

Foot Prints 2010 - Spring

MISSING PAGES -

11, 12, 13, 14

# FOOTPRINTS

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

## Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego

### HOW I ENDED UP IN VIETNAM

By James Tajiri

My Vietnam tour, 1966-67, did not have to be. It came about due to my impulsive response to a telephone call.

After returning to the States from 5½ years overseas—that is, one year in Korea and a connecting 4½ years in Japan—I was assigned to attend an advance course in Military Intelligence (MI). Midway through the course, I got a telephone call from the Pentagon. It was the officer responsible for making assignments for the MI Branch.

The officer began by apologizing, knowing that I had just returned to the States from extended overseas duty and that I was not due for another overseas assignment. He then buttered me up with the statement that I was the only person among the available officers who was fully qualified to fill a vacancy in the coming calendar year. That meant based on rank required, intelligence background and experience called for, and the need for a qualified parachutist.



Major James Tajiri, Airborne, Okinawa, 1969

The appealing part of the call was that it was an offer to command an MI detachment assigned to an elite Airborne unit—the 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division—in a hostile area (Vietnam), and the chance to be back on “jump” status with an additional monthly incentive pay of \$75. It was a dream assignment for a career-oriented officer. This appealed to my gung ho nature, so by the end of the call, I had accepted (volunteered).

#### Earlier Rejections Inspired My Decision

Another factor which influenced this impulsive decision was my experience from two previous gung ho decisions made many years before. I had volunteered during WWII, hoping to be a replacement for the 442nd RCT. That did not happen.

On my eighteenth birthday, after graduating from high school in Poston Camp III and relocating to Michigan to work in a restaurant, I registered at the local draft board and volunteered for the Army. I passed the physical exam at the Army Processing Center in Detroit but was rejected for the lack of a background check or security clearance. Perhaps it was due to not having established permanent residence in the area or because of my ethnicity.

A couple of months later, I volunteered again in Chicago. Though I passed the physical, I was rejected again for the same reasons. I did not try for the Air Corps because it was still a part of the Army. I knew the Navy would not accept me because I wore glasses. The Marine Corps was out of the question: because of the bloody battles in the Pacific, and my ethnicity and looking like the enemy, I was reluctant to go near a Marine Corps recruiting center.

VOL. 19 NO. 1

SPRING 2010

How I Ended Up in Vietnam .....	1
COMMUNITY CALENDAR .....	2
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE .....	2
Another Useful Index Created for <i>Footprints</i> ..	3
IN GRATITUDE .....	3
IN MEMORIAM .....	4
WABI SABI .....	4
MEMBERSHIP NEWS .....	5
New Membership Categories and Fees ...	5
WE GET LETTERS & E-MAIL .....	5
CAUGHT DOING SOMETHING NICE .....	6
Poston Names from Tag Project .....	6
Roy Muraoka .....	7
MAZEGOHAN .....	8
One Japantown Family's Story .....	8
CHANKO NABE .....	10
Miss Breed Correspondence .....	11
My Service Learning Project .....	11
CELEBRATIONS .....	12
Toya Memorial .....	12
S.D. Asian Cultural Festival .....	13
A MYSTERY OF HISTORY .....	15
Yamaguchi Family of Pacific Beach. ....	16
Ellis Island's Go for Broke Exhibit .....	17
Remarks at Honorary Degree Ceremony. ....	18
2009 Speakers Bureau and Outreach ...	21
FROM THE JAHSSD ARCHIVES .....	22
JAHSSD Membership Application .....	23
Advertisement & Media Order Forms ...	23

(Continued on Page 19)

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

**Ongoing: FRIDAY SENIOR LUNCH PROGRAM** (12 noon) Kiku Gardens, 1260 Third Ave., Chula Vista. \$3

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

**Ongoing thru June 1: JAPANESE AMERICANS IN THE MILITARY** Exhibition presented by JAHSSD, Veterans Museum, Balboa Park. Info: 619/239-2300. Fee.

**APRIL 11 – HANAMATSURI** (Flower Festival, 10 am), Potluck (12 noon), BTSD. Info: 619/239-0896

**APRIL 11 – POVUCC WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** Teriyaki chicken bowl/bake sale (11 am-1:15 pm), Fellowship Hall, Tickets \$6.50. Info: 619-276-4881

**APRIL 11 – TAG PROJECT** hosted by POVUCC following luncheon fundraiser. Group will be working on Gila River tags. Info: povucc@sbcglobal.net.

**APRIL 20-22 – KYOTO PRIZE SYMPOSIUM.** Info call JSSDT: 858/467-1727

**APRIL 24 – RETURN OF THE MONKEY KING** by Asian Story Theatre (2 pm/7 pm), Lyceum Theatre (Horton Plaza), \$15/\$9 (Student/senior/military). Info: 619/527-2816

**APRIL 24 – BTSD BENEFIT DINNER** (4:30-6 pm), BTSD/VFW BINGO (6-9 pm), BTSD Annex Hall. Bingo \$10 buy-in

**MAY 8 – ASIAN CULTURAL FESTIVAL** (11 am-7 pm), NTC Liberty Station. Entertainment, ethnic displays and activities. Free admission. Info: [www.asianculturalfestivalsd.com](http://www.asianculturalfestivalsd.com)

**MAY 17 – SDSU NISEI HONORARY DEGREE CEREMONY** (1:30 pm), SDSU Aztec Athletic Auditorium on 55th St. RSVP: Max Baker, 619/594-1520 or nbelt@projects.sdsu.edu

**MAY 31 – MEMORIAL DAY COMMUNITY SERVICE** (9:30 am), Mt. Hope Cemetery

**JUNE 5 – TAG PROJECT** at Kiku Gardens (10 am), 1260 Third Ave., Chula Vista. All ages welcome.

**JUNE 6 – JAPANESE CULTURAL BAZAAR** (11 am-4 pm), BTSD. Food, entertainment, displays, games, silent auction, raffle. Free admission. Info: 619/239-0896

**JUNE 11 - JAPANESE COMMUNITY NIGHT** (7:05 pm), Padres vs. Mariners, Petco Park, \$35. Reservations: 858-467-1727 or [info@japan-society.org](mailto:info@japan-society.org). (See enclosed flyer.)

**JUNE 26 – JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY DAY** (celebrating Japan-U.S. Treaty of Mutual Cooperation 50th Anniversary, 12-6 pm), B Street Pier, San Diego. Free admission. Info: <http://www.navycompass.com/usatreaty/>

**JUNE 26 – JSSDT BEER & SAKE FESTIVAL** (6-10 pm), San Diego Marriott Del Mar. Buy tix in advance (\$60/\$40): 858/467-1727 or <http://www.japan-society.org/index.php>

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Linda Canada, Incoming President

I am honored and excited to be writing this message as your president! During the year that I will be serving you, I will be exploring with the Board various ways in which we can involve you, our members, in carrying out the mission of the organization.

I began learning Japanese American history from **Don Estes** and the volunteers who worked on JAHSSD's 1996 exhibition at the San Diego Historical Society. It's been a long process, involving reading a lot of materials in our archives and talking with community members, to piece together the names, dates, and places that form the bare foundation of that history.

What has been more interesting, and personally rewarding, is to learn about personal stories and anecdotes from the people who actually lived the experiences they were sharing.

These learning opportunities surround us, and may happen at any time. For example, in April 2007 **Joe Karamoto** and I were waiting for a Poston Reunion committee meeting to begin, and since I didn't know much about him, I asked him a few questions. He told me an interesting story about his experience as a patient in the camp hospital in Poston I when he developed polio in 1943. It seems that he and his bedmate **Dick Watanabe** were pretty bored being confined to the small hospital ward, and to amuse themselves they used to throw toilet paper over the divider that separated their beds! His parents weren't allowed to visit him very much, and when they did they were brought by the camp ambulance from Camp III to Camp I, and had to stand outside and look in at Joe through the glass windows. Although he remembers that the nurses and doctors caring for him were all Japanese American, he also recalls one "American" nurse who came to work with him on physical therapy. Joe said that being at Poston in the summer made it hard to bear the heat blankets that were used to treat his muscles, although it wasn't too bad to have them in the winter time.

We've recently lost Joe, but because of this one casual conversation, we haven't lost some of his memories about life in camp.

There are lots of ways to save and share stories. One project we've been working on in partnership with the Media Arts Center and the San Diego Public Library, called "Coming to California," has involved recording short stories of 3-4 minutes duration. To get a better understanding of the process of organizing the story, finding photographs or maps or other images to illustrate it, and actually sitting in front of the camera and recording the story, I recorded my own "Coming to California" story in January! If you'd like to hear my story, please use this short link: <http://tinyurl.com/LindaC>, and click on the video.

We gathered stories from Japanese American members of the military and veterans of various wars during the opening of the exhibition at the Veterans Museum. They are also posted online, and available to watch on the video kiosk that is part of the Veterans Museum exhibition.

"History" is made up of a mosaic of little stories. All of us have stories that we've heard during family gatherings and holiday parties. To encourage our members and their children and grandchildren to talk to each other and save these little snippets of history, we are inviting you to write a paragraph or two and submit it to *Footprints*.

For students of any age, there are a lot of benefits in having your stories included: you may get extra credit in classes, you may meet community service requirements, and you will be able to include copies of your published story in your school portfolio or college application.

(Continued on Page 3)

(PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued from Page 2)

For parents and grandparents, there are the rewards of spending time talking with younger family members, and knowing that your memories will live on through your loved ones.

The situation I hope to avoid is the one faced by **Rev. Jim Yanagihara, Mich Himaka, Jeanne Elyea** and me at UCSD during our Day of Remembrance appearance there. We were approached by a young woman in tears who wanted to know how she could find out more about her late grandmother's internment at Minidoka. The grandmother had refused to talk with her about those painful years *even though the grandmother had been part of a speaker's bureau* that went into elementary school classes to talk about the internment! Her granddaughter was broken-hearted that she was never able to learn the details of her grandmother's life.

