

Crystal City Chatter

Issue 116

February 2013

Shinnenkai 2013

The Annual Crystal City Association Shinnen Kai luncheon was held on Sunday, January 13th, 2013 at the Sea Empress Seafood Restaurant in Gardena. This once a year event brought fifty former Crystal City internees and their families. There was so much hugging, laughing, and talking. At the same time, we missed some of our friends who could not attend or passed on. We missed you, Sumi.

We had a surprise early birthday celebration added to our luncheon. Betty and Atsuko Fukunaga's mother, Mrs. Chiyo Fukunaga, a Kibei Nisei, turned 100 years young on January 16th. We sang "Happy Birthday" and presented her with a birthday cake and a little stuffed dog to keep her company.

Toni Tomita, who chaired our luncheon, made sure after filling our stomachs with Sea Empress' exercised our brains by sharing some camp memories. Since we didn't get to hear all of them, we hope Sumi will put some of them in the Chatter. (It will be in the next Chatter...116)

Our thanks go to Toni Tomita, Sakiyo Horie, and Sid Okazaki for making all the arrangements.

Sachi Maehara

Appreciation for the Shinnen Kai Monetary Donations:

The Seiji Kami Family

Carmen Mochizuki

Jeanne Kato

Sakiyo Horie

Thank you to Joan Takeuchi for the Korean mini desserts

Also, thank you for gifts which will be saved for our May Vegas Bus Trip:

1 bottle of sake from Seiji Kami Family

2 boxes See's candies from Jimmy Hatanaka.

Shinnen Kai Guest List

Aihara, Yae	1	Kaneko, Aki and Mas	2
Fukunaga, Atsuko, Chiyo and caregiver	3	Kanogawa, Stogie and Massie	2
Fukunaga, Betty	1	Kato, Jeanne	1
Grantham, Keiko and family	9	Maehara, Sachi	1
Hatanaka, Jimmy	1	Mizukami, Tomo	1
Hatanaka, Tilly	1	Mochizuki, Carmen	1
Hatanaka, Sam and Dottie	2	Okazaki, Sid and Yukie	2
Hamada, May	1	Shimatsu, Paula	1
Ichikawa, Kaz and Fusako	2	Tajii, Min and Kazie	2
Ikemiya, Reiko	1	Takeuchi, Ben, Emi and Joan	3
Inouye, Betty	1	Takeuchi Yone	1
Kami, Seiji, Emi and Kay	3	Tomita, Toni	1
Yamane, Ken and Doris	2	Yasuda, Akemi	1
Yonekura, Aki and Mildred, & family	4	Total...	52

I really missed being there with all of you but I know that all of you had a wonderful time together and the food was very good there...but it's a bit far to go down for lunch but maybe one of these years, I may take that trip down there to join in...

Have a wonderful Vegas bus trip...it's getting difficult for Toni to do all these planning so I've been telling her to "take it easy" as I know she works hard to take care of not only the Crystal City friends but also the San Gabriel Senior Citizens group and also her church...and it's really lots of work...so hopefully, she will learn to "take it easy" and not work too hard...

*A National Conference
Commemorating the 25th
Anniversary of the signing
of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988*

The Japanese American National Museum's national conference in Seattle, Washington, July 4 thru 7, 2013 will explore the historic and contemporary connections of the Japanese American experience to local, state, and national histories.

2013 marks the 25th anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which granted redress and reparations to Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II. Attendees will hear firsthand about the crafting of the Civil Liberties Act, including the factors that led to its creation and the pioneering involvement of the Pacific Northwest's Japanese American community. There will also be opportunities to hear from those incarcerated in the War Relocation Authority camps of Heart Mountain, Minidoka, Tule Lake, and Manzanar.

Those familiar with the success of our three previous conferences --in Los Angeles (2002), Little Rock (2004), and Denver (2009) -- know that JANM will once again present a powerful, content-rich, and transformative slate of multiethnic, multigenerational speakers, presentations, and activities. More than 1,000 participants of all ages and backgrounds from across the country will once again convene to learn and reflect upon the journey endured by the Issei and Nisei, in particular the significance of that journey within the context of the larger American story.

