

MIDSUMMER GREETINGS...!!!

Actually, summer is almost finished...it has been a very cool summer until last week... then...the HEAT was upon us, WOW when it gets hot...it gets H O T! Well, Obon is all over now, and stores are getting children all ready for school...how I remember (many moons ago) the excitement of looking at all the "NEW" note books, folders, pencils, erasers etc. etc., even though I had old last semester's notebook, etc., I always enjoyed looking at and getting new supplies...they have so much today...Starwars, Wishbone, Coke, basketball notebook, etc.etc.

Got some stuff for the grandkids...and watched them pick out the "theme" they like...the joys of a child...it's really so nice and pure..."a child's faith"... something we could all abide by.

More articles inside...sumi

PRESIDENT'S CORNER Toni Tomita

Musings from a "recycled" retiree ...Well, I made it to the end of June and have been rehired for the '97-'98 school year. What I learned from this experience is that I function more effectively on a time-task regimen. After working 34 years on a daily schedule of activities, it's hard to break the habit. I like the idea of checking off items from a list of things to do; a sense of accomplishment -- a day's work for a day's living. Unfortunately, some of the "things to do" seem to be permanently etched on that list -- like cleaning out the closet or the garage. Even my daughter's ominous threat that everything will be unceremoniously dumped after my demise, for who would want or have time to pore over all those stacked cartons, has not spurred me into action. Like Scarlett, I'll think about it tomorrow.

Received letters from Mrs. Lunz which included clippings from the
(Cont'd page 2)

Zavala County Sentinel

Crystal City, Texas 78839 Thursday, June 26, 1997

USPS No. 781-100

Japanese group to visit in Nov.

Plans are nearing completion for a visit by a group of Japanese Americans who have ties to the Crystal City Internment Camp which was operated here during World War II by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

There will be about 40 people in the tour group being organized by the Crystal City Association in California which is made up of Japanese Americans who were either interned at the camp or had family members who were. Many of the members were children when they were here with their parents and others were born here.

The Crystal City Association erected a marker at the site of the camp along N. Seventh Ave. about ten years ago.

The visit will coincide with Crystal City's Spinach Festival in November. Sumi Shimatsu, who publishes a newsletter called Crystal City Chatter at Camarillo, Calif., that is circulated among the members of the association, is coordinating the trip. She has been in correspondence with City Manager Miguel A. Delgado over the past several years in making plans for this pilgrimage to Crystal City.

The group will be headquartered in San Antonio at the Holiday Inn Riverwalk. They will come to Crystal City by chartered bus and plan to have a program at the site of the marker.

"We would like to have a program at the site, with a time for remembrance, a quiet meditation, prayer time to remember our folks who had to go through so much."

make a wreath for us."

"There will be a 94-year-old, first immigration lady with her daughter joining us from Denver, Colorado and some of the people who reside in Austin, who although never were in the camp, but their folks were, will be there to see where the camp was."

Delgado said that city staff is organizing a committee to fix up the monument site and other areas of interest. He said if anyone is interested in joining the committee, they should contact Emma Flores at city hall.

The visitors plan to be in Crystal City just for the day, probably on Saturday Nov. 8.

The population of the camp reached its peak on May 31, 1945, with 3,326 persons in detention. Of this total there were 2,547 Japanese, 777 Germans and 12 Italians.

The INS history of the camp notes: "This facility was established to provide a place of detention for family groups: (1) families where the parents were ordered interned, (2) families where only the father was ordered interned and it was decided, after careful investigation by a social agency, that family reunion in an internment camp was the best solution, (3) Japanese families residing in War Relocation Centers where the father was interned and it was not considered safe from a security stand point to permit the internees to rejoin his family in a War Relocation Authority Center, and (4) entire family groups who had been brought to the United

"President's Corner" cont'd

CRYSTAL CITY PILGRIMAGE IN NOV.

local Crystal City newspaper. Yes, they know that we are coming! Sumi has been working closely with City Manager Miguel Delgado on the logistics of our one day trip to the camp site. The city staff is organizing a committee to fix up the monument site and other areas of interest. Thank heavens for dedicated people like Sumi! I've said before that Manzanar has Sue Embrey, Heart Mountain has Bacon Sakatani and we have Sumi. All three continue to give their time and energy so that our camp stories are not forgotten. Sumi's task has been more difficult as the Justice Dept.'s camps are not as well known as the ten WRA camps. I still meet Japanese Americans who think of Crystal City as a camp for the "bad buys" or high risk enemy aliens.

