

Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego



Yukio and Mitsuko Kawamoto (seated, wearing leis) and members of their family at the JAHSSD annual membership luncheon held October 9, 2010. Yuki was the recipient of the 2010 Kansha Award, the 33rd individual to be so honored since the community service recognition was introduced in 1994. Robert Ito was also recognized for his recent special support as a Society volunteer. The keynote speaker was Sy Brenner, a World War II veteran who spoke of his special friendship with a Japanese American soldier in a Nazi prisoner of war camp. The event was held at the Buddhist Temple of San Diego. Photo courtesy of Kris Ikejiri.

MISSETSU: CONNECTED

By Debra (Segawa) Kodama

In September 2010, the **San Diego Chapter of the Japanese Americans Citizens League (SD-JACL)** made a historic decision: to give substantial monetary gifts to four long-standing local Nikkei organizations. [Please see the related article on Page 3 of this issue.]

As a Yonsei (on my mother's side), my Japanese is about as good as my Spanish, neither of which could be mistaken for a grasp of either language. But when I type the word "connected" into my online Google translator, it says the word is *missetsu* in Japanese. And I think that is the perfect word to describe how I felt on October 25, 2010, sitting in the dining room of Kiku Gardens in Chula Vista.

On that night, I felt a real sense of connection to this Japanese American community. That's because I was privileged to literally see history in the making, and feel connected to the event in so many ways. The highlight of the evening wasn't the delicious homemade dinner arranged by Kiku Gardens General Manager **Steve Sato** and served by board members, friends, and family of the SD-JACL, but the presentation of generous donations to five local nonprofit organizations connected to the Japanese American community. I attended as part of the "delegation" from your historical society. But, it turns out, I'm connected to each of the recipient organizations.

Before I explain each connection, I should first explain how these donations even came about. When our Issei pioneers settled here in the early part of the last century, they wanted their children to study Japanese. Thus, a group of men joined together and started the **Nihon Gakkuen**, or Japanese school. It was located in the south part of Chula Vista.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Ongoing: TUES/FRIDAY SENIOR LUNCH PROGRAM (12 noon), Kiku Gardens, 1260 Third Ave., Chula Vista. All ages welcome, \$3. 619/422-4951.

A complete Community Calendar will appear in the next issue of *Footprints*. For a current listing online of upcoming JA-related events, go to http://www.jaclsandiego.org/calendar/.

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

THE TAG PROJECT IS COMPLETED! By Wendy Maruyama

The artist's ambitious project to replicate 120,000 name tags as worn by JA evacuees during World War II was first introduced to JAHSSD members in Footprints two years ago. She sent this happy announcement to her supporters on January 15.

The Tags are all DONE!!! Thanks to all of you who have helped, after just over two years, all 120,000 tags are now stamped, written, aged and assembled and are in storage until the debut opening at the San Diego State Downtown Gallery in March 2012!!

I am about to start the rest of the work for the E09066 component of the exhibition, which will also be shown in a solo exhibition in Boston at the Society of Arts and Crafts in August 2012.

The Tag Project will then go to Queens College in Charlotte, North Carolina. Venues that we are working on are in Racine, Wisconsin, and the Fuller Museum in Brockton, Massachusetts. We are seeking a closing venue, preferably in the Northern California area or Seattle. I am also working with the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego on finding a venue in Japan, preferably Hiroshima.

If you have any suggestions regarding the closing venue, please e-mail us at thetagproject@gmail.com.

The response to the project has exceeded my expectations, with very good media coverage, the most recent being in the *Pacific Citizen* and the January issue of *San Diego Home and Garden Magazine*.

So many people have helped with this project and this project is "OURS" together.

Again, many, many thanks for participating in this project and I do hope that most of you will be able to see it at some point in its entirety!! All the best...

AN IMPORTANT CHANGE!

JAHSSD has a new mailing address effective immediately.

OUR NEW MAILING ADDRESS IS:

JAHSSD P. O. Box 22349 San Diego, CA 92192-2349

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Linda Canada

It's been an exciting year for JAHSSD!

As 2010 began, we had two separate exhibitions running simultaneously: Japanese Americans in the Military at the Veterans Museum in Balboa Park, and Gone but not Forgotten: Japanese Americans in the Gaslamp Quarter at the William Heath Davis House.

In the middle of the year, we packed up and moved our archives from Spring Valley to Kearny Mesa. The year ended with a gift of \$150,000 from the San Diego JACL. (See related story on Page 3.)

Of course, we are very excited to have received such a significant sum! In the next few months, the Board will be soliciting ideas from the membership about what to do with this major gift. Enclosed with this issue, please find a short survey which we'd appreciate you answering and returning. We'll tally the results, and hold an open meeting at our Ronson Road archives to talk about these ideas. While the Board will make the final decision, we want everyone who is interested to have a chance to share their opinion.

During 2010, many of our members had a chance to work on the **Tag Project**. We allocated part of the archives to **Wendy Maruyama** for storage and a work area. Many busy hours were spent aging and tying tags. Wendy even added a second assembly station, enabling the tags from two camps to be assembled at the same time. This Spring, the project will shift into its second phase, and Wendy will move back into her workshop to begin designing and building the installations that will complete the project.

We are assisting Wendy in locating a suitable exhibition location for the finished Tag Project. Because of her San Diego connections, Wendy has decided that she would like the project to debut locally. In the Spring *Footprints* we hope to be able to announce the location and date of the exhibition opening.

I'm so proud to be associated with an organization that has such an active membership! JAHSSD is known throughout the State's Japanese American communities as a group that gets things done.

Congratulations and thanks to all of you for playing a role in our success.

OOPS! WE MAKES MISTEAKS

- "Goodbye Sam," Summer 2010, Page 14: According to Sam Yamaguchi's sister Jane Takeshita, the Yamaguchi siblings' names were Alfred (not Albert) who was named after a Pacific Beach mailman, Alfred Barrett; Yone; Mark (not Manuel); Samuel; Edith (not Elizabeth) and, of course, Jane. We regret the article title was misspelled as well!
- Also in "Goodbye Sam," Jane says the clipping shown at the top of Page 15 is not from a newspaper, but from the magazine *Ladies Home Journal* published in 1923.
- "Another Mystery Solved," Fall 2010, Page 16: It was **Shinn Yamashita**, not the late **Shig Yamashita** (they were not related) who was the donor of the trunk mentioned in the story.

We promise we won't EVER make any more boo-boos...at least until the next time you catch one!

2011 JAHSSD BOARD AND OFFICERS SET

At its November meeting, the JAHSSD Board elected the following officers for 2011:

President: Linda Canada

First Vice President: Valerie Abe

Second Vice President: Debra Kodama

Secretary: Karen Kawasaki-Williams

Treasurer: **Grace Takeuchi**Assistant Treasurer: **Bill Schairer**

Board members serve a three year term. Those whose terms will expire at the end of 2011 are: Valerie Abe, Linda Canada, Dr. Yuri Kaneda, Gwen Momita, Craig Ozaki, Christina Pierson and Grace Takeuchi.

Board members whose term will expire at the end of 2012 are: Karen Kawasaki-Williams, Debra Kodama, Joyce Teague.

Those whose terms will expire at the end of 2013: **Michio Himaka**, **Jeanne Elyea**, **Bill Schairer** (new).

In addition to the Board members, individuals who will continue their volunteer positions for the Society include: **Eddie Canada** (Web Editor), **Naomi Himaka** (Mail Coordinator), **Sumi Kastelic** (Membership Coordinator) and **Linda McLemore** (Corresponding Secretary).

SAN DIEGO JACL BOARD OF DIRECTORS VOTES TO DISTRIBUTE FUNDS

By Karen Tani

Karen is the San Diego Chapter President and editor of Borderline, SD-JACL's quarterly newsletter. The article explaining the major gifts to local Nikkei organizations first appeared in the October 2010 issue of Borderline. See our cover story and the President's Message on Page 2 for related information.

On September 22, 2010, the San Diego Chapter of the JACL Board of Directors met and held what we (the Board) would consider a HISTORIC event.

For those of you who do not know, the Board is composed of people in their 20s to their 80s. Some of us have been on the Board for three years, some of us have been on the Board for over 30 years. Half of us have been in the community our whole lives which is more than 50 years, so these funds and where these funds came from have deep roots and meaning to us.

We have been very fortunate to have had donations of the [Nihon] Gakuen in Chula Vista and the Asian Pacific VFW Post 4851. The funds that were obtained from the sale of the Asian Pacific VFW Post 4851 in 2008, and consistent with the intent of an unexecuted 2004 addendum to its lease, the VFW recommended distribution of funds to the Buddhist Temple of San Diego, the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego, the Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ, and the San Diego Japanese Christian Church. Each of these organizations will receive \$150,000.

\$600,000 shall be distributed to **Kiku Gardens** [to be] used within five years for a new senior care center and/or new senior housing facility, otherwise to be returned to the San Diego JACL pursuant to a formal agreement signed by the San Diego JACL and Kiku Gardens.