Don't miss this remarkable opportunity to be inspired and to share the experience with your friends and family. Be a part of history in the making and engage in the important dialogue about the lessons and legacies of the Japanese American story.

Register by January 31, 2013, to receive special discounts:

Visit Janm.org/conference 2013 for a link to our NEW and easy online registration. Registration form along with full payment (including all off-site activities) must be completed online, postmarked, or faxed to 213-687-9140 **no later than January 31, 2013 for EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION** or by **June 5, 2013 for REGULAR REGISTRATION**.

Registration forms and payments can be mailed by the appropriate deadlines to:

Japanese American National Museum
ATTN: 2013 National Conference Registration
100 North Central Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90012

After June 5, 2013, only on-site registration will be available. Registration will be available at the conference at the Sheraton Seattle Hotel beginning on Wednesday, July 3, 2013, after 2 pm. To confirm space availability, contact seattle@janm.org.

To receive JANM member rates, membership must be active at the time of registration through the conference dates. Registrants may also join or renew at the time of registration.

For educators and students: a photocopy of current employment ID or paycheck stub, or student ID, is required. If registering online, fax copy of documents to 213-687-0140.

For questions or further clarifications, please send an e-mail to seattle@janm.org, or call 213-625-0414.

Registration Confirmation and Cancellation

Registration will be confirmed via e-mail or written reply (if no e-mail is provided)

Any registration cancellation or refund requests must be made in writing and postmarked/faxed by June 12, 2013.

Japanese American National Museum
ATTN: 2013 National Conference Registration
100 North Central Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90012
Fax: 213-687-9140

If any of our CC friends up in Oregon or Washington attends this conference, the Chatter would appreciate your report so many of us readers would know of your experience there

We Lost an American Hero In Senator Inouye

President Obama said that our country has lost a true American hero with the passing of Sen. Daniel Inouye. The second longest-serving senator in the history of the chamber, Danny represented the people of Hawaii in Congress from the moment they joined the Union.

in Washington, he worked to strengthen our military, forge bipartisan consensus, and hold those of us in government accountable to the people we were elected to serve.

"But it was his incredible bravery during World War II - including one heroic effort that cost him his arm but earned him the Medal of Honor -- that made Danny not just a colleague and a mentor, but someone revered by all of us lucky enough to know him."

He was the first Japanese American to serve in Congress, when he was elected to the House in 1959, the year Hawaii became a state. He won election to the Senate three years later and served there longer than anyone in American history except Robert Byrd of West Virginia, who died in 2010 after 51 years in the Senate.

After Byrd's death, Inouye became president pro tem of the Senate, a largely ceremonial post that also placed him in the line of succession to the presidency, after the vice president and the speaker of the house.

Improving Your Immune System With Qigong

Sheila Yonemoto, PT

Qigong, an ancient Chinese exercise, benefits both health and longevity. it involves mind and body coordination to improve the flow of the body's vital life force.

One simple way to improve your immune system is to improve salivation in your mouth. Doctors and dentists know that saliva helps reduce dental cavities. People with poor salivation tend to have more dental cavities and poorer immune function.

The following qigong exercise helps increase salivation. Clack your teeth together 12 times, then move your tongue up and down nine times, from left to right nine times, and finally out and in nine times. Notice the increased saliva in your mouth. Swish the fluid around and swallow it in three amounts. You will notice even more saliva afterwards.

Improving the lymphatic flow to the body also improves the immune system. The lymphatic system removes waste material. Sometimes, if there is a lot of material to remove, congestion occurs, resulting in swelling, heaviness and decreased immunity.

Using shaking machines or vibrators or jumping on trampolines can help move the lymph fluid. a simple qigong exercise involves doing mild shaking while standing and relaxing all joints in the body, including the jaw, so that when you shake, your teeth clack.

