniture and storage units for our collection.

Open House guests viewed films and oral history materials, looked at the newly released souvenir book from the April 2010 Poston reunion, and spent time trying to find familiar names among the Poston tags that are on exhibit.

We received several donations and recruited new volunteers. All in all, it was a successful day, and we thank those who helped make it possible! Photos taken during the Open House are on Pages 12-13.

ROY S. YONEKURA

Certified Public Accountant

P.O. BOX 1647

BONITA, CA 91908-1647

(619) 482-0275

FAX: (619) 482-0242

WE GET LETTERS & E-MAIL

Dear Mrs. Canada,

Jun Kuyama is a very dear friend. I have known him since his teen years. He sent me *Footprints*.

I moved to San Diego during my senior year in high school. The short time—September to internment were happy years and I had looked with great anticipation to becoming a member of the UC community. Jun had sent my article to So Yamada, he tells me, so I will not dwell on my story.

Congratulations on a wonderful publication. I devoured each page and read with my soul full of love and admiration for all the people and their remarkable experiences. I especially adored the speech by Patrick Hayashi. I send special aloha and gambare to him.

I'm sending a small contribution, and wish fervently that it could be more. Keep up your marvelous work.

Mahalo and warmest aloha,
Lily Hatanaka
Honolulu, Hawaii

Dear JAHSSD,

Enclosed is a check for \$100 to support JAHSSD Wishbook requests. While I selected the folding sunshade, you can use the funds to benefit any other needs of the Society.

I enjoyed my visit and appreciate the opportunity to assist you in reaching your goals.

Sincerely,
Bert G. Landau
Tucson, Arizona

(Editor's note: Mr. Landau, who was visiting in Coronado, attended the Open House. His gift will be used to purchase a folding canopy which JAHSSD will use for community fairs, exhibits, and other activities.)

Dear Fellow Board Members:

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and a beautiful flower basket for my son Andy's memorial service.

Grace Takeuchi
San Diego

COMPLETE BACK SETS OF FOOTPRINTS NOW AVAILABLE

Thanks to the patience and sorting and collating skills of **Gwen Momita** and **Duane Siefers**, we have learned that JAHSSD has four complete sets of *Footprints* back issues, starting with the very first newsletter put together by editor **Jeanne Elyea** in 1992!

In past years, JAHSSD would save multiple copies of each issue to assure we would always have some at hand. But with most of the newsletters from the year 2002 now saved digitally, we are still storing many paper copies than we have room for.

The Board has decided to offer the complete sets to any member who makes a suggested donation of \$25 for one. Each set will be accompanied by up-to-date, stand-alone indexes of names and topics created by **Roy Asaki**. The indexes make it easy to use the past issues to find stories about particular people or events.

Footprints is always full of interesting stories and photos about our community and beyond. Use the complete collection for your personal reference to peruse at your leisure, or to save for your kids or grandkids so that they can learn more about local Nikkei history.

"YELLOW FACE" PERFORMANCE TO ENTERTAIN, BENEFIT JA ORGS

Tickets to a matinee performance of **David Henry Hwang's** play, *Yellow Face*, have been set aside for members and friends of local JA community organizations. The preview performance is October 10, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. Sales of the tickets will benefit participating organizations including JAHSSD.

Yellow Face is based loosely on Hwang's own experiences following the controversial casting of actor Jonathan Pryce in a Eurasian role in the musical, *Miss Saigon*, which the playwright and many Asian actors protested. While analyzing the complexities and controversies of race, Hwang pokes fun at himself as the main character in this "farce about mistaken racial identity."

The critically-acclaimed play is directed by **Seema Sueko** and presented by Mo'olelo at 10th Avenue Theatre, 930 10th Avenue, downtown San Diego.

Tickets to the matinee are \$16, a savings of \$2 off the regular preview admission.

Purchase your tickets from JAHSSD and our organization will retain a portion of each sale. Send your name, address, contact info, and the number of tickets you want with your payment to: JAHSSD, P.O. Box 620988, San Diego, CA 92162-0988.

As of this writing, the other organizations participating in this community event are Japan Society of San Diego & Tijuana, San Diego JACL, and Zenbu, the Buddhist Temple of San Diego's social adjunct.

IN THE JAHSSD LIBRARY

Those who have seen the documentary *Toyo's Camera* might be interested in looking at a book in our library titled, *Toyo Miyatake: Behind the Camera 1923-79*.

Although it is written in Japanese, there is a 24-page special English edition pamphlet included with our library copy. It translates all the major essays and provides English captions for the photographs by page number.

The book is one of hundreds we received from the collection of **Donald H. Estes** which are available for our members to enjoy.

DEBRA M. KAWAHARA, PH.D.

LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST

INDIVIDUAL, COUPLE & FAMILY COUNSELING

*Personal Growth, Depression, Anxiety/Excessive Worrying, Stress,
Relationship Concerns, Cultural Issues, Transitions/Life Adjustments*

10455 POMERADO RD.
SAN DIEGO, CA 92131

PHONE: 858.268.9054
CA. LICENSE #PSY 15540

CHANKO NABE

By Joyce Nabeta Teague

Happy to Be Baa and Jii

Since my last column in Spring 2010, Bill and I welcomed a new grandchild. She is a sweet and quick-to-smile little gal with blue eyes and a shock of sun-kissed blond hair named **Ayako Alice Enochs**. We call her Aya.

At six months and not yet crawling, Aya is the happy epitome of good health and the perfect captive audience for her big brother Mako, who has discovered that he alone can make her break into fits of hysterical laughter. Bill and I are lucky we now share the same zip code as our grandkids so we can enjoy them often.

A nice thing Jaime and Asa did for us a couple of months ago was to gift us with a pair of memberships to the Zoo so we can take the kids whenever we want. Bill and I were living in a two-bedroom apartment in North Park when Jaime was born, and we spent countless hours at the Zoo. We used to get what was called a City Pass from the Zoological Society. Proof of San Diego residency and ten bucks would buy an adult unlimited entry into the Zoo for a year. Now *that* was a deal! The Zoo and adjacent Balboa Park became as familiar as our back yard. That was a good thing, since the apartment we lived in didn't have a back yard.

Last August, I took Mako to the Zoo. He has been there several times with one or both of his parents and has grown to love it. He even brought his own zoo map which he unfolded as soon as he was strapped into his car seat. On the ride over, I could see him in the rear view mirror, appearing to study the map. He was pointing and saying things like, "animooos...effants, camoos, yaks...den my go see mookies." I actually feared he might get carsick, so intently was he peering at the map.



Mako studies his map on the way to another Zoo visit. His mother is driving.

Usually his parents take the double stroller so Mako can hop a ride with his baby sister when he gets tired. But this time I decided we'd just hoof it and leave when he (or my feet) started complaining. I carried his diapers and water and snacks and sunscreen in a backpack.

For nearly three hours, he and I trekked all around his favorite areas without a negative word out of him. He clambored aboard statues of animoos, marveled at mookies, stared at snakes and rode the Skyfari. He was great and we had a lot of fun.

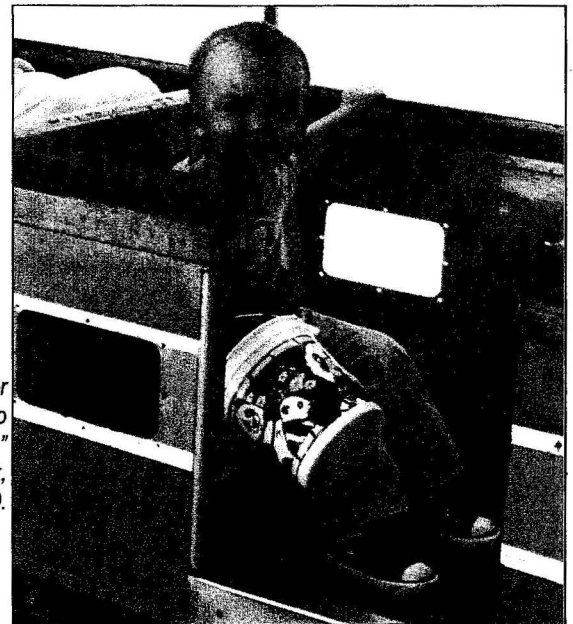
At one point, we sat at a shaded picnic table to have lunch. He climbed onto the seat by himself, but I had to move him over a bit so I could sit next to him.



Aya on the same car ride. That's her Jiihan in the front seat. She apparently decided not to study her zoo map in the car because she might get the urge to chew and eat it.

"You have to move over a little, Mako. Baachan's big butt needs more room." I swear he looked at my ample backside as if it were a separate entity. We forget little kids take words so literally.

On the way back to the car, we stopped for a ride on the miniature train. We were the last through the gate and had to walk to the end of the train for an empty car.



Mako, ready for his "choo choo t'ain wide," Balboa Park, August 2010.

After he climbed into one of the cars, I took his photo just as the engineer was calling, "All aboard!" I hurriedly scooted him over to one side and squeezed in next to him, clutching my backpack, camera, and his lunch box. He looked up at me with his big brown eyes and asked, "Baa-taan, butt too big?"