Even after these distributions, the chapter will still have \$300,000 left to continue to invest and operate at its current level of operations. We will continue to sponsor our annual Scholarship program and Community Picnic plus other activities throughout the years.

BILL SCHAIRER JOINS JAHSSD BOARD

Last Fall, the Board of Directors invited **William Schairer**, CPA, to serve as its Assistant Treasurer. At its November meeting, the Board voted Bill onto the Board for a three-year term so he could begin assisting Treasurer **Grace Takeuchi** in the important job of overseeing JAHSSD's finances.



Bill is a UCSD graduate who grew up in Los Angeles. He has two sons and a daughter, all in their 20s. He is a bicycling enthusiast and enjoys outdoor activities. Previously he served on the board of a nonprofit called Gateway Trailnet (now called Trailnet) in St. Louis and was involved in a project called "rails to trails," converting abandoned rail lines to hiking and biking trails.

He likes to work on and drive old Datsun cars, specifically a 1966 and a 1970 roadster, a 1963 pickup and a 1972 240Z. He also enjoys metalworking and taking classes at UCSD Craft Center.

Bill claims the most interesting thing about himself is that he is married to SDSU art professor **Wendy Maruyama** (of **Tag Project** fame) whom he wed three years ago. Together they share a fascination with history and a love of family, food and travel.

FIRST ANNUAL FRED KOREMATSU DAY

By Eugene Kaneko

On September 23, 2010, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed into law a bill that designates January 30 of each year as the Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution.

You are cordially invited to the First Annual **Fred Korematsu Day** of Civil Liberties and the Constitution on Sunday, January 30, 2011, 1:00 p.m. at San Diego State University, Room ENS 280.

To commemorate this historic event, the documentary *Of Civil Wrongs and Rights—The Fred Korematsu Story* will be screened, followed by a panel of specialists to answer questions about *Korematsu v. United States*, a case which challenged the legality of the Japanese American internment during World War II.

This event is proudly sponsored by the San Diego Chapter of JACL, SDSU Nikkei Student Union, Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego, and the ACLU of San Diego and Imperial Counties. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, please go to: http://www.jaclsandiego.org/jacl-events/first-annual-fred-korematsu-day/.

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.

> TOSHIYE OKURA 1918 ~ September 13, 2010

SUSAN EIKO AKANA January 30, 1960 ~ September 19, 2010

MARY SACHIKO YONEKURA NATORI 1937 ~ September 19, 2010

DR. AZUSA TSUNEYOSHI February 3, 1917 ~ September 27, 2010

> TAMOTSU "TOM" SUGIOKA 1918 ~ October 6, 2010

YOSHIKO COSSI April 24, 1932 ~ October 22, 2010

SHIGERU "SHIG" YAMASHITA January 12, 1920 ~ October 24, 2010

SHIZUKO SHIRLEY June 22, 1928 ~ October 26, 2010

KATSUKO IVY September 26, 1923 ~ October 28, 2010

YUSAKU KUROIWA September 8, 1943 ~ October 31, 2010

SATOSHI KIDA December 17, 1921 ~ November 4, 2010

RITSU NABETA March 19, 1925 ~ November 7, 2010

> ROXANNE CHIE TAKEHARA November 11, 2010

KENJI HIROKAWA February 24, 1916 ~ November 13, 2010

PAUL HIGASHI February 24, 1924 ~ November 15, 2010

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

By Sumiyo E. Kastelic, Membership Coordinator

We are very pleased to welcome many new members who joined JAHSSD since the Fall 2010 edition of *Footprints*: Shizue & Takeo Azuma, Yoko & Tom Honda, Doreen & Mike Ishikawa, Eugene Kaneko, Rebekka Kinder, Debbie & Paul Lee (gift from Po Kaneyuki), Amy & Melvin Okamura, Kathleen & Jeffrey Sakai, Manny Silva, Jr., Janet & Rick Takahashi, and Alice & Kiyoshi Yamate.

We also welcome **Justine Tachiki** who joins ongoing members **Allyne & Les Tachiki** in the new Family membership category. **Joan & Kumao Estes** and **Rajam Roose & Matthew Estes** were converted to Family memberships through a gift from **Carol Estes**.

Many thanks to the following for renewing their memberships: Frances & Paul Arakawa, Sharon & Bruce Asakawa, Lillian Barton, Susan & Charles Bender, Jean & Frank Boyd, Dale Shimamoto Coe, Nancy Cowser, Mary Doi, Edythe Harada, Barbara & Glenn Hashiguchi, Yoko Hashima, Elizabeth & Tom Hashimoto, Rev. Akira Hata, Becky & Fred Hatashita, Elizabeth Hatashita, Nancy & Alan Hayashi, Judy Hibi, Grace Honda, Miki Honda, Avis & Ralph Honda, Margaret Ikeda, Grace Ishitani, Sakiko Kada, Nori Komorita, Shizue Maruyama, and Chiyoko & George Masumoto.

Other renewing their annual pledges were Akiko & Ken Matsumoto, Linda McLemore, Shuji Miyasaki, Miyoko & Toshio Miyashita, Ruth Morishita, Sandy Nakamura, Glenn Negoro, Mary & Michael Segawa, Marylou Seki, Gerald Shepherd, Irene & Lawrence Shimamoto, Robin Shimasaki, Arlene & Gordon Shimizu (gift from Naomi & Mich Himaka), Yukiko Sugiyama, Kimiye Tachiki (gift from Les & Allyne Tachiki), Joe Takehara, Jane Takeshita, Yuri Tan, Mitsuo Tomita, Frances & Tad Wada, Shizu Watanabe, Sheila & Ronald Yagura, Eugene Yamada, Mary Yamamoto, June Yamashita, Rev. Jim Yanagihara, and Alice Yano.

Thank you all for your continuing support of JAHSSD.

We closed 2010 with 552 total members. However, the exciting news is that we welcomed 43 new members to JAHSSD this past year, as compared to 17 new members in 2009.

I am looking forward to continuing to serve as your Membership Coordinator in 2011, and urge you to contact me with any ideas regarding increasing our membership or improving the processing of membership renewals at (760) 632-8386 or sumik@cox.net.

DEBRA M. KAWAHARA, PH.D.

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IN GRATITUDE

We gratefully acknowledge the following individuals for monetary gifts to the Society since our last newsletter. List reflects donations received through December 31, 2010. If your donation has not yet been acknowledged, please accept our sincere apologies and notify Linda McLemore at 619/216-2910 for correction.

ANONYMOUS

In honor of Yukio Kawamoto receiving

CLAIRE M. ESTES
In memory of Donald H. Estes

2010 Kansha Award

TOSHIYE CAROL ESTES
In honor of Yukio Kawamoto receiving
2010 Kansha Award
In honor of Susan Hasegawa receiving SD JACL
Service & Commitment to the Community Award
In memory of Aiko Muraoka
In memory of John Benson
In honor of Dr. and Mrs. Frank Kastelic
In honor of Dr. and Mrs. P. Michael Hasegawa

RUTH M. FUJIMOTO
In honor of Yukio Kawamoto receiving
2010 Kansha Award

LESLIE HASEGAWA
In honor of Carol Estes
In memory of Donald H. Estes

PATRICIA HASEGAWA
In memory of Don Estes

KRYSTAL HAUSEUR
In support of Wish Book request

AMY MAYA HONDA AND WAYNE O'NEIL
In memory of Masami Honda and Ruth Yaeko Honda

SETSUO AND JAN IWASHITA
CORONADO ISLAND EXPRESS
In memory of parents Zembei and Tamiko Iwashita
In memory of sister Florence Mizuki

YUKIO KAWAMOTO

Appreciation for 2010 Kansha Award

DR. AND MRS. FRANK KASTELIC
In honor of Carol Estes
In memory of Ritsu Nabeta

BERT G. LANDAU

In support of Wish Book requests

CHIEKO MORIYAMA

NANCY NABETA MARTINEZ In memory of Ritsu Nabeta

SACHIKO NISHIDA Farewell to San Diego after 60+ years

WAKAE SATO

PAMELA SPRINGER

GRACE TAKEUCHI
In memory of Andy Takeuchi

BILL AND JOYCE TEAGUE
In memory of Ritsu Nabeta
In deep gratitude to Fred and Ritsu Nabeta

TERESA ANN THOMAS In honor of Kimi Tachiki

KAREN TOGUCHI
In honor of the Yataro Yamaguchi Family

MOTOO TSUNEYOSHI In memory of Azusa Tsuneyoshi

WHEN'S LUNCH? BUNCH

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.

Mich and Naomi Himaka continue to serve as ambassadors extraordinaire for JAHSSD, identifying photographs, bringing donations, and generally talking up JAHSSD as they perform their other volunteer duties in the community.

Roy Asaki folded, labeled, and stuffed envelopes for the Annual Appeal letter for JAHSSD.

Tag Project volunteers: there are too many to mention, but you know who you are! Wendy Nakamura is nearly finished with stringing all the tags into the ten camp assemblages! Thank you to everyone for the stamping, aging, counting, and stringing that enabled this part of the Tag Project to be completed on time.

