

2-18-98

Grrrr.. YEAR OF THE TIGER

CHATTER'S TEN YEARS OLD!!!

"Gung Hey Fat Choy"...it's that time of the year again..the Chinese New Year of Power and of progress of the Tiger...it's also "Gō no Tora"...more powerful than the usual tiger so we hope it will be a year of good, progressive and solid...definitely, a healthy one for everyone...it has been a very rough year for many...colds, flus, and other illnesses...so take care ..."omoide"..(memories)...during Ww II, I remember the mothers of the GIs going to war, sewing "Sen nin bari" "Hara maki"s...an abdominal wrapper made of white cotton material with people sewing 1,000 knots in red thread to protect the soldiers...if you were born in the year of the Tiger...you were the most popular person to have sew on the "knots"...for you had to sew your age instead of just one knot. Needless to say, my mom and I were very glad that we were not born in the year of the Tiger...I always felt so sad for those mothers who were so worried about their sons...hoping that the "Sen nin bari" (one thousand needles) will keep them safe, and bring them home...

Wow! I never realized that I would be starting, let alone continuing a newsletter for so many people all over this country and beyond. Where has time gone...and somehow we covered lots of important things together as the CCA worked together for the Museum (JAN Museum), raising mega bucks for the new building (and is it going up fast) ...the Family Expo at Convention Center, the many reunions and picnics, the Redress Fight for the Peruvians...we have covered a lot of ground and were able to let all of you know the "latest"...including the very successful Pilgrimage Trip to Crystal City!

This camp...though small, has lots of clout! We have a loud voice...and our camp was only about 2300 at any one time...though we all gathered from Hawaii to Peru...with this mainland in between...we are one in spirit!!!

And now, we are on Web site...I found out through our new friend in San Antonio, Leslie Burns, the video camera gal who's putting together documentary about Crystal City, interviewing people (and she will be interviewing more... Please be available May 7, 8, 9 and 15...will let you know more later)...we don't know the Webmaster but am grateful to be on the Web...amazing isn't it? It is: <http://www.scu.edu/SCU/Programs/Diversity/reunite.html>

I hope y-all understand that language cuz I don't, yet. So this paper will be 10, and still going strong, if not stronger...THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU-ALL VERY MUCH.

So, "Happy Birthday to Chatter..." 10 years old! Wish I could have the birthday cake to cut and share with y'all...(of course, no calories, fat, sugar, well, no cake)

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WE REGRET...that we will not have the "From The President's Corner"

Toni Tomita...our president and the writer of this section is not able to write this edition...she's recovering from eye surgery and so we will miss her input but she will be back...bouncing high as ever...soon...take care, and rest well...it's time you took R and R, even if by necessity...

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BANZAI!!! HURRAY!!! A GREAT SUCCESS!!!

Our fantastic Crystal City friends raised...\$176,125.44 for the Japanese American National Museum!!! We first thought \$100,000.00 was too high of a goal...but we all tried...when we hit and went over that, we shot for the \$150,000.00, and we not only made it, WE HAVE GONE OVER THAT GOAL...we all thank you very much. It took everyone's effort...and though it was one of the most difficult challenges that this group accepted, (and many really could not go out to ask for money...I'm one of them...but somehow, we gave it our all...). So to each and everyone of you..."DOMO ARIGATO GOZAIMASU"...(Thank you very much)...we did, what most of us thought was impossible...WOW...WHAT A GROUP!!! Again, I say, THIS is the SPIRIT of our Crystal City friends...we CAN!!!

Thanks to our co-chairpersons, Yae Aihara and Sei Dyo for their effort...we all appreciate your great work. I thank many of you who sent your donations directly to the Museum, and to many of you who sent it to me, I forwarded it directly to Florence Ochi, Museum's Campaign Manager. AREN'T YOU ALL PROUD OF OUR GROUP? EACH OF YOU, TAKE A BOW!