For JAHSSD and those interested in the history we preserve, your stories, no matter how simple or how inconsequential they may seem, help to illustrate the beautiful mosaic of what life was like for Japanese Americans with connections to San Diego. Please consider sharing them.

## ANOTHER USEFUL INDEX CREATED FOR FOOTPRINTS

JAHSSD member and donor **Roy Asaki** has completed another important project for us. You may recall that last year Roy created an index of *Footprints* which includes both an alphabetical list of topics covered in all of the newsletters and also an index of names that appear in the articles.

His latest project has been to create an index of all photographs that have appeared in *Footprints*!

While these might not sound like exciting projects to you, they are significant enough to make your archivist want to turn cartwheels down Fifth Avenue!

We've already made use of Roy's indices when doing the research for the **Japanese Americans in the Military** exhibition at the Veterans Museum. Korean War photographs loaned by **Rev. Jim Yanagihara** for the Spring 2005 issue were discovered as we reviewed the index, and were borrowed once again to be part of the exhibition.

Outside researchers have used Roy's "finding aids" (as they are known in the archives world) to determine whether our collection includes information about the subject they are researching.

Do you have a little extra time on your hands? Call me—I might have a project to keep you busy! Linda Canada (858) 457-9676.

**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.

PHONE: 858.268.9054

SAN DIEGO, CA 92131

CA. LICENSE #PSY 15540

## IN GRATITUDE

*JAHSSD gratefully acknowledges the following monetary gifts to the Society since our last newsletter. If your donation has not yet been acknowledged, please accept our sincere apologies.*

*Notify Linda McLemore at 619/216-2910 for correction.*

*These are donations received as of March 14, 2010.*

BRUCE AND SHARON ASAKAWA

TOSHIYE C. ESTES

*In Memory of Michael Kawamoto*

*In Memory of Patsy Yanagihara*

YOSHIO MATSUMOTO

BEN SATOSHI SEGAWA

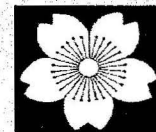
PROF. TERRY THOMAS

*In honor of James Yamate*

*In honor of Roy Muraoka*

*In loving memory of Aiko Muraoka*

*In loving memory of Haruko Crawford*



## 2009 ANNUAL APPEAL DONATIONS

*We are grateful to the following individuals who generously responded to our 2009 year-end appeal but who were not acknowledged in the Winter Issue.*

MR. & MRS. ANONYMOUS

DR. DAVID SMITH

TAKAO D. TAKEUCHI

# 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.*

**ETSUKO ITO**

**April 11, 1932 ~ November 28, 2009**

**EIKO (MATSUNAGA) EWING**

**January 3, 2010**

**FUMIKO (KARAMOTO) AGAWA**

**December 16, 1924 ~ January 2010**

**SUMIKO (MINOURA) CHAMBERS**

**January 25, 1933 ~ February 2010**

**CECILIA KYOKO TANABE**

**November 13, 1920 ~ February 2, 2010**

**JOE NOBUYOSHI KARAMOTO**

**May 1, 1933 ~ February 24, 2010**

**MITO HOSAKA**

**March 17, 1920 ~ February 26, 2010**

**FLORENCE CHITOSE (ISHINO) ENOMOTO**

**November 25, 1935 ~ February 28, 2010**

**SUSUMU KAWATO**

**November 10, 1921 ~ March 21, 2010**

## WABI SABI

By Linda Canada, Archivist

When people come to visit our archives in Spring Valley, one of the questions I am often asked is, "How do you keep track of everything and know where it is?"

There are a number of ways that we organize materials: by the type of material it is, by the general category of Japanese American history in which it fits, and by a label on an individual box, explaining what is inside.

For example, let's consider the beautiful carved wood "Clara Breed" nameplate made by **Tets Hirasaki** at Poston Camp III. It could be placed in one of three general categories of materials which we have in our archives: "Photographs," "Documents and Printed Materials," or "Artifacts." Since the nameplate is neither a photograph nor a printed document, it is placed in the artifact category.

Knowing the category in which it fits also gives a clue to where it is located within the collection, since we have different areas for the storage of photographs, documents, and artifacts.

The category Artifact takes up the most space in our collection, simply because the objects are generally larger. Examples of large artifacts include furniture, suitcases and trunks, and farming and fishing equipment. However, some of our artifacts, like military medals, fishing lures, and wood carvings, are quite small. There is a rough physical separation between the large and small artifacts, so this further narrows down the area where an object might be found.

Smaller artifacts are stored in boxes approximately the size of a Xerox paper box. They are currently grouped together in several categories which include Fishing, Farming, Military, Internment, Clothing and textiles, and many others. The category is listed on the outside of the box on a large paper label which also includes a brief description of what is inside the box.

Here is the label we are looking for:

### Internment Camp: Useful Objects

Sprinkler cans (metal) (2)

Razor (wood and metal)

Clara Breed nameplate

(Tets Hirasaki)

Why not schedule a visit to come visit our collection? I am there with other volunteers most Mondays, and can always make an appointment on weekends or other days to show you around.

Call me at (858) 457-9676 or e-mail me at [icanada509@aol.com](mailto:icanada509@aol.com) to plan your visit.

# 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**

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

By Sumiyo E. Kastelic, Membership Coordinator

We extend a warm welcome to **Carol A. Franzen, Bruce D. Owashi,** and **Efton Woodford** who joined our organization since the last issue of *Footprints*. We also would like to express our appreciation to **Kenji Sato** for converting his membership category to Individual Life Member.

Many thanks to the following for renewing their memberships: **Mark Abe, Michi and Isamu Akamatsu, Joseph Correia, Jeanette Dutton, Jack Fujimoto, Ruth Fujimoto, Taye Hashiguchi, June Hosaka, Louise Iguchi, Carol and Kenji Ii, Emiko and Lloyd Ito, Kimie Kaneyuki, Sakie Kawahara, Tami and Frank Kinoshita, Helen Kodani, Kuniko and Harold Kuhn, Theresa and Ray Mayeda, Judith and Ken Miyamoto, Beverly Morisako, Roy Muraoka, Jane and Charles Ogino, Shirley Omori, Beverly and Taka Sawasaki, Karen and Tom Shea, Bubbles Shimasaki, Fusa Shimizu, Chizuko Shinzaki, Liz Suhami, Fudo Takagi, Grace Takeuchi, Mitsue Tanaka, Aki and Steve Tomiyama, Sumako Sue Tsushima, Frances Uyesaka, and Stephen Yahiro.**

With apologies, my report on the number of members by membership categories and the complete listing of our entire membership has been deferred to the next issue. Please contact me at (760) 632-8386 or [sumik@cox.net](mailto:sumik@cox.net) with any corrections or updates.

## JAHSSD'S NEW MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES & FEES

For the first time since its establishment in 1992, JAHSSD has increased its membership fees. After months of discussion, the Board of Directors adopted the new schedule at its February 2010 meeting. The changes are effective March 31, 2010.

The Society's annual membership fees have always been modest when compared to that of other local and national historical societies. The cost of housing and maintaining our precious archives and increases in printing and postage have made an increase necessary.

Please note that all of the **Life categories** (Individual, Couple, Corporate) are now closed to new members. Those who originally joined as **Charter Life** or **Life Members** will continue to enjoy their special status. New categories now allow for flexibility in the expression of support each member can make annually.

The following are the new categories and fees along with membership benefits for each category.

Category	Benefits
<b>Individual: \$30</b>	Quarterly <i>Footprints</i> ; invitations to receptions and events; members only website section.
<b>Couple: \$40</b>	Same as above.
<b>Senior (65+): \$20</b>	Same as above.
<b>Senior Couple: \$35</b>	Same as above.
<b>Family: \$50</b>	Same as above; plus student mentoring and research assistance.
<b>Patron: \$100</b>	Same as Family membership; plus 8"x10" photograph of your choice from JAHSSD archives.
<b>Corporate: \$200</b>	Same as Patron; plus complimentary ad in every issue of <i>Footprints</i> .

The membership application on Page 23 has been updated to reflect the changes above.

## WE GET LETTERS & E-MAIL

Dear Susan [Hasegawa],

I heard about your exhibit "Japanese Americans in the Military" and thought you might be interested in knowing about a short film I produced on Roy Matsumoto, a Kibei who worked as a translator and interpreter with the MIS during World War II and fought with Merrill's Marauders in Burma. I worked with Roy's daughter Karen Matsumoto who wrote accompanying downloadable curriculum for middle and high school students.

The 19-minute film is now available for viewing on the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community's (BIJAC) website, [http://www.bijac.org/index.php?p=EducationFilm\\_HonorandSacrifice](http://www.bijac.org/index.php?p=EducationFilm_HonorandSacrifice).

The film was produced with a grant from the Washington State Civil Liberties Public Education Project and we're in the process of applying for additional grants to re-edit and lengthen the film so that it will fit into a half-hour PBS time slot. We're also making DVDs available for a \$30 donation to BIJAC.

If you think this would be of interest, we would very much appreciate your help in spreading the word.

Sincerely,  
Lucy Ostrander, Writer-Producer  
Stourwater Pictures  
Bainbridge Island, Washington

Hello Gwen [Momita],

I so appreciate the time you took to provide background information on Sadayoshi George Fujii.

I wish I could determine the year he passed away; however, my search has not revealed that.

Thanks for all you do to keep history alive. My wife was active in the Japanese Garden in Balboa Park when she was working for All Nippon Airways as a regional representative back in the 80s. And when I was working at KFMB-TV, I took a crew to Japan and we did a five-part series on San Diego's many connections to Japan. We were able to take our daughters to Japan for a visit and my wife also lived there when she worked as a flight attendant for military charters during the Vietnam War.

Sincerely,  
John Culea  
San Diego

Dear JAHSSD,

I visited the Veteran's Museum this week and was very moved by the exhibit, "Japanese Americans in the Military."

What an excellent exhibit. I especially like the video part of the exhibit. It really brought home the dilemma the men of the 442nd were in—fighting the war on 3 fronts. The section that talked about losing 800 soldiers in France in one week was very powerful, too.