As his Jiihan is fond of exclaiming to all within earshot, "My grandson is a GENIUS!"

Well, maybe not a genius. But he sure doesn't need a map to spot something really big!

LOCAL YONSEI EARNS INVESTIGATOR RECOGNITION

By Kay Ochi

San Diego Homicide Detective **Angela Tsuida** was named the California Homicide Investigators Association's "2010 CHIA Investigator of the Year" at their annual conference in Las Vegas in March 2010.

A nineteen-year veteran of the San Diego Sheriff's Department, Tsuida, a yonsei originally from Chula Vista, has worked in the Homicide Unit for the last four years. The award is a result of her work on the homicide case of Charles Schoeneman.

On April 14, 2009, Schoeneman, a Navy sailor, was found stabbed multiple times in his home. A knife was located within the crime scene. A typewritten letter was located stating, "...all my belongings will go to Jeff Dunn and he will take care of my bills."

Detective Tsuida was assigned as lead detective for the case and coordinated resources with the San Diego Sheriff's Department, California Department of Justice, Bureau of Investigation and Intelligence (BII) San Diego and Fresno Regional Offices, Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), San Diego Fugitive Task Force, San Diego Sheriff's Crime Lab, DOJ Crime Lab, and the San Diego District Attorney's Office.

Dunn was interviewed in Kingsburg, Calif. and indicated that he had known Schoeneman for a few months. He admitted to meeting him in person along with a friend, Robert "Bobby" Navarro. A search warrant for cell phone records was obtained that revealed calls hitting cell towers consistent with the phone traveling from Fresno to San Diego and back.

A rental car identified and linked to Jeff Dunn was seized pursuant to a search warrant and processed for evidence. The San Diego Sheriff's Crime Lab determined that Schoeneman was a DNA contributor to the blood found on the seatbelt in the rental car. An unknown person's DNA profile was obtained from the knife. Dunn's DNA profile was excluded.

Search warrants for pen registers/trap and traces on Dunn and Navarro's cell phones were initiated. A DNA sample from Navarro was obtained without making him suspicious. The Sheriff's Crime Lab matched the unknown DNA profile on the knife to Navarro.

A wiretap was requested. No wiretap had ever been conducted from the East County Branch of the San Diego District Attorney's Office. Law enforcement officers consisting of San Diego Sheriff's deputies, DOJ/BII special agents, and NCIS special agents converged on Fresno to conduct the wiretap and surveillance operation. After this surveillance, Jeffrey Dunn and Robert Navarro were arrested and charged for Murder with Special Circumstances.

During this investigation, Detective Tsuida and her team authored and executed over 70 search warrants pertaining to phone records, internet accounts, bank records, residences, vehicles, along with pen registers and a wire tap affidavit.

Department of Justice supervisor, **Tyler Burtis**, stated, "Detective Tsuida was able to overcome logistical and political adversity in order to bring those responsible for the murder of Charles Schoeneman to justice." Dunn and Navarro are currently awaiting trial.

Tsuida's previous supervisor, San Diego Sheriff's Department's Lt. **James Bovet** praised her by saying, "Angie has a real thoroughness about her work; she leaves no stone unturned. She is dedicated to the Department and to the job to do the right thing for the victims and the community. She has the great skill of keeping all of the juggled balls up in the air. It was particularly difficult to do between two cities, San Diego and Kingsburg (Fresno County)."



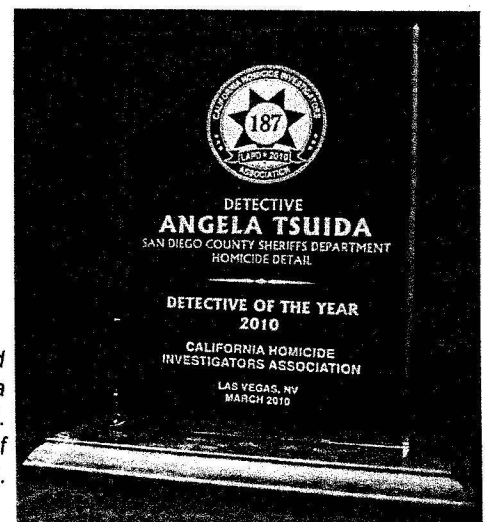
San Diego Homicide Detective Angela Tsuida was named Investigator of the Year by the Calif. Homicide Investigators Association in March 2010. Photo courtesy of Carolyn Tsuida.

Lt. Bovet added, "Everyone has to prove themselves to their partner and the Department. She is known as someone who can get things done and that you can trust."

Of her work in a male-dominated profession, Tsuida commented, "Brains go a lot farther than brawn in the law enforcement field, especially for women. This is a challenging career and a constant uphill battle for women. It is very difficult, but not impossible for a woman to be successful in a male-dominated workplace if they 'play the game' right. Also, it's important for men and women alike not to let the job consume or change them and for females not to lose their femininity."

Tsuida has also served on the San Diego Sheriff Department's Honor Guard Color Guard for almost 15 years. This volunteer group represents the Department at funerals and memorial services for active and retired law enforcement personnel.

Detective Tsuida is the daughter of **Carolyn Tsuida** and the late **Mark Tsuida**, and is the granddaughter of **Grace and Mas Tsuida** and the late **Ichije and Akiji Ochi**—all of San Diego.



Plaque presented to Detective Tsuida in March 2010. Photo courtesy of Mich Himaka.

MAZEGOHAN

By Michio Himaka

I had heard stories in the distant past that there were some Isseis who had served in the U.S. military during World War I. One of those Isseis I heard about from my parents was the late **Denichi Kawasaki**.

After his widow, **Misao Kawasaki**, passed away on March 5, 2005, I was asked by her daughter, **Toshiko Kawasaki**, to serve as emcee at her mother's funeral service.

At the meeting with the family members, I mentioned to her grandson, **Ted**, that I heard that his grandfather had served in the U.S. Navy, but no one in the family could verify it. Ted went on the Internet to seek information of such a possibility but came up empty handed.

Later, while rummaging through his grandmother's effects, he came across two Navy Good Conduct Medals that apparently had been presented to his grandfather. Both had been presented to "Deyichi" Kawasaki. Each bore the words, "Fidelity, Zeal and Obedience."

One, dated 11 Aug. 1913, had the name of a ship, the *USS Maryland*.

The other, dated Jan. 5, 1918, had the name of the *USS San Diego*.

Noting the misspelling of his grandfather's name, Ted again went on the Internet to the National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records Office, and printed out a request form asking for his grandfather's military records under the name "Deyichi Kawasaki."

"I waited quite a long time and didn't get a response," Ted said. "I had asked for the 'undeleted' records."

"I was about to write back to see if they needed more information on this when I received a package with copies of 126 pages of documents."

Ted said his grandfather had listed his birthplace as Hawaii and listed his citizenship as American.

"I'm guessing he did so at the urging of the recruiter," Ted said.

After receiving the documents, Ted wrote the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego:

"After visiting the Japanese American Veterans exhibition (excellent display and very informative) at the Veterans Museum in Balboa Park, it encouraged me to introduce you to my grandfather.

"His name was Denichi (the military recorded his given name as 'Deyichi') Kawasaki and served in the U.S. Navy for a total of 11 years, which included two reenlistments.

"During his service, he survived the sinking of the *USS San Diego* when it struck a German mine off the coast of New York. This tragedy occurred not in World War II, but in World War I, on July 19, 1918.

"My grandfather, an Issei, born in Japan in 1889, came to the U.S. in 1906 via Hawaii and enlisted in the Navy in 1909 as a mess attendant. He received his final Honorable Discharge from the Navy as a cabin steward in 1921 and passed away in San Diego in 1976."

A newspaper article in *The San Diego Union* said the cruiser *San Diego* was a few miles off Long Island, New York, when a crewman spotted a submarine periscope above the waves. Minutes later, the crew felt a dull thud on the port side of the ship. Two explosions followed and the ship began to list.

The ship's captain tried to steer the ship toward shore to beach it on nearby Fire Island, but the ship sank fast, causing the captain to give the order to his 1,200-man crew to abandon ship.

Twenty-eight minutes after the initial blast, the cruiser sank. Three men were killed on the ship and three more died in the water, the article said. Among the survivors was "Deyichi Kawasaki."

Recently, another Navy ship was launched in New Orleans bearing the name *USS San Diego*. Ted and his wife, **Betty**, said they happened

to be vacationing at the time and went to see the new ship bearing the San Diego name launched.

During the JAHSSD exhibit in Balboa Park, Ted filled out a JAHSSD Registry of Japanese American Veterans form on behalf of his grandfather.

He listed his grandfather's military serial number, giving his entry date of Aug. 3, 1909 (when he was 20 years of age), and his place of entry as Hunter's Point, California.

Mr. Kawasaki was honorably discharged on May 27, 1921, while serving aboard the *USS Ortolan*. Other ships he served aboard included the *USS Maryland*, the *Milwaukee*, the *Pittsburgh*, the *San Diego*, and the *Alaskan*.