Imagine all of the water in your body, which is about 70% of your body composition, moving as a single unit, creating a tidal wave moving waste material out of the cell and driving in nutrition, including oxygen. also imagine the various types of tissues gliding smoothly as separate unites, unsticking any scar tissue that may have developed from trauma, infection or disuse.

Your fingers, shoulders, vertebrae, skin and muscles should bounce or move as a wave or flap like a flag blowing in the breeze. The action should appear graceful and flowing, with movement occurring at each separate joint. Care has to be taken to shake at an appropriate speed so you don't hurt yourself.

From a qigong point of view, this is the only exercise I know of that benefits the hormonal or endocrine system. The endocrine system could be described as the "mobile" messenger system, versus the nervous system which could be described as the "landline."

As a child, I watched my grandparents doing a Japanese exercise called "Nishishiki." They would shake their arms and legs while lying on their backs. My grandmother lived to 88 and my grandfather to 97. Later, a 92-year-old Japanese patient told me to shake my hands to stay healthy.

Even while playing sports, if a team member missed a point, everyone said, "Shake it off." Shaking seems to lead to better health and performance.

What differentiates living from non-living things? Movement.

A Simple Pineapple

The pineapple is a member of the bromeliad family. It is extremely rare that bromeliads produce edible fruit. The pineapple is the only available edible bromeliad today. It is a multiple fruit. One pineapple is actually made up of dozens of individual flowerets that grow together to form the entire fruit. Each scale on a pineapple is evidence of a separate flower.

Pineapple stop ripening the minute they are picked. No special way of storing them will help ripen them further. Colour is relatively unimportant in determining ripeness.

Choose your pineapple by smell. If it smells fresh, tropical and sweet, it will be a good fruit. The more scales on the pineapple, the sweeter and juicier the taste. After you cut off the top, you can plant it. It should grow much like a sweet potato will. This delicious fruit is not only sweet and tropical; it also offers many benefits to our health.

Pineapple is a remarkable fruit. We find it enjoyable because of its lush, sweet and exotic flavor, but it may also be one of the most healthful foods available today. If we take a more detailed look at it, we will find that pineapple is valuable for easing indigestion, arthritis or sinusitis. The juice has an anthelmintic effect; it helps get rid of intestinal worms.

Let's look at how pineapple affects other conditions.

Pineapple is high in manganese, a mineral that is critical to development of strong bones and connective tissue.

A cup of fresh pineapple will give you nearly 75% of the recommended daily amount. It is particularly helpful to older adults, whose bones tend to become brittle with age.

Bromelain, a proteolytic enzyme, is the key to pineapple's value. Proteolytic means "breaks down protein", which is why pineapple is known to be a digestive aid. It helps the body digest proteins more efficiently.

Bromelain is also considered an effective anti-inflammatory. Regular ingestion of at least one half cup of fresh pineapple daily is purported to relieve painful joints common to osteoarthritis. It produces mile pain relief. In Germany, bromelain is approved as a post-injury medication because it is thought to reduce inflammation and swelling.

Orange juice is a popular liquid for those suffering from a cold because it is high in Vitamin C. Fresh Fresh pineapple is not only high in this vitamin, but because of the Bromelain, it has the ability to reduce mucous in the throat. If you have a cold with a productive cough, add pineapple to your diet.

It is commonly used in Europe as a post-operative measure to cut mucous after certain sinus and throat operations. Those individuals who eat fresh pineapple daily report fewer sinus problems related to allergies. In and of itself, pineapple has a very low risk for allergies.

Pineapple is also known to discourage blood clot development.

This makes it a valuable dietary addition for frequent fliers and others who may be at risk for blood clots.

An old folk remedy for morning sickness is fresh pineapple juice.

It really works! Fresh juice and some nuts first thing in the morning often make a difference. It's also good for a healthier mouth. The fresh juice discourages plaque growth.

How To Starve Your Fat Cells

Sip tea before you eat: a hot cup 20 minutes before a meal may help you consume fewer calories. Even better, a German study found that Chinese white tea reduces growth of new fat cells and breaks down fat in existing cells.

