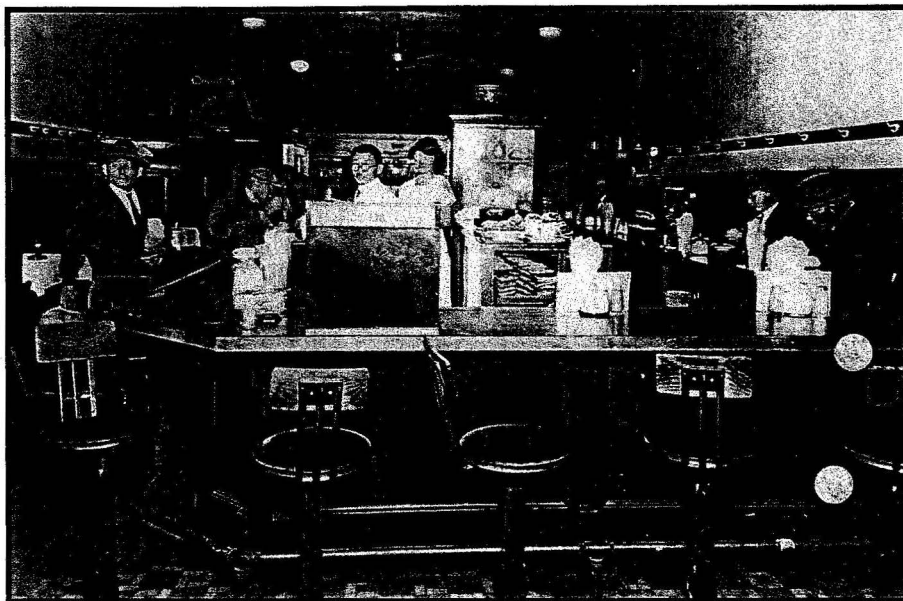


FOOTPRINTS

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

Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego



Frisco Cafe, a popular pre-World War II working class diner in downtown San Diego, circa 1920s. The gentleman behind the counter wearing glasses is proprietor Kikuji Kawamoto, the author's father-in-law.

MARY'S LUNCH AND THE FRISCO CAFE

By James Urata

It is my understanding that my aunt (my mother's older sister), **Isa Shimoda**, came to the San Francisco area in the early 1900s and moved to San Diego after the San Francisco earthquake (1906). When she arrived in San Diego, she started a small restaurant catering to the Van Camp and Sun Harbor cannery workers who cleaned and packed the tuna into small cans.

Initially, **Mary's Lunch** was opened to serve the tuna canneries and their employees. Because of the irregular hours of cannery operation, many times we were forced to serve meals on a moment's notice. Otherwise, the restaurant customers were from local businesses and Issei fishermen who frequented the restaurant as a place for food, entertainment, and relaxation.

When we were young, our family would drive to San Diego from Los Angeles to visit our aunt. In the 1920-1930s, long trips had to be planned well in advance because of the narrow two-lane roads and the condition of the automobiles. It would take many hours to travel one way, and therefore it was never a one day outing.

It was on these occasions that I would notice numbers of Issei men and women playing cards in the large room at the rear of the restaurant. They were playing *hana*, a Japanese card game. The room was very active especially after the restaurant was closed, giving the idle Issei time for some form of enjoyment, especially during the fishing off season.

Based upon my observation, my aunt was very popular with the patrons, many of whom were involved with fishing. I remember that she was often referred to as Kanta no Obasan, *kanta* being the Japanese pronunciation for "counter."

Obasan tended to be very independent and was able to fend for herself. I have seen pictures of her dancing with a long Japanese sword which I assumed was a man's pastime.

(Continued on Page 9)

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

BTSD: Buddhist Temple of San Diego. JACL: San Diego Japanese American Citizens League.
JAHSSD: Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego. JCC: Japanese Coordinating Council. JFG: Japanese Friendship Garden. JSSDT: Japan Society of San Diego & Tijuana.
KG: Kiku Gardens. POVUCC: Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ.
SDJCC: San Diego Japanese Christian Church. VFW: Asian Pacific VFW Post 1451.

Ongoing: TUES/FRIDAY SENIOR LUNCH PROGRAM

(12 noon), KG, 1260 Third Ave., Chula Vista. \$3.

Ongoing through July: FREE BON ODORI DANCE PRACTICE

Sundays (11:30), Mondays (for kids, 6:30 pm),
Wednesdays (7 pm), BTSD Annex Hall. Info: 619/239-0896.

JULY 4 (Sun) – FIREWORKS VIEWING, POVUCC.

Info: 619/276-4881 or povuucc@sbcglobal.net.

JULY 10 (Sat) – TAG PROJECT display/opening reception

(6-9 pm), Art Produce, 3139 University Ave., North Park.
Reception takes place during "Ray at Night," an open gallery evening along Ray Street, University Avenue, North Park Way.

JULY 10 (Sat) – ASIAN HERITAGE AWARDS (6:30 pm) honoring

Tom Hom, USS Midway Museum. \$125. Reservations:
619/521-8008 or editorial@asiamediainc.com.

JULY 11 (Sun) – TAG PROJECT WORK PARTY (1-4 pm)

sponsored by JAHSSD, Art Produce, 3139 University Ave.,
North Park. Info: 858/505-9020.

JULY 18 (Sun) – TAG PROJECT WORK PARTY (1-4 pm)

cosponsored by JAHSSD & JACL, Art Produce,
3139 University Ave., North Park. Info: 858/505-9020.

JULY 24 (Sat) – VFW TERIYAKI CHICKEN BENEFIT DINNER

(4:30 p.m.); VFW/BTSD BINGO (6 pm), BTSD.

JULY 25 (Sun) – OBON, HATSUBON (10 am), BTSD.

JULY 31 (Sat) – BON ODORI: FESTIVAL OF JOY (5-9 pm)

w/music, dance, food, displays, activities, BTSD.
Free admission. Info: 619/239-0896, www.btsd.net.

AUG. 4 (Fri) – DrumSTRONG3 (7:30 pm), San Diego Taiko's annual

concert featuring Leilsa, Neurosciences Institute. \$12. adults/\$6
kids. Tix: 858/220-0792 or info@sandiegotaiko.org

AUG. 19 (Thu) – AUGUST MOON FESTIVAL (6-8:30 pm),

JFG. \$65 member/\$600 member table; \$80 non-member/\$750
non-member table. Reservations: 619/232-2721.

AUG. 28 (Sat) – VFW \$1 CHILI HOT DOGS (4:30 pm);

VFW/BTSD BINGO (6 pm), BTSD, \$10 buy-in.

SEPT. 25 (Sat) – MOM'S MEATLOAF BTSD BENEFIT DINNER

(4:30 pm); VFW/BTSD BINGO (6 pm), BTSD Annex Hall.
\$10 buy-in.

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

BTSD. Free admission.

OCT. 9 (Sat) – JAHSSD ANNUAL MEETING (11 am) w/

Kansha Awards, program, displays, BTSD Annex Hall.
Bento reservation: 858/505-9020.

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

Free admission.

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

(4-6 pm) featuring ukelele virtuoso Jake Shimakuburo, JFG.
Venue/admission TBA. Info: 619/232-2721.

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Linda Canada

We've moved! On May 19, with the help of MANY volunteers, and through the generosity of donors who paid for professional movers, JAHSSD has a new home!

We are now located at 8170 Ronson Road, Suites L&M, San Diego, 92111, which is in the Kearny Mesa area near the intersection of Convoy St. and Clairemont Mesa Boulevard.

As the Board has told you in recent *Footprints* articles, there were several reasons to make this move:

1. We were out of space at Austin Drive.
2. We needed to be more centrally located for community members.
3. We needed a location more accessible to students at local colleges who will work with us as interns.
4. We needed a space with heat and air conditioning in the work space to make the collection environment better, and to make working there more comfortable for volunteers.



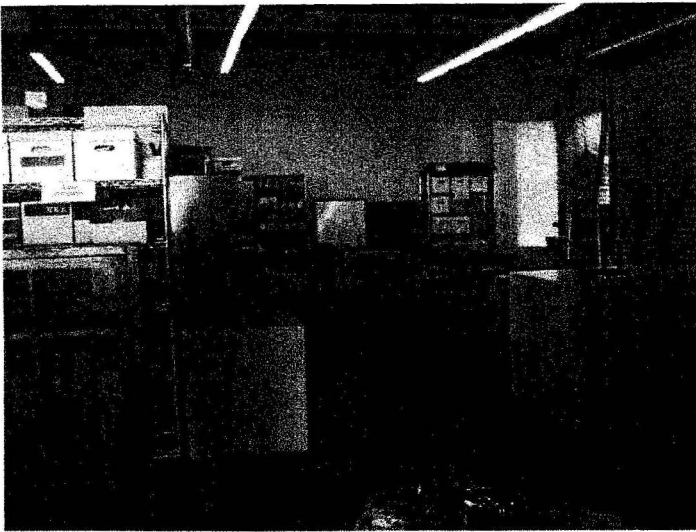
The Austin Plus Committee, chaired by Robert Ito, has been meeting and planning this move for nearly two years. The process started a year before our lease at Austin Drive was due to expire. During those two years, the committee, working with the JAHSSD Board, considered a number of options, including opening a combination museum/archives at Liberty Station in Point Loma. Six months ago, we were in negotiations for a site in Kearny Mesa just around the corner from our new space, but another business closed the transaction.

Rich Lee, our broker, found the new site on Ronson Road, and Board members were invited for a tour. The property was carefully scrutinized, and lease negotiations began after the Board approved moving forward. Our landlord made a number of tenant improvements for us, including adding window coverings and installing a utility sink. The new space is 1400 square feet, configured in a way that will make the space flexible for holding small events as well as archival storage. Our old space was about 1000 square feet, and not as flexible as Ronson Road.

Volunteers have been working hard to ready our new space for occupancy. A huge thank you to Duane Siefers for sealing the floors, adding the baseboard, and making numerous small improvements. He did all this work in spite of working full time at his strenuous job! Duane was assisted by volunteers Daniel Collins, Robert Ito, Derek Ito, and Ken Kodama.

(Continued on Page 3)

(PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued from Page 2)



Valerie Abe spent numerous hours designing a space plan and carefully laying out tape on the floor to show the movers where to place our materials. Through her thoughtful planning, she increased the shelf storage space from 276 linear feet to 491 feet!

Speaking of shelves, **Craig Ozaki** and his brother **Scott** used their large vehicles to pick up our new shelving and deliver it to Ronson Road. Within two hours, they set up all the shelves and placed them in position to accept our collections.

Sumi Kastelic arranged for three moving companies to visit the Austin site and make bids for the move. La Mesa Transfer, an Allied Van Lines affiliate, took care of our move. They were very careful with our artifacts and other cherished materials.

Packers and cleaners for the move included **Grace Segawa**, **Yuri Kaneda**, my mother **Georgine Foster**, **Mich Himaka**, **Naomi Himaka**, **Craig Ozaki**, and **Gwen Momita**.

Day of the move volunteers were: **Naomi Himaka**, **Sumi Kastelic**, **Grace Takeuchi**, **Robert Ito**, and **Valerie Abe**. **Debra Kodama** thoughtfully provided sandwiches and other nourishment for us at lunch time.

Eddie Canada spent many hours with AT&T technicians getting our wireless internet service up and running.

Thanks to all who have had a hand in making the move to Ronson Road a reality.

SAN DIEGO JACL MAKES GENEROUS GIFT TO RONSON ROAD ARCHIVES

JAHSSD is very pleased to have received a grant of \$5,170 from the **San Diego Chapter of the JACL** for the purchase of additional furnishings for the Ronson Road archives.

For the first time, JAHSSD will be able to organize a library so that our extensive collection of books about Japanese Americans is available for use. New bookshelves purchased with the JACL grant money make this possible.

The grant money will also be used to purchase room dividers with storage capacity from IKEA, and to create a system of moveable shelving so that our space can be reconfigured for small events. New wire shelving to house our collections will consume the balance of the JACL grant.

JAHSSD thanks the SD-JACL Board for their continued support of our organization!

IN GRATITUDE

JAHSSD gratefully acknowledges the following monetary gifts to the Society since our last newsletter. If your donation has not yet been acknowledged, please accept our sincere apologies. Notify Linda McLemore at 619/216-2910 for correction. These are donations received as of June 17, 2010.