If there are others who believe, think or suspect their fathers or grandfathers served in the U.S. military before WWII, they could write to:

National Personnel Records Center

Attn: Military Personnel Records

9700 Page Avenue

St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

You can obtain a record order form by logging onto the Internet and going to: <http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/> and printing out a records request form.

Our thanks to Ted Kawasaki for being curious enough about his grandfather's past to investigate and follow through, obtaining his military records and allowing us to copy the pages for our archives.

And thanks, Ted, for your kind words regarding the Veterans Museum exhibit. I know those in charge of arranging and setting up the exhibit—especially our archivist **Linda Canada** and historian **Susan Hasegawa**—truly appreciate them.

Denichi Kawasaki's military history is the cover story of this issue of *Footprints*.

OKAZAKI CHIROPRACTIC

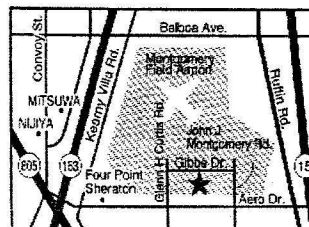


MICHIHIRO OKAZAKI, D.C.

8665 Gibbs Dr., Suite 140

San Diego, CA 92123

(858) 514-8320



Mon-Wed & Fri:
8:30 am -7:00 pm

Sat:
8:30 am -2:00 pm
Thu & Sun:

Closed

SENIOR DAY every first Tuesday of the month:

Free adjustment for 65 and older

STARTING A NEW JOURNEY

By Aya Catalina Ibarra

In July 2010, Aya Ibarra resigned as the Japan Society of San Diego & Tijuana Program Director to pursue graduate studies in Chicago. During their relatively short five-year tenure with JSSDT, she and President Dave Tuites have widened JSSDT's focus beyond business and commerce to include collaborative support of nonprofit groups which promote Japanese culture. Footprints asked Aya to provide a look back at her involvement with the complex Japanese/Japanese American/Mexican/U.S. community in San Diego. Raised straddling three cultures, multi-lingual, and bubbling over with fresh ideas and an infectious can-do spirit, Aya seemed ideally suited for the challenge of coordinating Japan Society's many events for our diverse local Nikkei community. See photo in Community Snapshots, pp. 12-13.

I began at **Japan Society of San Diego and Tijuana** as a beneficiary. My younger brother and I participated in a Japan Bowl team in high school. This gave us the opportunity to meet **Dr. Randall Phillips**, who became a mentor and encouraged me to volunteer to "give the gift of Japanese culture to San Diego people." I then volunteered to teach origami at community events.

That same year I was blessed to meet **James Yamate** and **Roy Muraoka** who echoed the same sentiment: that somehow, one high school student in Chula Vista folding origami could bridge Japanese Americans, Japanese ex-pats, and Americans interested in Japan.

That theme continued as I volunteered in college and was given the opportunity to help with Japan Society a couple of times while pursuing my undergraduate education and credential at the University of San Diego.

In 2005, I was part of a major change at JSSDT where I was hired as Program Director along with **Dave Tuites** who was hired as Executive Director. Under the Board of Directors and Dave's leadership, my transition from an educator to non-profit manager was exciting, rewarding, and unforgettable.

In the past five years, I've been able to watch JSSDT grow its Annual Leadership Awards Gala (adding the Phillips Community Award), AJ Cup Golf Tournament, Beer & Sake Festival, and support of the Kyoto Prize Symposium. I have been part of creating new programs such as the Japanese language program for local high school students called J-CAP, San Diego-Yokohama Youth Baseball Exchange, Meishi Mixers, and robust internship program for international and local students.

Most importantly, I've been involved in creative and successful collaborations between multiple organizations and disciplines. Those were the most powerful tools, resources quite often that had already been there but never pulled together and utilized. As quiet as folding paper, the Japanese community in San Diego is sometimes hard to see but can come together for amazing things.

This belief has been held in my heart at every second I've worked as Program Director. My work at JSSDT would never have been possible without the support of my mentor, President Dave Tuites, the JSSDT Board of Directors, the amazing leaders of all of the Japan-related community, and the open-minded, Japan-loving San Diego community who made my job fun and exciting every day.

This September, I have started a new journey to pursue a masters in business administration at the University of Chicago. At one of the toughest business schools in the world, I will test myself further and continue to fold more ideas into great projects that I hope all of the people who have supported me in San Diego will be proud of.

No matter how far I am from San Diego, I will be always the same Chula Vista girl who always felt she learned more from the people she supported than the other way around.

(YUKIO KAWAMOTO continued from Page 3)

Then he began his new life as *volunteer extraordinaire*.

Why?

"I just decided it was time for me to give back to the community," Yuki said. And give he did. He's still giving and probably will continue until he no longer can.

Yukio Kawamoto was the fourth of six children born to **Sakayo Kawamoto**. She had two children—**Hiroshi** and **Tomiko Kubota**—before she was widowed at 23 after five years of marriage to **Masaichi Kubota**. She then married **Imataro Kawamoto** and she gave birth to **Fusako, Yukio, Kazuko** and **Ruth Midori**.

Yuki was born Nov. 19, 1925, while the family lived in the Fish Camp fishing village at the foot of Crosby Street. He thinks he may have been among the last babies delivered by **Mrs. Suye Obayashi**, a certified midwife who delivered many Japanese babies in San Diego.

In his youth, Yuki attended some of San Diego's oldest schools including Luther Burbank School, Lincoln Elementary School, Logan Elementary School, Memorial Junior High and San Diego High.

He was a junior at SDHS when World War II broke out, resulting in the evacuation of Japanese American families from the West Coast. His classmates included **Walter Fujimoto, Patricia Goto, Yuki Konishi, Tayeko Takagi** and **Roy Kubo**.

Like other San Diego families, the Kawamotos were first sent to the Santa Anita Assembly Center (the racetrack in Arcadia) and later to Poston III Relocation Center, where they were assigned to Block 330 Unit 11A.

When the evacuees were allowed to leave camp for parts of the Midwest and beyond, Yuki—after graduating high school in 1944—left for South Haven, Michigan, and later to Richmond, Indiana, to work. He attended Earlham College in Indiana, a Quaker school. "I never found out who paid for my scholarship," he said. "After six months, I dropped out and went to live with Fusa in Indianapolis."

Yuki later became ill with osteomyelitis, undergoing three operations on a leg. After VJ Day in August 1945, Yuki returned to San Diego and did gardening with his father before his leg illness flared anew. That was followed by his entrance into federal civil service.

Yuki became active in Buddhist Temple activities after the war, and while attending a YBA (Young Buddhist Assn.) dance in 1955, he caught sight of and met **Mitsuko Mayumi**. On May 24, 1958, they married at the Buddhist Temple. They had three sons, including **Michael, Jon** and **Robert**. They also have five grandchildren, including one grandson and four granddaughters. Two years ago, Yuki and Mits celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Congratulations, Yuki, on being our newest Kansha Award recipient. Thanks to both you and Mits for your dedication and service to our community, and personal thanks for everything both of you have done for Naomi and me during these many years of friendship. We appreciate it very much.

You and Mits deserve all the applause that will be coming your way.

FOOTPRINTS STAFF:

Editors: Joyce Teague, Michio Himaka
Editorial Assistance: Bill Teague, Linda Canada
Desktop Pub: Paper Pushers Editorial Services
Mailing Coordinator: Naomi Himaka
Printing Services: Fletcher Hills Printing

COMMUNIT



1

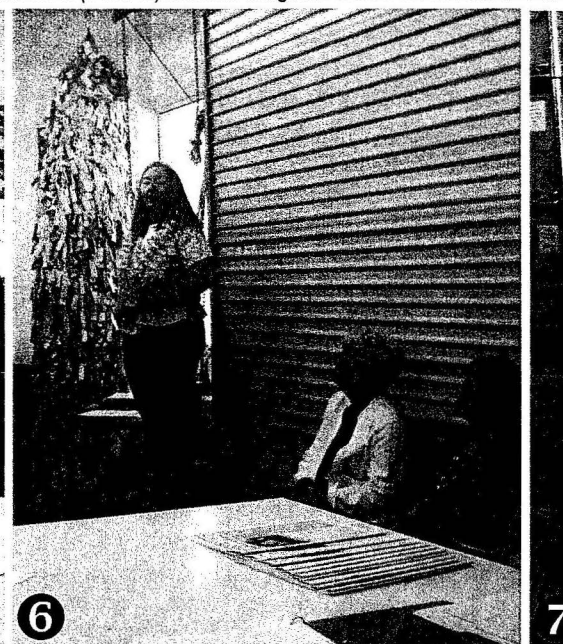


2

ABOVE (1) Jeanne Elyea and Valerie Abe at JAHSSD historical display and (2) Washu-Kai sumi-e demonstration at Japanese American Community Day on B Street Pier, June 26, 2010. (3) Some Buddies accepted their MS Walk team award last July (from left): Bob Shimamoto, Gwen Momita, Bob & Hisae Batchelder. BELOW (5 thru 12) Members and guests at the JAHSSD Ronson Archiv