I liked learning about the local Japanese community in San Diego and all of the accomplishments of the brave men and women from this city.

I just wanted to write to say thank you for the hard and meticulous work that went into creating such an informative, inspiring and important exhibit and bringing to light the sacrifice and patriotism of the Japanese community!!!

Sincerely,  
Diana Rose  
[via our website]

## 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.*

**Robert P. Ito**, chair of our Austin Plus Committee, took the lead in creating the JAHSSD application for a 2010-2011 California Civil Liberties Public Education Project (CCLPEP) grant to enable us to assist JAHSSD member and **Tag Project** artist **Wendy Maryuama** develop an exhibition and marketing plan for her project.

**Sumi & Frank Kastelic** donated an electric three-hole punch and a paper shredder for use in the archives. Volunteer **Dr. Francis Tanaka** immediately put the three-hole punch to work on his current project, organizing the JAHSSD military registry which now has several hundred names! You can examine the binder the next time you visit our exhibition at the Veterans Museum & Memorial Center.

Past President **Mich Himaka**, JAHSSD member **Roy Muraoka** and President **Linda Canada** met Honorary Consul General **Dr. Mike Inoue** and Japanese filmmaker **Junichi Suzuki**, his wife and **Minako Tsuda** at the Veterans Museum for a tour of our exhibition, **Japanese Americans in the Military**.

Director **Suzuki** has donated a DVD copy of his 2008 film, *Toyo's Camera: Japanese American History During WWII*, to our archives. His documentary spotlights famed photographer **Toyo Miyatake**.

Member and veteran **Bob Wada** has written a book, *From Internment to Korea to Solitude*, and generously donated 20 copies to JAHSSD for us to sell as a fundraiser. Thank you, Bob!

Retired professor and author **Dr. Steven Schoenherr** did some research on early Chula Vista in our archives last month, and donated a copy of the Arcadia Publishing book *Bonita* which he co-authored. Last year, Dr. Schoenherr checked with us on a photograph identification to confirm information about a Japanese bachelor barracks in Sunnyside, Calif., which allowed him to write an accurate label description for his photograph in the *Bonita* book.

**David Newcomer**, author of a book about the Japanese gardens in Northern California, visited the JAHSSD archives seeking information about a Japanese curio store and noodle shop that existed around 1908 at Coronado's Tent City. Examining our photographs, he found several he had been unaware existed. David shared information from his extensive research with us, and may include one of our photographs in his new book.

**Grace & Mas Tsuida** donated a 2005 L.A. Times Magazine containing an article describing the author's search for stories from the internment years that his family would not talk about (see President's Message in this issue.)

**Yuki Kawamoto**, past Board member and gifted woodworker, assisted the **Poston Community Alliance** by framing three watercolor prints using wood saved from former Poston barracks. These prints were donated by artist **Chizuko Judy Sugita de Queiroz**. Several of her original watercolors were loaned to JAHSSD for our 2008 exhibition at the Japanese Friendship Garden, **Beauty in Captivity**.

Member **Jon Linton** also assisted the Poston Community Alliance by using his architect skills in helping to develop a master plan for the restoration of select buildings at the former Poston site. The Alliance will use this information to apply for an internment site grant.

Our President **Linda** attended the annual California Association of Museums meeting "Reflect on Tech" on behalf of JAHSSD and brought back several ideas for technology-related projects that will make interesting work for summer interns. If you have a student who'd

like to work with us on web-related projects, they should contact Linda at [Lcanada509@aol.com](mailto:Lcanada509@aol.com).

Many thanks to coordinator **Hisae Batchelder** and her crew **Linda Yamano**, **Jocelyn Cerrillo**, **Jeanne Elyea**, **Naomi Himaka**, **Mich Himaka** and **Sakiko Kada** who are among the members and supporters who have helped JAHSSD provide delicious meals for the Kiku Gardens Friday Senior lunch program every seven weeks.

### Footprints Acknowledgments

We are grateful to **Ken Fine** of **Fletcher Hills Printing** for donating the preprinted envelopes now used for our newsletter mailings. With bulk mail postage continuing to rise and regulations for preparing the mailings changing, using the envelopes allows us to send a neatly stapled (instead of a loose-leafed) newsletter. It also assures that each copy will reach its readers in great condition as it makes its way through the postal service. Fletcher Hills Printing also comps the wonderful color cover of our publication which allows us to include color images each issue. Thanks, Ken!

Helping us with the Winter Issue folding and bulk mail prep were **Beverly & Taka Sawasaki**, **Dr. Francis Tanaka**, **Saki Kada**, **Grace & Mas Tsuida**, **Rev. Jim Yanagihara** and son **Boku**, **Yuki & Mits Kawamoto**, **Jeanne Elyea**, **Linda Canada**, **Keith Himaka** and son **Trevor**, and **Mich & Naomi Himaka**.

Thank you very much to the following nonregular contributors to the current issue for their articles, tips and photos: **Pacific Beach Historical Society**, **Bob Buzzard**, **Asa Enochs**, **John Fry**, **Dan Haslam**, **Susan Hasegawa**, **Yuki Kawamoto**, **Allan McAllister**, **Akemi Sannwald**, **Ken Sato**, **Colleen Shaw**, and **James Tajiri**.

*Footprints* would not be very interesting reading without the ongoing contributions to its pages from our wonderful members and friends!

Lastly, much appreciation to eagle-eyed **Mich Himaka** and **Bill Teague** who have the task of proofreading these pages. Arigato!

## POSTON NAMES FROM "THE TAG PROJECT" NOW ON VIEW

With the help of many volunteers from around the country working on her Tag Project, SDSU artist **Wendy Maruyama** has completed the thousands of paper name tags representing individuals held at the three Poston, Arizona internment camps.

Maruyama has created a huge hanging installation consisting of all the Poston tags for an eclectic exhibition of artwork by 23 artists currently on view through July 10 at the California Center for the Arts (CCA) in Escondido.

"Material Matters: Selected Works by Allied Craftsmen" showcases work by Allied Craftsmen, a group founded over 50 years ago and composed of nationally and internationally recognized artists currently living and working in the San Diego area. The Poston tag installation is one of several evocative internment-related works created by Maruyama for the exhibit.

Recently JAHSSD joined Maruyama in applying for a CCLPEP grant to help fund the remainder of the Tag Project to assure its completion and display.

Anyone who has participated in the Tag Project and would like to see the exciting first installment of "the fruits of their labor," so to speak, can view the impressive piece at the CCA, 340 North Escondido Boulevard in Escondido. The museum is open Sundays 1-5 p.m. and Tue-Sat 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$3 to \$5. Call (760) 839-4120 for more information.

## ROY MURAOKA: I HOPE HE LIVES TO BE A HUNDRED

By Bob Buzzard

On February 28, 2010, former Kansha Awards recipient **Roy Muraoka** was thrown a grand 80th birthday party at Tom Ham's Lighthouse by his sons, **Tad** and **Ken Muraoka**. The banquet hall was packed with family and friends representing the many community organizations Roy has been involved with. Entertainment included a live band, a biography in slides, and charming instrumental performances by grandchildren **Trevor** and **Trina**. Among the testimonials was one by Roy's Asian Pacific VFW Post 1451 comrade, **Bob Buzzard**, whom we thank for permission to print it here.

I am honored to be here on this occasion representing the Japanese American Memorial Post with all my comrades sitting out amongst you, led by our Post Commander **Bob Poston**.

Friends, the year was 1930 and a hell of year it was. There were only about 130 million people in the United States, many of whom were broke. Gas was ten cents a gallon. A first class stamp was two cents. You could buy a house for \$7,000 and a new Chevy for \$555. Thousands were making their way to California to try to get jobs picking fruit and vegetables to survive. Unemployment was out of control. Sound familiar? Yes, in 1930 the Great Depression had begun.



Above: Relatives and friends in Aloha garb who honored Roy on his birthday included members of the many Nikkei organizations Roy is involved with. Right: Ken Muraoka narrates a slide show of highlights of his father's life.



Hostess Twinkies, Scotch tape and frozen food were invented. Warren Buffett, Steve McQueen, Ray Charles and Clint Eastwood were born. Mickey Mouse and Superman first appeared on the scene. And another Superman was born that year eight decades ago and his name was Roy Muraoka.

I've had the pleasure of knowing and working with Roy for approximately 30 years and, yes, Roy is a Superman. He can do anything: he's got the brains, the common sense, the talent, the get 'er done



Bob Buzzard (standing center), representing VFW Post 1451, after making his congratulatory remarks to Roy Muraoka at Tom Ham's. Photos by Joyce Teague.

mentality, the personal drive and the perseverance to tackle anything. If he can't do it with his bare hands, he always comes up with the right tool, the right implement, the right machine, the right whatever it takes to get the job done. He's always been the go-to guy, the brick and mortar, the glue, the bond that holds everything together; the essence of the essential man in our Japanese American community and our social and fraternal organizations.

What the hell would we do without Roy?

And Roy was a fisherman, too, as you know. Fishermen are perhaps the greatest storytellers of all, able to stretch reality to legend. Every fishing trip and each fish caught is a unique event to be remembered, among friends.

I remember well a fishing trip with Roy down in the Sea of Cortez when the sun set and the skipper shouted out, "Would anyone like to catch squid?"

We got excited and got our gear ready. Within only a brief moment—a heartbeat after the skipper gave the word to drop our lines—Roy yelled out, "Squid on!" With my own rod motionless, I turned in disbelief to see Roy's rod already doubled over. He was moaning and groaning. In his shorts and white bony legs, he looked more like Mickey Mouse than Superman as his legs shook and quivered. But he fought hard and won the battle and brought in a fighting giant Humboldt squid approximately 40 lbs., a real vicious-looking creature. Roy got 'er done.

As everyone well knows, Roy is a genuine man of compassion and selfless generosity which he often invoked in Friday "social night" all-out poker games among friends in the VFW. Roy would often delay over his cards and mumble to himself, "What am I doing here?" as he made painful decisions...and finally decide he didn't qualify and would, out of his humble generosity, fold his hand to donate his losses to his fellow players for which we were always very grateful. But in my case, however, he'd get his money back when I stupidly played his baseball-football pools which were conducted in his mobile park... and, by the way, which I have never won.