"SHINNEN-KAI" Our first CCA Meeting with Sanseis for our 1998 Picnic

We had 43 people at our very first CCA meeting at Sei Dyo's Center...delicious Bento Box was prepared by Goichi-san (who makes our picnic spread) of Azuma Restaurant in Gardena...so we had wonderful lunch, and desserts from Angel Maid Bakery in Mar Vista...(Real delicious), compliments of the Chatter...and had another great meeting of minds with the youthful group. It was so great to see all the children of us Niseis getting their heads together for ideas and I don't have all the list of the Sanseis who were able to come...many of them are mothers and fathers having to take their children to basketball, etc. different activities...so some of the "regular" Sanseis were not able to come. One new face that we had with us was Kanji's daughter Jane and her husband Gary...it was really nice to meet her and will be active with the Sansei Race/Game group...maybe her dad and mom will come to our picnic August 16th with the rest of the Sacramento group...Tomi and Tom Tanaka, George and Masako Okabe, of course, Joy Gee...and many others up there at our capital city.

Toni is always organized and got the meeting going...first by presenting a nice clock for Sei and Yets Dyo for allowing us to always have the meeting place...they not only allow us to use the place with kitchen facility, etc., but are hospitable host and hostess with our drinks tea, coffee, cold drinks...etc...and another clock with "Appreciation" words to Sid Okazaki for being our perenial treasurer...then with class, presented him with the bill for the two clocks...and before Toni could begin the meeting, a gavel with inscription of "Appreciation" and as President "Ad Infinitum"..she gets the JOB DONE...AND DONE WELL!!!

We learned that Alan Taniguchi, who designed our marker at the Crystal City camp site, passed away in January of this year...we had just seen him looking very healthy, and he was one of our speaker at the Pilgrimage in November. We send our heartfelt sympathy to his family and to his brother in Fresno, Dr. Izumi Izzy Taniguchi. The CCA sent a telegram to his son Evan in Austin, Texas.

So, we ended the meeting with the beginning of a new era...Sanseis helping us Niseis with our Bi-Annual picnics...the Niseis will have "sitting"down games so we don't have to exert ourselves with strenuous running races/games...remember when we had those games for our Issei parent? Well guys, we're there...now...we need all the help we can get.

The meeting was successful, and thank everyone who came...appreciation for taking time out of your Saturday to spend it planning...remember, another meeting at Sei and Yets Dyo's clubhouse on May 16th at 1:00 p.m. See y'all then.

\* \* \* \* \* " EL NINO "

Several weeks ago, I was sort of "pooh-pooing" the "El Nino" effect...thinking that the weather people are making a mountain out of molehill...well, I guess they were right...What a mess up and down California and Florida...the playground of United States...and the poor farmers are facing disasters, along with many, many people flooded (again), mudslides, and surf pounding...name it, it's been very, very messy and very, very wet!!! again.

I was up north in the Bay area and was caught up there...not being able to do anything but stay indoor...took my son-in-law's mother from Hawaii to see her friend, but never got there. It was no time to drive much...and the wind was gusty and strong...so while I'm gone, I find out that Camarillo was flooded too. Lo and behold, most of my fence down below is wiped out by mud slide...and was amazed to see the piles of sand/dirt on the side streets...it looks like piles of sand to bag for blocking the rain/mud as many were doing...but it was sand/dirt that came through our back and out to the side street...and down to the main Las Posas Road.

It's the first time we've ever had "flooding" here in Camarillo...but I guess there's always "firsts" especially for people who "pooh pooped" El Nino...and the rain is still forecasted...so we won't have "draught" in California this year...we can all flush the toilets and not have to re-use "gray" waters.

Hoping you're all okay with this wet, wet weather...be careful and stay warm and dry... Needless to say, I am very respectul of "El Nino"...you bet...