I don't think Sumi realized what a task she undertook when she said she would organize our pilgrimage trip. But thanks to the able assistance of Kim Takahashi and others who are quietly working "behind the scenes", this pilgrimage trip will be a memorable event for the fortyplus former internees, family and friends who have signed up. Sumi and I are working on the program to be held at the marker.

Japanese American National Museum Update -- we are so close to \$150,000! It's not too late to be a part of the CC donor wall listing. Please send all donations to the JANM. attention: Ms. Florence Ochi, Los Angeles, CA 90012 AND labeled "Crystal City". Toni (OR send the check out to JANM to me, sumi c/o CC Chatter, Camarillo CA 93010, and I will make sure that IT WILL REACH Florence Ochi. ((See page 5 insert with total amount to date. Thanks.))

I thank you CC friends for all the GREAT SUPPORT that you all give us...The SPIRIT of CRYSTAL CITY not only LIVES but GROWS, AND GROWS....
sumi

We have a busload to Crystal City, Texas... It will be one of the most memorable event that we will have...and what makes it so special is that we will have three Issei women over 90's...

Mrs. Otari Kaneko	San Diego, CA
Mrs. Nobue Nishii	" " "
Mrs. Maruko Ishiyama	Denver, CO

Two Nisei women who were married to Issei men over 80's:

Mrs. Chiyo Fukunaga
(The other person will meet us in Crystal City from Austin, TX)

Five from Hawaii:

Fumiko Fukuda	Honolulu
Yukiko Fukuda	"
Kay Uno Kaneko	Holualoa, HI
Jimmy & Shiz Kato	Hilo, HI

Two from Colorado:

Maruko Ishiyama	Denver, CO
Haruko Ishiyama	" "

One from Seattle WA:

Marion Goshu Fukuma

One from Portland OR:

Miyako Kobayashi

Two from Bay Area:

Maru Hiratzka	Oakland
Dion M. Shimatsu-Ong	Castro Valley

Six from Sacramento:

Kanji & Shizue Nishijima
George & Masako Okabe
James & Tomi Tanaka

Five from San Diego:

Otari Kaneko
Akiko Matsumoto
Nobue Nishii
Chiyo Masumoto
Jody Masumoto

L.A., Orange County, Ventura County:

Yae Aihara	Yone Takeuchi
Sumiko Yamaguchi	Tomo Mizukami
Ayako Saito	Akemi Yasuda
Kim Takahashi	May Hamada
Diane Takahashi	Sachi Maehara
Miyo Eshita	Hats Nakamura
Toni Tomita	Ruby Sakurai
Hideo & Ets Kasai	Betty Fukunaga
Dorothy Oshima	Atsuko "
Sid & Yukie Okazaki	Chivo "
Julie Okazaki	*(See page 3)

(C.C. Pilgrimage, cont'd)

A SPECIAL LETTER TO THE EDITOR (Permission from Kenji Takeuchi)

July 3, 1997

Nicki Yokota
Chris Yokota
Robin Yoshida
Paula Shimatsu-U.
Derick "
myself...sumi

Dear Sumi:

We have filled a bus and will have another small bus or rent a van...but we decided not to turn anyone down...because it is our one and only pilgrimage that we will have.