In closing and in recognition of Roy's 80th birthday...that's eight decades!...I just want to personally thank Roy for the friend he's been to me and express my sincere appreciation for all that he has done and continues to do for the Japanese American community and supporting organizations.

He's a genuine, unselfish, generous, extraordinarily talented and capable man, and a very good man for whom I have the highest respect and admiration and always will. I hope he lives to be a hundred, this Superman with skinny legs.

A sincere happy birthday to one of the best. And now, Roy, you have entered the elite class known as KEIRO KAI.

## MAZEGOHAN

By Michio Himaka

I meant to write something about this subject years ago.

During our incarceration in Poston III during World War II, there were a number of memorable individuals in our block, Block 330.

One was **Mitsuko Lucy Koba**. We all knew her better as Mikko.

Mikko was the youngest of five children born to the late **Masanori and Shizue Koba** of Coronado. In camp, Mikko was a one-person babysitting service in our block during World War II years. If parents had been able to afford to pay her even a dollar a day to have her watch their infant, Mikko might have earned more than camp doctors!

Mikko was 11 to 14 years of age in camp. Almost every day, she had a baby in her arms or by the hand. Sometimes she had maybe one or two babes in arms and two or three trailing behind her. And if she had more, she drafted the likes of **Mary and Ryo Sugaya**, **Mary Kido** and the **Segawa girls**, like **Elsie**, **May** and **Mary**, to baby-watch with her.

Mikko not only babysat the likes of **Sanaye and Tomoko Fukamizu**, **Roy Yonekura**, **Hanako Kawamoto**, **Takashi Yagade** and **Keibo Suwa**, but she took on little older youngsters like **Mary and Jeanne Koike**, **Janet and Elizabeth Takeguchi**, **Tom Yonekura** and **John Asakawa**. Sometimes she even had other young children from the neighboring 329 block.

Mikko also took the initiative in forming games like Kick the Can, Red Rover and Capture the Flag between the boys and girls in the preteen and teenage group in our block.

And we boys gave no ground! Sometimes she divided us boys up so we had to choose sides. She was an organizer.

Our block also had infants like **Megumi Yagade** and **Christine Kawamoto**, who were either born in camp or just before we went in. I'm sure she could've watched them, too, if the parents desired. Obviously, Mikko loved kids and kids loved her. Parents obviously trusted her in letting her watch the children. She married **Saburo Kodama** after the war and had three children of her own. And, yes, she was a wonderful mother.

### Mr. Fujimoto

Another person who was memorable to kids my age was **Shigeo Fujimoto**, who was our block manager. Mr. Fujimoto was a native of Hawaii and was a produce market manager before the war in what was our Nihonmachi (Japantown) and is now the Gaslamp area of Downtown San Diego.

I remember the night we got to Poston III, there was apparently a riot in Camp I. We had no idea how far Camp I was, but Mr. Fujimoto took charge and had our block families remain in our barracks until the adults found out what was going on. I don't know what the riot was about or what happened in Camp I, but our block was secure.

I remember after our camp built our concrete, Olympic-size swimming pool, he used to gather us kids, have our parents provide us with towels, and then march us to the swimming pool, saying it was important that we learn how to swim. And you know what? We all learned how to swim in camp. Well, anyway, we boys did! And there was no tossing anyone into the pool! He taught us to swim with a lot of patience. I think that was why I taught our two boys how to swim. They became very good swimmers, too. Both swam and played water polo at Monte Vista High in Spring Valley.

Mr. Fujimoto, I believe, was one of those instrumental in having a standard-size basketball court built in our block. He also helped build what became known in our camp as Sportman's Park, the softball-baseball field in Roku III.

I remember he pitched softball for our senior team and had a wicked

curve ball, which I believe was ruled illegal because his pitching arm came way away from his hip. But it sure was a wicked curve ball! His son, **Walt**, was one of the best softball and baseball pitchers in Camp III and an outstanding athlete.

### Mr. Koike

And then there was **Mr. Toyosaku Koike**, who became the chief cook in our block. Mr. Koike and his wife, **Tokino**, had two daughters, **Mary Minako**, who was 7 to 10 in camp, and **Jeanne Shizue**, who was 5 to 8 during her camp years.

Mr. Koike loved kids and he was physically very strong. He could pick two or three of us preteens up under his arms and wave us around!

No, I would not want to be on his bad side ever! But he was a nice man. As our chief cook, he always put out leftover dinner food and gohan for us young guys to snack on, whether it was spaghetti or other food. If there was no leftover, he put out bread with peanut butter and jam.

We learned to make Dagwood sandwiches stacking up five to six pieces of bread with peanut butter and jam. We also learned to like apple butter jam! I haven't tried making one of those since camp! Well, nothing bigger than three high.

And when us guys attempted to make nigiris, we just couldn't master the art of making the triangle kind. Ours usually turned out to be humungous softball-sized nigiris! But we sure had fun making them for our snacks! Try it sometimes with a handful of spaghetti wrapped in wax paper! Mmmm, good!

But Mr. Koike is remembered by us boys for his generosity with the fried gohan he made for breakfast. Almost every time he made fried rice for breakfast, he either told us guys the night before or told our parents so we wouldn't miss out. Almost every time he served it, the first persons in line were young boys my age!

And, if he noticed one of us missing, he invariably packed some up for our parents so they could bring it back to our barrack for the missing kid. And he always knew who was missing!

## ONE JAPANTOWN FAMILY'S STORY: THE KAWAMOTOS

By Dan Haslam

*Mr. Haslam interviewed **Yukio Kawamoto** and his sister **Fusa Shimizu** for the exhibition **Japanese Americans in the Gaslamp Quarter** mounted jointly by the JAHSSD and the **Gaslamp Quarter Historical Society** at the **William Heath Davis House** downtown. It is reprinted here with permission.*

Japantown, San Diego—whose center was Fifth and Island Avenue—was a lively area with more than 60 businesses and hundreds of Japanese American residents in its midst. Overnight on April 8, 1942, this neighborhood literally disappeared. Probably many families' stories about the disappearance are similar. After all, they were to share a common atrocity. This is one such story about a family we just happen to know.

The Kawamoto family was a blended family consisting of six children and two parents, although only four of the children lived in Japantown in 1931. The family was headed by **Imataro Kawamoto**, husband of **Sakayo** and father of **Fusa Kawamoto Shimizu**, **Yukio** ("Yuki") **Kawamoto**, **Kazuko Kawamoto** and **Ruth Kawamoto**. Two other children, **Hiro Kubota** and **Tami Kubota**, shared a common mother, **Sakayo**, but had a different father, **Kubota**, who had passed away. Today (January 2010) remarkably, all six of the Kawamoto and Kubota children, ranging in age from 71 to 89, are still alive.

(Continued on Page 9)



Kawamoto Family circa 1923. Parents **Imataro and Sakayo Kawamoto**; children **Fusa Kawamoto** (on Imataro's lap), **Hiro Kubota** and **Tomi Kawamoto**. Hiro and Tomi are Sakayo's children from a prior marriage.

Imataro arrived in San Diego from San Francisco in his thirties shortly after the 1906 earthquake. He took up fishing, a growing industry in San Diego, and moved his family into one of the scores of fish shacks that dotted the two piers in what is now a city park in Barrio Logan.

### Life on San Diego Bay

Fusa and Yuki recall the **Fish Camp** and shacks from their earliest memories, in that their residence, literally a shack, was built on the fishing pier over the water. This minimal housing was provided free of charge to the Japanese families by the fish cannery which owned the pier. There was running water, electricity and gas, but no modern sanitary facilities. They had an outhouse where human waste emptied directly into the bay.

As children, the Kawamotos referred to this part of San Diego Bay as "Kaka Bay" for good reason. Trash and garbage was emptied out of a trap door in the floor of the shack and landed directly into the bay. The oldest brother, Hiro, once fell through the waste-emptying trap door and had to be rescued from the bay below.

The Kawamoto children recall that this was a place of communal, Japanese-style baths where everyone washed and rinsed themselves before soaking in the big tub. Fusa is convinced that this rugged living

"strengthened her family's immunities." At age 88, she might be right.

By 1918, fishermen of Japanese descent accounted for 50 percent of all fishing fleets operating out of San Diego. Out of protectionist attitude, the California state legislature passed increasing restrictive legislation to discourage Asians from progressing in the fishing industry. By the time of the Great Depression in the late 1920s and early 1930s, Imataro looked for other employment.

### Living in Downtown San Diego

In 1931, he took over operation of a small hotel that Fusa and Yuki remember as the **Imperial Hotel**, just south of Market Street on Fourth Avenue (above the Royal Pie Bakery, now the Dublin Square Pub) in what is now the Gaslamp Quarter. (San Diego Historical Society records list hotel names at this site variously, e.g. Hotel Hanana, Hotel Empire or Empire Hotel, and ultimately the Anchor Hotel, but never the Imperial Hotel.) According to Fusa, her father was the last Japanese American manager of this property. The Kawamoto family did not own the property, but Imataro served as its manager.

Fusa recalls that her family had an apartment at the hotel, which included running water, flush toilets and a kitchen, and that while this was an improvement over Fish Camp, it still was a "lousy hotel." On more than one occasion, sailors called at the hotel thinking that it was a brothel. Fusa would hide with her sister Tomi after being seen by the men, worried that they would be taken away by the sailors, unaware of the true purpose of their visit.

The children shared hotel rooms as their sleeping rooms when the hotel was not full and doubled up with their parents when the hotel filled. According to Japanese tradition, their father, Imataro, should have remained in Japan to care for his aging parents since he was the eldest son in his family. But after a stint in the Japanese army, according to Fusa, he was ready to leave Japan, and his father bought his way out of Japanese service. Because Imataro had served as a civilian cook in the U.S. Navy, he had learned a little English, and this served him well in the Anglo community in working in San Diego's downtown.