Lindsey Nitake went with **Linda Canada** to history teacher **Karen Kawasaki**'s AVID classes at Poway High School on November 19. Around 200 students during four class periods received an update on the Tag Project work they did last year. Students who didn't work on tags last year had the chance to be part of this historic project by counting and stringing tags.

Thanks to **Vernon Taniguchi** for bringing his mother **Nellie** and his uncle **Pat Nagano** to the archives at Ronson to help identify photographs from the California Central Coast area.

Our cabinetmaker neighbor at Ronson Road, Mark Taylor, donated birch plywood to JAHSSD so that 2010 Kansha awardee Yuki Kawamoto can continue his service to the community by making new table bases for the two acrylic tops that Board member Valerie Abe was able to recycle for us.

Recent Donations

Hisae Batchelder: Gifts from visits of the Japanese Military Self Defense Force during various years: Postcard dated 1978.7.29; Seven Stars cigarette package from 1980 visit; Sake cup (black with red lacquer inside); Cruise photo album dated August 1956-April 1957 with one loose photograph of officers and civilians at banquet; Souvenir paper fan "With Happy memory of Your visit to JDS Isonami." Hisae also donated Van Camp cannery badge C-576 San Diego worn by her mother during the short time she worked for Van Camp.

Mildred Kawasaki: Original business card for Edward E. Yamashita, San Diego Wholesale Florist, and original pass for her late mother, Florence Kondo Yamashita, to attend the 1935-36 Exposition in Balboa Park.

Tom and Sumi Yanagihara: Twenty-four 8x10 photographs of women who served as Queens of the House of Japan in Balboa Park from 1964-1987. The photographs had been given to them by **Paul and Emiko Hoshi**. Also donated: ten volumes of guest books from the House of Japan from its opening in 1964 through April 2001.

Po Kaneyuki: A sewing machine that his mother took to camp in 1942. Originally a treadle type machine, it was converted to electrical by a customer of the Kaneyuki market before they left for camp.

Kiku Gardens: Framed photographs from its early years.

Krystal Hauseur: Made one of our JAHSSD Wish Book wishes come true by donating funds to purchase a blue recycle bin for our Ronson Archives.

Jane Takeshita: Brought in a Panasonic fax machine with cordless phone donated by **Mr. and Mrs. Ray Morisaki**.

Sachiko Nishida: Her collection of pre-WWII children's readers and books in Japanese.

Annual Meeting Acknowledgments

- Wendy Maruyama and Adam Manley for designing, fabricating and donating the materials for Yuki Kawamoto's beautiful Kansha Award plague.
- Kris H. Ikejiri, a volunteer photographer at the Annual Meeting. A friend of Bob and Hisae Batchelder visiting from Texas, he took most of the photographs of the meeting in this issue of Footprints.
- ❖ Jeanne and Bill Elyea for a very significant donation of all the paper goods for the meeting, in addition to their help in keeping the records, and ordering and picking up the food. Thanks also to Jeanne's family members, Linda McLemore, Aileen Tachiki and Justine Tachiki who assisted with reception duties along with Grace Takeuchi.
- SDSU Nikkei Student Union members led by president Jeff Sera helped with the set up and break down of the meeting.
- Garrett Kodama, who exercised his football muscles moving tables and chairs for us, and who also helped distribute the door prizes.
- Author **Sy Brenner**, who not only gave the keynote talk about his friendship with **Masa Uchimara**, he also made his memoir, *The Night I Got Killed*, available to attendees at a discounted rate. Sy also donated back his speaker's fee to JAHSSD.
- Naomi and Mich Himaka for generously donating the flowers and plants used to decorate the tables.
- Grace Segawa for making the place signs for guests of Yuki and Mits Kawamoto; and Eddy Kubota, Yuki and Mits' nephew, who enabled them to invite so many friends and family to witness Yuki receiving the Kansha Award.

Footprints Acknowledgments

JAHSSD is grateful to the following (non-regular) writers and photographers for their contributions to this issue: Alan Hayashi, Bill Schairer, Dawn and Keith Himaka, Debra Kodama, Erika Hiramatsu, Eugene Kaneko, Kaity Sakurai, Karen Tani, Ken Muraoka, Kris Ikejiri, Michael Jitosha, Nancy Nakatani, Nancy Shimamoto, Paul Haack, Rio Imamura, Steve Sato, Yuki Kawamoto and Wendy Maruyama.

Those who comprised the mail crew for the Fall Issue were: Beverly and Taka Sawasaki, Grace and Mas Tsuida, Naomi Himaka, Saki Kada and Mits and Yuki Kawamoto. A thousand thanks!

(MISSETSU: CONNECTED continued from Page 1)

Over the years, fewer and fewer Nikkei children attended the school, and in 1954, the school was closed and the property leased. In 1965, the property was sold and the proceeds of the sale were entrusted to the JACL with the caveat that they be used for scholarships and the good of the local Japanese community.

Although Japanese American veterans were accepted into local chapters of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) by the early 1960s, the Nisei decided to start a local chapter for Japanese American veterans. They secured commitments from 40 veterans and **Japanese American VFW Post 4851** [now **Asian American VFW Post 4851**] was chartered in 1967. In 1969, pooling \$300 pledges, the post purchased a clubhouse in National City. In 1996, the building was entrusted to the JACL and leased by the Post. In 2006, the building was sold by JACL.

Earlier this year, the board of directors for San Diego JACL voted to distribute a portion of the funds from these two building sales to local Japanese American organizations. Four of the recipients were Buddhist Temple of San Diego (BTSD), Japanese Friendship Garden, Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ (POVUCC), San Diego Japanese Christian Church (SDJCC), and our own Japanese

(Continued on Page 7)



JAHSSD President Linda Canada accepts SD-JACL gift at the presentation dinner on Oct. 25, 2010. Left to right: SD-JACL President Karen Tani, Canada and VFW Post 4851 Commander Bob Poston and VFW Post 4851 founding member Roy Muraoka. Screen capture photo courtesy of Ken Muraoka.

American Historical Society of San Diego (JAHSSD), each receiving \$150,000. The Japanese Friendship Garden received \$50,000.

So, how am I (and perhaps many of you) connected to all the recipients? Good question!

First, I serve as a vice president of the JAHSSD, so that connection is easy. Next, I'm a member of the POVUCC, which was also was a recipient. I'm also a member of the Japanese Friendship Garden, another worthy recipient. I was baptized at SDJCC, the other church that received a donation, and my father's family has been part of that congregation for over 70 years. My connection to the Buddhist Temple is historical in nature. Back in the early 1930s, the Buddhist congregation here wanted to buy property to build a temple. Most of their adult members were not American citizens, but Japanese immigrants, legally barred from owning property at that time. So among the few Nisei who were adults at that time was my mother's father, Jerry Tasaki, a Hawaiian-born Japanese American. So my grandfather, along with a handful of other Nisei, put their names on the deed to buy the property for the temple.

Truth be told, I'm also connected to the donor organizations, too. I'm a member of JACL. My father, **Ben Segawa**, was a member of the VFW post. As a matter of fact, I have fond memories of going to their monthly chicken dinners and helping the South Bay group when I was young. I looked forward to those opportunities to sell tickets at the front door, and eating **Kottie Uyeji**'s barbecued chicken. But washing the pots and pans in that hot kitchen was never one of my favorite tasks. I always tried to be in the bar, getting my dad to buy me a Shirley Temple when clean up time came around. Now that I think about it, why wasn't my dad in the kitchen then? Guess he also didn't enjoy doing the dishes.

While I never attended the Nihon Gakkuen, I'm sure I would have been expected to attend their classes if it had still been active when I was a child. But, by the time I was old enough to go, the school had closed. However, as a resident of Chula Vista, I often shop at the strip mall that is now there. So, in a way, I continue to be part of the legacy that is the Gakkuen.

So, while it's heartwarming to think about these connections to the recipients of the JACL donations, it's also daunting to realize that each of the receiving organizations has a moral obligation to use these funds wisely and in ways that honor our forbearers who made these donations possible.

To that end, you will see in this issue of *Footprints* that we are asking you, our members, what you think we should do with this unexpected windfall. So please fill out the half sheet included in this issue and add whatever ideas you may have about use of the gift.

Our membership is also invited to a community meeting at our new headquarters on Ronson Road in Kearny Mesa on Sunday, March 13, at 1:00 p.m., to solicit more ideas. So put on your thinking caps and don't be afraid to speak up. We need to hear from you!

ROY S. YONEKURA

Certified Public Accountant

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OKAZAKI CHIROPRACTIC



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(858) 514-8320



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

Sat: 8:30 am -2:00 pm

Thu & Sun: Closed

SENIOR DAY every first Tuesday of the month: Free adjustment for 65 and older

CHANKO NABE

By Joyce Nabeta Teague

The Girly Girl

Not sure why I started calling our granddaughter Girly Girl, but it just came out the first time I held her and it became my nickname for her. No one else has picked it up.

Her name is actually Ayako Alice, named after her maternal grandmother—that would be me—and her sweet paternal aunt, Alice Shreve. Most everyone—me included, of course—simply calls her Aya. Well, except for her brother who has called her "Yaya" since she was in the womb, so often we playfully call her Yaya, too.