This letter was a long time in coming. I guess there are several times in one's life when a "must do" needs to be done, and this is one. I am very proud of my family. We have been through a lot living in America. I include myself in that group, but really it is my elder brother and sisters that, for me, really have paved the way in my life. Without their support, guidance, and example, I don't know where I would have ended up. I have been fortunate in having not 1 but 4 great sisters and one great brother, who have been the source of my inspiration and good fortune in life.

I was pleasantly surprised that my children and grandson wanted to go...Five of them and one 11 years old grandson will be going...

I could talk about all of them for hours, but at this time I would like to single out my sister, Toni Tomita. As you know she is the current president of the Crystal City Association. All I can say is, "WOW", what a lady. She never ceases to amaze me. From the days living at home and watching her and my other sister Itsu play and frolic. (My mother would say "fuzaketa" or something like that which meant "fooling around".) She has been the source of constant delight and inspiration to me and the family. As I grew up being the youngest, I watched her get married and raise a family, and now be a grandmother. All through those years she always kept herself busy. Besides her responsibilities as a school teacher, she was involved with organizing her church activities. You know, the family picnics at parks or beaches. And of course, since mama died, we have been having the Thanksgiving dinners at Toni's house for almost 25 years. I thought when she retired last year, after over 40 years teaching and from the position of vice-principal, that she would finally have some rest and time for herself. But nooooo, she's at it again. Working part time, no way, it's full time once Toni gets a grip on things. But I would not have it any other way. Don't ever change, Toni. I love you the way you are. To me this saying epitomizes my sister, "It is better to give than to receive". I remember that she used to always say that when I was growing up. I truly believe that she has exemplified that in her life.

So, we are well represented with Isseis, Niseis, Sanseis, and Yonsei...also now we have Hawaii, Peru, and Taiwan represented so I must say, it will be really great!

We also have some meeting us in C.C. from Austin, TX...so we look forward to adventure 52 years after we left...

More information will be sent out way before the Nov. date so y'all wait...will keep you with any, all info necessary for the trip...if you have any question, don't hesitate...call or write, I'll promptly answer you.

Sincerely,

Kenji Takeuchi

OBON NO AJI...TASTE OF OBON.

Obon festival is now history for 1997...our heritage of all the festivities..ondo, bazaars with games...and the food...ahhh, the smell of the BBQs...the lines waiting for different tasty ethnic food and non-ethnic food...cold drinks, sno-cones...etc. etc.

P.S. Here is a contribution to keep the newsletter coming. You know I look forward to reading it. I was born in camp near the end of the war, and there are not many of us. I didn't get to experience the camps as you or my siblings did, but from the tales and talks at every family get-together and from reading the Chatter, it's like I was there. Thanks for doing the work that you are doing.

The art of tea ceremony, flower arrangements, bonsais, so many things going on at all the temples...IT WAS SO NICE TO CONTINUE THE RICH TRADITION OF OBON FESTIVAL!

What a wonderful tribute to a wonderful person!!! Often, one never or seldom hears words of such praise about their sisters or brothers...so it's even more amazing praise...but all true!!!

First, thank you very much for your very generous donation... I really am glad that you enjoy it and get so much out of it...I do put my 'heart and soul' into each issue...Crystal City was a very important part of my life...to have both my father and mother TOGETHER after year and a half not having him around...it's hard for many to understand what it was like for separation from one or both parents with unknown future outcome...

(Cont'd on page 4)

(Letter to the Editor Cont'd)

Today, we look back and feel real good, ONLY because inspite of the obstacles...we all are living quite well, and have enjoyed a fulfilling life...our parents paved the difficult path...and having to walk through the ups and downs of "hills of life", and giving us Niseis opportunities...therefore giving the Sanseis more opportunities...I'm very very grateful to their undying spirit, their "Yamato-damashi"...that which was instilled in all of us somehow...and rubbed off even unto our children and their children...up bringing of youngsters wasn't overnight stuff...it's something that we grew up with...the "shitsuke"...upbringing.