RICHARD K. ASAMI

In recognition of printed material from JAHSSD

LINDA and EDDIE CANADA

In memory of Donald H. Estes

TOSHIYE CAROL ESTES

In honor of Moto Asakawa's 95th birthday

TOSHIYE CAROL ESTES

In memory of Donald H. Estes

SUSAN HASEGAWA

Author royalties from sale of
JAPANESE AMERICANS IN SAN DIEGO

DR. and MRS. MIYOSHI IKEDA

TONI KASTELIC

In memory of Donald H. Estes

EDWARD K. KUBOTA

HIROSHI KUBOTA

In celebration of his 90th birthday

HOWARD JUN KUYUMA

JOY MARI SATO

In memory of Mariko Sato
In honor of Jyuichi Sato

STEVE SATO

WENDY MARUYAMA and BILL SCHAIRER

BOB SHIMAMOTO

MR. and MRS. RICHARD TAMASHIRO

TAD and FRANCES WADA

WHEN'S LUNCH? BUNCH

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.*

REV. ARTHUR MAKOTO TSUNEISHI
1921 ~ January 11, 2010

SHINICHI "BEN" KITAHATA
August 27, 1927 ~ March 5, 2010

SUSUMU KAWATO
November 10, 1921 ~ March 22, 2010

STEVEN S. TANAKA
September 15, 1959 ~ April 6, 2010

KAY K. HIRAI
1922 ~ April 13, 2010

MITZI YASUDA
December 16, 1917 ~ April 2, 2010

FRANK HIROSHI OGURA
October 10, 1937 ~ May 18, 2010

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

By Sumiyo E. Kastelic, Membership Coordinator

Welcome to the following **new** members who joined JAHSSD since the Spring 2010 edition of *Footprints*: **Allan McAllister**, **Lily Hat-anaka** (gift from **H. Jun Kuyama**), **Wendy Maruyama & Bill Schairer**, **Nadine & Arnie Moorin**, **Shari Nakamura** (gift from **Pauline & Sam Nakamura**), **Sophia Takeda** (gift from **Sachiko Nishida**), **Dolores Woodford** and **Martha & Leroy Shintaku**, **Joy Mari Sato** and **Mr. & Mrs. Richard Tamashiro**.

We extend our appreciation to **Holly & Ronald Hiding** who converted to the Life Couple category. And, special recognition is due to **KIKU GARDENS** which has become our organization's very first Corporate Annual member.

Many thanks to the following for renewing their memberships for another year: **Tom Arata**, **Tsutomu Date**, **Karen & Dwayne Eto**, **Ryo & Jim Hashiguchi**, **Setsuko Himaka**, **Misako & Harry Honda**, **Jon & Carrie Kawamoto**, **Emiko & Miyoshi Ikeda**, **Dick Jensen**, **Ruth & Richard Kaneko**, **Larry Kida**, **Eiji Kiya**, **Patricia & Allan Koba**, **Kathleen & Robert Lui**, **Roslyn & Glen Masumoto**, **Mary Ann Fujii McClain**, **Ritsuko Nabeta**, **Pauline & Isamu Nakamura**, **Fred Nakatani**, **Sachiko Nishida**, **Kuniko Nishimura**, **Terri & Ford Omori**, **Yuri Kuratomi Owens**, **Elizabeth & Tom Ozaki**, **Masako Shima**, **Elsie &**

Gene Shimamoto, **Nancy Shimamoto & Daniel Collins**, **Susan Shimizu** (gift from **Naomi & Mich Himaka**), **Janice & Wilbur Shigehara**, **Karen & George Shinzaki**, **Kiyoye Takahashi**, **Takao Takeuchi**, **Cookie Taniguchi**, **Nobe Takashima** (gift from **Cookie Taniguchi**), **Grace & Masayoshi Tsuida** (5-year renewal), **Kiyo Uda**, **Betty & George Wakiji**, **Mary Yamada** and **Yuri & James Yamate**. Thanks also to **Tim Asamen**, **June & Thomas Hamada**, **Therese James**, **Jeanie Kashima**, **Grace & Hiroshi Sawasaki**, **Hesaa Takahashi**, **Helen & Richard Takashima** and **Kiyoko Takemoto**.

Here are members by membership category as of June 7. Twenty-three individuals joined our Society in 2009, with 19 so far in this year.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	# of MEMBERS
Charter Life Individual	31
Charter Life Couple	39
Life Individual	20
Life Couple	66
Individual	47
Couple	78
Senior Individual	90
Senior Couple	125
Corporate Annual *	1
Student	1
Honorary	1
Community Orgs/Advertisers	30
TOTAL =	538

* New membership category as of March 31, 2010

Our entire membership appears on Page 21. Should you find any corrections here or on that list, please e-mail me at sumik@cox.net, call me at (760) 632-8386, or send a note to JAHSSD, P.O. Box 620988, San Diego, CA 92162-0988. I would greatly appreciate your help in getting our membership information as accurate as possible.

JAHSSD MEMBER CATEGORIES & FEES

As announced in the Spring Issue, JAHSSD has increased its membership fees for the first time since 1991. The Board of Directors adopted the changes which became effective March 31, 2010.

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

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

FRIDAY SENIOR LUNCH VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

Starting in August 2008, JAHSSD joined six other local community organizations in helping provide **Kiku Gardens** Senior Housing with tasty and nutritious lunches for its popular Friday senior lunch program. Our obligation to plan a lunch comes around every seven weeks or so, approximately six times a year.

Through this calendar year, JAHSSD member **Hisae Batchelder** will continue to lead a small team of members and friends in coordinating our share of the lunches. She would like to rest on her laurels and give others a chance to help Kiku Gardens. We are seeking one person or several individuals who can take turns helping coordinate a lunch beginning in 2011.

All supplies are paid for by Kiku Gardens, and its staff and volunteers provide most of the helpers as well. The duties entail providing a menu, recipes, and shopping list to serve 100 seniors. Kiku staffers can do the shopping and any preparation required.

For the day of the lunch the coordinator recruits two or three volunteers to help with preparation, cooking and clean up. KG staff will take care of serving and other logistics.

Meals do not need to be complicated. They can be as simple as hamburgers, sides and a dessert. Thanks to Hisae and others who have coordinated previous meals, there are dozens of menus and recipes already available to use, so you do not even need to come up with your own meal plan!

Can any of you free up one Friday a year to help us help our community? If so, call or e-mail **Linda Canada** (858) 457-9676 or Lcanada509@aol.com. You can even sign up to help at one of JAHSSD's lunches this year to see what is involved.

The other organizations that continue to participate in this program are: **Asian Pacific VFW Post 4851**, **Buddhist Temple of San Diego**, **Japanese American Citizens League-San Diego**, **Japanese Friendship Garden**, **Japan Society of San Diego and Tijuana** and **Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ**.

The hard reality is that JAHSSD can only continue to offer this important senior service if we inspire enough individuals or families to donate seven days a year to help coordinate JAHSSD's participation.

SAVE THE DATE! NEW JAHSSD ARCHIVES OPEN HOUSE!

JAHSSD cordially invites its members and friends to visit the new **Ronson Road** archives in **Kearny Mesa** on **Sunday, August 29**. Our doors will be open and refreshments served from 1:00-3:00 p.m. so that you can drop in and see our wonderful new space.

We also will be honoring the **San Diego Chapter of the JACL** which made a substantial donation for some new furnishings for the archives and work spaces.

The address is **8170 Ronson Road-Suites L&M**. If you are familiar with **Zion Korean Market** on **Mercury St.** it is just 2 blocks north of the store on **Ronson**, just half block east of the **Mercury St.** intersection. Members will receive a reminder mailed in August with directions.

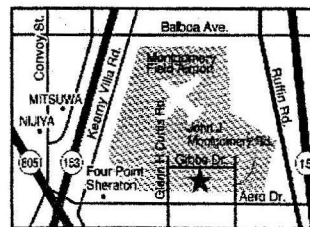
Please continue to send mail to our post office box. We do have a new office phone number, (858) 505-9020.

OKAZAKI CHIROPRACTIC



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

(858) 514-8320



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Thu & Sun:
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**2 entrees/2 soft drinks/dessert/
Dine In Tues-Thurs. after 4 pm**



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CAUGHT DOING SOMETHING NICE

In each issue, we like to recognize and thank those members and friends who have gone out of their way to provide our Society with that extra effort that makes our organization successful.

Thank you to **Steve Sato** and the staff at **Kiku Gardens** for allowing JAHSSD to host a **Tag Project** work day on Saturday, June 5. About 25 energetic helpers worked with artist **Wendy Maruyama** to help "age" the individual tags for the Tule Lake internment site by dipping them in a weak coffee solution and squeezing them dry. The damp tags were then strung on bamboo poles or laid in the sun to complete the drying process.

Wendy and **Gwen Momita** oversaw another Tag Project work session the following evening, June 6, at the **Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ**. Seventy volunteers heard a presentation about evacuation and internment, and then rolled up their sleeves to stamp, write, and number the tags.

A huge thank you to **Anonymous Friends** who most generously paid for our move to the new space on Ronson Road! Having professional movers meant that our collections were moved efficiently and safely, with a minimum of wear and tear on our volunteers.

Our appreciation to all our friends at the **Poston III Reunion** held April 5-7 who purchased more than \$900 in JAHSSD books and other materials in Las Vegas! We have already been invited by **Glenn Tsutsumi** to be a vendor at next Poston III gathering. Glenn is chairman of the planning committee for the 15th Poston III Reunion which is already set for Spring 2011 in Las Vegas.

The JAHSSD booth at the **Asian Cultural Festival**, held May 8 at Liberty Station in Point Loma, was a tremendous success! We hosted a popular booth representing Children's Day in Japan. Thanks to **Joyce Teague** and **Valerie Abe** for coordinating our participation and to Valerie and **Yuri Kaneda** for planning the wearable origami art project which attracted several hundred visitors to our booth.

Our thanks also to the volunteers for their wonderful assistance that day: Valerie, Joyce, Yuri, **Hisae & Bob Batchelder**, **Linda Canada**, **Bill & Jeanne Elyea**, **Mich & Naomi Himaka**, **Mits & Yuki Kawamoto**, **Gwen Momita**, **Wendy Nakamura**, **Michael Roussin** and **Misako Roussin**. Michael cleverly adapted our carp and Samurai "kabuto" designs to Totoro and Pokemon-themed ones. Misako customized some of the hats by writing the paper folders' names on them in kanji. Special thanks to everyone who did more than one shift and to Yuri for donating craft supplies for our use.

Our gratitude to **Susan Hasegawa** who donated the royalty check she received recently from Arcadia Press for her book *Japanese Americans in San Diego*. Susan not only devoted months of her time to research and write the book during a sabbatical from San Diego City College, but she continues to give JAHSSD the royalties she receives from the publisher for ongoing sales of the book.

Footprints Acknowledgments

We are beholden to the following nonregular contributors for their wonderful articles, stories, photographs, leads or assistance this issue: **Bob Batchelder**, **Jeanne Elyea**, **Carol Estes**, **John Fry**, **Gail Furuya**, **George Furuya**, **David Kawamoto**, **Yuki Kawamoto**, **Naomi Himaka**, **Allan McAllister**, **Gwen Momita**, **Pacific Beach Historical Society**, **SDSU Alumni Assn.**, **Steve Sato**, **James Urata**, **Tobin Vaughn** and **Carl Yoshimine**.

Thanks in advance to the mail crew, led by **Naomi Himaka**, which will take care of preparing this issue for bulk mailing so that you, dear reader, can sit comfortably as you are now and enjoy its contents!

RECENT DONATIONS TO JAHSSD

We are most grateful to the following for these recent donations to our collection:

■ **Larry Kida**: *Centennial Legacy History of the Japanese Christian Missions in North America 1877-1977*, published by Nobart Inc. of Chicago.

■ **Kiku Gardens**: Six photograph albums plus two enlarged photos of Kiku Gardens, plus plaque from City of Chula Vista acknowledging Kiku Gardens' 20th anniversary.