"LIFE IN JAPAN..." Joy Nozaki Gee

The Japan trip as a volunteer English teacher for my church gave me a good view of present day Japan. Which was little different from the Japan we had heard and read about before the war. The only annoying change was that many Japanese seem bent on becoming an Imitation American, in the worst sense as the label "Made in Japan" used to connote prewar. I looked around and said where are the new Japanese, those who forged a reborn nation that rose from the ruins of defeat to become the second greatest economic power of the world? Where, where? As a Senior Fellow at the Yomiuri Research Institute wrote to me special delivery upon receiving my lengthy letter on what needs to be changed in Japan, he believed that the Yamato Damashi left Japan a hundred years ago to North and South America. (The SPIRIT of Japan). Our Issei parents were the Last of the Mohicans, the Japanese at their best?! Another Senior Fellow at the Institute came to UC Berkeley as a visiting professor at the School of Journalism, and he phoned me and asked me to lecture to his class on my experience in teaching English in Japan. It was only three months, but he said that is fine, so I went and gave my subjective viewpoint. He taped all three hours, then wrote an article for the Daily Yomiuri (Japanese newspaper) discreetly changing my name to something else. The interesting thing is that all Japanese seem to be aware of the problems that would reduce Japan to the status of a second rate nation, but nobody wants to go out on a limb. I asked this professor how about writing a book with me to shake the Japanese, but he likes the security of a steady paycheck and rocking the boat may unsteady that paycheck. So nothing is done.

Oh well, South Korea is in heap trouble right now, and a short while ago they were posing a threat to Japan as a serious rival. But Japan is in heap big trouble, and it is good they are finally acknowledging it. The Japanese mind, that is what has not changed a whit. You were in Japan recently with Sensei, so probably you and I could sing a duet groaning about it.

Now for how things were in May-July 1997 in Kaizu, Japan. Two of us went, the other being Hannah Satow, a retired elementary school teacher (retired sounds old, but she is a year younger than I.) We lived in a little house next to the church which was only 20 X 40 feet, but it had two bedrooms, bathing facilities (nihon buro (Japanese bathtub) for Hannah, shower for me so I got out of scrubbing the hot tub), Western toilet (all Japan should convert to the Western toilet, for with few exceptions, there are always people who miss the mark so the restrooms *smell*), living room, study, kitchen, and an area where we put on and take off shoes. It also had all the modern conveniences, such as a microwave oven (better than the models here, as it could actually bake, grill, etc), hot and cold running water, two-burner gas stove, a washing machine that is a disgrace to the engineering profession, air conditioner that begrudged its cool air, color TV, toaster oven, rice cooker, and a hot pot that was always hot.

The rooms were small, so that in the kitchen I had to always walk sidewise, and Hannah who is tall had to take baby steps. I taught 18 classes and 554 students each week; 14 of the classes were middle school (12-14 years old), three adult evening classes, and one sixth grade class. I also translated the pastor's sermon brief into English on Saturdays and Hannah wrote it down (as you know, my handwriting is worse than atrocious, enough so that Sensei exempted me from copying the text for class use) and it was passed out to non-Japanese speaking attendees (maximum 2) on Sundays. Hannah taught public grade school classes, church classes, and attended the church ladies' meeting and other church doings including evening meetings. We both went to church every Sunday.

The church provided us with a micro-car, which is great for you have seen how narrow the roads are. Our one lane is their notion of a two lane. And we drove on the left, chanting, "left, left, left" as we drove. But on a right turn, we sometimes automatically turned to the right lane, and we scared a couple of truck drivers agape. Oh yes, since Kaizu where we taught was rice country, most of the roads had rice paddies on either side, so another car coming from the other direction was always a dreaded happening, for you could be in for a dunk in the drink after a five foot drop. So when Hannah was driving, I would poke my head out of the window and note how precariously we were at the edge of the road, and I would be yelling, "Go right! Go right!" which she found amusing since she couldn't see that we were two inches from the edge. When I am driving, Hannah thought that I was going to scrape the side of the buildings, hit the bicyclist, knock over the mail box and the like, and in her restrained manner, would comment "You are pretty close on the left,"....., which really meant "Eeeeeek!" and I smiled benignly because I knew I had at least a two-inch margin from any object. (Cont'd on page 4)

("Japan"--Joy N. Gee, Cont'd from pg 3)

Also, in Kaizu, which is not a village, not a city, but a town, they do not build curbs on the same level as the sidewalk. Instead, the curbs rise in 10-inch splendor by themselves, standing eight inches wide. So anyone looking only at oncoming traffic to the left and right and making a sharp turn to the left would hear a horrible screeching sound, and you find that you cannot go forward nor backward: the underside of the vehicle is grinding and scraping the top of the curb. That is because three of your car wheels are on one side of the curb, and one wheel is on the other side. Fortunately, we were just driving out of the farmers' market, so the banana vendor we had been patronizing came bounding forward to see what was happening, and decided that lifting the car so that all four wheels are on the same side of the curb was the only option. He fetched a couple more men, and with a couple of heave-ho's, our dilemma was solved.