When our daughter was born well after the demise of the hippie era, we had determined that we weren't going to raise her in a gender-specific manner. Our thinking at the time was to avoid frilly pink dresses which might prevent her from playing in the dirt with toy trucks if she so desired. So unless she received a pink frock as a gift, she wore reds and bright primary colors most every day, and we encouraged her to be adventuresome and self-sufficient instead of dainty and submissive.



Aya at 10 months

One problem with dressing a

little girl with no hair in colors usually worn by little boys was that admiring strangers would inevitably take the visual clues at face value and remark what a cute boy Jaime was. And since she could talk well before she could walk, eventually Jaime learned to inform people, "I not boy!" Eventually one of her grandmas found her a pink T-shirt with large lettering on the front, I AM NOT A BOY, and often that was the shirt Jaime would pull out of her dresser in the morning to wear.

Perhaps this is one reason why Aya, who has short hair, is often dressed in pink. Maybe subconsciously her mother wants to save her from the same fate of being gender-misidentified by well-meaning strangers. In addition, Aya's signature look is a sparkly fabric flower clipped to her wispy hair—hardly an affectation of most little boys!

Contrarian that I am, when I browse outfits for the Girly Girl, I still find myself looking beyond the racks of pink clothing to seek something cute in a different color. Still, I am the first to admit that pink suits Aya very well and if something is adorable and just happens to be pink, I will get it for her.

Almost a year old, Aya has long moved from clutching rattles and cloth dolls to playing with her brother's hand-me-down toys with great gusto. She loves the bright red Spiderman car he has outgrown, as well as the shape sorters, stacking cups and pop-up toys he now ignores in favor of more challenging play. And don't be fooled by her sweet, demure look, dressed in a cotton candy-pink jumper. If my attention is diverted for a few seconds, I might find she has used the box of baby wipes or the big toy dump truck as a step to clamber onto the coffee table and grab the cell phone, the DS Lite or the iPad—my toys—then give me a big grin as she begins to push every button in sight. That's my Girly Girl and she's an absolute delight.

Regular readers of "Chanko Nabe" and "Mazegohan" may have realized that Mich and I are relishing our relatively new roles as grandparents and enjoying talking and writing about our wonderful little ones. In fact, good luck shutting us up!

Losing Mom

My mother, Ritsu Uyeno Nabeta, died quietly at home in El Cajon on November 7. She had been saying for several years she was "ready to going any time," and at some point we at long last took her at her word and let her leave us. But believe me, it was not easy.

Despite her physical limitations, especially after Dad died almost four years ago, she continued to derive great pleasure from the activities of her kids and grandkids and show concern for the welfare of relatives and friends.



Mom with Aya, six days old, March 2010. In the 8 months that followed, "Hii-baa" amused Aya with Japanese songs and rhymes learned during her own childhood in Wakayama, and taught Aya how to move her little hands like twinkling stars.

Like anyone else, my mother had her opinions and pet peeves. But as she grew more frail, she became increasingly accepting and nonjudgmental. Two parts of her personality that never dimmed were her generosity towards and appreciation of those around her. She was always asking us to write a check to this person or that cause. She was what we less charitable types call "generous to a fault."

To the end, Mom never, ever, failed to express her gratitude for any small kindness. She also retained her sense of humor, which really helped us cope with the long-term challenges of her care.

The Nabeta family is truly grateful to everyone who showed interest in and kindness to Mom over the past several years, and to those who expressed condolences at her passing. Mom was a tiny person with a big heart and amazing strength. I want to make sure Aya gets to know all about her great grandma when she is old enough.

WABI SABI

By Linda Canada, Archivist

In the last several months we have lost people in the JA and JAHSSD community. At their memorial services, the families often commemorate these loved ones with photographs, summaries of their lives and activities, and other thoughtful ways to honor them.

An important source of information in the archives is our Biography files, which contain information about local families. We have copies of funeral programs and obituaries that were collected by **Don Estes** and others beginning in the 1960s. The Biography files are one of the first places we check when receiving inquiries by telephone or e-mail about whether there is information about a person in our files.

I would appreciate receiving copies from the family of any of the following materials that might be part of a family member's memorial service: service program, life history, eulogy, copies of photographs or CDs of slide shows shown at services, and so on. These can be from past or future memorials. You may mail these items to our post office box address shown on the back of *Footprints*.

These materials, created in memory of those we have lost, will become valuable resources about our community and its history. Please call me if you have any questions about my request at (858) 457-9676.

POSTON REVISITED

By Mich Himaka

On Nov. 15-17, Miki Honda of Honda Tours took about 50 of us to Laughlin, Nevada. On Tuesday, bus driver Paul Haack took about 25 of us for a visit to the old Poston I camp site.

Some of us had been back to Poston before, but for some it was their first trip back in 65 years.

A few of them were infants when they were in camp so it was a nostalgic visit to their "hometown." We even passed by the Poston Camp Hospital on Poston Road.

For others who were older, it also was their first trip back. Some of the "old timers" remembered what the old adobe bricked school buildings looked like.

Unfortunately, the buildings that remained in Poston I were mere shadows of what they used to be. Many of them were worn down. But it looked like those buildings that were really worn down when I first saw them had been torn down.

What is left of the old, burned-out Poston I school auditorium still remains, including the cornerstone.

Some day, I'm going to write to the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) Council and ask if they plan to get rid of that old cornerstone eventually to please let us know because we would like to retrieve it and keep it in our JAHSSD archives.

I think the visit was good for those making their first trip back to Poston. I think it brought back some memories.

On the drive back to Laughlin, I saw a few buildings that were original Poston barracks that are still in use as homes by people living in nearby Parker. We also visited the Poston Library where some books that our Society had donated were on display.

The tribal people who learned why we were visiting, greeted us quite warmly and were very friendly. It was too bad we couldn't connect with CRIT personnel to let us know what they planned with the restoration of the camp. Otherwise, it was a nostalgic visit.

15TH POSTON III REUNION PLANNED By Mich Himaka

The next Poston III Reunion is scheduled for April 25-27, 2011, after Easter Sunday at the Golden Nugget Resort and Casino in Las Vegas. It is being planned by the San Jose reunion committee.

Registration forms and reunion info will be in the mail shortly, I am told.

There apparently is also talk of an all-Poston reunion for residents of Camps I, II and III planned for sometime in October 2011 to be held in Laughlin, Nevada.

Miki Honda of Honda Tours is scheduling a special bus trip leaving San Diego for Las Vegas on Monday, April 25, and returning on Wednesday, April 27. Accordingly, we have started a tentative sign-up list for anyone interested in attending the reunion as initially planned. To date, we have signed up more than 30 people.

Miki's bus driver, Paul Haack, told us recently that if we sign up more than 50 riders, he could get us a double-decker bus for the trip. So if there are more people interested in attending the Poston III Reunion in Las Vegas, please get your name on the tentative list.

Call Miki Honda at (858) 278-4572, Mich Himaka at (619) 660-9865, or Jeanne Elyea at (619) 690-1151 and get your name on the list. We will call you later to confirm you still wish to go on the trip.

2010 POSTON III REUNION PHOTO **BOOK AVAILABLE**

A pictorial memory book of the 2010 Poston III Reunion held in Las Vegas is available to anyone interested. Please send a check for \$50 (includes shipping and handling) payable to Dianne Kiyomoto with your name and mailing address and send it to: Dianne Kiyomoto. 630 E. Quincy, Fresno, CA 93720.

For inquiries about the book, call Dianne at (559) 431-9728 or e-mail diannerd79@yahoo.com.

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MAZEGOHAN

By Michio Himaka

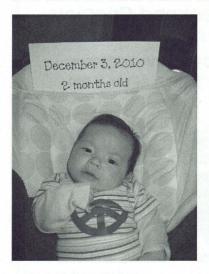
Since last filling this space with gibberish and nonsense, we've had an addition to the family, Grandson No. 2.

Some might ask, "Aren't you too old to have a second grandchild?" My reply would be, "Hell, no! You're never too old to have grandkids! And, I might add, I'm having the time of my life!"

Drew Michio Himaka came into our lives at 12:06 a.m., Oct. 3, 2010, a day before Grandma **Naomi**'s birthday, born to **Keith and Dawn Himaka** at Mary Birch Hospital.

Drew weighed in at seven pounds, 10 ounces, and measured 19.5 inches tall, or is it long? He was bigger than Big Brother **Trevor William** and he continues to pull away from him.

On his two-month-old birthday, Dec. 3, Drew weighed 12 pounds seven ounces and was three inches taller, I'm told.



And, yes, you read his full name right. The poor kid is saddled with a middle name the same as the author's. That Trevor has his paternal grandfather's name, William, is okay with me.

When Keith came out to announce his son's birth and his name, he asked me if I was okay with it because he knew how I felt about my name. I said yes and thanked him.

I can picture Drew, when asked his full name, might mumble his middle name like

I used to, except I only had one name. All my other Japanese friends had American names.