Sniff grapefruit: The scent of grapefruit may temporarily raise metabolism and reduce appetite. Try keeping essential oil in your kitchen or at your desk.

Eat eggs for breakfast: In one study, people who had two eggs for breakfast lost 65 percent more weight than those who ate an equal-calorie bagel. also, people who eat protein-and fiber-rich breakfasts have lower levels of hunger hormones later on.

Miraculous Christmas Eve

The old man sat in his gas station on a cold Christmas Eve. He hadn't been anywhere in years since his wife passed away. It was just another day to him. He didn't hate Christmas, just couldn't find a reason to celebrate. He was sitting there looking at the snow that had been falling for the last hour when the door opened and a homeless man stepped through. Instead of throwing him out, Old George as he was known to his customers, told the man to come in and sit by the heater and warm up. "Thank you, but I don't mean to intrude," said the stranger. "I see you're busy, so I'll just go."

"Not without something hot in your belly." George said.

He turned and opened a wide-mouth thermos and handed it to the stranger, "It ain't much, but it's hot and tasty stew. Made it myself. When you're done, there's coffee and it's fresh."

Just at that moment he heard the "ding" of the driveway bell. "Excuse me, I'll be right back." George said.

There in the driveway was an old '53 Chevy. Steam was rolling out of the front. The driver was panicked. "Mister, can you help me?" said the driver with a deep Spanish accent. "My wife is with child and my car is broken."

George opened the hood. It was bad. The block looked cracked from the cold. The car was dead. "You ain't going in this thing." George said as he turned away. The door of the office closed behind George as he went inside.

He went to the office wall, got the keys to his old truck and went back outside. He walked around the building, opened the garage, started the truck and drove it around to where the couple was waiting.

"Here, take my truck," he said. "She ain't the best thing you ever looked at, but she runs real good."

George helped put the woman in the truck and watched as it sped off in the night. He turned and walked back inside the office.

"Glad I gave 'em the truck. Their tires were shot, too. The ol' truck has brand new tires." George thought he was talking to the stranger, but the man was gone.

The thermos was on the deck, empty with a used coffee cup besides it. "Well, at least he got something in his belly." George thought.

George went back outside to see if the old Chevy would start. It cranked slowly, but it started. He pulled it into the garage where the truck had been. He thought he would tinker with it for something to do. Christmas Eve meant no customers.

He discovered the block hadn't cracked, it was just the bottom hose on the radiator. "Well, shoot, I can fix this." he said to himself so he put a new one on.

"Those new tires ain't gonna get 'em through the winter either." He took the snow treads off his wife's old Lincoln. They were like new and he wasn't going to drive the car anyway.

As he was working, he heard shots being fired. He ran outside and beside a police car, an officer lay on the ground. Bleeding from the left shoulder, the officer moaned, "Please help me."

George helped the officer inside as he remembered the training he received in the Army as a medic. He knew the wound needed attention. "Pressure stops the bleeding." He thought. The uniform company had been there that morning and left clean towels behind. He used those and duct tape to bind the wound.

"Something for the pain." George thought. All he had was the pills he used for his back. "These ought to work." He put some water in a cup and gave the policeman the pills. "You hang in there, I'm going to get you an ambulance."

He went back in to find the policeman sitting up. "Thanks," said the officer. "You could have left me there. The guy that shot me is still in the area."

George sat down beside him, "I would never leave an injured man in the Army and I ain't gonna leave you." George pulled back the bandage to check for bleeding. "Looks worse than what it is. Bullet passed right through ya."

The front door of the office flew open. In burst a young man with a gun. "Give me all your cash! Do it now!" the young man yelled. His hand was shaking and George could tell that (Cont'd on page 6)

"Miraculous Christmas Eve" Cont'd from page 5

he had never done anything like this before.

"That's the guy that shot me!" exclaimed the officer.

"Son, why are you doing this?" asked George. "You need to put the cannon away. Somebody else might get hurt."

The young man was confused. "Shut up, old man, or I'll shoot you, too. Now give me the cash!" The cop was reaching for his gun. "Put that thing away," George said. "We got one too many in here now."