Aside from endangering our physical selves and occupants of oncoming vehicles, as well as possibly wrecking the church car in our custody and hence our heavy responsibility, I was further motivated by the \$4 a gallon gasoline cost so that my primary mode of transportation was my feetmobile. To school, grocery, hardware store, cleaners, post office, drug store, et al, with an ever present backpack to carry things to and fro. The car was reserved for adult night classes, and supermarket and farmers' market shopping which were not fooling distance.

The streets in Kaizu had no names, so any destination further than the immediate vicinity posed a problem. Only short hops permitted us to get by with the standard directions which were variations of "turn right at the post office, then turn another right at the flower shop, then left at the drug store, then go straight until you come to the shop that has sign that says "Suzuki Electric," and make a left, and it is three houses down on the right side with an auto shop across the street". So to ensure our safe and prompt arrival and return from points that exceeded three miles, the church ladies and pastor would be our chauffeur, always in a grander car, such as a compact car, which is bigger than a mini and towered over our micro. It is insane to import American behemoths in Japan, as it strikes terror into all those driving from the opposite direction (of course, the Japanese in the American car has no such feelings, rather au contraire). Even when I see a mini-car coming my way, I would drive over to the side as much as I dared, including the front entrance of a private home, and promptly stop. Let the other car hit me, not me it. Always, fortunately, the other driver was skilled in skin-close quarter driving, and I and my car escaped unscathed.

We got to go places too. We went to see a famous water fall "Yoro-no-Taki"; to Takarazuka to see the all-girls revue at their home theater; to Kyoto and Kiyomizu temple, the Golden Pavillion with real 24 carat gold trimmings, a Japanese Universal studio type tour, and ancient theater; to Osaka to see the magnificently restored Osaka Castle which had been heavily damaged by the Allied bombings; and finally, on our way home, to Tokyo where we spent five days going to the National Museum, Tokyo Tour of tourist spots designed especially for Westerners; shopping in various famous districts; and Korean scrub at a fancy bath house (the scrub includes massage, fearsome bone cracking, facial, and shampoo), and fireworks by the Sumida River.

I was working up to the last minute, making tapes of the first and second year textbooks (over 100 pages each), a lecture of how to speak English to be played to every class at the beginning of the semester, and pronunciation tape to be played once a week. Hannah and I also listened endlessly to the Japanese TV programs (sit-coms, talk shows, cooking classes, newscasts, variety shows, etc) to pick up English words that had been converted to Japanese merely by pronouncing it the Japanese way, such as "cake" becomes "ca-ku", and get this, "vinyl" becomes "bi-ni-ya-ru." We compiled over 800 such English words, made an alphabetical list, and taped the proper English pronunciation with Hannah at the mike, reading the word, with a pause so that the student could copy her. We watched the Sumo Tournament in Nagoya from Day 7 to Day 15, and was it hefty fun!

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I thank you very much Joy for "interesting" really "eyewitness" view of Japan, and all that you did...I guess we're pretty lucky in California...we do have great streets, highways, and freeways...just terrible drivers...but we don't have to face the challenge you faced in tiny, very scary, narrow roads...Joy is our "On The Road" writer like Charles Kuralt was...so Joy, where next?

Letters To The Editor:

Excerpts from Christmas letter from Charles McCollister...