5

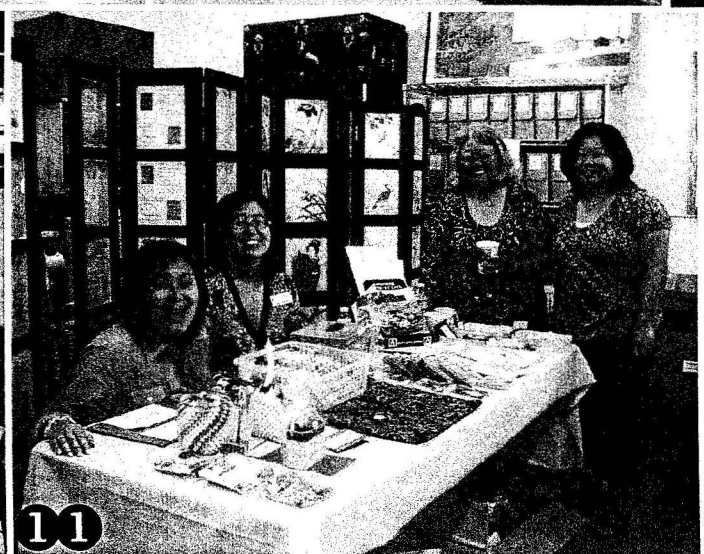


6

7



10



11

SNAPSHOTS

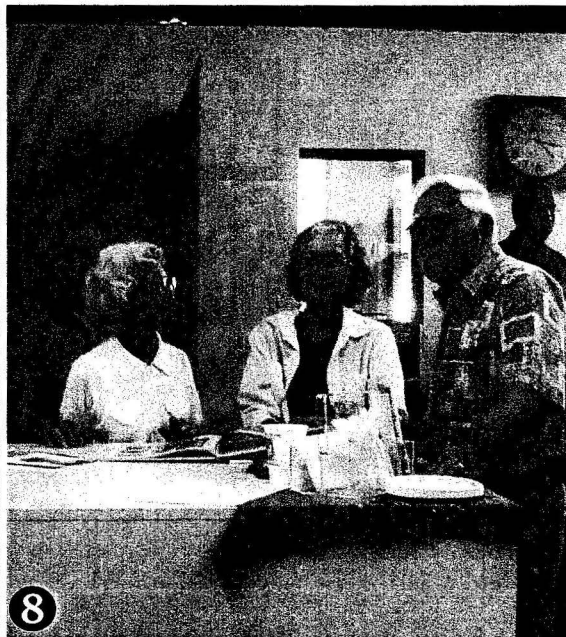


3



4

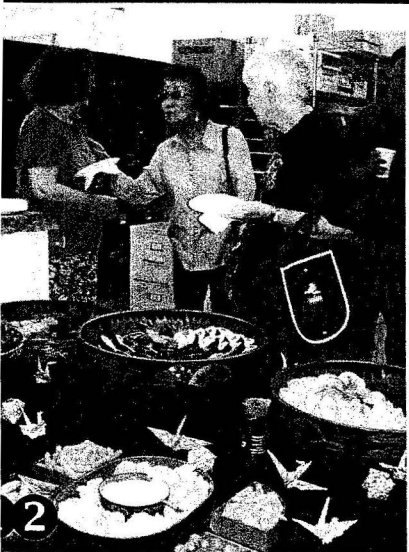
wishers at Aya Ibarra's bon voyage party (from left): Matthew Blake, Reiko Ibarra, Mayo Ibarra, Aya Ibarra, Jose Ibarra Alvarez, Sharlene Thompson, Bill & Joyce Teague, July 25, 2010. (4) Bob's Ten House, Aug. 29, 2010. (13) Karen Kawasaki-Williams (left) and Sarah Williams stand among Wendy Maruyama's Tag Project materials on display at Art Produce in North Park, July 18, 2010.



8



9



2



13

A GIFT THAT WILL KEEP ON GIVING

Why not give a membership to JAHSSD?
A gift membership includes the quarterly Footprints, so your thoughtfulness will be remembered four times a year.
Help former San Diegans stay in touch with our community, or give a friend/grandparent/parent/kid/grandkid a year-long gift that can teach, inform and inspire...because you support the good works of JAHSSD.

VIETNAM: MY GENERATION'S WAR

By Alan Hayashi

Alan Hayashi, a third-generation Japanese American (Sansei) who served in the Army during the Vietnam War, grew up in the South Bay area of San Diego County. Last year he participated in the JAHSSD Veterans Registry and shared his military history for JAHSSD's Japanese Americans in the Military exhibition at the Veterans Museum. We thank exhibit curator Susan Hasegawa for providing these materials to Footprints and to Alan for sharing his story.

I grew up in the 1950s and 1960s. This was the Cold War era and other than bomb drills at school, bomb shelters, and the threat of the Russians and Cuban missile in the early 1960s, I was not overly concerned nor knowledgeable about military issues. I must say that this seems odd to me having grown up with many Navy families in Chula Vista.

As I recall, I became aware of the Vietnam conflict when I was attending Southwestern College in Chula Vista. When I first heard about Vietnam, I actually had to look it up because I had no idea where it was located.

My concern became real in 1965 when I received a notice from the U.S. Selective Service System to show up to take a test to determine whether or not I could stay in college. Many men showed up that day. As a result of the test, I was given a college student deferment for six months. This meant that I had six months to get my affairs in order before reporting to duty.

The months passed on and I decided to apply for admission to San Diego State University. I was accepted so I decided that I would go on with my education in the Fall of 1966. For some strange reason that I have never figured out, I did not receive another notice from the Selective Service System. I started feeling that I had lucked out and they had forgotten about me. So I applied for another student deferment and was categorized, "Registrant deferred because of activities in study."

The Vietnam War became more and more visible through social unrest, protests on campuses and political commentary. By 1967-1968, I was very aware of the Vietnam War, as more and more men were being drafted or joined the various military branches such as the Air Force and Navy in hopes that they would not be sent to Vietnam.

I must confess that I had no desire to go there either. In 1967, my neighbor was killed in Vietnam on his second tour of duty. He was a Navy rescue pilot. Now the issue of the war became very real and personal.

In my junior and senior years at San Diego State, I began to feel that our country should not have been involved in Vietnam. I decided to stay in college as long as I could and perhaps the draft would pass me by.

I graduated from college in May of 1969 and got married on June 21, 1969. When I returned from my honeymoon in Monterey, California, I had the shock of my life. There was a draft notice ordering me for induction in the military service waiting for me.

In regards to my feelings about the Vietnam conflict, I do not recall having any discussion about the war or the political issues with my parents. I just think that we did not talk about these types of matters. I was never sure how they felt about Vietnam politically other than the fact that once I was there, they wanted me to come home in one piece.

My date of induction was July 7, 1969. This notice was [received] prior to the lottery system being instituted on July 1, 1970. By that time I was already in the jungles of Vietnam. I reported to the San Diego induction center and then took a bus to the Los Angeles induction center for a physical. After going through the screening process, I was off to Fort Ord, California, for basic training.



Hayashi Family in 1956: Yaeko (left), Tadashi, Alan and baby Sharon.

I can recall having all kinds of mixed feelings. My first thoughts were that I would not even know what married life would be like since I had been married less than a month before I went into the Army. I also had no desire to go to Vietnam but I felt that with a college degree I might get a good [assignment]. Turns out that was the wrong assumption.

When I was in the Los Angeles induction center, I remember a sergeant telling all of us that we were going to Vietnam. After all, June and July of 1969 were considered the "college draft." Given the number of college graduates that I had in my platoon, it sure looked like it was true.

Although I really did not want to go to Vietnam, I felt that if my country asked me to go, then it was something I had to do. I believe this value of duty and obligation (or *giri*) was engrained in me by my parents and uncles who served in World War II in addition to their internment experience. So I entered the Army with no complaint but sheer determination that I would be fine. I just had to "keep my head straight," as my Dad would say.

As for my family and extended family, there was not a lot of discussion or concern expressed. I am sure they had concerns as the Vietnam conflict had gone on for quite some time and the casualties were published daily. I knew that my military obligation was something they felt that I was obliged to do. Both of my uncles expressed the same feelings.

When I left for Vietnam, I can remember my parents saying to me, "Keep the faith, remember your family, God be with you. You will be fine."

At the time, all military forces were involved in the Vietnam Counter Offensive campaign. I was operating in platoon-sized elements in the I-Corp (pronounced eye-corp) region of South Vietnam near the

(Continued on Page 15)

(VIETNAM: MY GENERATION'S WAR continued from Page 14)



Alan Hayashi, right, with fellow soldier holding M16, March 1970.

cities of Phu Bai and Da Nang. Our primary mission was to "search and destroy" supplies and personnel of the North Vietnamese Army and the Viet Cong. Our objective was to stop the supplies that were [coming] from the famous "Ho Chi Minh Trail" in Cambodia. Supplies were furnished primarily by Russia and China. We were also attempting to stop the flow of new ground troops into South Vietnam from the North Vietnamese Army.