■ **June Hosaka**: Railroad ticket from Parker, Ariz. to Palm City, Calif. dated 10/12/45. Timecards for waitress **Mary Iguchi**. Letter requesting release from camp from **Isuke Iguchi** to **Edward Ennis**, 8/16/45. Letter requesting release from camp from Mary Iguchi, 4/3/44. "Parolee's Agreement" signed by Isuke Iguchi, 8/7/42. Personal instruction on evacuation release of Iguchi family, 8/26/42. Property List-Iguchi. Letter to American soldiers of Japanese ancestry, 12/29/44. Booklet, "Claims under Evacuation Claims Law." 1944 booklet, "What About our Japanese Americans?" by **Carey McWilliams** for the American Council of the Institute of Pacific Relations. Parker Valley Poston III newsletter, 5/29/45. *Santa Anita Pacemaker* newsletter, 10/7/42. *Poston Chronicle*, 7/28/45. First Anniversary newsletter by "Poston officials," 8/42/43. Miscellaneous newspaper clippings about evacuation, war in the Pacific (c 1942-45) and relocation of Japanese Americans out of camps. Pillow cover which reads, "Camp Shelby Mississippi." Pillow cover which reads, "442nd Regimental Combat Team, Camp Shelby, Mississippi." 35" cane, handmade of mesquite wood. Fan, paper with wood vanes with photos of Japanese women and Japanese writing on the back.

■ **Carolyn H. Tanaka**: *Road Runner*, her book about her experience in the Army Nurse Corps during the Vietnam era, donated at the Poston Reunion.

■ **Elizabeth Hatashita**: Seven books of poetry, written in Japanese, which bear the name of the "Poston Poetry Club, Unit 1, City Hall, Poston, Ariz," given in memory of her father, **John Haruo Hatashita**.

■ **Aiko Kida**: Memoranda, letters and board minutes from the formation years of Kiku Gardens when her husband **Yutaka** served on the Board of Directors.

■ **Carol Estes**: from loan to a donation the asparagus cutters used by her father **Tosh Hasegawa** at Cozza Farms.

■ **Vernon T. Yoshioka**: Copies of a photograph of and a ribbon owned by his great-great grandfather **Gohachiro Namura** dating from 1860 in Philadelphia.

■ **Kayoko Ochi**: Photographs of fishing and Fish Camp.

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WABI SABI

By Linda Canada, Archivist

Tokutaro Tsuruoka

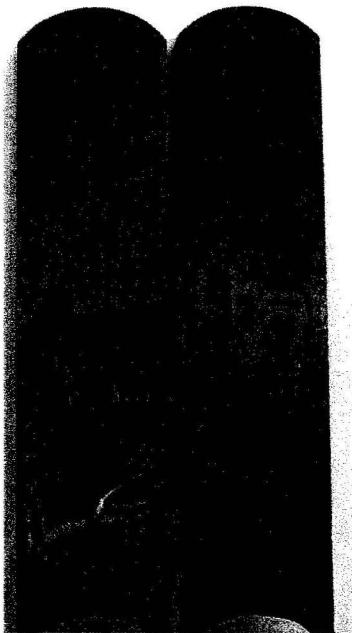
Born in Japan in 1892, **Tokutaro Tsuruoka** and his wife **Dai** lived in San Francisco before World War II. He was an antiques dealer, with prominent collectors as his clients. China, Mongolia, and Japan were among the places he traveled, seeking objects that would interest his clients.

He was a painter, and loved the materials of the artist almost as much as finishing a project. The feel and touch of finely made artist paper was particularly satisfying. During this pre-war period, Tsuruoka produced a number of woodblock prints which were published in Japan by Watanabe. His woodblock images included: a parrot, the Golden Gate Bridge, the San Francisco Opera Building, and a country scene of Carmel, California. Favorite subjects of his watercolors were birds and animals.

After the war, he relocated to New York City, living on the Upper West Side until his death in 1977.

He started a business manufacturing artificial flowers, which he sold in his own retail store, Judy's Arts and Gifts. He continued to paint, but in a limited way, sometimes making merchandise for the store. Tsuruoka traveled around the world after his retirement, and as an artist, he was particularly fond of Paris, which he visited several times.

The redwood slats pictured here were donated by the family of **Hideo and Kiyoko Ochi**. The Ochis' daughters—**Holly Hiding**, **Janet Ochi-Fontanott** and **Shirley Ochi-Watson**—are not sure about the connection between their parents and Tsuruoka, just that the slats were given to the Ochis as a gift. You'll note that one is unsigned, which may mean it was not finished. The other is signed, but the artist only used "Kakunen" as part of his signature when signing his works of art.



JAHSSD was able to learn about Tsuruoka as a result of one of the great "coincidences" that keep happening to us. I received an e-mail from the retired **Rev. Carl Yoshimine** early this year, asking for help in finding more information about a painter named Tsuruoka. He enclosed photographs of the pieces of art he was hoping to use for the Poston III reunion booklet cover. I recognized the artist's work as being similar to the pieces donated by the Ochi family.

After much research, Rev. Yoshimine was able to contact Tsuruoka's grandson, **Theodore Tsuruoka**, who is a Jewish Rabbi with a congregation in New York! The grandson was able to provide biographical information used in this article.

This little episode about the Tsuruoka art illustrates many aspects of the work JAHSSD is doing, and the tools that we use: (1) Donors generously allow JAHSSD to be the custodians of their family treasures; (2) Researchers use the Internet and websites like ours to learn more about Japanese Americans and their history; (3) Volunteers at JAHSSD help with research projects and enable "connecting the dots" between objects, stories, and people. Working together, we preserve and share local history!

WE GET LETTERS & E-MAIL

Dear To Whom This May Concern:

My mother **Mariko Sato** passed away October 15, 2009. I noticed she gave to the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego and would like to continue that in her honor.

Mariko Iwashita was born January 23, 1923, Valedictorian at Sweetwater High School, Chula Vista, Calif. She was a graduate of Milwaukee Downer and went on to become a dietician at the Chula Vista Community Hospital in California.

Mom enjoyed people, was a homemaker extraordinaire, enjoyed volunteer work, and became an Assistant Professor of the Traditional Japanese Ikebana Flower Arrangement.

She was happily married for 53 years to **Jyuichi Sato**, and had a family of two children, a daughter, **Joy Mari Sato** of Colorado, and a son, **Curtis Jay Sato** of San Diego. Mom passed away at home peacefully at the age of 86 years old. She is fondly remembered daily for her giving heart and the beauty she created all around her.

Thank you for receiving this amount in her honor.

Sincerely,
Joy Mari Sato
Wetmore, Colorado

Dear Joyce,

I just received the Spring edition of *Footprints*. It crossed my mind that I have not made a contribution this year. Being the Year of the Tiger and myself born in the Year of the Tiger, it is a special year.

Please accept the enclosed check as a donation. Also accept my apologies for this slipping my mind. There is also a second check for the continuation of "A Mystery of History" for an additional year.

It was also nice to see an article of my family published. I learn things about my own family all the time. This last February we celebrated my father's [**Hiroshi Kubota**] 90th birthday with almost the entire family attending.

Very truly yours,
Edward K. Kubota
Chula Vista

WOULD YOU LIKE TO VISIT POSTON THIS FALL?

On the weekend of Nov. 12-14, 2010, **Miki Honda** of Honda Tours offers her regularly scheduled trip to Laughlin, Nevada. If there is sufficient interest among our members and friends, Miki and her driver, Paul, have offered to take a side trip to the **Poston Relocation Center** site.

If you have any interest in taking such a trip, please let us know right away. We'll add your name and phone number to a list of potential bus riders. Especially if you are among those who have never visited (or revisited) the World War II concentration camp that housed about 18,000 Nikkei—including about 2,000 San Diegans—this would be a good opportunity to do so. The cost of the trip including hotel stay will be determined later.

We can begin planning the side trip once we have sufficient interest. Maybe we can arrange with our friends in Poston to meet our group for a brief tour of the area and a visit to the former Camp III site.

Please call **Mich Himaka** at (619) 660-9865; **Miki Honda** at (858) 278-4572; or **Jeanne Marumoto Elyea** at (619) 690-1151.

MAZEGOHAN

By Michio Himaka

Well, another school year comes to a close.

College graduates wait for the moment they receive their diplomas, behaving as they usually do...calm, casual, disciplined...as usual.

Many high school graduates look forward to their college years ahead. Middle school graduates, who were "The Big Cheese" in elementary school, go back to the bottom of the heap in high school.

But things could be worse.

I remember that day on Monday, Dec. 8, 1941.

On the Friday before that "day that will live in infamy," a bunch of excited fourth graders at Lincoln School in downtown San Diego shouted to us Japanese kids in school as we left for the day, "See you Monday! Have a great weekend!"

Christmas was less than three weeks away. Christmas vacation only a couple of weeks ahead. Everyone left in a good mood.

In a couple of days, all that good mood would change. For Japanese American kids, it would change a lot.

Monday morning, we weren't greeted as well as when we left Friday. We could sense it. I suppose teachers could have made things a little easier for us explaining that we were not the Japanese that attacked Pearl Harbor, but the paint brush was wide that day.

At **San Diego High**, the wrestling team, under legendary Coach **Frank Crosby**, was preparing for what was expected to be another SCIF Championship season, led by team captain **William "Weenie" Tsunoda**.

The year before, with the likes of Tsunoda, **Masaharu "Fatty" Tsuida**, **Kiyoshi and Ichiro Takehara**, **Power Sogo**, **Tom Arata**, **Tamotsu Sakaguchi** and **Hachiro Kobayashi**, the team had won their ninth SCIF title in 14 years.

They were favored to win again except for one problem. The Japanese Americans on the team were under federal curfew that forbade them from leaving the San Diego area. So with Tsunoda, Arata, Sakaguchi, Sogo, Kobayashi and sophomores like **Masato Asakawa** and **Yo Takehara** staying home, the Cavers came up short in their try for a tenth title. (If there were other JAs on that team, please advise. I hate to leave anyone off.)

Tsunoda said he could have received his diploma from SDHS that summer, but he refused it. "I went to school in Poston for one month and accepted a Poston III High School diploma instead," he said.

Today, almost 70 years after the fact, California high schools and universities are seeking Japanese Americans who were attending their campuses when evacuation took place so they might receive honorary diplomas.

Most of them have passed away, so the schools and universities are asking their survivors to accept the honors in their place.

My personal feeling is go ahead and accept them.

As we've said in the past, *kodomo no tame ni*... "for the sake of the children."

Our children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren shouldn't bear the shame of what happened to us.

Maybe they will grow up to be the proud descendents of proud people who bore the shame of what was hung around their necks by their own government.

A WONDERFUL GESTURE

By Tobin Vaughn

Former San Diego State College student Carl Yoshimine, whose college career was interrupted by his evacuation from San Diego during World War II, received an honorary degree from San Diego State University as part of the Nisei College Diploma Project. This story originally appeared on the SDSU NewsCenter website last March and is reprinted here with the kind permission of the SDSU Alumni Association.

Monday, Dec. 8, 1941. It is a day **Carl Yoshimine** has never forgotten. He recalls not so much the details as the strange feeling he couldn't seem to shake.

"Emotionally, it was awkward," he remembered.

The day before, he was shocked by news that the Japanese Navy had attacked Pearl Harbor. Dec. 8 was the first day of classes after the attack, and much of the country was still coming to grips with the stunning developments that would plunge America into World War II. When he arrived on campus from his family's home in Ocean Beach, the first-semester freshman encountered a subdued student body.

"Everybody was in small groups. All the students were kind of shocked and they were talking with each other," Yoshimine recalls. "And I guess because of my ancestry—I'm of Japanese ancestry—I just felt kind of awkward. I wasn't responsible for any of it and I didn't feel guilty, but it was just an awkward day for me."

As Yoshimine remembers it, none of his classmates were hostile or accusatory. He has no memory of a negative incident at San Diego State. "Not on campus," he insisted. "There were other incidents after that when we were in public places. There were some remarks that were not very pleasant, but never on campus."

As months passed, Yoshimine fell back into the routine of studying business and economics, classes he thought would provide the best background for a solid career. But he came to discover a new favorite subject. "I enjoyed history," he recalled. "At the time there was Dr. (A. P.) Nasatir and I thought he was someone with a very good grasp of the South American culture and I really enjoyed his classes."

However, a government decree would alter the course of his life. **Executive Order 9066**, signed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, authorized the U.S. military to relocate Japanese Americans from along the Pacific coast to inland internment camps.

Getting on the train

Word came suddenly in April 1942. "We received that order and so we had to move. We had to leave our homes," the San Diego native and Point Loma High School graduate said. He and his family were told to report to the downtown train station.

"According to the order, you were only to take what you could carry, so we each packed a suitcase and then we packed a duffel bag because it was too difficult to carry two suitcases. It was just the basic things that we would need—mostly clothing and necessities. We heard that we may go to some area that, weather-wise, was not like San Diego. It seems strange now because nowadays everyone is wearing jeans and Levis and things like that, but in those days I hadn't even seen what Levis were like, but we went and bought Levis to be equipped for a harsher climate. We couldn't take furniture. It was so limited; we just left everything. So we got on the train."