While serving in the Air Force, my fellow crew members on our B-29 crew called me "Mitch" and I just kept the nickname for myself.

One thing though, Drew certainly looks better than his namesake! Comparing the two boys' early pictures, they look almost alike, and Trevor is a handsome boy. Of course, that's a proud Grandpa talking here.

The night before his birth, Keith and Dawn went to the movies and we watched Trevor. They came home early, about midway through the movie, because Dawn felt contractions.

Dawn's good friend, **Sarah Cloyd**, then came to stay with Trevor around 8 p.m. while Dawn and Keith rushed off to the hospital.

Sarah stayed with Trevor and was relieved by "Auntie" **Arlene Shimizu** and Cousin **Jamie Shimizu** around 6 a.m. so Sarah could go on a planned sky-diving trip to celebrate her birthday.

On Oct. 5, Daddy Keith set up his web cam on the home computer, took his laptop and another web cam to the hospital while we sat with Trevor.

Then he called home from the hospital, instructed Grandma Naomi on how to open the computer and which buttons to press so the web cam would come on and, voila! With Trevor in his Grandma's lap, he got his first look at Mommy in the hospital. (It was the first time she had been away from Trevor in 18 months.)

When Trevor saw Mommy on the computer, he waved and shouted, "Momma, Momma!"



No need to say how Mommy was feeling because I was feeling the same way. (You didn't know I was a softy, huh? Hey, those things can hit you right in the gut, you know?)

Then after wiping a tear away, the next thing I saw was Trevor's first sight of his little brother, "Dr-o-o-o-o!" "Baby!"

Then he spoke a lot of gibberish, none of which I understood, mixed in with some "Momma" and "Dadda," who also appeared on camera. It was a happy family reunion on camera with a lot of smiles all around.

Dawn was discharged later that afternoon and Keith brought her and Drew home for a real reunion and the first meeting with Trevor.

When they walked in the door with Keith carrying Drew in the infant carrier, Trevor naturally ran to Momma for a hug and then he went to take a peek at his little brother.

If he had any thoughts, he must have been thinking, "Boy, he sure looks wrinkled. He sure is small. He sure has a small head. He sure sleeps a lot."

When Drew began crying for the first time at home, Trevor must have thought it was loud because he covered his ears with his two hands.

He kept looking at Drew and tried to climb into the carrier after the baby was taken out.

Then came Trevor's first time to hold his baby brother. They sat Trevor down on the couch, put big pillows around him and then put Drew in his arms with a little help.

Then, this Grandpa was taking pictures for the momentous moment and missed the best picture.

Fortunately, Daddy Keith kept shooting and caught the sneaky kiss Trevor planted on Drew. It's the middle photo of Drew's birth announcement Keith and Dawn sent out to family and friends. But I did get the picture of Trevor getting ready to plant The Kiss.

Yes, Naomi and I are having the time of our lives right now. We wish them both long life and good health for many years.

Someone asked me recently what message I might leave for my grandkids and I said, "I hope they will grow up proud of their heritage, that they, being half-Japanese, have nothing to be ashamed of, that people of their ethnicity and both grandfathers defended their country with honor, pride and dignity. That they have the best of two worlds running through their veins."

We can only hope that they, both Trevor and Drew, can make this a better world than that which we leave them.

SCREENING OF HARIMAYA BRIDGE AT CSUSM

By Nancy Shimamoto

Did you know that Cal State University at San Marcos, located in San Diego's North County, has a student body of 10,000? Although a relatively small campus, its Asian students and faculty advisors represent an active and vocal minority.

A screening of **Aaron Woolfolk**'s film, *Harimaya Bridge*, was presented on campus on September 21, 2010, sponsored by Brotherhood Academics Prosperity Strength (BAPS), USUAB—Clarke Activities Team, and the Asian and Pacific Islander Faculty Staff Association (APIFSA) in partnership with the San Diego Asian Film Foundation (SDAFF). Through their generous invitation to JAHSSD and several other JA community organizations, I was able to view the film with over 120 enthusiastic students and faculty. I also got a personal tour of their campus, which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year.



Left to right: BAPS vice president Marvin Gomez, Assoc. Dean of Students Greg Toya, film director Aaron Woolfolk, BAPS president Richard Cervantes and APIFSA president Michael Yee. Photo courtesy of the author.

Mye Hoang, Associate Director of SDAFF, introduced the film and director Woolfolk, who traveled from Los Angeles to participate in the evening's events. The movie is a strong human drama that addresses the bond and conflict between father and son, along with the discrimination and prejudice that exists between people. Woolfolk discussed his film in an energetic Q&A session following the screening. Greg Toya, Associate Dean of Students, moderated and fielded many questions and comments from students who were eager to share their personal stories and experiences. I was impressed with the engagement of this young audience, many of whom stayed through the extensive Q&A to meet the director.

BAPS, led by president **Richard Cervantes**, is just one of the many student organizations serving the Asian and Pacific Islander population at CSUSM. I came away with a sense of pride in these students who will soon be leaders in the Asian community. Their enthusiasm for this event bodes well for our collective futures.

JAHSSD has also been invited to participate in CSUSM's upcoming Asian Pacific Heritage Month. We are working to collaborate on the Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution in April in a program to include a screening of the documentary, *Of Civil Rights and Civil Wrongs: The Fred Korematsu Story*. Look for more information in the next *Footprints*.

I want to thank **Michael Yee**, President of APIFSA, for introducing me to CSUSM and arranging an informative tour with his colleagues. It was an honor to represent JAHSSD at this event.

A public service announcement

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is a 100-unit apartment complex project in Chula Vista financed, planned and built by San Diego County's Nikkei community. It is an attractive, well kept building with Japanese style gardens and pleasant surroundings. 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).

Kiku Gardens' facilities round by community gatherings such as celebrations, scholarship hunts, and other special offers a popular noon every Tuesday and lunch program is in its and is most generously Garden's community Temple of San Diego, Historical Society of Friendship Garden, Diego & Tijuana, Pioneer



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2010 JAH MEETING AI



Above left: 2010 Kansha Award recipient Yukio Kawamoto and his wife Mits are flanked by members of the newly-formed San Diego State University Nikkei Student Union who assisted JAHSSD with event set-up. From left, they are Kaity Sakurai, President Jeff Sera, Takuma Nishimura and Robert Miyamoto. Above right: Keynote speaker Sy Brenner.





Second row: San Diego JACL Board invited the JAHSSD Board to a holiday party at Miyo and Mitch Reff's home in Mission Beach. Robert Ito, retiring from the JACL Board after serving 40-plus years, was surprised with an appreciation gift. Left: Robert and Edna Ito watch Erika Hiramatsu read the inscription on the gift. Above: JACL President Karen Tani expresses her personal appreciation of Robert and his dedication to JACL. She credits him with getting her involved with the organization, encouraging her to serve the community as a Board member.







SNAPSHOTS

MEMBERSHIP KANSHA AWARDS







Above: JAHSSD President Linda Canada recognized Robert Ito for his leadership over several years as chair of the JAHSSD auxiliary Home Site and Austin Plus Committees.

Above right: JAHSSD members enjoyed the program at the Buddhist Temple Annex Hall and the tasty bento lunch catered by Ichiban of Hillcrest. Karen Kawasaki-Williams was the M.C.





Bottom row, far left: Ukelele virtuoso **Jake Shimabukuro** (in black vest) performed a benefit concert for the **Japanese Friendship Garden** on October 17 at the Balboa Theatre downtown and mingled with fans at the Garden afterwards. Below left: **Agnes Benson** (right) and her daughter **Sachiko Held** at the **Japan Society of San Diego and Tijuana Leadership Awards** where Agnes received the 2011 Phillips Community Award. Three photos below right: **Tag Project** volunteers help bring **Wendy Maruyama**'s art piece to completion at the Ronson Archives, Winter 2010.









Annual mochitsuki in the patio of **Yoshiko and Susumu Kawato**'s Chula Vista home, December 1999. Left to right: **Wayne Yamamoto**, **Susumu Kawato**, **Fred Nakatani**, **Nancy Nakatani**. All photos courtesy of the Nakatani family.

KAWATO FAMILY MOCHITSUKI: THOSE WERE GOOD TIMES!

By Nancy Nakatani

Our family pounded mochi at my parents' home for many years. Even after my younger sister, **Bev**, and I got married, we still gathered every year to make the mochi and included our husbands and eventually my sons.

My parents did all of the initial prep work—washed and steamed the sweet rice and prepared and cleaned the sticks and the pot in which we pounded the mochi. My mom would turn the steaming hot mochi with her bare hands using a *samoji* (wooden rice paddle) and we always marveled at how she could tolerate the heat of that hot mass.

My father made the mochi pounding sticks from the limbs of a lemon tree at my Aunt **Toyoko** and Uncle **Frank Yonekura**'s home. We had two or three store-bought ones, but everyone preferred to use the lemon tree ones. You could grip them better because of the slightly-rough bark. The store-bought sticks were too smooth to grip.