Witnessing today's world, it was this that made difference in our lifestyle...it began with the examples our parents, teachers lived every day. So often our society wonders how to work out what's happening to our youngsters "out there"...it starts at home...every day.

I read an article about Tiger Woods and his extreme gifted golf game at such a very young age...but what makes this young man set apart from many gifted, rich athletes is his personality and character...his love and care and respect for his father and his mother...THIS sets this young man apart...

Anyway...didn't mean to get "preachy"... just observance of what our camp was, is how we are today!

In many way, many may wonder why I love Crystal City...it was only little over 2 years that I was there...but it was the many things I learned in my formative years which makes me appreciate the people...and molded me into what I am today...and many of the CC friends also have that special quality.

June 14, 1997

Thank you Sumi, for all your efforts in arranging this trip and other matters. We are looking forward to seeing you again.

Also please find enclosed, check/donation to help offset newsletter expenses. I have read some of the items in CC Chatters to my father-in-law, Frank Matsumoto (90 yrs old) (as well as to my mother). He was in Poston Camp III, but knew most of the people who went to Crystal City from this area.

As you may have already read in JANM and JACL newsletters, the exhibit on the early

Nikkei in San Diego (photos & artifacts) will be on display through August 10, 10:00 am - 4:30 pm (Wed - Sun) in Balboa Park. It's entitled "The 100 Year Road: Japan to San Diego. A Japanese American Journey" and is being co-sponsored by the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego and S.D. Historical Society. You may want to stop in and see the exhibit if you are visiting S.D.

Take care! & Many thanks again!!!

Alice Akiko Matsumoto

Hi Alice,

Thank you very much for the donation and for your letter...I was not able to make it to San Diego...have been wanting to but I can see now that the deadline for the exhibit is today...I know that my father in his early photography days used to take many panoramic pictures of farming out in Chula Vista...he made rounds to Imperial Valley, Fresno, many outlying farms so the farmers could send these photographs to Japan to show their family how well they were doing...

Thank you for sharing the Chatter with your mom and your father-in-law...you know now that I have to try to this newsletter interesting and informative...quality of the Chatter is essential...

Will see you in November...it will be a very memorable event...

Very sincerely yours,

sumi

July 5, 1997

Dear Sumi,

Thank you for all the work and time you put into the publication of the Crystal City Chatter.

Please accept my small contribution to defray expenses.

I was a young child in Crystal City but the Kanogawas and the newsletter make me feel and realize that I lived those years among very special people.

Sincerely yours, Frances Nakamura (Takahashi)

Dear Frances,

Thank you for the donation to our Chatter... it's the lifeline of the paper...I'm glad that somehow, you "feel" that Crystal City camp was exceptional...it was in every way...those who were abruptly arrested were so grateful to be together with their family...and those of us who were apart from our parent (s) felt so "anshin" (relieved)...and to top it off, home cooked meal was better than any mess hall food.

(Cont'd on page 5)

I have been told that when I talked of Crystal City, that I spoke with "PASSION". Many who were small or were babies in camp tell me that they not only learn about why Crystal City seemed so close and why their folks and siblings had warm feelings about this camp...it helped them to not only understand, but feel "close" to CC.

It was a place of warm, friendly place. We all greeted everyone we saw with "Hi", "Kon-nitchiwa", "Ohayo", etc..."aisatsu" (greeting) was the norm...the Yancha boys (mischievous) who delivered our milk and ice every morning, their greetings...always laughing and joking around...the moms going and coming back from "markets" with their wooden carts...with their friends...and THE FAMILY WAS ALL TOGETHER...AGAIN! No mess hall lines, no messhall...HOMEFOOD.

You learn a lot walking different paths. Crystal City was my "opening up" period of who I am...so it goes...

Take care...and thanks again. sumi

June 24, 1997

Dear Sumi,

Being geographically located in Northern California, I always feel that I am on the receiving end of the efforts put out by the Southern California Crystal Cityites, to whom I am very grateful. And especially to you, Sumi, for keeping up the Chatter which I have enjoyed reading over the years. Thanks!