---fun trips in '97...:"to Crystal City for the reunion of all the Japanese from the Internment Camp where Dad worked and we lived during World War II."..."As to my "baby", (GM EV-I, first electric car that Charles was able to get hold of...and has been on local TV, news, and last month in People Magazine) the Electric car--it has 12,000 smiles on it and is now 1 year old. It now has a name "VOLT ROD. (on its environmental license plate.) I'm still very proud of it. Both my GM EV-I and Honda's EV-Plus, over 300'lectric cars now ride the road... "It still stops traffic however and wherever it goes and I still get media interviews every week. The car and I were featured this year on CBS, PBS, CNi, the learning Channel and Popular Science Magazine. If you get the Reader's Digest the January 98 issue, it has my story...WOW -- sooo exciting..."

I'm sure that you're enjoying the new splash effect this car has...I remember way back when RX 2 came out and I enjoyed driving the sports model...people wanted to see the engine under the hood, asked all kinds of questions...but above all, with all the cars I've had (and I've had quite a few...love cars) RX 2 Mazda, with it's first rotary engine was the most fun. It was very quiet and speed...WOW...it was really neat...The Datsun 280 ZX was great with the Turbo, and my Plymouth Fury was great with its large engine and great horsepower...but the RX 2 was the most fun...5 speeds and all! Read the Reader's Digest and watched some of the news with Charles...Well done Charles!!! Have fun!!!

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Dear Sumi-san...This will acknowledge receipt of the December issue of Crystal City Chatter with 20 pages full of news about memorable trip to Crystal City, Texas. If I were 10 years younger, I would also have joined the group as I have dear memory of what had happened when I as a newscaster, announced Japan's surrender on August 15. It was not very pleasant as I was called a traitor that afternoon. What made it worse was that the camp was split into 2 groups - "KATTA-GUMI" and "MAKETA-GUMI"...(Winners group and Losers group)...The Katta-Gumi simply refused to recognize the fact.

Also, some years ago, the Crystal City-ites in San Francisco had invited Mr. O'Rourke to a dinner at Yamato Restaurant and had a pleasant evening. Another incident is that the hearing officer at the naturalization hearing was Mr. McCollister. He was surprised to see me and vice versa.

I'm enclosing a Nichibei-Times clipping for your reference, and a check for a token amount for the Chatter. Sometime ago, you gave me an undeserved praise about my English. It's undeserved because I was 10 years old when our family immigrated to U.S., and had received American education, and in some respect, feel more American than Nihonjin.

It's that time of the year when ladies especially Nihonjin, are very busy as we celebrate Christmas AND "Oshogatsu". (Japanese New Year). So, I close with a very Merry Christmas to you and yours, and a Very Happy 1998!

Sincerely,

Hisao Inouye

Dear Inouye-san...I am so grateful for your letter that reveals so much...

We niseis really don't know too much about the "Katta-gumi" and the "Maketa-gumi"...all I recall was the real Japan-loyals...or the "pro-Japanese" used to call many who believed that Japan surrendered, were not only disloyal but out and out traitors...an "Inu" (dog)...so I was really amazed at the many on board the S.S. Matsonia, including a Japanese school teacher who continued to argue with a fisherman in a sampan boat, in the Uraga harbor, whether Japan had won or lost...and still refused to believe the truth...the women in "Kapogi" (apron) who bowed their heads as we landed...apologizing for "losing the war"...etc. etc. I could still see these scenes, 52 years since Uraga...it must have been frustrating for you as a newscaster to have to face them...

I know of one friend who was in Hiroshima during the war, whose father returned to Japan from Tule Lake believing that Japan won, and that he would be given gifts and rewarded with parades and banquets, etc., so he never packed clothes...went back with the suit on his back...she was so angry at his "stupidity"...he also left first, leaving rest of the family in Tule Lake.

(Cont'd on Pg.6)

If you could relay any other "omoide" (memories), please write and let me share your stories with other C.C.ites. Thank you very much... sumi

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Dear Sumi...Happy Holidays to you and your family. I finally had prints made, so the pictures enclosed are yours (Miya Kaneko was thoughtful and put snapshots into a small album for me). While putting the album together I had a chance to reflect back to that weekend. Thanks to you, your wonderful children, Toni, Kim and whoever else took part in putting together our Pilgrimage. I had previously been to a Peruvian reunion with my mother and had felt I was rather on the side lines since I didn't know anyone. This experience was completely different. I'm sure you could tell...I took pictures of everything. I was overwhelmed in the feelings I had of being where I was born, and couldn't seem to take enough pictures because I didn't want to forget anything.