When the mochi looked ready, my mom or dad would take out the mass of mochi and plop it onto a board covered with cornstarch or rice flour. My mom would pinch off small pieces of the mochi, and the rest of us would pick up the pieces and roll them into nicely-shaped balls and then let them cool in wax paper-lined, floured cardboard boxes.

My mom always said that we needed to pound the mochi in order to have good luck in the coming year.

My older son, **Troy**, would gladly pound the mochi, but he could not stand to touch the cornstarch or rice flour to roll the mochi into balls. He would always roll just ONE mochi to satisfy the process of getting good luck, or maybe it was out of a sense of obligation to participate in all phases of the mochi-making.

It would make us laugh to see Troy's expression when it came time for him to roll his one mochi. He would pick up the pinched mochi with a pained expression on his face and slowly roll it into a ball, plop it on the table, and then rush off to wash his hands. One of us usually had to re-roll his effort to make it "pretty." Mom insisted that the pretty side of the mochi be face up.





Top right: Mochi mallets made from lemon tree branches by the late Susumu Kawato. Photo taken April 2010. Above: **Yoshiko Kawato** turning the hot yomogi mochi with a large shamoji, December 1987.

(Continued on Page 15)



Above: Yoshiko Kawato (right) has pinched off pieces of the hot mochi which her daughter **Beverly Yamamoto** (left) and grandson **Grant** are shaping into balls, December 1987.

Below: 17-year-old Troy Nakatani, left, and his brother Grant, age 13, show off "the fruits of their labor," December 1987.



Mom would also make homemade red bean an [cooked sweetened bean filling], and we would make wonderful an mochi with some of the mochi balls. She prepared *yomogi* [a Japanese herb related to the chrysanthemum] from her garden, and we pounded the cooked yomogi into a portion of the mochi to make the an mochi.

A portion of the last batch was for eating right away! Mom would cook a shoyu-sugar concoction with spinach and sesame seeds. She would throw the pinches of hot mochi into a large bowl with that spinach mixture as Bev or I would stir and mix the concoction together. DELICIOUS! I've never had anything like that since those days.

Those were good times!

2010 ANNUAL APPEAL DONORS

JAHSSD is grateful to these individuals and families for their generous contributions to our 2010 Annual Appeal. This list is complete through January 10, 2011. Any additional donations received will be acknowledged in the next issue of Footprints.

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Young Voice: A TRIP OF A LIFETIME— 2010 Rainbow Student Exchange Program By Michael Jitosho

Michael is a third-year Biology student at UC San Diego. Last summer, he flew to Japan to participate in a unique program for young people and wrote this essay to share his experience. We thank him for permission to reprint his writing and photos in this issue. To learn more about Michael and the Ashinaga Foundation which sponsored the program, please see the addendum which follows the piece.

What an amazing and life-changing trip to Japan! Who would have ever known that a simple sightseeing trip to Japan could change my career plans and would reward me with a lifetime of memories and connections with students worldwide.

Before exiting the airplane and beginning my three week tour in Japan, I promised myself to make the most of every moment, may they be good or bad, cool or humid, restful or exhausting. I would try to do all that I could to gain the most of this experience. I believe it was because of this mindset that I received more than I could have ever expected in return.

While in Japan, I attended Ashinaga's 2010 Yamanakako Tsudoi, a summer camp near the base of Mt. Fuji, west of Tokyo. The camp was comprised of over 350 Ashinaga students from all parts of Japan in addition to a dozen international students from countries such as Uganda, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Iraq, Afghanistan and the U.S.



MIchael Jitosha, left, with Ashinaga founder Yoshitomi Tamai.

While this appeared to be a typical summer camp for students to fill their summer vacations with, the reason that brought us all together was unique. The Yamanakako camp is one of Ashinaga's many summer camps geared directly towards college-age students who have lost a parent due to an illness, natural disaster, accident, or have a parent that is physically disabled. During the camp the participants, including myself, shared with one another very personal and painful feelings derived from the loss of our parents. When it came time for me to share, I expressed that pain is pain no matter who we are, what language we speak or where we come from. This pain has embedded itself within all of us at some point. Although it can never be completely healed or erased, we should feel comfort that we have each other to get through each and every day. Through this time of emotional expression, a sense of kinship amongst the students was created. I believe this bond of trust and support can never be broken or taken away once formed.

Ashinaga has emotionally and financially supported more than 80,000 Japanese and international students for over 40 years, enabling them to attend college in Japan and build a sense of stability in their lives. Through generous contributions of private donors and student fundraising alone, the lives of these students have changed forever. Inspired by the organization, I spoke in front of the entire camp, envisioning where I see myself two years from now. I spoke of my dream to ensure that the future leaders—we, the current Ashinaga students—continue to stay connected with one another. With a language barrier or not, we would



The author (2nd row, far left) with Ashinaga summer camp friends.

further Tamai sensei's (the founder of Ashinaga) plan of expanding the organization worldwide together. The quiver I felt in my voice while speaking let me know that Ashinaga and its mission has created a special niche in my heart.

As life continues in the States, I feel very motivated to learn more Japanese so I may better communicate with the students and staff I met in Japan. I do not want the inability to communicate in the same language to be the problem that inhibits us from carrying out this 100 year vision, especially now with the availability of so many communication mediums. I must do my part and help spread awareness about the Ashinaga organization starting in my community right here, right now.

Addendum

To accompany his essay, Michael wrote the following profile: "My goal is to become an optometrist with my own practice. I attribute my inspiration towards becoming an optometrist to my Dad who was an optometrist practicing in Huntington Beach, Calif. He passed away 7 years ago, but his professionalism as an eye doctor stills remains clear in my mind and continues to instill the passion in me to follow in his footsteps. I have an older sister, **Stephanie**, who graduated from CSU Fullerton and is now teaching at a preschool. I love to cook whenever I have time. I find myself using various ingredients in various ways to find new ways of preparing dishes. I love to play sports and work out at the gym. With the New Year, I am trying to live better, that is, eating better, working out consistently and finding ways to improve my mental health as well."

The Ashinaga organization was founded in 1969 by Yoshiomi Tamai and Shinji Okajima who had lost loved ones to traffic accidents. They began a Japan-wide awareness campaign to reduce the number of traffic fatalities. In the 40 years that have followed, the organization expanded its mission and scope far beyond Japan's borders. Statement from www.ashinaga.com: "The mission of Ashinaga is to support children whose parents have died, become incapable of working, or incurred financial difficulties making it difficult or impossible to send their children to high school or college. We at Ashinaga refer to the children in each of these categories as 'orphans.' We have two missions for orphans: to provide financial support; to provide emotional support. We also provide guidance in their educational endeavors. With this assistance, we hope those orphans become talented adults with warm hearts, wide perspectives, vitality and a drive to succeed in the world. We also hope to instill a sense of internationalism so they may positively contribute to the world in the near future."

A MYSTERY OF HISTORY



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FOR

JAHSSD?

One of the most common mysteries we encounter is identifying the people and places in photographs that have been donated to our archives. This 1950s era photograph appears to be from a wedding celebration. Are Aiko and Roy Muraoka (the couple on the right) the bridal couple? Taro Matsui is seated in the center and appears to be part of the wedding party. Is that Mits Ishihara on the left? When and where was this photograph taken? The photographs in our collection are among our most precious resources because they document people and ways of life that may no longer exist. One of JAHSSD's goals is to assure that the history is not forgotten. 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

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WE GET LETTERS & E-MAIL

Dear JAHSSD,

Enjoy seeing pix and reading the stories. For example, my great aunt is Isa Shimoda of "Mary's Lunch & the Frisco Cafe" [Summer 2010 issue, Page 1].

Thanks, Jiro Saito San Jose

Dear JAHSSD,

Our friends and family thank you for the extra copies of your newsletter for Spring and Summer '09, and also greatly appreciate and are touched by Mr. McAllister's articles...I want him to know I'm pretty sure that my uncle Sam is tickled knowing that Allan wrote about him!

Enclosed is a contribution to the organization.

Thank you once again,

Karen Louise Yamaguchi Fujihara Toguchi

and Family

Monterey Park, Calif.

Dear Friends,

Thank you for all that you do to preserve and promote the history of the Japanese American community in San Diego.

Please accept the enclosed contribution which we make in memory of Masami Honda and Ruth Yaeko Honda.

In appreciation,

Amy Maya Honda and Wayne O'Neil Somerville, Mass.

Dear JAHSSD.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness in sending the pretty card acknowledging Satoshi's passing. Satoshi lived a long, healthy, happy life and we are grateful for that.

We are really blessed to be part of the Japanese community in San Diego. It's a very caring group of people.

Sincerely,

Momo, Jimmy, Danny and Kida Family

Dear Linda.

I would like to thank you for all you have done for the JAHSSD. I know that it is a time consuming job and you might ask yourself, "Is it really worth it," but yes, it really is. Keep up the good work.

Thanks again, Harold and Kuniko Kuhn San Diego

Dear Linda,

Thanks for all your efforts on behalf of the JA community, and more specifically, for all the help offered to Wendy [Maruyama] on her Tag Project! Please thank all the members!