Please accept my small contribution to defray some of the expenses you are incurring.

Sincerely, Yosh Oshima

Hi Yosh,

Thank you very much for your donation... I am very grateful because it is paying for the expense of copy service and postages, other little \$\$\$ that adds up but fortunately, you and others are keeping me busy... and the expense is met...you have no idea of how much I appreciate it!

I know that we here in So. Cal seems to keep things moving, but we did appreciate the Monterey Reunion when all the No. Cal. friends pulled together to have that great get-together in '93.

Here, we're fortunate in having dedicated souls who are always supportive and the backbone of the Association...a phone call brings CC friends together for meetings, the very

successful fund-raising drive for the J.A.National Museum...we're still collecting to make the new goal of \$150,000...as Crystal City will make the special wall...we really didn't think that we could even hit \$100,000. but, all the efforts and drive of the CCites who successfully got friends to donate through our camp.

We are very fortunate to have many CC friends who do not mind meeting periodically, and unselfishly give their time for the group...it's not because we're So. Cal. people...we're CC friends who happen to live in this area...and want the very best for whatever we are backing...

Without their continued assistance, even this newsletter would not, could not be sent...last edition, Issue 35, our friends couldn't help so I had my son Derick and I sent out the 515 copies. It took us almost 2 days, and we were both so exhausted...won't want to do this again...so, I'm even more grateful for the Chatter girls...they know who they are...

Thanks again, sumi

A very sad letter from Mr. Matsubara

Dear Sumi:

July 4, 1997

This is to inform you that Shizue Suzie Matsubara, who was also on your mailing list, unfortunately passed away on April 26, 1997.

Due to a stroke, this happened very suddenly, and we are all in a shock as she worked till the day before. She was taking her afternoon nap and never woke up.

She was only 53 and was just an infant when re-located, so there is no memory of camp life. She is from the Nakamatsu family.

She enjoyed reading your articles, and was sort of interested in the trip to Texas and was reading books on Texas.

She was fortunate to obtain her redress funds back in 1993. She finally naturalized last December and was a U.S. Citizen for only four months (She was from Peru).

Thank you for your newsletters, and keep up the good work.

Very truly yours,

Hiroshi Matsubara
Husband
Todd, son
Lynn, daughter

Dear Hiroshi-san,

There's no words to express my sorrow for your great loss...I know what it's like to lose your spouse suddenly...it leaves you in total shock. I hope you and your family will recover from the loss.
(Cont'd on page 6)



JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Date: June 30, 1997

To: Crystal City Campaign Committee

From: Florence S. Ochi, Campaign Manager

Re: Post-Victory Campaign Update #2

Campaign Goal: \$150,000
Raised to Date: \$133,590

We're still in the campaigning mode! Thanks to Yae Aihara, \$4,000 (She's continuing her work on donor wall gifts); Miyo Eshita, \$100; Sid Okazaki, \$100; Sumi Shimatsu, \$100. And, the May 8th mailing to Crystal City Association members did well, with \$11,560. The total donations received since our last campaign report is \$15,860. **Our new campaign total is \$133,590.** We need \$16,410 towards our new goal of \$150,000. The campaign is doing exceptionally well and isn't it just wonderful?

If you have not been at the Museum recently, please come to visit. Exciting things are happening:

1. A new exhibition on Sumo will be opening this week,
2. The new Pavilion construction is much more visible with the steel going up.

We'll keep you posted on the progress of campaign contributions coming in for Crystal City Campaign.

Please feel free to contact me at (213)625-0414 ext.224 if you have any questions and/or concerns. I miss seeing you and hope you'll invite me to a future meeting of the Crystal City Association. Thanks.