"We had to do what we had to do"

Just like that. Was there any thought of organizing a protest or plans to someday return and claim their property?

"I think things in that era were such that when certain laws were put in place you just were obedient and did it," Yoshimine explained. "I don't

(Continued on Page 20)

(MARY'S LUNCH AND THE FRISCO CAFE continued from Page 1)



Isa Shimoda, known fondly as Kanta no Obasan, circa 1950s.
Photo courtesy of the author.

What fascinated me as a youngster was that Obasan rolled her own cigarettes by hand.

Where she obtained the funds to start a business and negotiate a contract to rent the site has astonished me considering her lack of the English language. I know because when my father and I took over the business in 1940, I had to travel to Los Angeles to renegotiate the contract with the president of American Can Company who owned the property. He was very accommodating by allowing us to move the cafe building to a corner of the property, which was just a few feet east of the old location, allowing space for the much larger American Can Company.

I somehow felt that Obasan was a very generous person during the twenty some-odd years she ran the restaurant. I would suspect that monies were loaned to her friends who, due to the evacuation, were unable to repay her.

While she was with us, she and my mother watched over our three children while **Helen** and I spent many hours operating Mary's Lunch. Obasan was a great lady whom we all loved and was 83 when she passed away in 1959.

Frisko Cafe

After consideration, I realized that I do not have much information regarding the Frisko Cafe outside of the fact that it was operated successfully by Helen's father, **Kikuji Kawamoto**, prior to WWII.

It is my understanding that Mr. Kawamoto was very active and was one of the early founders of the San Diego Buddhist Church.

Helen (Haruko) and [her twin sister] **Kikuye** are the only ones

left in the family and since they were quite young at the time of Mr. Kawamoto's death, they cannot recall the details of the Frisko Cafe and its operation. I do know that at the time of evacuation, the Kawamotos had built a beautiful Spanish style house near the Buddhist Church.

Helen does know that Mr. Kawamoto worked at the Hotel del Coronado as a cook prior to opening up Frisko Cafe.

Editor's note: When submitting these profiles of two popular pre-World War II restaurants in downtown San Diego, the author explained, "Unfortunately, much of the information will have to rely on memories of years gone by, some of which may not be accurate, especially the timetable of events and second- and third-hand information."

James Urata and his wife Helen are JAHSSD members who now reside in San Bernadino, Calif.

A SCARY NIGHT FOR KANTA NO OBASAN

By Yukio Kawamoto

In the mid 1930s, there was an incident that must have been traumatic for the proprietor of **Mary's Lunch**, **Isa Shimoda**, or Kanta no Obasan as she was called by her patrons.

To set the scene, her home and business were located near the foot of Crosby Street (now Cesar Chavez Parkway), just north of the Van Camp fish cannery. Between the cannery and her place was the Harbor Box Company which manufactured wooden lug boxes and crates for farmers and packing sheds. Just across Crosby St. from both Kanta's and the box company were Shell, Texaco and Mobil Oil Companies, all of which had huge gasoline storage tanks on their lots. Our house was located further north on Main Street, about two or three blocks from Kanta's.

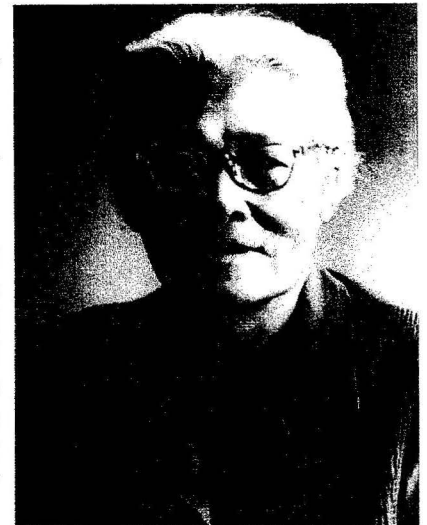
Early one evening, the box company caught fire. It was a huge fire which could be seen for miles around. It seemed as though the entire San Diego Fire Department was there to fight the fire.

Besides fighting the box company fire, the firemen were pouring water on the gasoline storage tanks across the street, concerned that the tanks could explode from the heat being generated.

In the meantime, Kanta no Obasan, either fearful that the fire could spread to her business or perhaps ordered by the firemen to evacuate, gathered her valuables in a huge bundle and carried them to our house to spend the night. My sister, **Fusa Shimizu**, remembers our father, **Imataro Kawamoto**, helping Kanta no Obasan by carrying her heavy cash register to our house.

The fire was put out in a few hours and luckily, Kanta's was spared. Kanta no Obasan returned home before the night was over.

The next day, in appreciation, Kanta no Obasan brought over a lot of food for our dinner. I can't remember what it was, but it sure was good.



Isa Shimoda, proprietor of Mary's Lunch, year unknown. Photo courtesy of the author.

FOURTEENTH POSTON III REUNION

By Jeanne Marumoto Elyea and Mich Himaka

Jeanne's Start

Once again, I think "the line stepped back" and here I am, a volunteer. Our great editor **Joyce Teague** called me to ask if I could write an article about the Poston Reunion. Good OLD **Mich (Himaka)** was supposed to be the one to do this, but Joyce felt he had too much on his plate, although I personally don't think he has a plate or a pot.

When we had the reunion here in San Diego in 2008, we called it "The Last Dance," figuring it would really be the last reunion. But the people from Northern Cal opted to host the 14th, and San Jose people want to do another one next year, and there is now a 15th reunion scheduled for next April in Las Vegas.

The **14th Poston III Reunion** was held April 5-7, 2010, at the Golden Nugget in Las Vegas. A group of about 50 of us from San Diego had a great time going on **Miki Honda's** tour bus. If you have not taken a trip to Las Vegas with Miki, you need to take a trip with her. We were well fed and entertained on the bus. **Po Kaneyuki** called the bingo game and he was also the only one who could reach the video recorder and start the movies.

Thanks to Paul, the bus driver, we arrived ahead of schedule, safe and sound. Some folks from San Diego either drove themselves or flew in. Buses brought people from up north and we seemed to arrive and depart at the same time, which caused a little luggage problem when we left.

The Golden Nugget has drastically changed over the last five years as it has new owners, but the staff is still very helpful, even though the machines were a little tight. Some attendees who regularly go to Las Vegas stayed at other hotels/casinos. The Reunion Committee needed 130 room confirmations, which I think they got.

The scheduled events included: the Monday night mixer/buffet dinner, the Tuesday night banquet, and the Wednesday morning brunch. On Tuesday, there was a day trip to Poston available. The Tuesday night banquet entertainment had four members of the **Camp Dance** ensemble, including the **Song Bird of Manzanar**. Their songs, reminiscent of the 40s, were outstanding.

There were displays and sale items from various agencies, including the **Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego**, **Las Vegas JACL**, **Poston Restoration Project**, etc. There were an estimated 320 attendees, including **Barbara (Washler) Curry**, former high school teacher at Poston, and her family from Lawrence, Kansas.

At the end of the program, photos of the attendees were taken by their Poston block number. Some blocks had a lot of people and some just a few.

All in all, we had a great reunion. I recommend that you attend next year if you can and bring your families and friends. The clock is ticking for ALL of us.

Mich's Finish

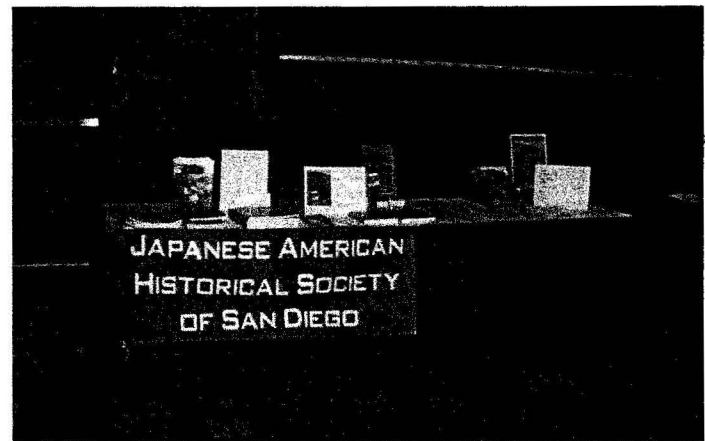
And because our P-III Reunion correspondent was unable to finish her job, her stringer is here to finish HER JOB!

It was good to see so many former San Diegans at the reunion in April. Among folks I remember (Hey! This Ol' Mind is slowing down, too!) There was **Midori (Koba) Koga** of Fowler looking as chipper as ever despite some health issues. Midori sent her regards to San Diegans she missed...

Then there was **Satoshi (Lefty) Okamoto** of Orange and his wife of 62 years, **Meri**, and their daughter, **Susan Shimizu** of Villa Park. Okay, okay, so they are related to me. I never said I wouldn't write about relatives, did I? They looked great, too. At least Lefty and Meri remembered who I was! That's a plus for some of us, right? They also sent their best regards to old friends in San Diego...



Above: Poston Reunion attendees were photographed in groups according to their camp block number. The author is standing in the back row in the white shirt. Unfortunately we weren't able to get all the individuals' identified by press time. Below: JAHSSD had a presence at the reunion. **Linda Canada** sold camp-related materials at this booth. Photos courtesy of Linda.



I also saw **Richard (Babe) Karasawa**, **Jim and Ryo (Sugaya) Hashiguchi**, **Miriam (Kikuchi) Oyama**, **David Kikuchi**, **Ruth (Sato) Fukuchi**, **Misako (Mayumi) and Harry Honda**, **Mieko (Iguchi) Nishi**, **Patricia (Goto) Takeshita** and **Yoto Takeshita**, all of the L.A. area, and **Bill Hashiguchi** of Virginia, who recently ended a hospital stay so he could attend.

It was great to see some old classmates from other parts of California in attendance, like **James Goishi** and **Amy (Sakamoto) Tsubokawa**. (How can someone so tiny have such a long name?)

But there were so many others who used to attend these reunions regularly that I truly missed seeing this time, like **Tom Arata**, **Jim and Helen Urata**, **Frances (Toyama) Uyesaka** and **Martha (Toyama) Morimoto**. We can only hope that they are all healthy and well and able to attend the next one, also slated to be held at the Golden Nugget in April 2011.

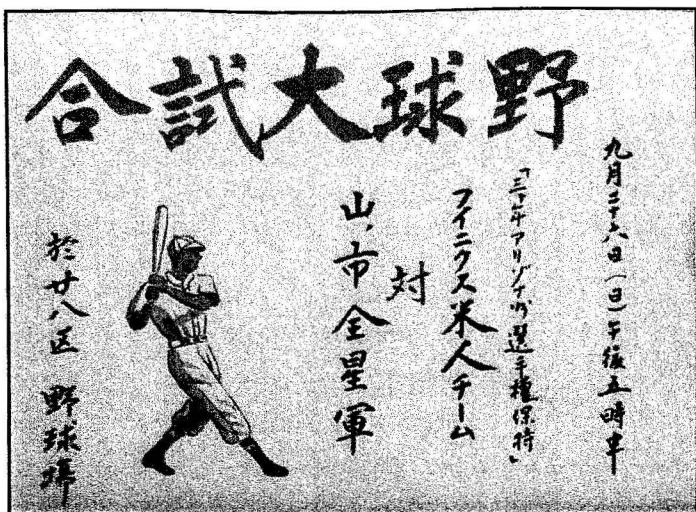
It was flattering to have people who came to San Diego in 2008 come up to say hello and say how much they enjoyed our reunion. I really missed other classmates who I know have passed on, like **Floyd Mikio Nishida**, **Anna (Kikuchi) Yamauchi**, **Lillian Yuri Kawasaki** and, of course, **Joe Karamoto**, who was a year behind us. Rest in peace, friends.

Glenn Tsutsumi of San Jose, who is planning the 2011 reunion for us, asked me in Vegas if San Diego was going to host the one after that one. I had to answer honestly that I doubt it.

Actually, what I said was, "I DON'T THINK SO! UNLESS SOME OF OUR YOUNGER FOLKS WOULD LIKE TO TAKE IT ON!"

I told Glenn that the one we put on in 2008 was a great one, but it did take a lot out of us "Ol' Folks."

Reunions can do that to you, can't they?



