

Eden Township Japanese American Citizens League
60th Anniversary Celebration & Annual Installation Dinner
Eden Japanese Community Center, San Lorenzo, CA
November 9, 1996

Mistress of Ceremony	Tomi Miyamoto
Pledge of Allegiance	Harry Tanabe
"God Bless America".....	Group Accompanied by Georgene Deardorff on piano
Welcome	Dick Sasaki Co-President, Eden JACL
Taiko	Eden Youth Group directed by Masa Fukuizumi
Introduction of Guests.....	Tomi Miyamoto
Welcome	Alison Lewis, representing Gail Steele, Supervisor Alameda County Greg Howe representing Michael Sweeney, Assemblyman, 18th District
Invocation.....	Reverend Seigen Yamaoka

DINNER

Presentation of Gifts of Appreciation to the Charter members of the Eden Township JACL.....	Tomi Miyamoto and Co-President, Karen Shinoda.
Historian's Report.....	Tomi Miyamoto
A special taped showing of the 1996 Minoru Yasui Oratorical Competition winning presentation by Jessica Mariko Deardorff.....	Introduction by Tomi Miyamoto
Installation Ceremony.....	Herbert Yamanishi
1997 Eden Youth Group President's Address.....	Roger Oda
1997 Eden Co-Presidents Message.....	Moses Oshima & Ron Sakaue
Guest Speaker.....	Herbert Yamanishi Introduced by John Yamada
Acknowledgements.....	Dic Fujii
Raffle.....	Dic Fujii, Karen Shinoda
Benediction.....	Reverend James Toda
"America the Beautiful".....	Group
Closing remarks and Farewell.....	Dic Fujii

1936 EDEN TOWNSHIP CHAPTER
JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE
CHARTER MEMBERS

Officers

President	Kaneji Domoto
Vice President	Fukashi Nakagawa
Recording Secretary	Dorothy Minami
Corresponding Secretary	Yoshito Shibata
Treasurer	Yoshimi Shibata

Board of Governors

Yuri Domoto	George Minami
Frank Araki	Shigeru Akagi
Mrs. G. Yoshioka	Katsuo Tanabe

1936 Charter Membership

Shigeru Akagi	George Muramatsu	Mary Shinoda
Takeo Akagi	Fukashi Nakagawa	Rose Shinoda
Frank Araki	Minoru Nakagawa	Katsuo Tanaka
George Aso	Rose Nakagawa	Katsue Tanaka
Kaneji Domoto	Chuichi Nakao	Ben Tanisawa
Yuri Domoto	Utaka Nakao	Masao Tomotoshi
Sally Fujii	Mitsuteru Nakashima	Takashi Tsurui
Roy Futagaki	Yuki Naruo	Yonetaro Tsurui
Shigeo Hatakeda	Takako Negi	Haruyo Tsuyuki
Hiroshi Ioki	Isamu Nieda	Mrs. S. Uenaka
Yoshiye Ishida	Susumu Nieda	Minoru Watanabe
Momoye Kawakami	Hiroshi Obata	Minoru Yonekura
Dorothy Minami	Masayuki Saito	Susumu Yonekura
George Minami	Yukio Saito	Giichi Yoshioka
Kazuo Mori	Yoshimi Shibata	Mrs. June Yoshioka
Toshio Mori	Yoshito Shibata	Masaru Yoshioka

1997 Eden Township Japanese American Citizens League

Officers

Co-Presidents	Moses Oshima and Ron Sakaue
Vice-President	Yo Kawabata
Recording Secretary	Ada Wada
Corresponding Secretary	Dick Sasaki
Co-Treasurers	Ted Kitayama and Shig Naito
Membership	John Yamada
Historian	Tomi Miyamoto
1000 Club	Tets Sakai and John Yamada
Scholarship	Robert Sakai
Official Delegates	John Yamada and Ada Wada
Insurance Commissioner	James Tsurumoto
JASEB Representative	Yo Kawabata Janet Mitobe (Alternate)
Holiday Issue/PC	Kimi Kitayama
Newsletter/Publicity	Tomí Miyamoto
Civil Rights	John Yamada

Board of Directors

Bob Agawa	Yo Kawabata	James Takeuchi
William Asai	Kimi Kitayama	Rev. James Toda
John Carroll	Yutaka Kobori	Patti Utsumi
Masa Fukuizumi	Judy Lim	Motoichi Yanagi
Yas Ishida	JoAnne Mar	Mas Yokota
Yo Kasai	Kunio Okui	
Gary Kawabata	Natalie Shew	

Ex Officio

Dick Sasaki	Karen Shinoda	Janet Mitobe	Victor Fujii
-------------	---------------	--------------	--------------

Eden Youth

President.....	Roger Oda
Vice-President.....	Andrea Wong
Secretary.....	Courtney Jang
Treasurer.....	Stephanie Ide
Community Service Director.....	Stephanie Shew
Social Activity Director	Naomi Beppu
Publicity	Lyndsey Shinoda
Membership.....	Brandon Fong
Hospitality.....	Jason Wong
Historian.....	Lori Taniguchi
Advisors.....	Teresa Taniguchi, Judy Oda, Cindy Wong, Gordon Ide, and Natalie Shew

1996 Minoru Yasui Oratorical Competition
by Jessica Mariko Deardorff

When I first read the oratorical topic: Discuss an experience in which you were discriminated against solely because of your race and how it effected you, two incidents immediately came to mind. The first involved a guy in my P.E. class, who made it clear that he liked me. However, when he found out that half of my ancestry is Japanese, he also suddenly made it clear that he had no interest in me., The other incident occurred in my journalism class, an environment that fosters controversial discussions. Two students and I were seated at the same table, and they were in a heated conversation, both of them saying that race mixing shouldn't be allowed, complaining about the growing number of "half breeds". When I told them I'm one of those half breeds, they were shocked. By the way, both of these students were Asian.