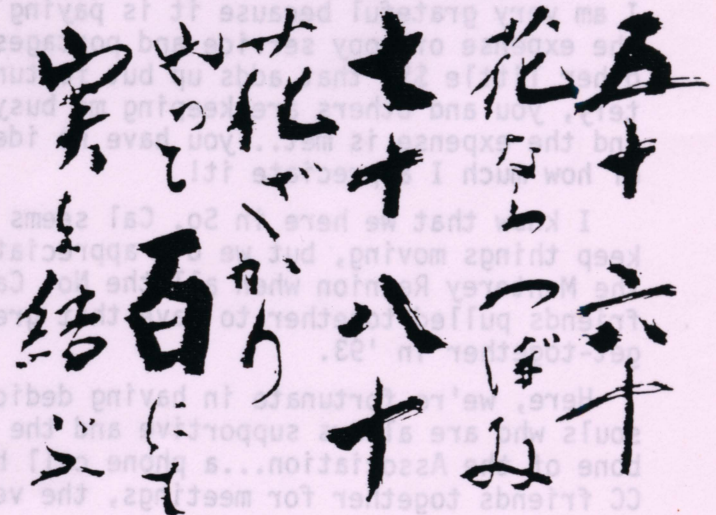
(Cont'd from page 5, Letters)

I'm glad that she enjoyed reading the Chatter...and thank you very much for the donation to the newsletter.

Again, with regrets and sympathy, sumi

I also received a copy of the Zenshuji calender that has the writings that Yamashita Sensei expressed in his article last month about being young even at 70's and 80's...as it is printed here...I thank you

*Fifty, sixty years, just a flower ready to bloom.
Seventy, eighty years, a flower in bloom.
Finally, at one hundred, one bears fruit*



Campaign For Justice -Redress Now for Japanese Latin Americans!

P.O. Box 214/ Gardena, California 90248/Telephone: (213) 626-4471/Fax: (213) 626-4282

American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California •Japanese American Citizens League
Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project •National Coalition for Redress/Reparations

August 4, 1997- Progress Report From Campaign For Justice

Dear Friends,

As you know, last August the Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project helped to establish Campaign for Justice to seek inclusion of Japanese Latin American internees in the Civil Liberties Act. Since the founding of this campaign many individuals and organizations have become involved in securing redress for Japanese Latin Americans. We owe our success to you.

HIGHLIGHTS OF CAMPAIGN 1996-1997

Filing Suit- On August 28, plaintiffs Carmen Mochizuki, Alice Nishimoto and Henry Koshio Shima filed a class action law suit against the US government (*Mochizuki Vs. The United States Of America, US District Court*, subsequently transferred to the US Court of Federal Claims, #97-294C). Campaign for Justice was founded to support this effort. **The Japanese American Citizens League, the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations, the American Civil Liberties Union and the Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project** combined resources to educate the public and to galvanize the US government to address this issue.

Making Headlines- On the day of the filing of the suit, Campaign for Justice held simultaneous press conferences in Los Angeles and San Francisco which received excellent media attention. **CNN, NBC 4, KCAL 9, FOX 11, PBS KCET** television and National Public Radio News covered the event. Front page articles appeared in the **Los Angeles Times, the New York Times, Washington Times, the San Francisco Examiner, and the Oakland Tribune**. In total, over sixty papers, television networks and radio broadcasts ran stories on Campaign for Justice.

Grassroots Action: Broadening Our Political Base- Next we tackled the dual task of educating the public and creating an action that would send a message to the highest levels of government by initiating a letter writing campaign to President Clinton. Five months and over twenty presentations later we secured over 4,000 letters from the US, Japan and Peru.

Ms. Mochizuki Goes to Washington—In March 1997, we sent a nine member delegation to accompany the 4000 letters we had gathered to Washington DC (Carmen Mochizuki, Alice Nishimoto, Art Shibayama, Grace Shimizu, Julie Small, Ayako Hagihara, Kay Ochi of the NCCR, Fred Okrand of the ACLU and Robin Toma). There we held a press conference where we called on President Clinton to amend this wrongdoing. **Members of the House of Representatives Patsy Mink, (D-Hawaii) Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific Caucus and Xavier Becerra, (D-Los Angeles), Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus** joined us in condemning US actions and urging President Clinton to provide redress. The Honorable Patsy Mink took custody of our letters and later delivered them to White House.