Baseball game poster created by Akira Shima at Gila Indian Reservation Butte Internment Camp in 1943. Translation of the red headline: "BIG BASEBALL GAME." Translated text, right to left: "Sunday, September 26, [1943], 5:30 p.m. Three Years Arizona State Champions. Phoenix American Team vs. Butte Camp All-Stars at Block 28 Baseball Field." Image and translation courtesy of Bob and Hisae Batchelder.

BASEBALL—AMERICA'S FAVORITE PASTIME, EVEN IN CAMP

By Bob Batchelder

My ears perked up when Bill Swank introduced himself as a "baseball historian" and a member of the Gaslamp Quarter Historical Foundation. This was early last January when our historical society was opening the display, *Japanese Americans in the Gaslamp Quarter 1942: the End of an Era*, at the William Heath David House in downtown San Diego.

I later told Bill that my father-in-law, Akira Shima, had been interned at Gila Indian Reservation's Butte Camp during WWII and that he made almost 50 different posters announcing activities for camp residents. My father-in-law made enough copies of these hand-made posters to place them in each mess hall. Fortunately, he also saved a copy of the posters which we discovered hidden away in a closet shortly after his death in 1996.

Bill expressed interest in one of the posters I described announcing a 1943 baseball game between the Phoenix American Team and the Butte Camp All-Stars. I sent him a copy of the poster and its English translation, and that unleashed a flurry of e-mails between several baseball historians who pronounced the poster as "historically significant."

The poster was of particular interest to an author and baseball historian, Bill Staples, Jr., who asked to include it in a book he is writing to be published in 2011 entitled, *Zenimura, Dean of the Diamond*. The Block 28 Baseball Field, identified in the poster, was also known as Zenimura Field because it was designed by Ken Zenimura.

Zenimura was the best known Japanese American baseball player of the time, known both for his ability on the field and for promoting baseball on the West Coast and in Japan. He also was interned at Gila's Butte Camp and kept active in baseball even while an internee.

According to the draft chapter of Mr. Staples' book, the 1943 game was originally scheduled for September 26, but was rained out and rescheduled for October 10. On that date, the team from Phoenix played both the Butte Camp All-Stars and the Canal Camp All-Stars, a team from the other internment camp on the Gila Indian Reservation

located a short distance from the Butte Camp. Staples reports that both Japanese American teams were successful, with the Butte team winning at a score of 3-2, and the Canal team winning in what Staples called "a 5-0 drubbing."

To me, the fact that the Japanese American teams won two games against a pretty solid Arizona team is not all that historically significant—nothing like Bobby Thompson's 1951 "Shot Heard Round the World." What is significant—and in his soon-to-be published book, Staples seems to agree—is that once again a sporting event served as a bridge between two different cultures at a very difficult time in our nation's history.

Hats off to the memory of Ken Zenimura, who died in 1968, and to Bill Staples for recording this small bit of history.

WE ARE SEEKING A PART-TIME BUILDING AND GROUNDS CARETAKER FOR POVUCC

Our church Trustees are currently looking for a person to handle the custodial, grounds care and general maintenance responsibilities here at Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ, 2550 Fairfield, San Diego, Calif 92111.

Qualified applicants will be honest, dependable, physically able, have own transportation and provide references. We anticipate the job to be 15 hours per week, the salary to be \$15 per hour, and the hours to be generally flexible.

If you know of someone who would be interested, they may contact the church office at (619) 276-4881 or by email at povuucc@sbcglobal.net for more information.

KEI DAN

FLORAL DESIGNS

NAOMI HIMAKA

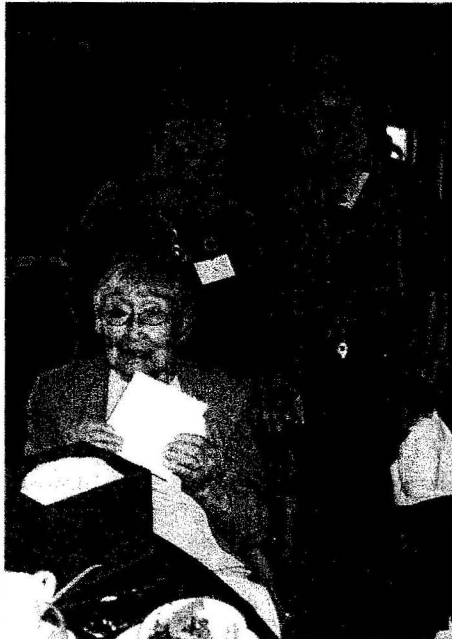
10388 LIMETREE LN.
SPRING VALLEY, CA 91977

(619) 660-9865

COMMUNITY



ABOVE: The Asian Cultural Festival at Liberty Station on May 8: Jeanne Elyea and Hisae Batchelder at the JAHSSD craft booth...A little girl intently personalizing her origami kabuto...Miss Fil-Am Culture speaker
BELOW: Nisei Diploma Project ceremony at San Diego State University on May 17: Honorary grads Carl Yoshimine and June Kushino...June receives a hand-thrown tea cup from potter Dot Kimura in a



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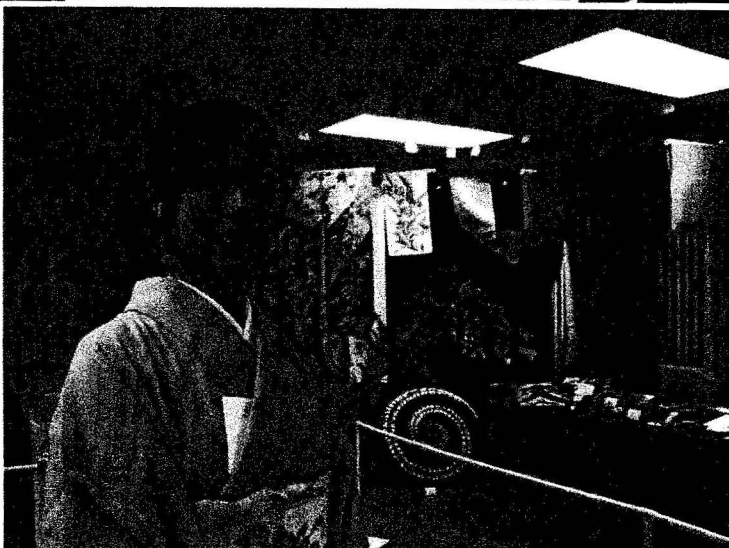
...her creation atop her tiara...Supervisor Ron Roberts uses his for sun protection...Gwen Momita and Michelle Roussin taught dozens of kids how to fold paper. Almost 300 sheets of paper were used! ...made by Wendy Maruyama...Mr. & Mrs. Yoshimine. MiraCosta College's Nisei graduates included Yukiko Sugiyama...accompanied by her granddaughter...and honored in the presence of her family.



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A GIFT THAT WILL KEEP ON GIVING

Why not give a membership to JAHSSD?

A gift membership includes the quarterly Footprints, so your thoughtfulness will be remembered four times a year.

Help former San Diegans stay in touch with our community, or give a friend/grandparent/parent/kid/grandkid a year-long gift that can teach, inform and inspire...because you support the good works of JAHSSD.

GOODYBYE SAM

By Allan McAllister

*This fond profile of the late **Sam Yamaguchi** by his lifelong friend Allan originally appeared in the April 2009 issue of the Pacific Beach Historical Society newsletter. It appears here with the permission of the author and of PBHS editor, **John Fry**. Allan also wrote about the **Yataro Yamaguchi** family in a story that appeared in Spring 2010 Footprints. A related article on Sam follows this one.*

Many people in Pacific Beach still remember the name **Yamaguchi**. **Yataro and Matsu Yamaguchi** were parents of **Albert, Yone, Manuel, Samuel, Elizabeth** and **Jane**. Mr. Yamaguchi farmed the land from Lamont to Soledad Mountain Road and from Wilbur down to Diamond Street, growing vegetable crops and marketing them in the local produce market in San Diego.

Samuel Coolidge Yamaguchi was born in Pacific Beach on August 1, 1923. He died March 8, 2009. Sam is survived by his wife **Laura** and his sister **Jane**. He started life in an old stone house at the corner of Lamont and Chalcedony. Pacific Beach Elementary got a new principal, **Ellis Dugger**, in 1929, the year that Sam started kindergarten, along with two boys who survive Sam, **Allan McAllister** and **Robert Gross**.



*Pacific Beach School, 1666 Garnet, according to Sam circa 1920, or three years prior to his birth. Sam identified his brother **Albert** as the second child in the row closest to the teacher; and his sister **Yone** in the same row, fifth seat. Photo courtesy of Pacific Beach Historical Society.*

Throughout elementary, junior and senior high, Sam was a quiet, reserved fellow whom all the kids liked for his pleasant smile. When Sam was in fourth grade he made friends with a new boy, **Arnold Palenske**, and the friendship lasted at a profound level until Sam died.

Sam finally got some special recognition in high school when he tried out for track and field and did quite well in the lighter weight competitions and won eligibility to the Letterman's Club. He was graduated from La Jolla Junior-Senior High in 1942.

The start of war affected all Japanese Americans when President Franklin Roosevelt signed an executive order to confine all Japanese Americans to concentration camps far from the West Coast. Sam and his family were sent to a bleak desert camp in Arizona in totally inadequate quarters.

Sam and a young lady fell in love and they tried to stay in touch but Sam enlisted in a new special unit of the Army and lost track of her. After a rigorous basic training in Camp Shelby, Mississippi, all of the recruits were put into companies of the **442nd Regimental Combat Team** and they were loaded onto troop transports and landed in North Africa. Sam eventually made his way to Italy, as a member of F Company, in a rifle squad. Sam's Regiment is famous for its heroic battle record and great number of decorations.

Almost immediately after Sam's landing, his battalion of raw innocent recruits was ordered into battle against a veteran German unit. As the company made its way up a country dirt road, they came under mortar attack and a round exploded fairly close to Sam. He was knocked unconscious but did not get hurt.

As the company worked its way forward, the Germans made them pay for every foot of ground. An artillery round exploded near Sam but he could not escape injury this time. A shell fragment hit him in the chest and he had to be evacuated to a general hospital for treatment.

Sam tried to rejoin his company in Southern France but he was not healed enough to fight. After five or six months in the hospital, Sam found that he had enough points to qualify to go home.

After a few months of trying to decide what to do, Sam passed an exam to become a mail carrier in San Diego. His routes often collided with areas of poverty and need. Sam began a secondary career of looking after sick and elderly people. Two older ladies whom Sam had cared for moved to an eastern state and paid for a trip for Sam to come and visit them.

Sam was a tender hearted, private gentleman. He loved cats and cared for several. He earned a Bronze Star for valor, a Purple Heart for his wounds, and a coveted combat infantry badge. He also earned great respect from those who knew him well.

We will miss you, Sam.



Sam Yamaguchi, 1943

MORE ABOUT SAM YAMAGUCHI FROM THE JAHSSD ARCHIVES

By Yukio Kawamoto

*The Spring 2010 issue of Footprints contains a story of the Yamaguchi Family of Pacific Beach written by JAHSSD member **Allan McAllister**. On the preceding page, Allan remembers **Sam Yamaguchi**, particularly from school, having been a classmate of Sam's from kindergarten at Pacific Beach School through their years at La Jolla High. Digging through our archives, **Linda Canada** came across additional tidbits of information about Sam Yamaguchi.*

Sam, born August 11, 1923, was named **Samuel Coolidge Yamaguchi** after President Coolidge. A photo of infant Sam being carried by his mother appeared in an unidentified publication on Sept. 20, 1923, with the caption that Sam is believed to have the distinction of being the first baby named after the new President of the United States. *San Diego Union* columnist **Frank Rhoads** noted in his column of May 14, 1961, that Samuel Coolidge Yamaguchi was the first American-born Japanese to be named for a U.S. president.

In our archives is a copy of a White House letter dated November 6, 1924, in which the Secretary to the President writes to Samuel Coolidge Yamaguchi stating that the President had been "greatly pleased" to receive Sam's message of congratulations and wanted the Secretary

Continued on Page 15

(MORE ABOUT SAM YAMAGUCHI continued from Page 14)



Left: Xerox of a newspaper clipping dated September 20, 1943, showing Matsu Yamaguchi her son Samuel. The caption to the right reads: NAMED AFTER COOLIDGE San Diego, Cal., is believed to bear the distinction of producing the first

baby named after the new President of the United States. Samuel Coolidge Yamaguchi is the full name of the infant, who comes from Japanese parentage. The baby was born on Aug. 11. (P. & A. Photos.)