Fusa and Yuki and the other children lived in today's Gaslamp Quarter at the hotel only for about a year. They attended Lincoln Elementary School in what is now City College and walked from their home to school each day. Within their neighborhood, they associated exclusively with Japanese American friends, although Yuki recalls that once in school, Anglos and Asians freely mingled together.

Once while in elementary school, an Anglo student invited Yuki to visit his home near Little Italy in the State Street/Kettner Avenue area. After the visit, Yuki thought he knew the way home, about 10



Yuki (left) and Tomi Kawamoto, circa 1928.

## CHANKO NABE

By Joyce Nabeta Teague

## Hoarders

Even if you don't do a lot of TV watching, you are aware of the public's fascination with so-called reality shows. I say "so-called" because whatever reality you are viewing is always shaped by a script, an editor and an agenda. Regardless, when you watch programs like "Project Runway" or "The Amazing Race," you are pretty much getting a version of actual events aimed, foremost, to entertain.

One reality show I've seen more than once is called "Hoarding," I think. Apparently there's more than one program on obsessive behavior, but the one I'm thinking of spotlights individuals who have large collections of items they consider valuable but that over time have become so overwhelming that just maneuvering around the stuff can pose a danger to life and limb.

In a typical storyline, these collections—and they usually look like piles of broken junk and trash instead of treasure—cover every surface, fill every room, spill out of doorways, and clearly make it difficult for the hapless hoarder to sit at his kitchen table, much less have friends over for dinner or a game of poker. The sheer mass of "stuff" prevents the hoarder from having any modicum of a normal life.

The script goes like this. Camera sweeps through a home that appears to have sustained incredible hurricane damage. The hapless hoarder ("H.H.") seems clearly in denial that there is anything abnormal about saving moldy stacks of newspapers or empty styrofoam food containers from floor to ceiling in every nook and cranny of the house. Frowny-faced family and friends express concern for the well being of H.H. Then an expert on compulsive disorders is brought in to give a psychological explanation of how H.H.'s behavior goes waaaay beyond the norm and borders on mental illness (though interestingly, no one ever actually says the hoarder is sick).

The hope for a cure comes when H.H. makes an earnest pact to address the problem square on. A team of Professional Organizers, wearing dust masks and rubber gloves and clutching shovels and trash bags, marches into the house to bag up and clear everything out. This takes all day. The hoarder has been assured he will always have the final say whether any item gets tossed or retained. But it soon becomes clear that nothing is more painful than having to part with something one sincerely sees has intrinsic value, whether others share these perceptions or not.

Apparently asking H.H. to part with *just one beer can from his collection of thousands* is like asking him to part with his skin. Visibly upset, he has to fight to maintain his composure in the glare of the videocam lights as an uber-respectful Organizer asks if it might be just a little bit okay to separate out a *single duplicate can*.

Even though you may not have seen my moon-shaped face as the featured H.H. in any of these shows, you can assume they are *always* talking about me. At least that is how I feel when I watch an episode. I think guiltily of the piles of papers and boxes on our dining table that prevent us from using it for its intended purpose. I think of the bags of "treasures" I found at thrift shops meant for the Buddhist Temple's Obon Again Shop that are still sitting in the garage, waiting to be sorted and priced. I think of our spare bedroom full of bankers boxes that contain my oddball collectibles that have been sitting for seven or eight years for me to buy a display case for the living room. *I am a hapless hoarder.*

Actually I think I'd rather be called a hoarder than a slob or a procrastinator or obsessive or easily distracted or J.P.L. (just plain

lazy), although of course I admit to being all of those things as well. But I am now willing to being convinced that "hoarder" has a trendy, mysterious and even romantic cache to it. You know: *Twilight: The Hoarding*. Jason Bourne, *Hoarder*.

I am pretty sure that only a person who has a problem maintaining order in her own home could watch "Hoarding" more than once and derive anything useful from the experience. Someone who keeps a neat and tidy house and whose modest collection of vintage salt and pepper shakers is tastefully housed in a dust-free china cabinet would not be able to watch such rampant disorder week after a week.

But those of us who border on dysfunctional—and there must be legions of us who are the target audience for these disturbing shows—probably watch because the H.H.s they spotlight are sooo out of control that even someone like me—with my displays of rubber stamps, sumo memorabilia and boxes of cute stationery for letters I will never, ever write—can watch feeling relieved that, Hey, at least I ain't as bad as *that* guy. (Well, not yet, anyway...)

Of course, in the hour it takes to watch a single episode of "Hoarding" I could have sorted and cleared our large coffee table of Mako's toys and loose pens and the middens of papers from recent committee meetings. But did I? And in the couple of hours it took me to write this column, I could have gone through my cupboards and packed up all the crystal and china we aren't using because our dining table is covered with papers. Lots of papers. But did I?

*Can it be that I prefer living dangerously, teetering on the very edge of madness?* Ha! As if *teetering* were an actual activity. Watch out—next I'll be claiming it's physical exercise.

Delusion. It's the psychological grease that keeps the emotional wheels turning. Just call me: *Joyce Teague, Hoarder, Queen of Denial.*

## 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](http://www.yelp.com/sandiego)

DINE IN or TAKE OUT!

5950 Santo Road  
Right off Hwy 52

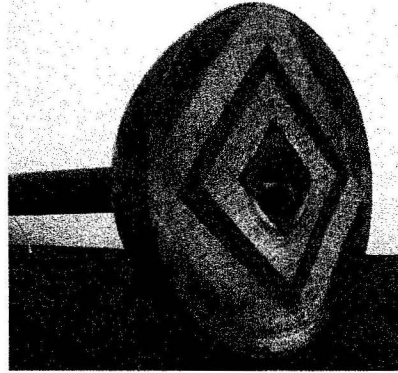
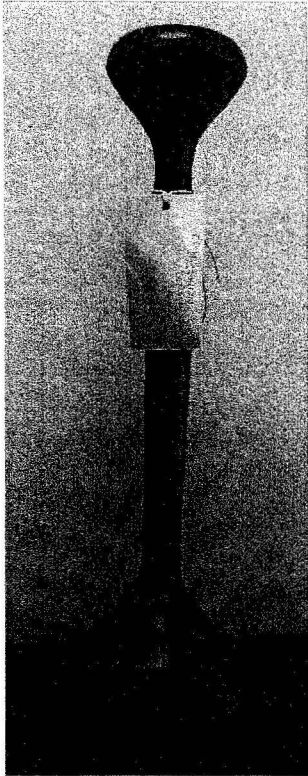


Tu-Th 10 am-8 pm  
F-Sat 7:30 am-8 pm  
Sun 7:30 am-3 pm

Call for  
Quick Pick-up!  
(858) 541-7002

[www.islandstylecafe.com](http://www.islandstylecafe.com)

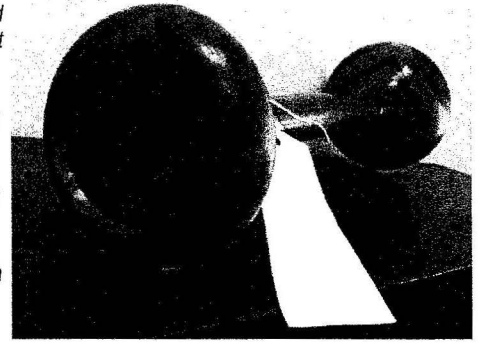
# A MYSTERY OF HISTORY



Far left: The sanded and polished wooden object is about 2 feet tall.

Left: The base is about 6 inches across.

Right: The top is about 4 inches across and has a round inset to support an ashtray or a large candle or ???



...DO YOU KNOW...  
WHAT THIS OBJECT IS, WHO MADE IT, HOW IT MAY  
HAVE BEEN USED, AND WHO DONATED IT?

*It was found in our collection in a trunk which once belonged to **Shinn Yamashita**. We don't know whether it was created by Mr. Yamashita or donated by him. It is made of interlocking dark and light wood sections and was turned on a lathe. It was believed to have been acquired by the late **Don Estes**. If you can help us solve this mystery, call our archivist at (858) 457-9676 or e-mail [jahssd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jahssd@sbcglobal.net).*

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

\$ 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

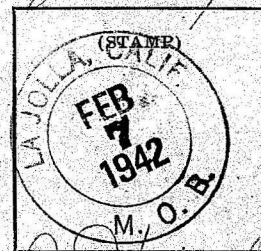
*Funds generated by Bingo go to the community activities of BTSD and Asian Pacific VFW Post 4851*

Yum! Benefit Dinners preceding Bingo at 4:30 pm on March 27, April 24, May 22, July 24, Sept. 26, Nov. 6

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

BINGO				
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

Alien Registration No. 3729358Name Yataro Yamaguchi  
(First name) (Middle name) (Last name)RIGHT  
INDEX FINGERPRINT(Signature of holder) Yataro Yamaguchi  
16-26150-1Birth date February 12 1865  
(Month) (Day) (Year)  
Born in Munakata Fukuoka Japan  
or near (City) (Province) (Country)  
Citizen or subject of Japan (Country)Length of residence in United States 53 yrs., no mos.Address of residence 1871 Grand Ave Rt 1 Box 9  
(Street address or rural route)  
Pacific Beach San Diego Calif  
(City) (County) (State)Height 5 ft., 1 in.Weight 110 lb.Color of hair Light GreyDistinctive marks NoneJoseph J. Hinds  
(Signature of Identification Official)

Application filed in Alien Registration Division. Copy filed with Federal Bureau of Investigation office at

SAN DIEGO CALIF.  
16-26150-1

## THE YAMAGUCHI FAMILY OF PACIFIC BEACH

By Allan McAllister

*This family history dated June 5, 1997, appears here courtesy of John Fry, editor of the Pacific Beach Historical Society's monthly newsletter; and of the author, Allan McAllister, who was a lifelong friend of Sam Yamaguchi. Sam passed away on March 8, 2009, survived by his wife Laura and sister Jane. Another story about Sam is planned for a future issue of Footprints.*

This is a story about the **Yataro and Matsu Yamaguchi family** and their neighbors in Pacific Beach. I do not know the origins of Mr. and Mrs. Yamaguchi except that they were born in Japan and worked their way to the Beach around 1916. There were six children born in America and one son born in Japan. **Albert, Yoni, Manuel, Samuel, Edith and Jane** are Americans. **Daniel** was Japanese by default. Daniel died in 1997 in Japan.