I felt sad and happy at the same time. Sad for what all of you went through, and yet happy that I now feel connected in knowing where I was born. My mother (Mrs. Otari Kaneko) had a wonderful time and would also like to thank everyone. She and Mrs. Nishii would talk for hours in one of our rooms, on the bus, every chance they had. I can't thank you enough for the opportunity you gave us.

I had lunch at the airport (since I had a 3 hours wait) with the Sacramento group. I got to know them and heard their stories. Good health to everyone. Miya Kobayashi (Kaneko)

Dear Miya...Thank you very much for the album with all those wonderful, memorable snapshots. I had no time to take pictures with so much to do and keep track of...so your snapshots (all put into a lovely little album that I could carry around)...and other snapshots that many of the Pilgrims sent gave me memory evoking pictures that tells the story of our trip. The only picture that I don't have but have in my memory is of your mom and Mrs. Nishii enjoying the barbeque at the County Line...and your mom saying "I wished they had bottles of the sauce so I could take it home and pour it over hot rice"...I'm so glad that the Issei women all enjoyed this special trip with us. Again, thank you and I'm glad you were able to get so much out of this trip...to visit your birthplace...and am glad that you felt part of it instead of on the side line. Take care...

sumi

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Dear Sumi...You amaze me about all you accomplish. I am sure that others agree with me. In fact, in my recent telephone call to Tomoko, (Toni) she asked whether I had received my copy of your Crystal City Chatter, and after we both agreed on its content, she said, "Isn't she wonderful." Notice that I did not use a question mark as she made it a declarative statement.

I have not had a chance to see the tape that Leslie sent me. (I sent it via Leslie Burns), I am very grateful to you and your son. Leslie said that his is better than hers.

I am also thankful to hear that you have five children. I am thinking of all the accomplishments they will make by multiplying their mother's influence by five. I would like to see them in action. I am proud of my two children as they oo lead very useful lives.

Best regards, Lee (Mrs. Lee Lunz)

Dear Mrs. Lunz...(cannot address you as "Lee"...been taught by my mom to always address our elders, and teachers with great respect...and you're both so double the respect". First, I have SIX...not five children...and they keep me on my toes...with today's world, the knowledge that they have...they keep me alive and active...four came to the Pilgrimage and all six would have been there if the other two could have...for they are very supportive and are what keeps me alert and alive. More than anything, they care and share...and to me, that is very important...

I hope that you enjoyed the tape...I sent them to Leslie and asked her to send one down to you...we've been communicating regularly...and Toni and I are setting up interview time and getting C.C.ites to "tell their story"...she will be in L.A. May 7, 8, 9, and 15th...Aug. 16 for the picnic...thank you very much for your kind thoughts...Chatter became my life. It's like my baby...and has been growing ...with all your letters and thoughts...thanks... sumi

(Cont'd on pg. 8)

"GISEI NO JIDAI"...Generation of Sacrifice

Some time ago, I was talking with Yae Aihara, and she commented that she was so proud of Toni and myself for having gone to College/University and accomplished something that she had always wanted...a degree...and so she said that C.C.A. having both Toni and myself as leaders ...having gone to higher education and having the degrees and "clout" to be able to speak for our organization...I never thought about it, but we have many very intelligent, capable niseis who could have gone to higher education and would have been able to have the type of employment that many of the sanseis enjoy today. I think of Tak Takeuchi, Miyo Eshita, Yae, and many, many of our nisei friends who worked hard, right after the war...helping their parents to move and create homes...from hostels and shared living quarters all over.