CNN Nightly News picked up the story and dozens more TV, radio and newspaper agencies covered the event. Media accounts of our delegation reached California, Missouri, Illinois, New York, Hawaii, Europe, Latin America, Malaysia, and Japan.

During our visit we met with key members of the government and community to solicit their advice and endorsements. **Representatives Howard Berman (D-CA), Tom Campbell (R-CA), and Robert Underwood (D-GU)** all pledged their support. We also met with aides to **Representatives Lucille Roybal-Allard, Ronald Dellums, Stephen Horn, Bob Matsui, Nancy Pelosi and Senators Daniel Akaka, Barbara Boxer, Diane Feinstein, and Daniel Inouye**. Former Congressman **Norman Mineta**, and **Karen Narasaki, Executive Director of the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium (NAPALC)** also endorsed the campaign.

UPDATES

Legal: Mochizuki Vs. the United States was transferred to the US Court of Federal Claims in April. Since then there has been no significant change in the status of the law suit but we expect to see some motion in the coming month.

If you have not yet filed a claim we urge you to do so and send us a copy.

Political: we are waiting to hear on a possible meeting with White House Chief of Staff, Irskin Bowles and possibly Clinton himself.- We will keep you posted.

Outreach: The Lutheran Church, the United Methodist Church, UCLA Undergraduate Student Association passed national resolutions in support of redress for Japanese Latin American internees.

THE YEAR AHEAD: NOW IS A CRITICAL TIME FOR REDRESS

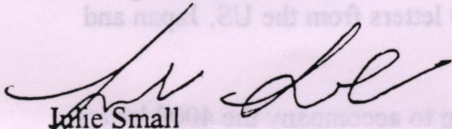
With the sunset of the Civil Liberties Act quickly approaching in August of 1998, the next twelve months are really our best and possibly last chance to see redress won for Japanese Latin Americans. Campaign for Justice is doubling its efforts to pressure Clinton to settle the law suit.

- We are going to return to Washington DC this fall build support in Congress, and in the White House.
- We are broadening our support through alliances with other civil and human rights organizations.
- We are keeping in the press and in the public eye.
- We are laying the groundwork for legislative and international law remedies

We thank you for the support you have shown us over the last year. We couldn't have done this without you. This year we ask for an even greater commitment. Please consider volunteering your time and/or making a donation. Anything you can give will significantly increase the chances of winning redress for Japanese Latin Americans.

Thank you again for your help and attention. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Best regards,



Julie Small
Assistant Director

P.S. Please tell your family and friends about our activities.

Supporting Organizations: the Asian American Drug Abuse Program, Inc, Asian Bar Association, Crystal City Association, Emma Lazarus Jewish Women's Committee, Japanese American Historical Society of Southern California, Japanese American Bar Association, Korean American Bar Association, League of United Latin American Citizens, the National Lutheran Church, Lee Young Discussion Group, National Asian Labor Alliance, Nikkei International, Perukai of Peru, Philippine American Bar Association, Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association, United Methodist Church.

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE



Relative remembered: Trudi Kaneko takes a photo of her grandson Stephen with his great-grandmother Otari Kaneko at Fort Rosecrans Cemetery. They visited the grave of relative Shuji Kaneko, who died in the Vietnam War.

The touching story behind a photograph

I thought the story behind your photograph of Otari Kaneko and her great-grandson visiting a grave at Fort Rosecrans (B-1, May 26) might be of some interest.

Prior to 1941, Kaneko was one of 17,598 Japanese living in Peru. After Pearl Harbor, the U.S. government encouraged the Peruvians to detain and ship to the United States 1,800 Peruvian Japanese, including Kaneko, her husband Kakuaiki and their four children. All were sent to a detention facility at Crystal City, Texas, where they were to be used as bargaining chips in case Japan refused to return American citizens held in that country. As it turned out, Japan repatriated American civilians.