**Mrs. Matsu Yamaguchi** was called to Japan while she was pregnant with Daniel. A member of her family was ill or had died and she felt compelled to go. While she was in Japan, Daniel was born. Matsu was a legal alien in the U.S. so her child was legally a Japanese citizen and our government would not allow Matsu to bring her baby home with her. She had to make the agonizing decision to leave one baby to return to the others and her husband. The period was 1916-18 and anti-Japanese sentiment was rampant. Matsu eventually was granted U.S. citizenship. She died in 1978.

**Yataro Yamaguchi** was a farmer and he specialized in truck gardening cash crops that went to market as often as he could produce them. Some years he had good crops and others there were failures. Any extra cash went into seed or fertilizer.

He farmed the land from below Wilbur to Law streets, east of Lamont to Soledad Mountain Road. A man named **Mr. George Layman** owned the land and as long as he was alive, he never charged Yataro any rent. Mr. Layman died intestate in 1938, so the State claimed the land. Before the land was legally sold, a couple tried unsuccessfully to extract high rent from Yataro.

Bigotry was present here and as war clouds gathered, Mr. Yamaguchi experienced more ill-treatment. For years he had sold fresh produce to a local market and he thought he and the owner were friends. When Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, we were immediately in war and Mr. Yamaguchi allegedly became a "spy" (with six American kids). No longer would the store owner buy vegetables from Mr. Yamaguchi. They might be poisoned. Next, all adult legal alien Japanese were rounded up as in a cattle drive, and shipped to remote camps in the desert or other unpleasant places. The children soon followed. Mr. Yamaguchi became ill in the internment camp and died before the war ended.

The period from 1929 to 1940 was a happy time for us as we grew up in the Beach. Sam started in kindergarten with **Gene Cornell, Robert Gross, James Miller, Charles Hasha, Lillian Sogo, Margaret McCoy, Lucille Kidney, Bud Shepard** and a few others whose names I can't recall. We had teachers whom we adored. Miss Ayers, Miss Cannon, and Mrs. Lazarr come to mind. **Ellis Dugger** replaced another principal when we were in first or second grade.

We played together, went to each other's homes, shared food, had neighboring paper routes, and we were unaware of any difference in the Yamaguchi family and their loyalty as patriots of America. Sam became a good athlete and participated in track and field events at La Jolla High School. He earned two letters in his events.

(Continued on Page 17)

(THE YAMAGUCHI FAMILY continued from Page 16)

After the Yamaguchi family was sent to Poston, Arizona, there was sentiment in U.S. politics developing to allow the formation of a regiment of Japanese American soldiers, made up of men from the Territory of Hawaii and mainland U.S.A. Without hesitation, the men volunteered, took basic training, combat training, and were sent to the European Theater of Operations.

At first, the officers were all Caucasian and they immediately realized what superb troops they had. Numerous 442nd soldiers received battlefield commissions and several achieved field grade ranks of Lt. Colonel and Colonel.

All three Yamaguchi boys volunteered to become soldiers. Albert was assigned to the 522nd Artillery Battalion, attached to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and Sam was a rifleman in F Company.

The 442nd Regimental Combat Team was one of the most decorated units in United States history of war. They fought in much of Europe. Sam was badly wounded early in his war and his squad leader saved his life by dragging him out of the line of mortar and machine gun fire. Sam was decorated with a Purple Heart for being wounded in combat. He spent six months recuperating at a Cook and Baker's school in Italy, and later joined his company in Southern France.

The regiment had just finished a series of fierce engagements and was sent back to Italy to get replacements and reorganize. What a shame that those men had to prove so gallantly the loyalty which was taken for granted by politicians regarding the troops who happened to be Caucasian! It is a pleasure to write that Sam's unit had a reunion in 1997 and Sam was able to go to Hawaii to attend it. He became reacquainted with his squad leader and discovered that they had shared occupations as mailmen. Manuel did not join the 442nd. He became a military policeman and had guard duty over German prisoners of war.

I know very little about Sam's sisters. Yoni, the elder sister, married one of the men of the 442nd. The two of them still live in Southern California and Sam sees them occasionally. Edith married and worked as a secretary. The youngest child, Jane, worked at General Dynamics, a defense industry.

The Pacific Beach in which I was raised was fairly cosmopolitan. The Tarantinos carried on the tradition of Italian fishermen. My family originated in Scotland and Ireland—maybe England. The Tates were a Black family who lived on Diamond Street. The Ruiz family and the Rioses were Latino. The Yamaguchi and Yamashita families were from Japan. Mr. Milton, one of many who came to Pacific Beach in 1935, was born in Scotland. The Wilson family, who lived on the Scripps estate, were English. With the mix I have described, my recollection of racism and bigotry in Pacific Beach is very limited, especially in school. My prejudice toward Lillian Sogo and Margaret McCoy was that I could never match their grades.

Sam Yamaguchi is a retired bachelor who lives in San Diego. While he worked days for the Postal Service, he also had a half-time job as a custodian for the California Highway Patrol. He retired from both jobs and has the benefits that each offered.

I know that he has at least two passions. One is his family of cats and the other is playing the horses. He used to play poker but he can no longer tolerate the smoke. Sam is reasonably well. He had major heart surgery and says he is slowly healing. He collects a disability pension for his wounds, but he doesn't suffer from them.

Sam and his family need to be remembered as vibrant, important contributors to our giant melting pot.

## ELLIS ISLAND'S GO FOR BROKE EXHIBIT

*The following edited information is excerpted from a National JACL press release dated March 22, 2010.*

The **Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)** joins with the **Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA)** and others in encouraging participation in a special exhibit at the Ellis Island/Statue of Liberty Museum in New York, which is part of the U.S. National Park Service.

The **Go For Broke Exhibit** is scheduled to be installed at the end of May 2010 and will run through September 2010. Everyone able to visit and see the exhibit is encouraged to do so.

The exhibit, which honors Japanese American soldiers in World War II, is being prepared by **Eric Saul**, noted historian who has researched extensively on the Japanese American experience of World War II. It includes the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion, the Military Intelligence and Language Service, and Japanese American women in the Womens Army Corps (WAC).

The exhibit will be dedicated to **Mike Masaoka**, who lobbied for the creation of an all-Japanese American unit; and **Chet Tanaka**, who worked in the public relations department of the 442nd and wrote many of the medals recommendations and reports on the 442.

Also highlighted in the exhibit will be the wartime record of the Nisei and the effect it had on the success of the Japanese American community since the war. There will be images of Issei being sworn in as citizens, and pictures of **Ronald Reagan** signing HR442 (which offered a Presidential apology and reparations for incarcerated persons), and an enlarged copy of an American apology letter that was sent to all surviving internees.

The last gallery of the exhibit will have pictures of notable Nisei and Sansei (third generation Japanese Americans) who have benefited from the wartime legacy of the Nisei soldier. Among those will be photographs of **Daniel Inouye**, **Spark Matsunaga**, **Norman Mineta**, **Patsy Mink**, **Harry Honda**, **Ellison Onizuka**, and other notable Japanese Americans and legislators. **General Eric Shinseki** will also be featured. This part of the exhibit will talk about how the very Nisei who fought in the war broke down the racial barriers that had existed for more than 100 years.

The exhibit is planned to be an ongoing process. Additional materials, photos, documents, graphics and oral histories that can be used in an archive collection for future use will be collected. The images, documents, and other materials will be scanned into a high resolution computer file which can be shared with anyone. This important exhibit will be available for touring after completing its stay at the Ellis Island/Statue of Liberty Museum.

# Fletcher Hills Printing

## 1000 FULL COLOR FLYERS FOR \$150\*

2262 Fletcher Parkway • El Cajon, CA 92040

### 619-460-1482

\*Restrictions apply, call for details

## REMARKS AT HONORARY DEGREE CEREMONY

By Patrick Hayashi, Former Associate President,  
University of California System

*This much passed-around speech was delivered by Mr. Hayashi on December 4, 2009, at a special ceremony at the University of California, San Francisco, granting honorary degrees to former students whose education was interrupted by the evacuation of individuals of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast during WWII.*

What a wonderful, beautiful day!

I have the honor of speaking to the UC community on behalf of the Japanese American community. I also have the honor of speaking to the Nisei who are being honored today on behalf of their children and grandchildren. Today, when UC honors these Nisei students, the Japanese American community would like to honor UC.

Today is a wonderful day, but it is not surprising. During our darkest days, UC stood by us. When others treated us harshly, you treated us with kindness. When others persecuted us, you protected us. When others scorned us, you embraced us as family.

Few people know about how UC leaders fought to protect the Constitutional rights, the personal welfare, and, most important, the human dignity of Japanese Americans.

After Pearl Harbor, racial hysteria swept the nation. President **Robert Gordon Sproul**, Vice President **Monroe Deutsch** and several other UC leaders helped establish the Committee on American Principles and Fair Play to defend the rights of Japanese Americans.

When it became clear that Japanese Americans on the west coast would soon be put into concentration camps, many UC faculty tried their hardest to place their students in colleges in the mid-west.

Then, when we were imprisoned in temporary assembly centers, like Tanforan, a race track in South San Francisco, UC faculty came to visit. They wrote letters, sent books, passed final exams through the fence. They brought art supplies so that we could start art classes for the children.

At Berkeley, **Harvey Itano** earned the University Medal as the outstanding graduate of the Class of 1942. President Sproul could have easily given the medal to the next student in line. Instead, at the commencement ceremony, President Sproul said, "Harvey cannot be here today because his country has taken him elsewhere." And he arranged to have the medal presented to Harvey behind barbed wire.