In Japan, many of our friends worked at Haneda Airbase, and many military government, and other places...GHQ, Wartime Tribunal Courts, etc...it was "home" to us Niseis because we were able to enjoy our English speaking surroundings...having generous American GIs share their many goodies w/us, allowing us to have our American way of life in wartorn Japn...it gave us sanity in a very chaotic world! They worked, but was not able to continue their higher education either...yet some did return and worked their way into Universities...many of the niseis who stayed out here worked and helped their families to create a nest and nest eggs to build again...it was not easy...the isseis were all older and needed the energy and assistance from their older children.

Then again, those from Peru had either to go to Japan or to stay in foreign country, and learn and earn in new language...culture...in Seabrook Farm...wondering what was ahead for them.

It never occurred to me how our older nisei friends gave up dreams of learning and earning with higher education...but having it brought up to my attention, I realized there were many out there who could not fulfil those dreams. For myself, I had 2 art scholarship that I did not use.. because I married right after high school (child bride?)...only after my husband suffered his first heart attack at 35...then several after that, that he registered me into L.A. College of Chiropractic...knowing that one day, I will have to support 6 children...and knew that income was not adequate as IBM worker at Security National Bank...it was not easy... in fact, I must say, it was damn difficult! Matching brains with just graduates from college and universities...learning medical terminologies...23-25 units per semester was something I would not have chosen...but with the support of my husband and my six children, who really worked around their student mom, (and I had to be an "example" of what I always told them... do your best...work hard, study hard...it was up to you to make something of yourself)...and being a student from 35 to 39 years old was not what I would have chosen for myself...

So, out of critical situation, with the total support of my family...I earned that sheepskin and 3 days of State Board Exam...the license was earned...so...yes, the higher education is available...and useful...but the road to that success taught me more...and I know that the road that the many niseis took to rebuild the family home, business, structure built the type of character that they can always be proud of...the "YAMATO DAMASHII" (Japan's Spirit) of today...the continued inherited spirit that the issei pioneer handed down to us as those who sweated "blood, sweat and tears" or "Chi-shio"...that "Gaman" (perseverance)...so, as much as we who graduated colleges/universities...have degrees and the sheepskin...I have the greatest respect for all of you who did so much for your folks/families to rebuild your home and some of you helped your folks with work...gardening, nursery business...stores...house work/school girl jobs...many other work to help bring in the income necessary...

I salute all of you...the success today is through all of your hard effort. Our children have had to work hard and study hard...but the door was opened by the example of the isseis, the "Doryoku" (effort) of the niseis, the sacrifice of the arrested parent (s), the sacrifice of the men in uniform during the wars...especially the 442nd, 100th and the MIS...so, I say... THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH FOR THE SACRIFICES...THE "DORYOKU" (effort), "Tsurakatta desho"..(it must have been heart-breaking)...YOU and our isseis are the FOUNDATION of the Nikkei group!!

The article by Joy on "Life In Japan", page 3..."Yamato Damashi (Spirit of Japan) left Japan a hundred years ago to North and South America...and like the Japanese that we speak is considered "classic Japanese"...of Meiji Era...not the Japanese spoken today...so we niseis have inherited the very best from Japan...and have proven it in our successful lives.

Dear Sumi...A big Thank You to all of you for a memorable pilgrimage to Crystal City. Even though I don't remember anything from "camp days", it was a very emotional event for me to return after all these years. It was especially significant that I could be there with my sister to provide closure for my deceased father and my blind 90 year old mother.

May the new year provide new and exciting experiences for you and your family...  
Happy New Year Ayako Saito

Dear Ayako...it was so good that you could join us from San Jose...it really was a wonderful, memorable trip and am glad that you felt the same...even in the wildest dream, I could not foresee the effect that this trip would have on all of us...so many have written or said to me that they wished that they had gone...and some from those who were not even in Crystal City, or one person who never was in any camp...thank you for your thoughts...sincerely, sumi

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I Thank many of you who sent me Christmas cards, donations to the Chatter, many wonderful notes/letters of appreciation for the newsletter...there were so many that it would take up quite a page in listing and typing in the messages...but it is all very much appreciated...the many kind words, thoughts...and the donations that keeps this Chatter going...thank you!!