NAMED AFTER COOLIDGE San Diego, Cal., is believed to bear the distinction of producing the first baby named after the new President of the United States. Samuel Coolidge Yamaguchi is the full name of the infant, who comes from Japanese parentage. The baby was born on Aug. 11. (P. & A. Photos.)

to express his deep appreciation. At the time the White House letter was written, Sam was only about 15 months old. The original letter from Sam to the President is not in our archives, but it is assumed that someone else wrote the letter for Sam.

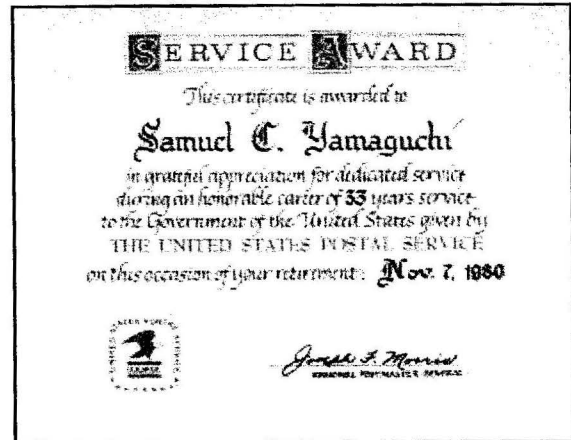
A copy of Sam's high school diploma shows that he graduated from La Jolla High School on February 6, 1942, just before the evacuation in April 1942. A copy of his high school transcript shows that he was pretty much an average student until his senior year when he received straight As.

Jane Takeshita, Sam's youngest sister, recalls that the family did not relocate to Santa Anita and Poston with other San Diego Japanese. When the Army announced that the Japanese living on the west coast would be evacuated, Jane said the Yamaguchi family, including Sam, moved to Dinuba, a farming community south of Fresno, to live with an uncle. Though at the time Dinuba was not subject to evacuation, the Army subsequently changed its mind and that area was evacuated as well.

Ironically, the Yamaguchi family ended up in **Poston Camp III**, the same camp that the San Diego group was relocated to. Jane remembers that they were among the first group of residents in Camp III, preceding the arrival of the San Diego group. Another of Jane's recollections is that when it was learned that the San Diego group was coming to Camp III, girls were warned to be careful and stay inside because the San Diego boys were a bad bunch.

A copy of Sam's discharge document in our archives indicates that Sam was inducted into the U.S. Army from Poston in September 1943 and entered the service in Camp Shelby, Mississippi. During his service career, he was a member of the **442nd Regimental Combat Team**; participated in the Rome-Arno, North Apennines and Rhineland Campaigns; was wounded in Italy in July 1944; and received the following decorations:

Combat Infantryman Badge, Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Medal, American Campaign Medal, European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, Purple Heart Medal, and Distinguished Unit Badge. He was discharged from the Army in December 1945.



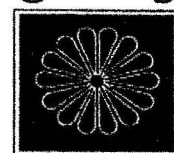
Following his Army career, Sam spent 27 years and 5 months working for the Post Office as a mail carrier in San Diego. He also worked part time for the California Highway Patrol. Our archives contain a copy of a letter of appreciation (above) to Sam from the San Diego Postmaster upon his retirement from the Post Office in November 1980; and also a certificate of recognition to Sam from the California Highway Patrol upon his retirement in August 1985.

Note from the Archivist: Although Sam is no longer with us, these miscellaneous documents and letters that were thoughtfully donated to JAHSSD enable us to have a much richer knowledge of his life. Information learned by interviewing Sam's family members and friends also helped flesh out Sam's story. When the time comes, won't you consider a donation to JAHSSD of family letters, diaries, photographs, and other memorabilia so that your own story may be told?

KIKU GARDENS now supports JAHSSD with an Annual Corporate Membership

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

Kiku gardens



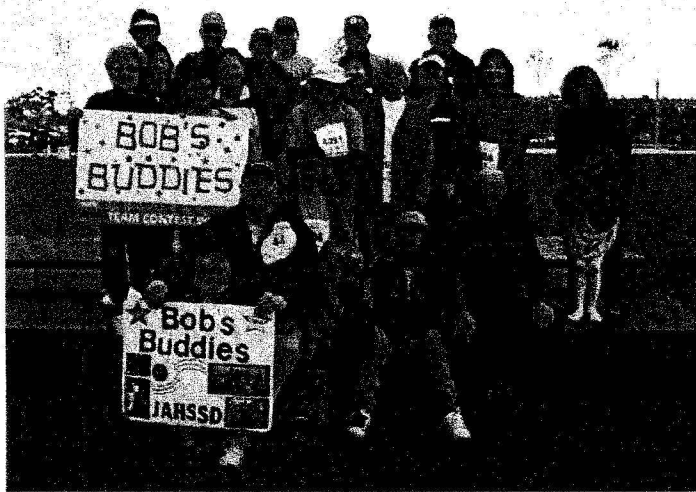
Kiku Gardens Senior Housing
1260 Third Avenue
Chula Vista, CA 91911

Kiku Gardens' facility is surrounded by community gatherings such as celebrations, Easter egg hunts, and Kiku Gardens offers \$3 lunch at 12 noon Friday. The Friday is now entering year and is most

well kept building gardens and pleasant

ties are used year-organizations for their meetings, luncheons, scholarship awards, other special events, a popular nutritious every Tuesday and senior lunch program its third successful generously supported

by Kiku Garden's community partners: Buddhist Temple of San Diego, Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego, Japanese Friendship Garden, Japan Society of San Diego & Tijuana, Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ, San Diego JACL and Asian Pacific VFW Post 1451.



BOB'S BUDDIES STAND OUT AGAIN

By Carol Estes

For the eleventh straight year, **Bob's Buddies** raised more funds in the annual MS Walk for the Multiple Sclerosis Society than some of the largest corporations in San Diego County. The small but mighty team of Bob's Buddies turned in a total of \$14,440 last April to help find a cure for MS.

Leading our team in fundraising, as usual, was **Bob Batchelder** with \$4,295 in donations. He was followed closely by **Nancy Shimamoto** with \$4,084. Although Bob's Buddies is still one of the smallest registered teams, we continue to be among the top ten fundraising teams, placing seventh this year. Bob placed 27th and Nancy placed 29th in funds raised out of 10,000 walkers!

Bob's Buddies owe our continued success to our families and friends in the Nikkei and the greater communities. They loyally support our efforts each year. To each of you, we offer our most sincere *domo arigato gozaimasu*.

THANK YOU, 2010 MS WALK SPONSORS!

*JAHSSD was represented at the annual MS Walk by **Bob's Buddies**, named in honor of our Board member **Bob Batchelder**. We are grateful to the following sponsors who pushed the Buddies to a new record! Names are printed as submitted and we regret any omissions, errors or misspellings. Contributors listed more than once sponsored more than one walker.*

Bob Batchelder, Hisae Batchelder, Virginia Loh, Masako Shima, Walter Hatashita, James & Yuri Yamate, Tom & Aya Segawa, Hatsune Mukai, Mas & Grace Tsuda, Hideko Shimasaki, Kiyo Uda, Gary Fong, Tom & Toshiko Rudd, Tachy Wakiji, George & Betty Wakiji, Sho & Misako Fukuma, Rod & Marilyn Thompson, Joe Correia, Barbara Ikejiri, John & Jeanne Bucher, Gene & Bonnie Sullivan, John & Reiko Maruyama, Tony & Annabel Bienes, Art & Judy Hibi, Glenn & Alyce Fukuma, Tom & Tae Udo, Joe & Dixie McCurdy, Gerald & Nancy Yamada, Noby Reidell, Hugo & Wakako Seligman, Ron & Sheila Yagura, Gordon & Linda Aoyagi, Robert & Sue Roeder, Dan & Carolyn Bamberg, Santiago Cerrillo, Susan Askliapiadis, Jeff Ikejiri, Matt & Kira Thompson, Nancy Urata, Carlos Gonzolas, Tak & Kerry Yoshikawa, Yuri Kaneda, Ken & Joann Shima, Linda Yamano, Yuri Tam, Sharon Okamoto, Pastor Alex Dreese, Reiko Maruyama, Taeko Udo, Margie Lawrence, Selma Molentin, Susan & Richard Namba, Bruce & Sharon Asakawa, Moto Asakawa, Ken & Margie Clark, Myles & Linda Clowers, Dave & Joyce Costello, Ponce & Mary Duran, Claire Estes, Kumao & Joan Estes, Gene & Arlene Hasegawa, Leslie Hasegawa, Patty Hasegawa, Robert Hasegawa, Yoshiko Hasegawa, Paul & Kate Healy, Frank & Sumi Kastelic, Rudy & Toni Kastelic, George & Naomi Kobayashi, Don & Patty Taylor, Bill & Joyce Teague, Chuck West, Dave Westen, Quelda Wilson, Tommy & Sumi Yanagihara, Ray & Susie Quon, Telos Corp., Eddie & Linda Canada, Judy Teshima, Dick Takeuchi, Don & Betsy Frazier, Grace Honda, Christa Wegner, Dale Kusumoto & Kazi Ishii, June Kushino, Louise Iguchi, Judy & Dennis Shimamoto, Dale & Charlie Coe, Stacy Momita, Steve Sato, Roy & Alice Asaki, Linda Kida, Tae & Tom Udo, Henry Miyake, Jean Fujisaki, Deb Kodama, Frank & Marian Johns, Carol Cohn, Pastor Norma DeSaegher, Bev Shimamoto, Dr. Charles & Brita Tesar, Julie McCarther Assoc., Larry & Irene Shimamoto, Robert Ito, Grace Takeuchi, Chiz Imoto, Tom & Betty Hashimoto, Christine & Sam Green, Reiko & John Maruyama, Wendy Maruyama, Kristine & Derek Blackwelder, Faith Lee, Don & Phyllis Siefers, Jessica Siefers, Ruth Takeshita, Edith Takeshita, Rev. Alex Dreese, Marjie Lawrence, Dr. Francis Tanaka, Nancy & Randy Matsumoto, Lisa Hendricks, Naomi Shimamoto,

Jessica Siefers, Ben & Grace Segawa, Joe & Liz Yamada, Saeko Shimamoto, Don & Betsy Frazier, Bev Morisako, Joyce & Bill Teague, Yoe Kusumoto, Denis & Elyce Kaplan, Marilyn Tilos, Claudette Noorlan, John & Brenda Churchill, Claudia Walters, Terry & Sari Shimamoto, Bob & Cynthia Shintani, John & Blythe Van de Ven, Gwen Momita & Duane Siefers, Eloise Anderson, Steve Azuma, Nancy & Ken Baldry, Gwen & Don Beardshear, Jerry & Jean Byrn, Marlene Campbell, Marjy & Frank Campos, P. A. Candelaria, Cynthia Chan, Brenda & John Churchill, Daniel E Collins, Elizabeth & Dave Davis, James Davis, Charleen & Pat DeWitt, Heather DeWitt, Jared and Marika Doob, Joan Egerton, Donna Everson, Bob Fawley, Carol & Bill Fredrick, Arnold Friedman, Suzette Glass, James & Sue Hamas, Gabriel Henao, Jerry & Kimberley Herman, Susanne Hill-Azevedo, Jennifer & Mike Hogsett, Jane & Dick Holbrook, Kazi Ishii, Diane Jansen, Vicki & John Kamey, Linda Kida, Dennis & Ellie Knight, June Kushino, Dale Kusumoto, Adrien Lanusse & Ken Cerniglia, Marjorie & Dave Lawrence, Elizabeth Le & Sylvain Puccianti, Julie Le, Faith & Hayden Lee, Elizabeth Leigh, Linda & Duane Linderman, Michelle Mann & Eric Schmidt, Shizue Maruyama, John & Reiko Maruyama, Nancy & Randy Matsumoto, Barbara J. & Ken Miller, Stacy Momita, Robert & Lynne Mortenson, Jagan Narayanan, Mitzi Norred, Sylvia Ohanesian, Nancy Taeko Okada, Merv & Freddie Parrott, Marie E. Potocki, Shirley Price, Sonya & Bill Reed, Barbara Renne, Lois C. Roche, Alecia Routt, Renata Schneyer, Cynthia Selbrede, Thomas & Karen Shea, Beverly Shimamoto, Dennis & Judy Shimamoto, Lawrence & Irene Shimamoto, Nancy K. Shimamoto, Naomi & Darrell Shimamoto, Cynthia & Bob Shintani, Terry Smith, Susan Soracco, Bob & Millie Stanley, Thomas & Lynn Steinke, Helen Strauser, Edith Takeshita, Ruth Takeshita, Dick Takeuchi, Sue Ellen Tankersley, Vitina Tiso, Nabeeh & Barbara Totah, John Tschample, Tae & Tom Udo, John & Blythe Van de Ven, Art & Pat Walshe, Mary Wendland, Janet M Wiegmann, Debra & Will Wilkie, Sandra Wong & Gary Selick, Gordon Ziegler, Jon & Carrie Ware, Paul Kaneyuki, Bud & Vonda Webb, Fusa Shimizu, Emily Igarashi, Masato & Dottie Asakawa, Mary Stephens, Marilou Seki, Harry & Misako Honda, Jane Yagade, Hiroshi Kubota, Tom & Sumi Yanagihara, Roy & Susan Yonekura, Taka & Beverly Sawasaki, Yuki & Mits Kawamoto, Walt & Chio Fujimoto, John & Tsune Hashiguchi, Donny & Kerry Kawano, Erin Dokter, Jon Dokter, Brent Burmood, Scott Brown, Rod Thompson, Matt Thompson, Motoo & Angie Tsuneyoshi, Miki Honda, Sumi Yanagihara, Glenn Torio, Alice Matsumoto, Kei Dan Floral Design, So Yamada, Chiyo & George Masumoto, Peggy Tsurudome, Fumiko Ohara, Trace & Mildred Kawasaki, Katsumi Kida, Arlene Shimizu, Miyeko Kinoshita, Junko Kajita, Tad Muraoka, Ken Muraoka, Michael Kinoshita, Michio Himaka...