Here at UCSF, Dean of Pharmacy **Troy Daniels** along with other faculty members displayed uncommon compassion, integrity and courage. Dean Daniels went to the Presidio to speak with the head of the western military command, **General John DeWitt**. He asked that his eight Nisei students be temporarily exempted from the order to evacuate and be allowed to complete their pharmacy degrees.

He also said that he and his wife would adopt **Harry Iwamoto**, his first graduate student, if that would allow Harry to stay. But, General DeWitt had publicly stated, "All Japanese, including those born in the United States, are members of an enemy race." He told Dean Daniels that all Nisei students would have to clear out of San Francisco.

But the students and faculty had other ideas. The students stayed and they studied. The faculty helped them finish their coursework in record time. And then they helped them prepare for their state boards. When the students made their way home after curfew, they had to dodge the soldiers patrolling the city. Dean Daniels arranged for them to take their state boards early.

One of these students, **Masao Yamamoto**, told me that he was overcome with relief and gratitude when he learned that he had passed because he now had the foundation upon which he could build his life. After the Nisei students passed their exams, Dean Daniels helped them get safe passage out of San Francisco. He personally contacted law enforcement agencies and told them that UCSF students would be traveling to rejoin their families.

How UCSF helped these Nisei students finish their studies is a wonderful, important story. But, UCSF gave something much more valuable to the Japanese American community. You protected us from the bitterness, rage and despair that could have easily poisoned our hearts. At the worst of times, Dean Daniels and the UCSF faculty allowed us to see the very best in humankind.

Today, UCSF completes the honorable work President Sproul, Dean Daniels and many, many others began 67 years ago.

What UC does for our community today is kind and generous, decent and just. On behalf of the Japanese American community, from the bottom of our hearts, we thank you, we thank you very much.

*Kokoro kara, arigatoh, arigatoh gozaimasu.*

And now, I would like to speak to the Nisei—those who are here today, and those who are with us in spirit. I speak on behalf of your children, grand children and great-grandchildren.

You never talked much about the camps because you wanted to protect us. Immediately after Pearl Harbor, community leaders were picked up by the FBI. My mother's cousin was arrested because he taught kendo. A week later, the FBI told his wife where she could claim his body. No word was heard about many others who had been arrested—sometimes for weeks, months and even years. This was a terrifying time.

You were given just seven days to prepare to go into the camps. You sold your family's possessions for just pennies on the dollar. You desperately tried to find homes for your pets. Many of your parents were already quite old. My grandfather was 75 at the time. So much of the burden fell to you.

You were told that you could take only what you could carry. In your hearts, you understood that all you could really carry were your aging parents and your little sisters and brothers.

You carried us with strength and grace and shielded us from pain. You told us about the good parts of life in the camps—the dances, the baseball games, the festivals, the weddings.

Sometimes, very rarely, you spoke about the hard parts—about the beatings by a few hateful guards, about the suicides, about the arguments over the demands of patriotism and the demands of democracy, bitter arguments that turned friend against friend, brother against brother.

You told us about old **Mr. Wakasa** who had adopted a stray dog. One day his dog got caught in the barbed wire. When he went to free him, the guard in the watchtower ordered him back away from the fence. But Mr. Wakasa was deaf and he continued to help his little dog. So the guard shot and killed him.

When you spoke of the harshness of the camps, you made sure we knew that there was always kindness.

My mom and dad told me that when I was born, the Quakers sent a bassinet. Teachers from back home wrote letters and sent books.

At Gila River, 15-year-old **Ruth Mix** lied about her age so she could help out in the camp hospital. There, she and other workers smuggled in medical supplies, sanitary napkins, clothing, shoes—anything to help. You told us about their acts of kindness and courage. But you never talked about your own. But, now your stories are being told.

*(Continued on Page 19)*

(REMARKS AT HONORARY DEGREE CEREMONY continued from Page 18)

One UC grad, **Lillian Matsumoto**, worked at an orphanage for Japanese American children. When the evacuation order was given, Lillian could have gone to the camp with her family. Instead, she, along with all the other orphanage workers, chose to stay with their orphans. Together, they all went to Manzanar and started the Children's Village, a place where these children who had nobody else could grow up protected and loved.

At Mazanar, California; Topaz, Utah; Heart Mountain, Wyoming; Poston, Arizona; Jerome, Arkansas—at all the camps, you immediately volunteered to teach classes in makeshift schools. You cared for the sick in hospitals. You buried the dead. You helped deliver the next generation of children. You never talked about your courage.

In 1943, the government gave you a questionnaire and asked, "Are you willing to go into combat and fight for America?" Some, like my uncle and father, had the courage to say, "No. Hell, no! We will not fight until our constitutional rights are restored!" Many of you were sent to Tule Lake, an especially harsh, high security concentration camp.

Others had the courage to say, "Yes. Hell yes!" Many, like **Yori Wada**, former chair of the UC Regents, joined the MIS and served as scouts, code-breakers and translators in the Pacific.

Many others joined the 100th/442nd, the Japanese American Regimental Combat Team, and fought in Europe and became the most decorated regimental combat team in history. And today, we pay special tribute to those who never returned—to those who fought and fell at Anzio, Salerno, Monte Cassino.

We remember the hundreds of men who were killed or wounded while saving the Texas Lost Battalion. Today, we remember the Nisei broke through the Gothic Line. Two attempts to break through had already failed. The 100th/442nd decided to try. One night, for eight hours, they climbed up a 4,000 foot cliff face to get behind the Germans and break the Gothic Line. They climbed quietly. They could only hear each other breathing. But every once in a while they felt a gust of wind. And they knew that one of their friends had lost his grip and was falling. The men who fell knew that if they cried out everyone would be slaughtered, so they fell to their deaths silently.

After the war, you came home to start your lives again. America was characterized then, as now, by violence and prejudice, decency and generosity. One of the Nisei we are honoring today, **Grace Ame-miya**, pursued her nursing career and served in an Army hospital in Iowa caring for wounded GIs. The hospital director worried about her safety, because former POWs would be returning from the Pacific campaign for treatment at the hospital. The director told Grace that she should never walk alone and that he would provide her with escorts. But the GIs she cared for, those who could walk, said, "No, we will escort Grace wherever she wishes to go."

With incredible forbearance and fortitude you rebuilt our homes and our communities. Throughout your lives, you guided yourselves by one simple precept: *Kodomo no tame ni*. "For the sake of the children."

For our sake.

You taught us, by example, the importance of hard work, sacrifice and service. You helped us build our lives upon your lives. Everything we have accomplished, all the happiness we have felt, was made possible by your sacrifices, by your strength and resolve.

For all that you have given us, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. *Kokoro kara. Arigatoh, Arigatoh gozaimasu*. And, most of all, on this wonderful day, we all congratulate you.

Let's have a quick Japanese lesson. In Japanese, "congratulations" is *Omedeto Gozaimasu*. Now, everyone, on three—One, two, three: OMEDETO GOZAIMASU!

(HOW I ENDED UP IN VIETNAM continued from Page 1)



Tajiri family photo taken in San Diego in 1938 or 1939. Standing: **Ryukichi** (father), **Fuyo** (mother), **Shinkichi** (George). Front row from left: **Takashige** (Vince), **Yoshiko**, **Minoru** (Tom), **Makoto** (Jim).

A poster calling for volunteers to join the Merchant Marines was appealing. As a civilian, one could work as a crewman on convoy ships. So with a ditty bag in hand, I went to the recruiting office.

As I approached the receptionist's window, it was slammed shut in my face, and a voice from behind said, "We're all filled up!" That was a blatant lie and an arrogant act of racial prejudice. The war was far from over. There was a crying demand by all the services for any warm body. For a young, naive, 18-year-old who had just been rejected twice by the Army and now had been rudely rebuffed by the Merchant Marines, this was the straw that broke the camel's back.

I dug into my pockets and came up with enough money to buy a Greyhound Bus ticket to leave town and go home. There was a problem, however. California was still a restricted zone under Executive Order 9066. Also, our family house in San Diego no longer existed. The government had leveled the whole neighborhood when it expanded the naval base. In our absence, our house and stored items disappeared. But home is where one's mother is. My Mom was still interned in Poston III. So I returned to Poston thinking, "If the Army wants me, they can come and get me."

I quietly slipped back into camp from which I had departed only months before. The irony was that this time, I paid for the trip back to the internment camp!

It took one year for the draft to finally catch up with me. The war came to an end before I completed basic training. This was followed by a short tour with the Occupation Forces on Okinawa. After being discharged from service, I used the G.I. Bill and entered college. In my senior year, I realized that I had an irreconcilable dislike for Accounting, my major. But I stuck it out and got a B.S.C. degree in Commerce.

(Continued on Page 20)

(HOW I ENDED UP IN VIETNAM continued from Page 19)

Shortly afterwards, I reenlisted in the Army to serve in the Korean War. Went to OCS (Officer Candidate School), became a 2nd Lt. in Infantry, and qualified as a parachutist. But instead of Korea, I was sent to Germany. The Korean War was soon over. Thus I had volunteered for two wars, and failed each time to serve in a hostile area.

### Third Time's the Charm

Now here I was, volunteering again for service in a third war. It was another chance for some action. After only a year stateside, I was back overseas in Vietnam.

Again, fate would not be accommodating. As it turned out, it would be my junior officers and enlisted men who would go to the "hot areas." That is, the Photo Interpreters who flew as Aerial Observers, and the POW Interrogators who accompanied the infantry troop-ers. I would remain mostly at the Base Camp with the rest of my command, to support the Brigade Headquarters in other intelligence functions. My anticipated "baptismal of fire," if it could actually be considered as such, was when a single rifle round hit the wall of the latrine where I stood, answering the call of nature.



Major James Tajiri, CO 181st. MI DET, training jump, South Vietnam 1967.



Major Tajiri with guidon, South Vietnam, 1967.

In response to my plea, I was allowed to join an overnight reconnaissance patrol as an observer. Being the last man on patrol, I found out the difficulties of keeping up with the man in front as we made our way through the jungle growth. As day turned to night, we finally stopped to bed down in place. I blindly patted the ground in complete darkness, found a comfortable spot, and curled up, as is, for the night.