He turned his attention to the young man. "Son, it's Christmas Eve. If you need money, here, It ain't much, but it's all I got."

George pulled \$150 out of his pocket and handed it to the young man, reaching for the barrel of the gun. The young man released his grip on the gun, fell to his knees and began to cry. "I'm not very good at this, am I? All I wanted was to buy something for my wife and son." he went on. "I've lost my job, my rent is due, my car got repossessed..."

George handed the gun to the cop.

"Son, we all get in a bit of squeeze now and then. The road gets hard sometimes, but we make it through the best we can."

He got the young man to his feet, and sat him down on a chair across from the cop. "Sometimes we do stupid things. Comin' in here with a gun ain't the answer."

The young man had stopped crying. "Sorry I shot you. It just went off. I'm sorry, officer."

George could hear the sounds of sirens outside. Two cops came through the door, guns drawn. "Chuck! You OK?" one of the cops asked the wounded officer. "Who did this?"

Chuck answered, "I don't know. The guy ran off into the dark. Just dropped his gun and ran."

"That guy work here?" one of the cops asked, pointing to the young man. "Yep," George said, "Just hired him this morning."

The paramedics came in and loaded Chuck onto the stretcher. The young man leaned over the wounded cop and whispered, "Why?"

Chuck just said, "Merry Christmas boy, ... and you too, George. Thanks for everything."

George went into the back room and came out with a box, "Here you go, something for the little woman," he told the young man.

The young man looked inside to see a diamond ring. "I can't take this. It means something to you."

"And now it means something to you," replied George. "I got my memories. That's all I need."

George reached into the box again and gave the young man some toys for his son. The young man began to cry again as he handed back the \$150 that the old man had handed him earlier.

"And what are you supposed to buy Christmas dinner with? You keep that too," George said.

George turned around to find that the stranger had returned. "Where'd you come from? I thought you left."

"I have been here. I've always been here," said the stranger. "You say you don't celebrate Christmas. Why?"

"Well, after my wife passed away, I just couldn't see what all the bother was. Puttin' up a tree and all seemed a waste of a good pine tree. Bakin' cookies like I used to with Martha just wasn't the same by myself."

The stranger put his hand on George's shoulder. "but you do celebrate the holiday, George. You gave me food and drink and warmed me when I was cold and hungry. The woman with child will bear a son and he will become a great doctor. The policeman you helped will go on to save 19 people. The young man who tried to rob you will make you a rich man and not take any for himself."

George was taken aback, "And how do you know all this?" he asked.

The stranger moved toward the door. "If you will excuse me, George I have to go now. I have to go home where there is a big celebration planned." "You see, George...it's my birthday. Merry Christmas".

Deception

An older lady gets pulled over for speeding:

Older woman: Is there a problem, officer?

Officer: Ma'am you were speeding.

Older woman: Oh, I see.

Officer: May I see your license please?

Older woman: I'd give it to you, but I don't have one.

Officer: You don't have one?

Older woman: Lost it four years ago for drunk driving.

Officer: I see. May I see your vehicle registration papers please?

Older woman: I can't do that.

Officer: Why not?

Older woman: I stole this car.

Officer: Stole it?

Older woman: Yes, and I killed and hacked up the owner.

Officer: You what?

Older woman: His body parts are in plastic bags in the trunk if you want to see it.

The officer looks at the woman and slowly backs away to his car and calls for back up. Within minutes five police cars circle the car. A senior officer slowly approaches the car, clasping his half-drawn gun.

Officer 2: Ma'am could you step out of the vehicle please?

Older woman: Is there a problem, sir?

Officer 2: One of my officers told me that you have stolen this car and murdered the owner.

Older woman: Murdered the owner?

Officer 2: Yes, could you please open the trunk of your car.

The woman opened the trunk, revealing nothing but a spare tire.

Officer 2: Is this your car, ma'am?

Older woman: Yes, here are the registration papers.

The officer is quite stunned.