John and Rae Maruyama

Dear Linda and Mr. Allan Koba,

Thank you for helping us understand the Japanese American experience during WWII.

Fondly, Coronado Book Club Joyce,

Thanks for the nice article about me in the JAHSSD newsletter [Fall 2010, "Local Nikkei Becomes JACL President"]. You can be my publicist any time.

Warmest regards, David Kawamoto San Diego

Hi Linda,

It was our pleasure meeting you recently. Thanks for showing us around [the archives]. We are enclosing a donation for the great work the organization is doing for the Japanese community in San Diego.

Happy holidays! Kiyoshi and Alice Yamate

Dear JAHSSD,

Thank you for your hard work. I enjoy the newsletter.

Jodi Masumoto

Dear Ms. Canada.

A while back I forwarded an article which appeared in a Honolulu newspaper regarding an interview conducted by the University of Hawaii... with Mrs. Lily Takakura Hatanaka and her experience during the San Diego evacuation and incarceration of JAs during the war. As mentioned in the news article, Lily was in San Diego for a short period just prior to the evacuation to complete her education at San Diego High School...I have since received a CD from Lily of the full interview that was conducted.

If I may, I would like to forward the CD to you in hopes that it would be of interest to the organization and/or any of Lily's San Diego friends. It may be of particular interest to Eiji Kiya, as Eiji and Lily are related, as cousins, I believe. I do not have Eiji's address but have noted in past Footprints that he is a member/subscriber of JAHSSD.

Thank you very much for your time and my regards to many of my old friends in San Diego.

Sincerely, Jun Kuyama Sacramento

Ed.'snote: Linda Canada reports she sent a note to Mr. Kiya letting him know that the CD of his cousin's interview is now part of JAHSSD's archive.

Dear Joyce,

The lady that wrote in a recent *Footprints* [We Get Letters, Fall 2010, Page 7] that her gift was from Jun Kuyama failed to give her maiden name: Lily Takakura whom most of us knew when she first came to San Diego. Her uncle was Dave Seki who was married to May Otsuka.

She was quite a wonderful person. I visited with her and her husband Toby on one of my earlier trips. She lost Toby quite a few years ago. She comes from Waikiki.

Take care, Sachi Nishida San Diego

Dear Friends of JAHSSD,

After living here in San Diego for more than 60 plus years, on Oct. 21 I will be leaving San Diego for good. I have been accepted at Keiro Retirement Home in Boyle Heights. I guess you would say I'm going back to my "roots"—I was born in L.A. and frequently was in Li'l Tokyo.

(Continued on Page 19)

I have mixed emotions about leaving San Diego since all our children went to school here through Patrick Henry and Terry was at General Dynamics over 39 years.

We made lots of wonderful friends during all those years. I wish all of you well and hope to see you again someday. Much love and happiness to all. P.S. Next year Keiro celebrates 50 years!!

In deepest friendship, Sachi Nishida Los Angeles

Dear JAHSSD:

I would like to express my sincerest appreciation to the JAHSSD for providing the opportunity to tell my story about my tour in Vietnam. I am humble that you would ask me because my story is just one of many stories of the Japanese Americans who served our country in wars and conflicts. Our country asked us to go to war in far and distant lands so far away from our homes and we did what we were asked to do. I continue to salute and honor all the veterans who have served our country.

I had a chance to view the "Japanese Americans in the Military" exhibit last year and I was so impressed with the exhibit. I recognized many of the names of individuals who were in the exhibit because I either know them personally or had heard many stories about these individuals when I was growing up in the San Diego area. There should be a special recognition to all of the individuals who had such a vital part in the development of the exhibit. I am grateful to Susan Hasegawa and Linda Canada for their guidance and patience in assisting me with my story. They were the gentle force behind it all.

Your compelling exhibit, the stories that have been told in Footprints and the opportunity that I have had to tell my story as a combat infantryman in Vietnam have inspired me to take on another personal project. In November of 2009, I was contacted by one man that I served with in Vietnam. He asked if I had been in contact with any other men and I replied that I had not. Since that initial contact via e-mail, four of us have tracked down over 60 men who served with Delta Company, 1/327th Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division between 1969 to 1971.

For the most part the men had not talked to anyone who they served with or any of their families or friends about the war for over 40 years. Slowly the stories emerged and became clearer, more defined, and powerful. I began to capture their stories, recollections and memories, one by one, of our times and battles in the jungles of Vietnam. The main theme that seemed to emerge was about relationships that were forged in combat. Relationships that were like no other that we have had before or following the war in Vietnam.

The stories "take us home" and bond the men even 40 years later. After all, "It was all we had," many men have told me, and we fought for each other because our lives depended on it. It was our duty and obligation. It was and still is about Gaman and Giri for the men of Delta Company. Somewhere along the way I decided to put all the stories in a book for our own healing.

In September of 2011, the surviving men of Delta Company, 1/327th Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division will meet for a reunion for the first time in over 40 years. Your exhibit and your compelling articles in *Footprints* have been the inspiration to me. So I am grateful for having had the opportunity to share my story and to continue my journey to connect with the men I served with in the distant jungles of Vietnam. It is the welcome home and the closure that many of us have never had.

Warmest regards, Alan Hayashi A local Chula Vista boy

(Editor's note: On Page 20, you can read some of Alan's updates about the upcoming Delta Company reunion being planned.)

CELEBRATIONS!

- ◆ Drew Michio Himaka was born October 3, 2010, to Keith & Dawn Himaka. His proud grandparents are William & Barbara Jenkins and Michio & Naomi Himaka. Want to see what Mich's namesake looks like at two months old? See Drew and big brother Trevor on Page 10 in "Mazegohan."
- → JAHSSD member Akira Hata, a retired Buddhist minister, had a lot of help celebrating his 90th birthday: members of the Buddhist Temple of San Diego surprised him during the Dec. 5 Bodhi Day Service with a rendition of "Happy Birthday" and a large card signed by the Sangha. His family—daughter and son-inlaw Tissa and Chris Uchiyama and grandkids Lauren and Brian—were in on the surprise. Tissa provided Rev. Hata's life history and Lauren put together a beautiful slide show highlighting his 90 years.



- ◆ Last July, **Michael Roussin**, third-year mechanical engineering student at Cal Poly Pomona, won the Cal Poly rose float design contest among 98 entrants. His design titled "Galactic Expedition" (pictured above) was built by 40 Cal Poly Pomona and San Luis Obispo students and represented the Cal Poly campuses in the 2011 Tournament of Roses Parade. The colorful, flower-covered float was 50 feet long and had several mechanical parts. Michael is the son of JAHSSD life members **Rick and Misako Roussin**.
- ◆ Agnes Benson was honored at the 17th Annual Leadership Awards Gala presented by the Japan Society of San Diego & Tijuana on January 20. Agnes, California Bank and Trust Vice President, Retired, will receive the 2011 Phillips Community Award, named for the late, great Dr. Randall Phillips.
- ◆ Jaime Enochs, English teacher at the School of International Studies at San Diego High School, was awarded the George Washington Medal of Honor by the Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge. She was cited for her creativity in the classroom, inspiring her students to become productive citizens. The award was presented last November by the Freedom Foundation's San Diego chapter. Not to be outdone, Jaime's husband **Asa Enochs** was given a full scholarship by the CSU Fullerton Art Dept. faculty to complete his MFA at Fullerton. Asa teaches Game Art and Design at The Art Institute of California-San Diego.
- ◆ Wendy Maruyama, Tag Project artist and SDSU Professor of Furniture Design, was named one of the "10 Stars of San Diego for 2011" by San Diego Home & Garden Magazine in its January 2011 issue. The magazine featured Wendy's profile and Tag Project photos taken at the JAHSSD archives.
- ◆ Ruth Voorhies and Mich Himaka were interviewed about their internment experience for a feature on American Civil Rights history which aired on Glenn Beck's show on the Fox Channel in January 2011. You can view an archived video of the broadcast at: http://www.foxnews.com/on-air/glenn-beck/transcript/restoring-honor-horror-executive-order-9066.

DELTA COMPANY REUNION UPDATES FROM ALAN HAYASHI

"Vietnam: My Generation's War," Alan Hayashi's memories of his service in Vietnam 40 years ago, appeared in the Fall 2010 issue of Footprints. He also contributed to JAHSSD's long-running exhibition at the San Diego Veterans Museum, **Japanese Americans in the Military**. Alan has been keeping JAHSSD apprised of his activities organizing a reunion of his platoon, Delta Company. We have included some of his e-mails detailing his progress. He has promised to write about the reunion scheduled for September of this year.

October 5, 2010

I just returned from a two week trip to Colorado Springs. I met with three men who I served with in Vietnam. One was my former commanding officer. We are in the process of planning a reunion in 2011. Most of us have not seen or talked to each other in over 40 years.



Attached are also a couple of pictures. The first picture is my second platoon of Delta Company, 1/327th Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division. I am in the front row kneeling on the right. I am the only Asian. It was taken in April of 1970 at a base camp called "Camp Eagle" near the city of Phu Bai, Vietnam. We had come in for a "stand down" (rest for a couple of days) and we are on our way out for another mission in the high mountain jungles. During my entire time in Vietnam we seldom if ever came in. My first mission, I was out in the jungle for over 104 days.