I was awarded the Bronze Star Medal as a Specialist 4 Infantryman on November 7, 1970, by direction of the President of the United States under the provisions of Executive Order 11046 and General Orders number 13360 for "Meritorious service in connection with ground operations against hostile forces."

I flew out of Cam Rahn Bay, Vietnam, at the end of February 1971. When the plane left the ground, there was not a lot of cheering or shouting, just somber silence. We had been rocketed the night before I left for home. I thought how odd it would be that I might be killed on my last night in Vietnam.

After a long flight through Japan and Anchorage, Alaska, I arrived in Seattle, Washington. Processing out of Ft. Lewis was odd. I remember having very little feelings about anything at all. I just felt "flat." I think I had suppressed as much as I could during my tour of duty in Vietnam. So I was given a new uniform and went to the Seattle-Tacoma airport to fly back to San Diego.

To this day I will never forget it. The flight home to San Diego was odd. I was not sure what I would do or wanted to do with my life. The first real emotion I had was the sight of the Coronado Bridge. The bridge brought a tear to my eye. When I left I thought I may never see it again.

I was shocked at how everyone looked. Long hair, strange clothing. I just did not fit into the scheme of things. I was acutely aware and uncomfortable about how people would look at me in a uniform. People would say things like, "Baby Killer" and some were generally hostile. There was no Welcome Home.

I could not wait to get out of my uniform and disappear into civilian life as if nothing had ever happened. I was a different person that some would never understand. It seemed odd that the country had gone on with life and I had missed out on much of it.

The war in Vietnam had taken its toll. It had gone on far too long.

MOTHER'S PRAYER

God, Father of freedom, look after that boy of mine, wherever he may be. Walk in upon him. Keep his mind stayed on Thee. Talk to him during the silent watches of the night, and spur him to bravery whenever called upon to face the cruel foe. Transfer my prayer to his heart, that he may know the lingering love I have bequeathed to him as an everlasting gift.

Keep my boy contented and inspired by the never-dying faith in his mother's God. He is my gift to freedom. May that freedom forever remain untarnished, God.

Through the lonely and confusing hours of training and combat, and throughout all the long days of a hopeful victory, keep his spirit high and his purpose unwavering. Make him a proud pal to all with whom he comes in contact and make his influence a noontide light wherever his duties take him. Nourish that boy of mine with the love that I gave to him at birth, God. Satisfy that hunger of his soul with the knowledge of this daily prayer of mine.

To my country, and to world freedom, O Heavenly Father, have I bequeathed this boy of mine. He is my choicest treasure. Take care of him, God. Keep him in health and sustain under him every possible circumstance of events. I once warmed him, God, under my heart. You warm him anew under his shelter and under the stars. Touch him with my smile of cheer and comfort, and my full confidence in his every brave pursuit.

Silent and alone, I pray, God, but I am only one of millions of mothers, whose prayers stream day and night to You. This is our Gethsemane. Lead us victoriously through it, God. And lead that boy of mine, through his. Fail him not - and may he not fail You, his country, nor the mother who bore him. That's all, God.

Love, Jan 27, 70

This is a poem out of the book of poems I bought at the garage sale. The poem caught my eyes and it's been a real inspiration to me. I've read it several times today. Keep your faith and remember your religious training and you'll come through. Love, Mom.

Love,
mom

Alan Hayashi's mother, Yaeko, sent this letter to him in Vietnam, dated Tuesday, January 7, 1970. The handwritten part reads, "This is a poem out of the book of poems I bought at the garage sale. The poem caught my eyes and it's been a real inspiration to me. I've read it several times today. Keep your faith and remember your religious training and you'll come through. Love, Mom." The scanned letter has been cropped and reduced to fit this space.

Fletcher Hills Printing

1000 FULL COLOR FLYERS FOR \$150*

2262 Fletcher Parkway • El Cajon, CA 92020

619-460-1482

*Restrictions apply, call for details

DAD & MOM DIDN'T WANT TO HIRE A GARDENER, SO...

Photos submitted by Robert Ito



Getting on in years, have a huge yard to maintain, but don't want to spend the bucks to hire a gardener?

You can do what Lloyd and Emi Ito did recently: just fire up the ol' lawnmower with one of you pushing and the other—with a cane, no less—pulling. Takes a while but it gets the job done!

Or you might just consider hiring this team. You have to admit the end results are pretty darn impressive!



ANOTHER MYSTERY SOLVED!



Our mystery object from the Spring 2010 *Footprints* has been identified! Our own JAHSSD Board member, **Jeanne Elyea**, made the connection with the decorative wooden item that is about two feet tall. Actually it was her niece, **Wende Tachiki Tritchler**, who was reading *Footprints* when she saw the photo and asked, "Hey, isn't that Uncle Bill's ashtray holder?"

Sure enough, a quick check revealed that the wooden stand made for Bill Elyea by his father, living in Wisconsin at the time, was missing from their garage.

Somehow the ashtray stand had ended up in a trunk that **Shig Yamashita** had donated to JAHSSD and that Jeanne and Bill had faithfully stored on their property for several years prior to the establishment of JAHSSD's Austin Archives.

Thanks to **Ed Kubota**, who sponsors the History of Mystery page, Bill—now a non-smoker—has been reunited with this family heirloom!

KIKU GARDENS

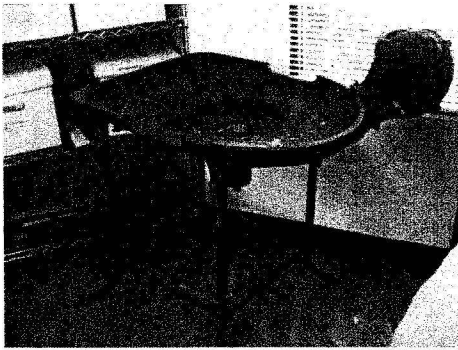
is a 100-unit apartment complex project in Chula Vista that was financed, planned and built by San Diego County's Nikkei community. It provides independent housing for low income seniors above 62 years of age. Rent for tenants is subsidized by HUD (U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development). It is an attractive, well kept building with Japanese style gardens and pleasant surroundings.

On Thursday evening, Sept. 16, Kiku Gardens will host a free screening of "Shall We Dance?" for the community. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Kiku Gardens' facilities are used year-round by community organizations for their gatherings such as meetings, luncheons, celebrations, scholarship awards, Easter egg hunts, and other special events. Kiku Gardens offers a popular nutritious \$3 lunch at 12 noon every Tuesday and Friday. The Friday senior lunch program is now entering its third successful year and is most generously supported by Kiku Garden's community partners: Buddhist Temple of San Diego, Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego, Japanese Friendship Garden, Japan Society of San Diego & Tijuana, Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ, San Diego JACL and Asian Pacific VFW Post 4851.

KIKU GARDENS
GENEROUSLY SUPPORTS JAHSSD
with an
ANNUAL CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

A MYSTERY OF HISTORY



...DO YOU KNOW...

WHO OWNED/DONATED THESE? WHAT WAS MADE WITH THEM?

Here are two views of this issue's mystery objects which are currently sitting in a corner of the Ronson Archives. We know they are a forge (the larger object) and an anvil (on the floor to the left). We also have handmade tongs and other forging tools (not pictured) that may have been donated at the same time by the same person. These tools were likely used on a farm. They probably date from after internment, but may have been manufactured before WWII. We need corroboration. Do you know who donated this forge and anvil? We'd also like to know where they were used, for what purpose, and during what period of time.

If you can help solve this mystery, call our archivist at (858) 457-9676 or e-mail jahssd@sbcglobal.net.

This mystery of Nikkei history is brought to you by

EDWARD KUBOTA

\$ BINGO \$ **\$ BINGO \$** **\$ BINGO \$**

JOIN US THE LAST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH

BINGO HELD at the BUDDHIST TEMPLE of SAN DIEGO

**Sponsored by the Buddhist Temple of San Diego
and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4851**

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

Yum! Benefit Dinners preceding Bingo at 4:30 pm on Sept. 25 & Oct. 30! Hot dogs and chili dogs all other nights.

BUDDHIST TEMPLE ANNEX HALL
2929 Market St.
San Diego
Plenty of Parking & Refreshments

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

BINGO 6:00 pm \$10 buy-in
Two Winners Every Game
Additional cards .50 cents each
Pull Tabs on Sale

(DENICHI KAWASAKI, continued from Page 1)



Portrait of
Denichi Kawasaki,
year unknown.

six months pay, less deductions, to cover funeral expenses. He listed a brother, "Kazuechi Kawasaki," as beneficiary in the event his father died before Mr. Kawasaki did.

His military record shows he was promoted June 2, 1910, to mess attendant second class and again on June 11, 1911, to mess attendant first class.

He was discharged after his first enlistment on Aug. 11, 1913, while serving aboard the USS Maryland and reenlisted at Puget Sound, Washington, for a second four-year tour on March 10, 1914, earning \$17.60 a month as a mess attendant third class.