Officer 2: My officer claims that you told him you don't have a driver's license.

The woman digs into her handbag and pulls out her license. The officer examines the license, with a puzzled expression.

Officer 2: Thank you ma'am. The officer told me you didn't have a license, that you stole this car, murdered the owner and placed his remains in the trunk.

Older woman: Bet the liar told you I was speeding, too.

Floral Sleep Fixes

For Light Sleepers: Jasmine

Place one of these varieties on your nightstand and experience a deeper REM cycle: **Jasminum polyanthum** (A vinelike plant with tiny flowers of **Grand Duke of Tuscany**, a variety of **Jasminum sambac** (A more shrublike strain) that grows fragrant, roselike blossoms.

For Stressed Sleepers: Lavender

This plant's flowery aroma slows heart rate and lowers blood pressure. In one study, scientists sprinkled lavender oil or an unscented placebo on the bedsheets of 12 female insomniacs and found that the women with lavender-scented sheets slept better and woke up feeling refreshed.

For fitful Sleepers: Gardenia

This sweet-scented bud soothes uneasy sleepers. Ayurvedic doctors even prescribe it to manage anger and impatience

I just received a sad letter that our friend "Bubbles" Shimasaki had passed away...however I also recieved the following letter that she wrote to Ets Osaki about her interesting life.

"Dear Ets, Thank you for sending your brother's book. I've been a little busy with the holidays so haven't had time to sit down and write about anything. Before I forget, my phone number is different 619-466-3881. Hope you haven't tried to call the other number.

Hisa (Imamura) Koike and I left Crystal City by ourselves. After high school I went to S.F. to an art achool for a year. Then to L.A. to another art school where I met my husband Alan. After he graduated we went to Michigan where he worked in the design section for Raymond Lourey?, an industrial designer. We stayed there for one month and then moved back to Michigan where he worked for a company called Sundberg and Ferar. He redesigned the IBM electric typewriter and the Wrlitzer juke box--other appliances. Then he went to work for American Motors in the Kelvinator division. At the time they were making parts for National/Panasonic in Japan. Whenever the division head came from Japan, they would ask my husband to join them for golf because he spoke Japanese. One day, He told Mr. Nakagawa that he would like to eventually open a design office in Japan.

If you recall, most products at that time from Japan were not very good. Long story short we ended up in Japan for the next ten years. It was quite an adventure. Wanting to come back to the States, he closed his office and took Kawasaki as a client. He designed their Ninja motorcycle, their jet skis, snowmobiles, A7V. My daughter tested the prototypes for their jet skis, and I've been a widow for the last 20 years. I have a son who is married and teaches 5th grade, two grandchildren 15 and 12, a wonderful daughter-in-law.

My grandchildren are part English, German, Irish, Swede and Japanese. My oldest daughter is married --no children and none in sight. I'm fortunate to have a great son-in-law. My youngest daughter is a singer and lives with me. She has a realy nice boyfriend, but he takes care of his mom so no marriage for awhile. They all live close by -- my brothers and sisters do too. I'm really blessed. Hope you can read my squiggles.

Bubbles *You'll find me in the directory under Hideko Shimasaki*

She had joined us for our Shinnenkai with her daughter Robin back in January of this year and also joined our "Fun Bus to Vegas" the year before...yes, she was bubbly and full of life!!! Our deepest sympathy and condolence to the whole family....

Lost Opportunity

A young man died while traveling with his parents in Europe in 1884. His grieving parents returned home with his body, vowing to do something to memorialize their son.

Instead of an ornate tombstone, they decided to create a living memorial that would help other young people to keep their son's memory alive.

Soon after the funeral, they met with Charles Eliot, the aristocratic president of Harvard University. Eliot knew nothing about the plainly dressed couple who interrupted his busy schedule.

He listened to their story, but didn't try to hide his impatience. "Perhaps you would like to establish a scholarship in your son's name?" Eliot suggested.

"No," the boy's mother said. " We were thinking of something more substantial, such as a new building."

"Madam you must understand that buildings cost a great deal of money," Eliot said patronizingly.