As I replayed these incidents in my mind, I thought back to an interview I'd done for a fifth grade project. It was a report on part of my heritage and my mother suggested I interview my Grandma about the internment.

I can recall it so vividly, going to my grandparents' house. I was set--I had my notebook open, and I looked across the table at Grandma. I noticed she looked different. Her face seemed tense and her eyes stared at something far away.

And that's when I first heard about the rocks being thrown. I heard about the horse stalls, the blankets strung between them for privacy, the dust storms. All the while she spoke from a distance, and I remember thinking, "What's wrong with Grandma?"

Well, I'm 18 now and although it has taken me a while, I think I'm finally beginning to understand. I believe what her eyes saw that day was a dark place that meant greater pain and anger and humiliation than I would ever know. Her stoicism was a shield, perhaps a source of protection that kept that world separate from the present. . . because to break down would renew the anguish, something so ugly that she wouldn't want her granddaughter to see.

Which brings me to the second half of the oratorical topic: How did this effect you?

Well, I've come to the realization that so far, my life has been an easy road. But the reason it is, is because it was paved with the sacrifices of people who suffered. It was smoothed and guided by those who endured. I speak from my Japanese American heritage when I say that my generation needs to hear from theirs. And I know this has to be extremely painful, dredging up memories of wartime, but in hearing these accounts we can work at closing the generation gap, closing the distance that might make my generation tragically fail to understand what happened.

My generation needs to hear what people are capable of when stirred into a frenzy of hate and fear. We need to know what roles the Quakers, the American Friends Service Committee, the different churches and individuals played in protesting the abuses. My generation needs to recognize the deplorable significance of the numbers 9066. My generation needs to know that our history includes the names Endo, Hirabayashi, Korematsu and Yasui.

During the hearings before the Commissions of Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, over 750 people, mostly Japanese Americans, recounted their stories of internment. My generation needs to hear these stories. . . to shed our own tears over what was lost, to shed our own tears in gratitude.

And although my generation may never touch deeply enough to truly understand what internment meant, we can never give up trying. All this is important so that we will see that this injustice can never happen again--not to any group of people. Because as minor as my incidents of discrimination seem in comparison to what the Isseis and Niseis went through, it's an indication that the problem still exists. And discrimination on any scale will always remain unacceptable.

I leave you now with something that was rewritten after the war, when many people of Japanese descent attempted to gather up what was left of their lives and move on. This hymn does not dwell on the past, their camp experience, but places hope in the future.

THE JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE HYMN

There was a dream my father dreamed for me,
A land in which all men are free.
Then, the desert camp with watchtowers high
Where life stood still, mid sand and brooding sky.
Out of the war in which my brothers died--
Their muted voices with mine cried--
This is our dream that all men shall be free!
This is our creed, we'll live in loyalty.
God help us rid the land of bigotry
That we may live in peace and dignity.

HERBERT YAMANISHI
National Director
Japanese American Citizens League

Herbert is the National Director for the Japanese American Citizens League.

He was born in Tule Lake and moved to Minidoka.

Growing up on a truck farm near Middleton, Idaho, he graduated from high school in Nampa, Idaho.

He was in the Peace Corps between 1965 to 1967 at Rewa and Nowgong, Madhya Pradesh, India. Later, Herbert received a Master's in Social Work, concentrating in Community Organization, from the University of Denver, Colorado. He has served in the U.S. Army as Social/Psych/Technician at Fort Lee, Virginia and Chu Lai, Vietnam and was honorably discharged as a E-5 receiving the Bronze Medal.

Herbert has been a Senior Planning/Researcher for the Michigan League for Human Services in Lansing, Michigan for 14 years. He has also been the Executive Director for the Michigan Community Action Agency Association for 6 years. Other positions that he has held are: President and founder of the Mid-Michigan Asian Pacific American Association, Chairperson of the Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs and Co-Chair of the Coalition for Community Concerns, Lansing, Michigan.

GRATEFUL APPRECIATION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS TO:

Minami Flowers, Janet Mitobe.....	Floral Arrangements & Corsages
Mas and Yuri Yokota.....	Flowers
Sumitomo Bank, John Carroll.....	Door Prizes and Program Covers
Union Bank, Josie Phinney.....	Door Prizes
Harry's Hof-Brau.....	Gift Certificates

"AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL"

O Beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good
with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

"GOD BLESS AMERICA"

God bless America, Land that I love,
Stand beside her and guide her
Thru the night with a light from above!
From the mountains, to the prairies,
To the oceans white with foam,
God bless America,
My home, sweet home,
God bless America,
My home, sweet home.