(In the reenlistment documents, Mr. Kawasaki's birthplace was typed as, "Ohwaf Island," which I interpreted to be "Oahu." His father's name was spelled "Umikch Kawasaki." And Mr. Kawasaki continued to be listed and signed his name as "Deyichi Kawasaki.")

During his first tour, on April 10, 1912, his rate became cabin clerk, which, I guess was a promotion for him from mess attendant first class. His monthly pay leaped to \$45 a month plus a 10 percent hike of \$4.50 for sea duty.

On June 28, 1914, Austria's Archduke Ferdinand was assassinated, essentially signaling the start of World War I. The U.S. had declared neutrality in the European war on Aug. 4, 1914.

Mr. Kawasaki's record shows he was assigned to the USS Milwaukee on Dec. 31, 1914.

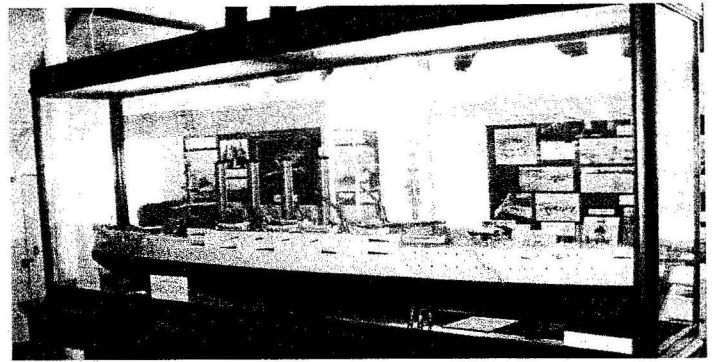
He was transferred June, 30, 1916, from the Milwaukee to the USS Pittsburgh as a cabin steward.

Germany declared virtual unrestricted submarine warfare on Jan. 31, 1917. The U.S. cut diplomatic ties with Germany and formally entered the war against Germany on April 6, 1917.

Meanwhile, on March 31, 1917, Mr. Kawasaki had been transferred to the USS San Diego. He reenlisted for another four-year tour on Jan. 17, 1918, and got a raise to \$56.50 a month.

The San Diego was sunk on July 19, 1918, when it hit a mine laid by a German submarine off the New York coast. Six men died in the incident. Mr. Kawasaki survived.

Mr. Kawasaki was granted a \$141.80 reimbursement in cash for



A model of the USS San Diego displayed at the San Diego Maritime Museum. The ship was sunk off the New York coast with six casualties on July, 19, 1918.

the loss of personal property in the sinking of the San Diego. Personal property lost included uniforms and personal gear, like underwear.

A letter dated July 20, 1918, was written to his father "Umikch (sic) Kasaski (sic) to Ohwaf Island, T.H." (apparently for Territory of Hawaii).

The letter read: "Sir: The Chief of Bureau directs me to inform you that your son, Deyichi Kawasaki, Commissary Steward, USN, is reported as having been rescued from the USS San Diego, when that vessel was sunk on July 19, 1918, and landed at New York. Mail should be addressed to your son c/o USS San Diego, c/o Postmaster New York."

With the sinking of the San Diego, Mr. Kawasaki lost his Good Conduct Medal and was issued a duplicate.

Apparently, Mr. Kawasaki was hospitalized for short periods at the Naval Hospital in New York from Sept. 10, 1918, through Feb. 1, 1919, but the records do not include an explanation why.

On Nov. 1, 1918, his record states that his rate was reduced to cabin clerk at his own request. Ted theorized that his language skill probably prompted the request, as higher rates would require him to be in position of authority.

On Nov. 11, 1918, an armistice was declared and WWI was over.

On March 31, 1919, Mr. Kawasaki was assigned to the USS Alaskan as a cabin steward.

On July 22, 1919, Mr. Kawasaki's term of enlistment was changed to "duration of war" and his enlistment was extended two more years from July 22, 1919, the record states. For extending, he received two months' extra pay, or \$113.

On Jan. 23, 1920, the record states that he was "made a citizen of the United States."

But the road to citizenship was not easy. A series of letters between his superiors aboard the Alaskan stamped June 30, 1919, and the Naturalization Office in New York indicated his application was refused because he was Japanese.

The Navy officers contended that because Mr. Kawasaki had served honorably continuously for 12 years, he was eligible for citizenship. Apparently, somehow they managed to get him naturalized under that argument. However, there is no certificate among the documents that show he was ever sworn in as a citizen.

Meanwhile, on Dec. 31, 1919, he was transferred from the Alaskan to the USS Ortolan.

He completed his military service on July 22, 1921, when he was given his honorable discharge papers.

Other documents indicate he and his wife, Misao, were married sometime in 1921. They went on to live at 528 Fifth Avenue, San Diego, where he operated a grocery store.

In 1937, Mrs. Kawasaki returned to Japan with their two children,

(Continued on Page 19)

(DENICHI KAWASAKI, continued from Page 18)



Denichi and Misao Kawasaki, year unknown. The couple resided in the Golden Hill neighborhood for many years where Mrs. Kawasaki taught tea ceremony in their home. In 1991, she was awarded the prestigious Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold and Silver Rays by the Japanese government for her preservation of Japanese culture. She passed away in 2005 at the age of 106.

Toshiko and Tadashi, but with the outbreak of World War II, they were stranded in Japan until the war ended.

Mr. Kawasaki continued to operate the grocery store with his younger brother, **Sanroku Kawasaki**, who came to San Diego from Hollywood where he also was operating a store.

On April 8, 1942, with other San Diegans, Mr. Kawasaki was uprooted from his home on Fifth Avenue and taken to the Santa Anita Assembly Center in Arcadia. In August that same year, he was relocated to the Poston III Relocation Center near Parker, Arizona, living in the bachelor quarters in Block 330.

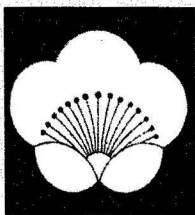
Following the war, he returned to San Diego and worked in the grocery store operated by his brother and family.

On the family headstone at Mt. Hope Cemetery are engraved the names Denichi and Misao Kawasaki. Engraved at the bottom is the name of their son, **Tadashi Kawasaki**, who passed away on April 7, 1945. Mr. Kawasaki passed away in 1976.

Ironically, while Denichi Kawasaki survived the sinking of the *USS San Diego* in 1918, his son Tadashi went down with his ship, the Japanese super battleship *Yamato*, which was sunk 270 miles north of Okinawa during World War II in what was deemed to be a suicide mission to ward off the American invasion.

About 2,500 Japanese crewmen died with the *Yamato*. Only 270 survived.

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.

CELEBRATIONS!



Congratulations to **Satoshi "Lefty" Okamoto** shown here at his recent 88th birthday celebration. Seated in front: **Meri and Lefty Okamoto**. Standing: **Shag Morishita, Kuni Nishimura, Sam Morishita and Saki Kada**.

*Have something special you'd like to celebrate with an announcement or photo?
Send the details to Footprints and share your news with your JAHSSD friends!*

USS MIDWAY HOSTS SEVENTH ANNUAL ASIAN HERITAGE AWARDS

By Gloria Tierney

*We thank publisher **Len Novarro** for permission to reprint an article that appeared in the July 2010 issue of Asia Journal of Culture and Commerce. It has been edited for length.*

The trip to San Diego from Washington for Navy Capt. **Cynthia Macri** last weekend was full of surprises. A little more than half-way there, an elderly man on her flight took ill and collapsed. A physician, Macri attended the man as best she could, then asked the captain of the flight to divert the plane to Omaha, so the man could be taken to the hospital.

Later, Saturday evening, her name was called to receive the Seventh Annual Asian Heritage Award for Military Service, presented by Congresswoman **Susan Davis** of San Diego, a champion of veterans affairs, who beforehand praised the military for their sacrifices beyond the call of duty.

"That's what I do," Macri, the daughter of a renowned plant geneticist and a World War II Japanese relocation camp internee, told the audience of some 500 in attendance aboard the *USS Midway*. "I am not an extrovert by any means. I just do my job."

Macri was among 15 men and women of Asian descent honored for their achievements and community service as part of the Seventh Annual **Asian Heritage Awards**.

The U.S. Navy was among the major sponsors of the Awards.

The theme of the event was set at the opening by the One Dream Children's Choir of San Diego, led by **Darleen Herriman**, a teacher at Francis Parker School. The 65 youngsters, all dressed in ethnic attire and representing the event's theme of inclusiveness, sang "One World." The message resonated throughout the night, even to the end, when **Tom Hom**, who received the final honor for Special Recognition, told

(Continued on Page 21)

COMPELLING EXHIBIT ON JAPANESE AMERICANS IN THE MILITARY

By Donald H. Harrison

JAHSSD's exhibition was at the Veterans Museum from November 2009 through June 1, 2010, logging in nearly 8,000 visitors. This review appeared on the San Diego Examiner website last Spring and is reprinted here with permission of the author and www.examiner.com. It has been edited for length.

Probably no event has seared into the consciousness of the Japanese-American community more painfully than their forced relocation from their homes on the West Coast of the United States to internment camps in the interior of the country during World War II.