Mr. Eliot, what have all the buildings at Harvard University cost?" she asked.

"Several million dollars," Eliot said.

"I don't think Harvard is the proper fit for our son's memorial," she added as she got to her feet. "But thank you for your time. You have given me a wonderful idea."

Eliot sat perplexed as the couple left his office. The following year, Eliot learned that the couple contributed \$26 million for a new university named after their son, Leland Stanford Jr.

*Prosperity is only an instrument to be used, not a deity to be worshiped. Herbert Hoover
Everyone has a burden; what counts is how you carry it. Joe Brown*

Crystal City Association Bus Trip to Las Vegas May 14-16, 2013



Confirmation Will Be Sent to the Person Below:

Name:
Address:
City/State/Zip:
Phone:

Charter bus includes room and meals
 2 nights double occupancy (\$137 per person)
 My roommate is _____

	× \$ 140.00 =	\$
# person(s)	Includes \$3 driver tip	Total

Special Needs: Handicap Room Near Elevator Other _____

We will try to get non-smoking floors.

Departure Sites (check one): NOTE CHANGE IN ORDER OF PICK-UPS

<input type="checkbox"/> GARDENA Gardena Hotel 1641 W. Redondo Beach Blvd. \$15.00 Parking Fee (Pay Hotel) 8:00 AM Departure	<input type="checkbox"/> TEMPLE CITY San Gabriel Japanese Community Center 5019 Encinita Ave. No Parking Fee 8:30 AM Departure
--	--

Cancellation policy requires two weeks notification.

Return this form and a check payable to **Sid Okazaki** to:

Toni Tomita

 Rosemead, CA 91770
 Phone _____

- I plan to eat with CCA group on Wednesday, May 15, at 5:30 pm – Main Street Buffet
- I am interested in the slot tournament on Wednesday, May 15, at 7:00 pm – Main Street

RESERVATION CUT-OFF - APRIL 5, 2013

Remember Christmas At Uraga?

As I sit here, in December, putting this Chatter together, memories of Uraga, December 24th came to me... We were on the ship, S.S. Matsonia, that sailed across the rough Pacific Ocean from Seattle on December 8th, 1945... so cold and windy... not able to harbor so our Crystal City fellows unloaded all the luggages from the ship to the barge, then from the barge to the harbor, and into a warehouse and guarding it day and night... we owed a huge "Thank you" to these fellows... and the food? Was it really food? Husks of some grain... called "Karasu Mugi" with something that looked like miso-shiru, and a yellow hot water that was supposed to be tea, but didn't taste like it... and the rooms without light? Oh how cold and windy it was even in the rooms we slept in... trying to sing some Christmas Carol... I recall Chonda, Toshi Kamatani and I going around the town, trying to find something to buy to eat. There was some "Oden" that we were able to purchase... not much taste but it sure was better than what was fed at the group table... Seeing so many people from different countries... the little girls from South Pacific Islands in their cotton Muu Muu with only sandals on their feet... the pine boxes containing dead people... the trip to Sendai in trains without windows... it was quite an experience wasn't it? It really makes you appreciate this country... fortunately, many of us found jobs with Military Government soon after, or at Haneda Air Base, so we were able to enjoy good food and warm quarters. I know I enjoyed visiting Haneda, when I had to go to Yokohama to get my passport... it was like a mini-Crystal City with so many of them working there... memories... it was many moons ago, but having experience like that makes you appreciate what we have today, living in good ole U.S.A. So to many of you who traveled to Japan in '45, Hallelujah!!! and Merry, Merry Christmas...!!! Kansha, Kansha!!!

* * * * *

Obituary: Our deepest sympathy and condolence to: **The Shimasaki Family** for the loss of their mother "**Bubbles**" **Hideko Shimasaki**.
Fumi Nakamura for the loss of her husband **Ty Nakamura**.

Satomi Shimasaki
Crystal city Chatter
 Castro Valley, CA 94546



Satomi Koga Ishida
 San Francisco, CA 94116