THE 2010 CENSUS: BE COUNTED AND HELP OUR COMMUNITY

By David Kawamoto

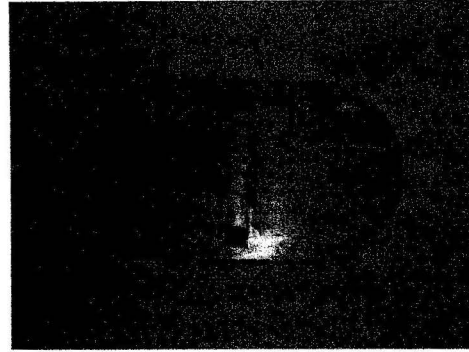
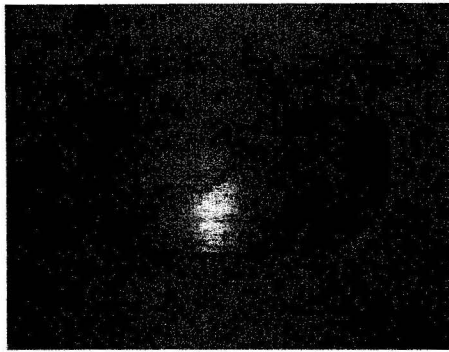
Pursuant to the U.S. Constitution, every ten years the United States conducts a census to count everyone residing in the United States. Everyone is counted, not just U.S. citizens. All children, babies, and adults who live in a household should be counted, regardless of nationality, citizenship status, race, age, or gender. It is vital that people of Japanese ancestry be accurately counted. This includes noncitizens, such as those who are presently in the United States due to their work assignment.

Census population data will determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. But the population data is also used in many ways that will improve our communities. The federal, state, and local governments, along with private businesses, use the data in deciding the location of schools, hospitals, new housing developments, community facilities, and retail stores. Additionally, the federal government uses the data in allocating \$400 billion to states and communities, to fund services such as: college grant and loan programs; public transportation; road and community improvements; public health services and hospitals; neighborhood and community improvements; and senior services.

Studies show that San Diego and its Asian American communities were among the most underrepresented in the 2000 Census. This failure to count everyone cost our community billions of dollars in federal aid. So please be sure to complete your census questionnaire and also encourage others to do likewise. Under federal law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's census questionnaire responses with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities. The information is safe and confidential.

The census questionnaire has been simplified and now consists of only ten questions. It should just take a few minutes to complete. If anyone needs a questionnaire in Japanese (or any other language) they can contact the San Diego 2010 Census Office (619) 684-6100 or the Union of Pan Asian Communities (619) 232-6454.

A MYSTERY OF HISTORY



...DO YOU KNOW...

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

The platform is 13"x24". It stands on four 5" long carved legs. The end of each leg is carefully labeled in Japanese to indicate which of the bottom slots they fit into. When the item is assembled, it has two wires coming up from the underside which probably secured something. Due to the location of the wires, we are guessing whatever was secured was an asymmetrical object. If you can help solve this mystery, call our archivist at (858) 457-9676 or e-mail jahssd@sbcglobal.net.

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

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

JOIN US THE LAST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH

BINGO HELD at the BUDDHIST TEMPLE of SAN DIEGO

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

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

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

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

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

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

NIKKEI ORGS' SUMMER/FALL EVENTS

By Mich Himaka

The **Asian Pacific VFW Post 4851** participated in the welcome ceremony for the **Japanese Self Defense Force (JSDF)** ships which arrived here June 25. A barbecued steak welcome dinner was held for the Japanese Naval Cadets at the **Japanese Friendship Garden** hosted by the **Japanese Coordinating Council**.

In a busy weekend, the JSDF participated in the 50th Anniversary celebration of the Japan-U.S Treaty of Mutual Cooperation which was highlighted by **Japanese American Community Day** on June 26, from 12-6 p.m. at the B Street Pier. JSDF ship tours, music, entertainment, food and more were presented by local Nikkei organizations.

Japan Society of San Diego & Tijuana hosted its popular **Beer and Sake Festival** on Friday, June 25, at the San Diego Marriott Del Mar. 500 people participated in this lively event.

The **San Diego JACL** hosted its annual Community Picnic from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday, June 27, at South Crown Point Shores on Mission Bay. Sodas and water were provided to all picnickers and a raffle and fun activities, including the infamous geta race, were offered for tykes to seniors.

The **VFW Post 4851** also has Saturday night bingo sessions at the Buddhist Temple of San Diego scheduled at 6:00 p.m. on June 26 (serving chili dogs for \$1); a Teriyaki Chicken Benefit Dinner on July 24; and bingo on Sept. 25 at 6:00 p.m. preceded by a benefit dinner (Mom's Meatloaf with Smashed Potatoes and Gravy, \$8) to be served by the **Buddhist Temple of San Diego** from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

The Buddhist Temple's **Bon Odori: Gathering of Joy** will take place Saturday, July 31, from 5 to 9 p.m. Enjoy music, food and entertainment, and dance in memory and in appreciation of your ancestors. Free dance practice is being offered to the public at the temple Wednesdays (7 pm): July 7, 14, 21 and 28; Sundays (11 am): July 11 and 18; Mondays (7 pm) for kids: July 12, 19 and 26.

The **Museum of Photographic Arts** will screen two important films on Aug. 21 and 22 in Balboa Park. **Toyo's Camera**, about famed Los Angeles photographer **Toyo Miyatake** and how he managed to sneak a camera lens into Manzanar, build his own camera, and record internment activities, will be shown at 11 a.m. and 3:20 p.m. both days. The second feature, **442: Live with Honor, Die with Dignity**, features the exploits of the **442nd Regimental Combat Team** in a film by director **Junichi Suzuki**. The 442 film will also be shown twice both days at 1:10 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Advance tickets (\$10) for the film screenings can be purchased at the Friendship Garden, Sanseido Bookstore, or All American Tickets (www.allamerican-tkt.com) on a first-come, first-served basis. General admission tickets will cost \$13.

The **Japanese Friendship Garden** has scheduled fundraising events in August and October. Its festive **August Moon Festival** is scheduled from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 19, at the Garden. Each year the Garden honors an outstanding individual or organization for contributions to the community at the festival. This year's **Aki No Matsuri (Fall Festival)**, scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 17, from 4 to 6 p.m., will feature a concert by ukelele virtuoso **Jake Shimabukuro**. The price has yet to be set but watch for further information for this one as tickets may go fast.

It's not too early to mark October 9, 2010, as JAHSSD's annual luncheon meeting and **Kansha Awards**.

We welcome announcements of upcoming events about the Nikkei community to include in *Footprints* when time-appropriate. Send calendar items year-round to **Mich Himaka** at keidanfloral@yahoo.com.

MIRACOSTA COLLEGE, SDSU HONOR NISEI STUDENTS

Some 70 years after they were forced to leave the West Coast, a handful of former World War II-era college students are being recognized, some posthumously, with honorary degrees. The **Nisei Diploma Project**, piloted by the **Japanese Cultural and Community Center** of Northern California, was supported by California State legislation passed in October 2009 directing schools to locate Nisei students whose college careers were interrupted by **Executive Order 9066**.

The May 8 commencement ceremony of North County's MiraCosta College included special recognition of three former students forced to abandon their studies during World War II. They are: **Audrey Fujita Mizokami**, whose daughter **Robin McNamara** accepted an honorary degree on her behalf; **Yukiko Nakamura Sugiyama**; and **Johnny Yoshimura**, whose posthumous award was accepted by his daughter, **Sandy Gilbert**.

At the time these three Nisei were enrolled, the school was known as Oceanside-Carlsbad Junior College. The following profiles appear courtesy of the MiraCosta website:

◆ **Johnny Yoshimura** was born in Los Angeles and grew up in Oceanside. His family members were farmers on land that is now part of Camp Pendleton. Yoshimura attended Oceanside-Carlsbad Junior College (OCJC) beginning in the fall of 1940. According to his son, Yoshimura was on the college baseball team and played second base, alongside first baseman **John McDonald**, who later became MiraCosta College's president. When WWII started, Yoshimura joined the U.S. Army where he served as a staff sergeant, while his parents and other family members were interned at the Poston Internment Camp in Arizona.

Yoshimura eventually returned to the Oceanside area, took up farming, and never returned to college. His farm was located in the San Luis Rey River Valley where he and his wife, **Amy**, raised their five children, four of whom became teachers. Sadly, Yoshimura passed away in the early 1980s. His daughter, **Sandy Gilbert**, a MiraCosta College alumna who teaches fourth grade at Olive Elementary in Vista, accepted the honorary degree on behalf of her father.

◆ **Audrey Fujita Mizokami** was born in Carlsbad, and attended OCJC from September 1939 through June 1941, and even worked in the office as registrar for the college. But before she had a chance to complete her studies, she and her family were sent to the Santa Anita Assembly Center where Japanese Americans were held while the relocation camps were made ready. From there, they were sent to the Poston Camp in Arizona, and later transferred to the Granada Camp in Colorado. After the war, Mizokami returned to southern California and until four years ago, lived in Escondido. She currently resides in Hawaii with her daughter, **Carol**. Mizokami still maintains contact with childhood friends from this area and over the years has attended many school reunions.

◆ **Yukiko Nakamura** was born in 1921 in Brawley, California. When her family moved to Oceanside in 1940, she started full time at OCJC. WWII started during Nakamura's second year of college, and just before her graduation in spring of 1942, she and her family were relocated to the Poston Camp in Arizona. Her parents were forced to leave behind many possessions that they were never able to reclaim.

Before she withdrew from school, the dean of students told Nakamura to gather the course work from her professors, take it all with her to the camp, send it back, and if she completed her studies, he would make sure that she received her degree. In camp, Nakamura studied and sent her work back to Oceanside as promised, and she did indeed receive

(Continued on Page 19)

(MIRACOSTA COLLEGE, SDSU HONOR STUDENTS cont. from Page 18)

her degree while still interned. Despite her hardship, Nakamura ranked second of the 33 graduates in her class.

After the war, Nakamura settled in San Diego and raised her family here. She and her husband built the home in which they lived for 50 years. Today, **Yukiko Nakamura Sugiyama** lives with her son in National City. She has a very full life with three children, six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Because of her circumstances, the honor of participating in commencement back in 1942 was not available to her. This egregious error was corrected this year, 68 years later, when Nakamura walked proudly with the graduating class, accompanied by her granddaughter, **Tisha Melville**. Fourteen of her family members, representing four generations, will be present as she receives her diploma.

George Furuya, Jr., a San Diego native, retired educator and former MiraCosta College student whose family was also forced to evacuate the County, was invited to make some remarks during the Nisei commemoration. (See the article which follows).

San Diego State University's recognition of its Nisei former students took place May 17 in the Aztec Athletic Auditorium. The Nisei Honorary Degree Ceremony was preceded by a luncheon honoring the invitees and their families. (See "A Wonderful Gesture" on Page 8.)