This is the central portion of an exhibit at the Veterans Memorial Museum in Balboa Park that compellingly examines the 20th Century history of Japanese American soldiers from San Diego.

The exhibit, prepared by the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego, will be on view through the end of May 2010. Although it covers more than 100 years, conceptually it is book-ended by the experiences of Navy cook, **Sago Takata**, who was one of 60 men killed in 1905 when the USS Bennington's boilers exploded in San Diego Bay; and those of Lt. Cmdr. **Craig Osaki**, who at the end of the 20th century was an expert in the Iraq War on the use and repair of robots to remove enemy-planted explosive devices.

A few months after Japan's military forces bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, notices were posted on telephone poles and on walls in San Diego neighborhoods where Japanese Americans were known to live. Families were given one week to pack their belongings and prepare for relocation to the interior. Initially most families from San Diego were taken to the Santa Anita Race Track, where horse stalls served as their temporary homes until an internment camp at Poston, Arizona, could be readied.

Poston was one of ten major internment camps built by the United States government. "From August 1942 until Poston closed in late 1945, the families attempted to live normal lives under circumstances that were anything but normal," the narrative said.

San Diegan **Tetsuzo Hirasaki** had been a close friend of the city's chief librarian **Clara Breed**. Using a sharpened bed spring, he carved for her from mesquite wood a nameplate that she proudly displayed on her desk at the San Diego Public Library. Instead of being sent to Poston with the rest of his family, Hirasaki's father, **Chiyomatsu**, had been sent to camps in North Dakota and New Mexico. The family asked Breed, who wrote a column, to do what she could to help reunite them.

At first, the military was not interested in enlisting Japanese Americans, considering them too great a security risk. Although **Mas Tsuida** was a seafaring fisherman, the Navy had no desire for his skills. Eventually, however, the U.S. Army created a segregated unit, the **442nd Regimental Combat Team**, for Japanese Americans willing to fight in the European theatre against Nazi Germany.

After joining, Tsuida was sent to Fort Reilly, Kansas, for his basic training. One day he and all the other Japanese-American soldiers were "herded into a single barracks surrounded by military police with machine guns at the ready," the exhibit related. "President Franklin D. Roosevelt was visiting the base and the MPs were protecting him from those questionable U.S. soldiers." Afterwards, Tsuida was sent to Naples, Italy, and would fight in Italy and France. He was injured in the October 1944 battle in which the 442nd was sent into the Vosges Mountains to rescue the "Lost Battalion," which had been surrounded by the Germans. The 442nd was successful, but not without sustaining heavy casualties. At war's end, Tsuida returned to his life as a fisherman.

Other Japanese-American soldiers had their basic training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, where those from the mainland United States found themselves thrown in with Japanese from Hawaii, with whom a fierce rivalry initially developed. However, as an exhibit photograph of San Diegan **Sam Yamaguchi** wearing Hawaiian garb illustrates, the two groups were molded in a single unit.

Among San Diegans fighting in World War II were **Yasuichi "Jimmy" Kimura**, who used to drive a truck on local vegetable farms before his family was relocated to the internment camp. In the Army, he drove trucks and performed maintenance on them in both the European and North African campaigns. He was awarded a Purple Heart with an oak leaf cluster for wounds sustained during the rescue of the "Lost Battalion."

After the war, the services of Japanese Americans were called upon as interpreters and in other capacities in the occupation of Japan and of Okinawa. San Diegan **Francis Tanaka**, who later would become a physician with Scripps Mercy Hospital, served as a medical interpreter on Okinawa in 1945 and 1946. **Shizue Suwa**, a lieutenant junior grade in the Navy nurse corps, was stationed in occupied Japan.

When the internment camps closed in late 1945, Japanese Americans moved back to San Diego. Those whose family members had served in the military were eligible for veterans' family housing. The exhibit extensively quotes from *Grim the Battles*, a 1954 memoir by **Daisy Lee Worthington Worcester**. Arriving at the **Frontier Housing Project** in the Midway District of San Diego, a group of Japanese American families encountered the hostility of Anglo families already living there.

"The Japanese sat in chairs along the walls, heads cast down as if to avoid hostile glances but not enabling them to escape low murmured expressions of hatred. An emergency meeting of the tenant council was held that evening," Worcester wrote. One woman who served as secretary of the tenant council threatened there would be "a dead Jap" before morning if any of them were placed in the unit where she lived.

"The meeting lasted until midnight. There was not one person who did not take part in the discussion. I witnessed a miracle that night—the miracle of serious people thinking and feeling together, striving to be above all good Americans and decent human beings." The upshot was that there was a complete turnaround, including by the woman who had made the "dead Jap" threat. The tenants decided to oppose any discrimination on the basis of race or creed or color. Additionally, they formed a committee to welcome each Japanese-American family to the complex.

Although the war was over, the experience of the internment camps continued to have its influence on the Japanese American community. The exhibit notes that the 1951 Korean conflict "brought a whole new generation of Japanese Americans into the military.... These Japanese American youths had spent their formative years in internment camps and most had watched their parents lose everything during World War II. Nevertheless, they served when called upon..."

Among San Diegans who went to Korea was **Jim Yanagihara**, who served in a mobile hospital unit such as that made famous by the television series *M*A*S*H*. As part of the multinational United Nations force, Yanagihara came into contact with soldiers from other countries and he had high praise especially for the Ethiopian soldiers. He recalls, "I was really impressed by these soldiers. They never complained."

The comment can be juxtaposed with the foreword to the exhibit on Japanese American soldiers, which explained: "Two Japanese words provide a running theme for this exhibition and describe the motivations for Japanese Americans to serve. One is *giri* meaning duty, and the other is *gaman*, which means to endure..."

These concepts were tested in the Vietnam War when, like other young men in the United States, many questioned the justness of that

(Continued on Page 21)

(COMPELLING EXHIBIT continued from Page 20)

war. However the Japanese Americans "did not find it easy to openly express their thoughts. Nearly all had an uncle, brother or father who had been interned and who had served with distinction during World War II and Korea.... Many of those who served in Vietnam were born in the U.S. internment camps."

Alan Hayashi, who was born in the Poston, Arizona camp, was drafted into the Army in 1969 after graduation from San Diego State University. He "received the Bronze Star for actions to cut the supply chain known as the Ho Chi Minh Trail near Da Nang, as well as many other commendations from the United States and the Republic of Vietnam." He commented that he was "raised with the value of loyalty to my country."

Among the first San Diegans killed in the Vietnam War was Sgt. **Shugi Julio Kaneko**, whose family were Japanese Peruvians who, at the suggestion of the American government, were sent to an internment camp in Texas to possibly be traded for U.S. prisoners of war held by Japan. However, his family was not needed for such an exchange and they eventually settled in San Diego. Unlike the Japanese Americans who eventually received a U.S. government apology and \$20,000 as redress for their wrongful internment during World War II, the Japanese Peruvians never were eligible for the award.

Although San Diegan **Robert Ito** didn't serve in Vietnam—his draft number having never been called—he remembered vividly stories told to him by San Diegan **David Uda** "about the racism and the mean-spirited attitudes of his fellow U.S. soldiers," according to the narration. "When U.S. helicopters flew over, he would dive in the brush for the cover because he (having Asian features) didn't want to be mistaken for the enemy...."

Containing criticism as it does of the actions of the American government, the exhibit demonstrates that the **Veterans Memorial Museum** is not only a repository for the memoirs of San Diegans who served in the military but also is an institution willing to examine controversies affecting the military. This makes the museum an even more valuable resource in a city of proud military tradition.

(ASIAN HERITAGE AWARDS continued from Page 19)

the current generation of Asian Americans that they need to "reach outside the box and embrace all cultures."

A large part of the audience had come to honor Hom, 83, who received the major award for breaking ground more than a generation ago as the first Asian American in San Diego to hold public office. Hom was elected to the San Diego City Council and later became only the third [Asian] member of the California Assembly. San Diego County Supervisor **Ron Roberts**...cited many of Hom's accomplishments, including his involvement in downtown development and helping to expand the city's role as a professional sports town, with the addition of a stadium in Mission Valley that housed the San Diego Padres and San Diego Chargers.

Honorees in each category were selected by votes cast through an online ballot, emails and the newspaper ASIA, The Journal of Culture & Commerce, co-sponsor of the Awards and Show.

The Seventh Annual Asian Heritage Awards was produced by The **Asian Heritage Society**. **Leonard Novarro**, vice president of the Asian Heritage Society and co-founder of the awards, cited not only the variety of ethnicities of attendees and award recipients, but also the wide range of age. "This event affirms what the Asian Heritage Society is all about—leadership, legacy and inclusiveness," he said. Added [Asian Heritage Awards co-founder **Rosalyn**] **Carmen**: "Using achievement as a guideline and honoring people like Tom Hom and all our honorees, as we did tonight, offers everyone a beacon of hope."