When we returned safely to Base Camp the next day, my past regrets of having transferred earlier in my career from the Infantry to MI branch had diminished considerably. I also realized that I was now serving among a younger generation of soldiers who, exhibiting a commendable degree of stamina, determination and ability, showed that they could be relied upon.

As the Vietnam tour came to an end, I requested a direct transfer to another overseas duty station. Instead of mainland Japan, however, I was sent to Okinawa. There again my last duties before retirement were to command an MI detachment, part of another elite Airborne unit, the 1<sup>st</sup> Special Forces, even though I did not have any prior Special Forces training.

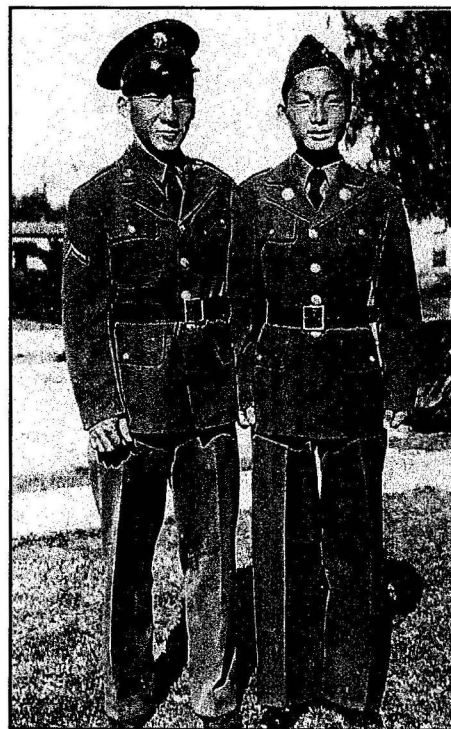
I wonder how much more apologetic that MI Assignment Officer would have been the year before if he could have foreseen that, in the last half of my service—that is, the eleven years from 1960 to

1970—I would serve ten years overseas with only one year of state-side duty. This, added to two earlier overseas tours, would come to a total of twelve years of overseas duty in six foreign countries, out of a 20-year career.

### Influence of the Military

The Army and military have had an influence on me from my teenage years to the present and will continue to do so till the day I die.

At age fifteen when I entered San Diego High School, I joined the ROTC program as a cadet. I recall the day when my brother Vince, after



San Diego High ROTC Cadet Jim Tajiri, right, with his brother Vince, home on leave in 1941.

being drafted into the Army in 1941, came home on leave. How proud I was to have a picture taken next to him in my ROTC uniform. Also I was proud and a bit envious when my brother Shinkichi volunteered in Poston III for the 442nd RCT.

My 20-year career gave me the chance to work in numerous on-the-job training positions. As an enlisted man, I served as a file clerk, a company clerk and as Acting First Sergeant. As an officer, I was fortunate to command an Infantry Platoon, an Infantry Company, and two Airborne MI detachments. I received a variety of specialized training and was taught Japanese and French in the Army.

The types of duties and responsibilities at different levels of grade and rank, and in different geographical locations, provided me with a

(Continued on Page 21)

## SPEAKERS BUREAU AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH – JAHSSD 2009

A summary of last year's activities

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Audience: Speaker(s)</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Comments</u>
2/19/09	Poston, Ariz. Library	35; Susan Hasegawa	JAs in San Diego; Poston experiences	Part of CCLPEP exhibit "Beauty in Captivity"
3/8/09	Buddhist Temple SD	45; Susan Hasegawa	JAs in San Diego	Book talk
4/9/09	SDSU Teacher training	30; Ben Segawa. Liz Yamada	Civil rights and internment issues	Teacher diversity training
4/14/09	Bishops School	100; Liz Yamada, Linda Canada	Internment experiences	
4/29/09	San Diego City College	150; Susan Hasegawa. Linda Canada	Family history data collection, research	"Talk It Up; Write It Down" was CCLPEP funded
5/18/09	Torrey Pines HS	120; Yuki Kawamoto, Rev Jim Yanagihara	Internment	Lisa Hendricks AVID class plus 3 other history classes
5/23/09	Womens History Museum and Educ. Center	21; Susan Hasegawa, Linda Canada	Discussion after Dear Miss Breed film	Invited by Ashley Gardner, Exec Director
8/3/09	SDSU Teacher training	32; Mits & Yuki Kawamoto, Jeanne Elyea	Civil rights and internment issues	Teacher diversity training
8/22/09	Buddhist Temple SD	200; Wendy Maruyama	Tag project, artist's inspirational talk	Joint project between BTSD and JAHSSD
10/9/09	Poway High School	150; Gwen Momita. Linda Canada	Tag Project, internment history talk	Students completed 1400 tags and worked on 2600 more
10/7/09	UCSD–Osher Institute	80; Liz Yamada	Internment experiences	Lifelong learners
11/11/09	Veterans Museum–San Diego	50; Susan Hasegawa, Linda Canada	History lecture, context for internment, docent training	About 25 in attendance were City College students
11/17/09	UCLA	70; Linda Canada	Tag Project, Internment	Students completed 2500 tags and partially completed 4000 more

(HOW I ENDED UP IN VIETNAM continued from Page 20)

broad range of experience and education. It enhanced my maturing from a young, quiet, introverted individual with a minority complex, into a gung ho paratrooper who could call his men to attention with a resounding command voice.

What would I say if given the chance to face my former college peers who said how stupid it was for me to reenlist in the Army?

"HURRAH FOR THE ARMY! AIRBORNE ALL THE WAY!"

*The author is a long-time JAHSSD member who lives in Pebble Beach, Calif., with his wife, June. He wrote about his military career for the JAHSSD exhibition JAPANESE AMERICAN IN THE MILITARY now on view at the Veterans Museum in Balboa Park through Memorial Day 2010. Jim is also an accomplished artist and jewelry maker. We thank Jim for permission to reproduce his military remembrances and photographs here.*

K E I DAN

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

NAOMI HIMAKA

10388 LIMETREE LN.  
SPRING VALLEY, CA 91977

(619) 660-9865

## "TAG PROJECT" ANNOUNCEMENT

**Wendy Maruyama** has requested all those who still have tags outstanding from MINIDOKA please get them to her (finished or not) as soon as possible so she can complete the installation for that camp.

ROY S. YONEKURA

Certified Public Accountant

P.O. BOX 1647

BONITA, CA 91908-1647

(619) 482-0275

FAX: (619) 482-0242

Please support the business friends  
and organizations that partner  
with and support our organization!

## *FROM THE JAHSSD ARCHIVES...*



On February 24, 2000, this formally-dressed group, organized by the Consul General of Japan in Los Angeles, paid their respects at the unique memorial for Seaman **Toya Tsunejiro**, a Japanese sailor lost at sea off San Diego waters in 1897. (A story about this unusual monument appears of Page 12 of this issue. Author of the article is **Kenzo Sato**, in the foreground, right.) Among the notables in attendance that day was **Dr. Randall Phillips**, standing in the center, flanked by the flags. Phillips was the much-beloved Honorary Consul General of Japan in San Diego at the time.

*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](http://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:

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.**

**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)\* = \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_ \$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)\* = \_\_\_\_\_

**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)\* = \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**HELLO MAGGIE** (Shigeru Yabu): Illustrated children's book about life in a World War II internment camp.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$13 + \$1.14 sales tax = \$14.14    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)\* = \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED =** \_\_\_\_\_

\*Save postage! Call or e-mail JAHSSD office (619/660-0174; jahssd@sbcglobal.net) to arrange pick up of your order at Austin Archives.

Make check payable to **JAHSSD** and send to: **JAHSSD-Media Orders, P.O. Box 620988, San Diego, CA 92162-0988**

# JAPANESE AMERICANS IN THE MILITARY



**November 10, 2009 - May 31, 2010**

**Veterans Museum in Balboa Park, 2115 Park Blvd, San Diego**

*Japanese American men and women have been part of the U.S. armed forces since the 1900s. Don't miss JAHSSD's exhibition at the Veterans Museum & Memorial Center. The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10 am-4 pm. Admission ranges from \$2 to \$5. Active military and children 12 & under are free.*

## JAPANESE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SAN DIEGO

P. O. Box 620988, San Diego, CA 92162-0988  
(619) 660-0174 or jahssd@sbcglobal.net  
Visit us online at: [www.jahssd.org](http://www.jahssd.org)



### JAHSSD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*President:* LINDA CANADA  
858/457-9676

*1st Vice President:* VALERIE ABE

*2nd Vice President:*

DEBRA KODAMA

*Secretary:*

KAREN KAWASAKI-WILLIAMS

*Treasurer:* GRACE TAKEUCHI

*Directors at Large:*

BOB BATCHELDER

DR. YURI KANEDA

MICH HIMAKA, 619/660-9865

CRAIG OZAKI

CHRISTINA PIERSON

*Hospitality:* JEANNE ELYEA

619/690-1151

*Newsletter:* JOYCE TEAGUE

619/527-7855

*Ex Officio:* GWEN MOMITA

*Volunteer Support*

*Corresp. Secretary:*

LINDA MCLEMORE

*Membership Coordinator:*

SUMIYO KASTELIC

*Web Editor:*

EDDIE CANADA

*Austin Plus Committee:*

ROBERT ITO



*On Feb. 28, 2010, ROY MURAOKA's family threw one swell aloha-themed 80th birthday party for him at Tom Ham's Lighthouse. Photograph by Joyce Teague.*

JAHSSD is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to recognize the contributions Japanese Americans have made to the San Diego region by preserving and making available artifacts, photographs, and other information chronicling their history and experiences.

Footprints is JAHSSD's quarterly publication, free with membership. We welcome your articles, stories, letters and comments. Send them to:

FOOTPRINTS EDITOR

P. O. Box 620988

San Diego, CA 92162-0988

or e-mail:

[footprintseditor@cox.net](mailto:footprintseditor@cox.net)

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