At the end of the war, our government tried to return the hostages to Peru, which refused to take them back. The U.S. authorities then attempted to return them to Japan as "aliens who had illegally entered the country." After a successful action in federal court, these former residents of Peru, including the Kaneko family, were allowed to stay in America.

Shuji Julio Kaneko grew up in San Diego and later enlisted in the U.S. Army, rising to the rank of sergeant. He was killed in combat in Vietnam. It was his grave that Kaneko was visiting.

DONALD H. ESTES San Diego

EX-CRYSTAL CITY PERUVIAN-JAPANESE MRS. OTARI KANEKO

How ironic that Mrs. Otari Kaneko, who was one of the many Peruvian Japanese who were taken hostages from Peru to become a pawn for exchanging of American POWs, lost her son in the Vietnam War, fighting for the country that forcefully removed them from their homes in Peru...somehow, it doesn't seem "right" or "fair" does it?

Today, many Peruvian-Japanese, working, living, retiring in this country are still fighting for apology and reparation for justice...and receiving redress that many of us have received. It's long overdue, and this is what Carmen Mochizuki, Alice Nishimoto and Henry Koshio Shima (see page 8 & 9) are fighting for...the Crystal City Association also supports them 100%.

PLEASE...PLEASE SUPPORT THEM! Especially fellow Peruvians who already received yours!

HELP THEM!!!

A buddy's tribute to a brave soldier

Re: "The touching story behind a photograph" (Letters, June 10):

Staff Sgt. Julio Kanero was my friend and "foxhole buddy." He was one of the bravest soldiers I had the privilege to serve with.

He always volunteered for the point during recon operations and listening posts during hours of darkness. On a number of occasions, we shared the same foxhole and talked about days past and future after Vietnam.

His being in Vietnam (the way he put it) was to fight against all evil and injustice that causes pain and suffering to mankind. He did more than his share for that cause.

PAUL BERZINS, U.S. Army (Ret.) San Diego

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

There were many donation to the Crystal City Chatter and I thank all of you for your generosity...Several of you were really generous with your huge donation, and not wanting to have your letters and/or your name printed in here, I will keep you anonymous, with a BIG THANK YOU, VERY, VERY MUCH. I guess that means, I must continue typing, putting together newsworthy items to make sure you'll all be interested...meanwhile, I will keep you pilgrims to CC up-to-date...let's make it GREAT!

I thank Kenji Takeuchi for his letter and for the generous donation...I've always admired the Takeuchi Family...my father who does not socialize at all...a "mukuchi" quiet individual who played "Mah Jong" at their home every night in Crystal City...I thank them for having him over...my father was a hard headed, cantankerous "ganko" person but very honest and he respected this special family...so they are a big part of my life too!

OBITUARY:

Our deepest and heartfelt condolences to: Belated condolences to Yasuko Hirokane for loss of her husband, DENTA HIROKANE back in June of 1991.

The Matsubara family...Hiroshi, Todd & Lynn for the loss of SHIZUE SUZIE MATSUBARA.

The Matsumoto family...Sally Hayakawa Matsumoto and two sons...for their loss of husband and father, SHOW MATSUMOTO.



Only that day dawns to which we are awake.

Henry David Thoreau

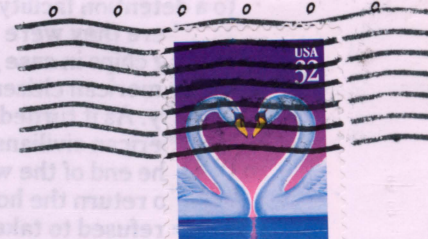
*If your mind isn't clouded by unnecessary things,
This is the best season of your life.*

Wu-men

*Renew thyself completely each day; do it again, and again,
and forever again.*

Chinese Inscription cited by Thoreau

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