JAHSSD OFFERS SDMA DOCENT TOUR IN JANUARY 2011

"Dreams & Diversions: 250 Years of Japanese Woodblock Prints" will be on exhibit at the San Diego Museum of Art in Balboa Park, November 6, 2010 through June 5, 2011. The exhibit will feature 400 Japanese woodblock prints from the museum's permanent collection, including works from the Ukiyo-e period (1600s) to the modern print masters of the 1920s and 30s. Dreams & Diversions will be on view for six months with a complete rotation of prints halfway through the run.

On January 9, 2011, JAHSSD members have the opportunity to enjoy a specially-priced docent-led tour of this exhibit at 1:00 p.m. If you would like to reserve a spot on the tour, call the Ronson office at (858) 505-9020 or e-mail jahssd@sbcglobal.net.

JAHSSD admission prices are: adult \$10, senior (65+) and military \$7, college student \$6, youth \$2.50. SDMA members get free admission and may join the tour, but should let JAHSSD know to assure there will be enough docents for the group.

Deadline for reservations is December 20. You can mail your payment in advance to our P.O. Box.

The San Diego Museum of Art is located at 1450 El Prado in Balboa Park. For general SDMA information, call (619) 232-7931 or go to www.TheSanDiegoMuseumofArt.org.

PROPOSED SNOOPY LICENSE PLATE WILL HELP MUSEUMS

The California Association of Museums is encouraging California drivers to sign up for the official California Snoopy license plate. The campaign to have the lovable Peanuts character depicted doing his signature "happy dance" on a license plate needs a total of 7,500 registered vehicle owners to say they would like to see an official Snoopy license plate.

The monies collected by the State of California for the proposed new license plate will be put into a pool from which California museums can request grants. It is a creative idea to help solve the ongoing issue of museum support in California communities.

Those interested in supporting the official campaign can sign up at no cost or obligation at www.snoopyplate.com.

KEI DAN

FLORAL DESIGNS

NAOMI HIMAKA

10388 LIMETREE LN.
SPRING VALLEY, CA 91977

(619) 660-9865

FROM THE JAHSSD ARCHIVES...



This photograph of the Japanese Holiness Church of San Diego, now known as the San Diego Japanese Christian Church, was taken in November 1938. The pastor was **Reverend Tamechi Okimoto** who, with his wife **Kirie**, had come from Japan to serve in San Diego. He led the congregation in acquiring this permanent church building at 3042 Webster Street. It was dedicated in July 1940.

After church members returned to San Diego post-internment, Rev. Okimoto served as the pastor until he was transferred to the San Lorenzo Holiness Church a year later. The congregation relocated to its present site at 1920 E Street in 1966.

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

COMMUNITY MORTUARY
Robert L. Humphrey
855 Broadway, Chula Vista, CA 91911
(619) 426-2006 Fax (619) 426-3616
www.communitymortuary.com

JAHSSD MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(A year's membership includes FOOTPRINTS quarterly newsletter; invitations to receptions and events; members-only website section)

- ☐ New ☐ Renewal ☐ Gift membership ☐ Gift in lieu of membership
☐ \$30 Individual ☐ \$50 Family ☐ \$20 Senior (65+) ☐ \$200 Corporate (annual)
☐ \$40 Couple ☐ \$100 Patron ☐ \$35 Senior Couple ☐ Gift in the amount of \$_____

Name (include title, e.g., Mr., Mrs.) _____

Second name if couple (include title, e.g., Mr., Mrs.) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail (to receive JAHSSD announcements) _____

A gift from: _____
0988

Mail form with check to: JAHSSD, P.O. Box 620988, San Diego, CA 92162-0988

ADVERTISEMENT ORDER FORM

Business Name _____

Contact Person _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Other instructions _____

CHECK ONE: ☐ Half page (4 issues) \$80 ☐ Quarter page (4 issues) \$45 ☐ Individual section (4 issues) \$30

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

MEDIA ORDER FORM

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

_____ \$20 + \$1.75 sales tax ADD \$4.80 postage (Priority Mail)* = _____
DEMOCRACY UNDER PRESSURE (JAHSSD ©2000): The World War II evacuation and incarceration of 2,000 San Diegans of Japanese ancestry as told by two local citizens who lived it. This moving and informative 26 min. documentary is available as a close-captioned DVD, suitable for middle school age and up.

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

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

_____ \$10 (member) + \$.88 sales tax _____ \$15 (nonmember) + \$1.31 sales tax ADD \$4.80 postage (Priority Mail)* = _____

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

_____ \$23 + \$2.02 sales tax Edition signed by the author: _____ \$35 + \$3.06 sales tax ADD \$4.80 postage (Priority Mail)* = _____

MOHAVE LAND: In 1945, the Poston III Young Buddhist Association published this 70-page book as a remembrance of life in the Colorado River War Relocation Center. Contains hundreds of photographs depicting camp life and its residents.

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

HI TIMES SPOTLIGHT (2 volume set): Selections from the Poston III high school newsletter 1943-45.

_____ \$20 + \$1.75 sales tax = \$21.75 ADD \$4.80 postage (Priority Mail)* = _____

INTERMENT TO KOREA TO SOLITUDE by Robert Wada. One Korean veteran's recollection and reflection on living in an internment camp, and then serving in the U.S. military during the Korean Conflict.

_____ \$18 + \$1.58 sales tax ADD \$4.80 postage (Priority Mail)* = _____

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

_____ \$10 + \$.88 sales tax ADD \$4.80 postage (Priority Mail)* = _____

JOURNAL OF THE WEST: Japanese Relocation in the American West, featuring "Letters from Camp--Poston, the first year" (Donald H. Estes and Matthew Estes

Also contains maps and photographs. _____ \$10 + \$.88 sales tax ADD \$4.80 postage (Priority Mail)* = _____

ONLY THE BRAVE. Full-length feature film on DVD by filmmaker Lane Nishikawa is a dramatic retelling of the WWII 100th/442nd RCT rescue of the Texas Lost Battalion... and their loved ones back home, prisoners in their own country. A limited number with covers signed by the principals.

_____ \$25 + \$2.19 sales tax ADD \$4.80 postage (Priority Mail)* = _____

SOUTH BAY MONOGATARI: Tales of the South Bay Nikkei Community (Donald H. Estes ©1996, Chula Vista Historical Society): Stories of struggle and success among San Diego's Japanese immigrant families. With photographs, annotations, index. _____ \$12 + \$1.05 sales tax ADD \$4.80 postage (Priority Mail)* = _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED = _____

*Save postage! Call or e-mail JAHSSD office (858/505-9020; jahssd@sbcglobal.net) to arrange pick up of your order at our Ronson Rd. Archives in Kearny Mesa. Make check payable to **JAHSSD** and send to: **JAHSSD-Media Orders, P.O. Box 620988, San Diego, CA 92162-0988**



Japanese Friendship Garden Aki No Matsuri

Presents

Jake Shimabukuro

in concert

Sunday, October 17, 2010

4:00pm

Balboa Theatre

868 Fourth Avenue

San Diego, CA 92101

An Event to Benefit the Garden

Tickets available at the following locations:

Japanese Garden office: 619-232-2721

San Diego Theatres Ticketing: 619-570-1100

www.sdcivic.org

\$52 Gold \$37 Silver \$22 Bronze

jakeshimabukuro.com



JAPANESE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SAN DIEGO

P. O. Box 620988, San Diego, CA 92162-0988

(858) 505-9020 or jahssd@sbcglobal.net

Visit us online at: www.jahssd.org



JAHSSD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: LINDA CANADA

858/457-9676

1st VP: VALERIE ABE

abelinton@sbcglobal.net

2nd VP: DEBRA KODAMA

dkodama@cox.net

Secretary:

KAREN KAWASAKI-WILLIAMS

Treasurer:

GRACE TAKEUCHI

Community Calendar:

MICH HIMAKA, 619/660-9865

Hospitality: JEANNE ELYEA

619/690-1151

Newsletter: JOYCE TEAGUE

619/527-7855

Directors at Large:

DR. YURI KANEDA

CRAIG OZAKI

CHRISTINA PIERSON

Ex Officio:

GWEN MOMITA

Volunteer Support Staff

Community Liaison:

ROBERT ITO

Corresp. Secretary:

LINDA MCLEMORE

Membership Coordinator:

SUMIYO KASTELIC

Web Editor:

EDDIE CANADA



JAHSSD member *Rio Imamura* spoke to 100 English Dept. students and faculty of Seinan Jogakuin University, a Catholic Women's University in Kitakyushu, Japan, where he lives. The topic was *Joanne Oppenheim's* book, *Dear Miss Breed*, which Rio translated and published in Japan. Here, several students are holding copies of *Footprints* and other English language materials Rio shared during his talk.

JAHSSD is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to recognize the contributions Japanese Americans have made to the San Diego region by preserving and making available artifacts, photographs, and other information chronicling their history and experiences. **Footprints** is JAHSSD's quarterly publication, free with membership. We welcome your articles, stories, letters, comments. Send them to:

FOOTPRINTS EDITOR, P. O. Box 620988, San Diego, CA 92162-0988

or e-mail: footprintseditor@cox.net

Copyright 2010 by the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego. All rights reserved.