The second picture I just received from one of the men in my platoon. I have never seen it before. It was taken in March of 1970 deep in the jungles near an area called Bach Ma. All of us that were in the infantry were called "grunts" or "boonie rats."

October 16, 2010

We have now tracked down over 70 men [of Delta Company] who served with the company between 1969-1971. As my commanding officer has recently said, "We have become our own band of brothers." With the exception of probably 5 men who made a career out of the military, the rest of us just returned to civilian life and tried to put it behind us. We now find that the war experience never left us and that is the "rest of the story."

It will be interesting to hear the perspective of one man who is coming. He is a four-star general and was a second lieutenant with us in Vietnam. We are so humble to know that he is coming to our reunion. I think that Vietnam was a watershed experience for him as a young officer.

I am in the process of writing a piece called, "All we had." The inspiration has come from all the stories, memories, and recollections that the men have shared with me since last November. One man who we recently found had quite a profound emotional experience. After a long telephone conversation [I had] with him, his wife called back and said that he had been in the back yard crying for two hours. She said it was a wonderful thing because he had not talked about the war for over 40 years. I think for many of us it is the healing process and the welcome home we never had.

November 13, 2010

Thought you would be interested in this story. As I had previously mentioned, your "Japanese Americans in the Military" was a huge part of my journey this past year to track down veterans that I served with in Vietnam; capture their stories in a book; and organize a reunion for the 70 plus men we have now been able to track down.

The attached picture is another part of the story. [Editor's note: the photo file was not available.] It started out about a year ago when just a couple of us thought it might be a nice idea to honor one of our fallen soldiers in the town he grew up in which was Adel, lowa. It started out that we just wanted to have a little recognition somewhere in the city. Turns out that the mayor of the city was a classmate of John McClurg who was killed. He began working with the school district. What has happened in the past year is amazing to us.

Our little project turn out to be a memorial that was dedicated to all the men who died in Adel, Iowa, in WWII, Korea and Vietnam. On Veterans Day the memorial was dedicated with a lot involvement from the local folks, parade, flags, etc. Four of the men that I served with went to the dedication and two spoke.

You see just a little nudge from someone will keep a ball rolling forever! I am now deeply involved in the development of the reunion next year in Colorado Springs. One of the men who is coming became a four star general. He was a second lieutenant in Vietnam. Almost all the men we have contacted have not spoken about the war in over 40 years. Their experiences have been similar to mine. Their wives seem to be so excited to have their husbands connected to the men they served with. This has been a huge healing process for all of us. More than any of us could have imagined.

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442/100/MIS VETS INVITED TO ATTEND GOLD MEDAL AWARDING CEREMONY

The following information was gleaned from White House press releases and from the National Veterans Network website, http://www.nationalveteransnetwork.com.

On October 5, 2010, President Barack Obama signed legislation to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the **100th Infantry Battalion** and **442nd Regimental Combat Team** in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II. The House of Representatives is expected to set a summer or fall date for the awarding ceremony in Washington D.C.



The National Veterans Network, a coalition of Japanese American veteran and civic organizations, has been designated as the entity that will plan and execute the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony and events in 2011. It will work with U.S. Congress, White House and the U.S. Mint to ensure that the ceremony and events will be coordinated with input and consensus by Japanese American World War II veteran and civic organizations nationwide.

Members of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and Military Intelligence Service (MIS) who served during World War II are eligible for this award. The Department of Defense has determined that World War II covers the period from December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946. Any Nisei who served in the MIS, overseas or domestic, with an MIS MOS, in direct support of translators, interrogators, communications interceptors, special operations personnel, or cave flushers are eligible.

The Network is currently seeking 100th, 442nd and MIS veterans, widows and family members who are interested in attending the Congressional Awards Ceremony and two-day celebration in Washington, DC. Priority for seating will be given to living 100, 442, and MIS veterans. NVN will request that widows or next of kin of Nisei killed in action or deceased veterans be included. However, it will be the Speaker of the House who will ultimately determine who attends and how many will be invited. By registering with the database, it does not guarantee attendance to the Congressional Awards Ceremony.

The registration form is at www.nationalveteransnetwork.com, or write or e-mail the National Veterans Network, P.O. Box 1221, Torrance, CA 90505 or veteran@nationalveteransnetwork.com.

Further information can be obtained from Terry Shima, (301) 987-6746 or ttshima@comcast.net. Veterans and their families are urged to share this information with others.

"MYSTERY OF HISTORY" SOLVED!

By Yuki Kawamoto

The mystery object from the Fall 2010 issue of Footprints has been identified by **Po Kaneyuki** as having belonged to **Kajiro Oyama**. Po's first wife was the late **Gloria Oyama**, daughter of Mr. Oyama, who remembered seeing the forge in Mr. Oyama's extensive back yard of two to three acres in Lemon Grove.



Although it always had ashes in it, Po only saw him operating it one time. The process involved starting a fire in the forge, then cranking the handle of the fan to blow air on the fire to accelerate the heat.

Alice Yano, another one of Mr. Oyama's daughters, recalls that before World War II, the family moved from the farm in Chula Vista to San Juan Capistrano, then to San Onofre. From there the family moved to Utah. Alice believes that her father had the forge in Chula Vista and took the forge and associated tools with him as he moved from farm to farm.

When the evacuation was ordered, the U.S. Army allowed families to move inland out of the evacuation zone and if they did so, they would not have to go to camp. Mr. Oyama opted to move the family to Utah and took most of his farm equipment, including the forge, with him.

Mr. Oyama donated the forge and associated tools to JAHSSD for the **One Hundred Year Road** exhibit at the San Diego Historical Society's museum in Balboa Park.

I remember accompanying **Don Estes** to Mr. Oyama's Lemon Grove home to pick up the forge and an anvil and tools. We decided that the anvil was too heavy for us to lift into the pickup, so we left it by the side of the driveway until we could get someone else to help us. When we went back to get the anvil, Mr. Oyama had moved it by himself to another spot. He was about 90 years old at the time!

FISHING NET: Finding Internet Treasure

JAHSSD member and frequent contributor **Rio Imamura** alerted us to a good online resource from cable network C-SPAN, http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/191728-1.

You can view or purchase archived videos of Japanese Americanthemed book talks and interviews that have aired on C-SPAN, like **Joanne Oppenheim** talking about her 2006 book, *Dear Miss Breed*.

Other speakers and topics related to the Japanese American experience available for viewing at this site include:

- ◆ Judge Wallace Tashima (2004) on JA internment cases:
- ♦ History of JA Military Intelligence Service (panel, 2010);
- ◆ Eric Muller, American Inquisition (2004);
- ♦ Craig Robinson, By the Order of the President (2001).

FROM THE JAHSSD ARCHIVES...



NISEI NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

How many people can you recognize from this early 1950s New Year's Eve party? This glimpse of one of the many ways Japanese Americans in San Diego have celebrated the holiday is from a collection of materials donated by **Jack Matsui** of Seattle. Jack's brother, **Taro Matsui**, owned a watch repair shop on Broadway in downtown San Diego for many years. At the time this photo was taken, Taro and his older sister **Fusa** were living in Oak Park with their mother. Neither sibling ever married, and they continued to live together in the Oak Park home after their mother's passing. Both Taro and Fusa, who retired as a bookkeeper for the Natural History Museum, were generous supporters of many organizations, including the Buddhist Temple of San Diego, where they were devout and active volunteers all of their adult lives.

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

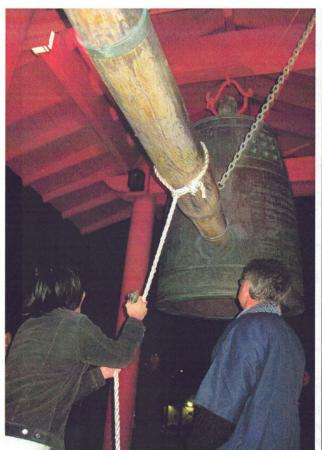
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LOCAL NIKKEI TRADITION: The New Year's Eve Bell Ringing Ceremony on Shelter Island is a longstanding local tradition hosted annually by the Buddhist Temple of San Diego. As in Japan where this year-end ceremony originated, the bell is rung 108 times to symbolize ridding oneself of 108 misdeeds committed in the year past. The magnificent Japanese Friendship Bell, created by renowned artist Masahiko Katori, was a gift to San Diego by Yokohama, Japan in May 1958, marking the first Sister City affiliation on the West Coast. In recent years, the ritual has attracted an estimated 300-400 bell ringers. LEFT: Like the late Paul Hoshi, who welcomed participants to the bell ringing for many years, Bill Teague supervises the popular bell ringing each year. RIGHT: Rev. Yushi Mukojima prepares to strike the giant bonsho bell one final time to close the ceremony. Photos by Joyce Teague.

JAPANESE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SAN DIEGO

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

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

Please support the business friends and community organizations that partner with and support JAHSSD!

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

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