Gwen Momita and **Valerie Abe** attended representing JAHSSD. Gwen's photos of the event appear on the centerfold pages.

THE NISEI HONORARY DEGREE

By George Furuya, Jr.

*On May 8, 2010, Vista Buddhist Temple President and JAHSSD member **George Furuya** was invited to address the MiraCosta College graduating class and their guests. Among those in attendance were those representing three recipients of the **Nisei Diploma Project** (see preceding article). George wanted to give a sense of their history to the gathering. After his address, he was given a standing ovation, led by the MiraCosta graduates themselves. We thank George for permission to print his speech here.*

Good afternoon everyone, and congratulations to all the graduates, families and friends on this very happy occasion.

Today, I am honored and privileged to speak to you graduates and the MiraCosta College community and briefly share the history of the Nisei students—second generation Americans of Japanese Ancestry. Their education at MiraCosta in 1942 was interrupted by the aftermath of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, and the wake of Executive Order 9066 that forced the Nisei students to relocate to one of ten internment camps in the deserts and desolate lands of America.

My name is George Furuya, a Sansei—third generation Japanese American who has received all the gifts of this great country and the benefits from the hard work and sacrifices of the Nisei generation. I myself have an appreciation for MiraCosta College: over 20 years ago, I took my first computer aided design class on a tiny, green screen Apple II computer (you graduates would laugh if you ever saw one of these relics; more so if you had to use one) that enabled me to be a better high school teacher.

In 1942, Executive Order 9066 forced 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry (two-thirds of whom were American citizens) from the West Coast to internment camps across the western United States. They were given a few days to pack, and could take only what they could carry, and had to leave all their worldly possessions behind.

Through the lives of my parents, I am able to tell you the experiences of the Nisei students being honored today.

My mother had just graduated from high school in Fresno and was sent to the Gila River Internment camp in the deserts of Arizona. My grandparents lost their home and farm. My father's family grew strawberries and vegetables in nearby Solana Beach, and were sent to the Poston Internment camp in the Arizona desert. They also lost everything. The internment camps were in terrible condition, and located in some of the most inhospitable lands of America. This would be "home" for the Nisei students until 1945.

Out of the internment camp, my father, like other young men, joined the U.S. Army's famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team, a segregated, all-Japanese American regiment that fought in Europe during WWII. They are the most highly decorated unit in U.S. Military history for its size and length of service. They fought in seven major campaigns and are remembered for their heroic rescue of the "lost Texas battalion," in the Vosges Mountains of France, where they suffered [four times] more casualties than the men they rescued. My father received two Purple Hearts. This was testament to the duty, honor and courage of the Nisei.

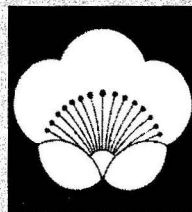
The irony that I've often wondered about the Nisei: they defended their country and sacrificed their lives to prove their loyalty as Americans while their families were held in internment camps. They were denied their constitutional rights as citizens, and faced prejudice because of their physical appearance. And yet, after they were freed and exonerated, they had every reason to be bitter. Instead, the Nisei looked ahead, not behind, and worked twice as hard, sacrificed much, showed courage and strength and never complained.

They are patriotic and productive Americans. For me, these are the Nisei. These are the extraordinary people that we are honoring today, 68 years later. And, in memory, those who are no longer with us.

Today is a wonderful moment for us all, that we can all share in this happy occasion.

Thank you, and I wish all you graduates the very best.

WHY DO WE RECORD WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?
WHY DON'T WE JUST TALK ABOUT YESTERDAY?



Because what we experience, endeavor,
accomplish and overcome today
becomes our history tomorrow.

*Write it down. Photograph it. Share it.
Help preserve Nikkei history.*

ROY S. YONEKURA

Certified Public Accountant

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(A WONDERFUL GESTURE continued from Page 8)

think the frame of mind of people was thinking ahead. They just were so intense at the time. I didn't feel that anyone said, 'We'll come back' or anything like that. It didn't enter my mind. We had to do what we had to do. It wasn't fatalistic. It's just the way it was then and what else could you do?"

Yoshimine and his family ended up in Poston III, one of three camps at the Poston Relocation Center near Parker, Ariz. There, his father, who had driven a produce route in San Diego, was director of food and eventually became camp director. Yoshimine and his brother, both with some college education, became teachers of the camp's younger students.

After about a year in the camp and before the war was over, Yoshimine relocated to Wilmore, Ky., where his San Diego State credits transferred to Asbury College. Many of his friends in the camps did the same as they could not return to the coast.

On the train trip from Cincinnati through Kentucky, the young Californian had his first experience in the American South. "The train was full and I was naive, so I went to another car," Yoshimine recounted. "They told me I had to move out of that car because it was a segregated car. It was a Jim Crow car and so I learned about that in an uncomfortable way."

Moving on

Despite the challenges they faced, the Yoshimines went on with their lives. Brother **Masao** volunteered for the counterintelligence corps and served with the U.S. Army in Japan. Yoshimine graduated with a degree in history and went on to Asbury Theological Seminary for his master's degree in religious education. He later attended divinity school in Berkeley and got another degree.

Yoshimine married, had three sons and became a pastor in the Pacific Coast Free Methodist Conference. For 43 years he preached to congregations throughout California before retiring in 1994. He and his wife, **Miko**, now live in Anaheim.

A few weeks ago, Yoshimine received a letter from SDSU. He is one of 43 former San Diego State students who may qualify for honorary degrees under the **California Nisei College Diploma Project**. The project, approved by state lawmakers, will bestow honorary degrees to Japanese-American college students who, like Yoshimine, were sent to internment camps during World War II.

After an extensive search, Yoshimine is one of three diplomatically eligible students to contact SDSU. The former students' input is sought to plan an on-campus ceremony in May.

"I thought it was just a wonderful gesture and I really appreciated that move," Yoshimine said of the honorary degree. He's looking forward to returning to the campus he hasn't seen since the day he left in 1942.

"I'm sorry I haven't (visited)," he said. "I follow the basketball and the football teams in the newspaper and I still know the fight song." He begins to sing the words familiar to Aztecs everywhere: "'Fight on, fight on, ye Aztec men. Sons of Montezuma we will win again.' See? I know the song!" he proudly claimed.

Molding character

When he finally returns to campus in May, Yoshimine said he will gladly accept his honorary degree from SDSU.

"I feel it's an important event because it's not only honoring a particular group of people, but it's honoring what education in the United States stands for and the integrity of what an education should be and the fulfillment of a person as an individual seeking to fulfill their dreams," he said.

This month, Yoshimine celebrated his 86th birthday. Looking back, does he feel cheated by having his education interrupted and his life turned upside down? On the contrary.

"To me, every circumstance molds a person's character," he explained. "Going to the relocation center, for me, helped me find a

stronger faith, which has put me in a more positive outlook rather than a discouraging or negative approach.

"I think carrying excess baggage or bitterness narrows your perspective of life. It doesn't expand you as a person. To carry something with bitterness and hurt scars you as an individual for not being able to overcome it. And to live in that state is something that is unhealthy as far as I'm concerned."

"TAG PROJECT" ARTIST AWARDED \$25,000 GRANT

JAHSSD member **Wendy Maruyama**, the San Diego State furniture art professor whose brain child is the massive **Tag Project**, has been awarded a \$25,000 grant by the **California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP)** to complete her work. Only 25 of 63 applicants were given grants.

The grant will fund the creation and installation of Maruyama's artwork which replicates 120,000 tags representing all individuals of Japanese descent—American and alien alike—who were imprisoned in the camps from 1942 to 1946. The installation will include the artist's interpretation of the internment experience utilizing videography, historic materials, camp artifacts and new artwork.

Robert Ito was the grant writer. **JAHSSD** will serve as the project administrator. The **San Diego Chapter of the JACL** will contribute funds to augment the state grant to enable the project to be completed.

JAHSSD is among several organizations, schools and community groups that have hosted Tag Project sessions to involve the public in helping to create this unusual art piece. Similar work sessions continue to take place around the nation as word of the project is shared.

Learn more about the Tag Project at <http://eo9066.blogspot.com>. Facebook members can become a fan of The Tag Project for updates.

TAG PROJECT UPDATE

Artist **Wendy Maruyama** continues to work tirelessly to complete her **Tag Project** by attracting people to get involved in her unique, community-oriented project.

The following dates are opportunities for our membership to join in the effort. As anyone who has participated in the project can attest, it is inspiring, educational, rewarding, and just plain fun to be in a group working on a small part of this enormous project.

◆ July 7-19 (daily, 7 am-4 pm): Art Produce, 3139 University Avenue, San Diego (North Park). Wendy will be working on the installation in the storefront space. Watch a video loop of the project, review historical photos about internment, open a dialogue with the artist, or help make tags Saturdays and Sundays. Info: **Lynn Susholtz**, (619) 584-4448.

◆ July 10 (Sat., 6-9 pm): Opening reception for Art Produce showing, 3139 University Ave., North Park. Note: this reception takes place during "Ray at Night," an open gallery evening along Ray Street, University Avenue, and North Park Way.

◆ July 11 (Sun., 1-4 pm): Tag Project Work Party sponsored by JAHSSD at Art Produce (address above).

◆ July 18 (Sun., 1-4 p.m.): Tag Project Work Party sponsored by JAHSSD and SD-JACL at Art Produce (address above).

Wendy is also seeking volunteers to work with her at Art Produce on Tuesdays through Fridays during scheduled two-hour blocks of time. To sign up for a slot, please e-mail her at tagproject@me.com.

COMPLETE LIST OF JAHSSD MEMBERSHIP AS OF JUNE 7, 2010

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If you have paid your membership and are not listed, or if your name is listed incorrectly, please call our Membership Coordinator.

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FROM THE JAHSSD ARCHIVES...



Fred Fukumi Nabeta, 1925-2007, was 18 or 19 when this photo was taken in Roosevelt, Utah. He and his friend Harry (full name and age unknown) and two other men had been granted work permits to leave Poston Camp I as contract laborers and spent several months working in a gilsonite mine during the freezing winter.

Conditions were extremely primitive. They shared a tent outdoors and were miserably cold despite wearing their boots and all their shirts and pants. One of the men burned the tent down while foolishly trying to light a fire to keep warm!

The men labored long hours underground, taking turns down the narrow mine shaft, lowered by a rope tied to their belts. Gilsonite, a tar-like solid residue of petroleum, was very difficult to mine, as the vertical veins were sometimes only a few inches wide. Miners used a pick to loosen the material which was then shoveled into burlap sacks holding 200-lb. loads hauled to the surface.

Still, Fred later told his children that working anywhere at any job was better than being confined behind barbed wire. Other jobs that kept him out of camp for months at a time were seasonal farm labor and cannery work.

A Kibei—born a U.S. citizen but educated in Japan—Fred lived in Fukuoka Prefecture for seven years where his father farmed in the village of Koya. At age 15, Fred returned to California on his own, tasked with earning money to send back to his family which, like most rural Japanese, was impoverished by Japan's maniacal war effort. As luck would have it, he arrived in California right before Japan attacked the U.S., which eventually resulted in the evacuation of all people of Japanese descent from the West Coast.

Fred's Poston journals indicate he was lonely and worried about his family, but also heartsick because he was unable to fulfill his responsibility to his parents to help provide for them. This may explain why he lied about his age to qualify for the work permit to leave camp.

His miner's hard hat, a precious relic of Fred's experiences during World War II, remains in the possession of the Nabeta family.

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野球大試合



1943 Internment Camp baseball poster by Akira Shima. See accompanying story on Page 11.

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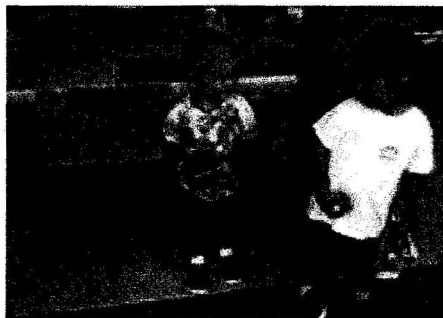
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Makoto Enochs, 2, shows pal Kazuo Sannwald, 3, a sign for tofu tacos named after him at the Buddhist Temple's Japanese Cultural Bazaar, June 6, 2010.



The young and the young at heart made colorful wearable origami at the Asian Cultural Festival, June 12, 2010.

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