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To continue letters...January '98:

Dear Sumi, I had received your Chatter earlier but what with the busyness of the holiday season, I didn't read it until today. It was such an emotional experience just reading about your pilgrimage to Crystal City -- how much more so it must have been for those who went. Thank you for sharing it with us in your usual enthusiastic and informal way. I would like to order the video, so am enclosing a check to cover that and some extra to help with expense.

My mother, Yasashi Ichikawa, is now 90 years old, and has slowed down physically but her memory is better than mine. She appreciates receiving the Chatter, however, since she doesn't read English, she would like to be dropped from the mailing list. She thanks you for all the copies she has received.

The CC Chatter is really the glue that binds us. There must be many like myself who don't participate actively, but by reading the newsletter feel very much in touch with the rest of you. So many mental images came to my mind as I read the pages. The swimming pool was the center of camp life for us in the summer. Ida Kuge Morikawa and I use to spend entire days in or near the pool -- you can well imagine the tan we got under the blazing Texas sun. Tsutomu Akata was our instructor who taught us to dive. Whenever you write about your Japanese schoolteacher, Yamashita Sensei, I think about my teacher Araki Sensei, who use to keep our interest by reading chapters from Miyamoto Musashi. We would listen transfixed to this romantic novel. He was a great teacher. I realized that later.

So, thanks to you, to Toni and to the rest for all your hard work.  
Gratefully, Ets Osaki (Ichikawa)

Dear Ets...Perhaps you could tape or write down some of the thoughts and memories that your mom has about the camp...we haven't too many isseis around to give us their "omoide" (memories)...like when we had Alice Matsumoto tell us about the conversation with her mom...it is something that I would like to put into this Chatter...the many thoughts of the Isseis...if many out there have issei parents...please send me their memories about our camp...the readers would really like to know how they felt...

Thank you very much for your donation and your order for the Pilgrimage video...I hope you enjoyed it...take care...Portland must have its share of the winter rain...but here in L.A., and especially my being in Ventura County...this El Nino rain with the Pineapple Express rain accompanied with the high winds is causing quite a havoc today...many streets, highways, even freeways has closure...and although I'm supposed to drive up north...am waiting until the weather changes...take care...stay warm...thanks again. sumi

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" DŌ GEN'S 4 GREAT VIRTUES: 1. Charity 2. Kind Words  
(Buddhist Priest) 3. Good Works 4. Empathy

(Letters...Cont'd from pg. 8)

Dear Sumi,..."Akemashite Omedeto Gozaimasu...Kotoshi mo dozo yoroshiku!" (In beautiful Japanese lettering...)(Happy New Year...Let us have a good relationship again this year)...(That is the best I could do on this sentence...I know it is not exact...it actually would be different...but it's so hard to really do "true" translation sometimes).

First of all I want to thank you in behalf of the PERU-KAI people for your kind support for the "Campaign For Justice" urging your readers to write letters to President Clinton, updating the progress made on the Campaign, etc.

Congratulations from the bottom of my heart for the successful, fantastic and meaningful pilgrimage trip to Crystal City. The last C.C. Chatter was really special. We are very grateful for this special issue with all the emotion and moving experiences expressed, which permitted us to share that mixed feelings you all felt at the former camp site, recalling those unforgettable camp days.

I was very much moved and heartwarmed to read your children's letters, so thoughtful, they are truly "Oyakoko" neh? (Dutiful - respectful of parent). I've enclosed a small check to keep with postage.

Wishing you all the best for the year 1998 (I believe it's CHATTER'S 10th Anniversary neh? Please do take care and again, thank you.

Love, Yuriko Tanaka, from Lima, Peru.

Dear Yuriko-san...your Japanese and English penmanship is just beautiful...I really appreciate your thoughts...your generous donation...and remembering that this newsletter is 10! I doubt many remember this paper's birthday...but somehow, you have great memory and your letter expressing how the Pilgrimage evoked so much emotion...we were all surprised that we all felt so much...even those who never were in camp, or those who were very young, or was born in camp were stirred emotionally...watching our issei women was wonderful...as they all put incense up (although the wind was so great, we couldn't light them all...but it was the thought)...I could feel how they were touched greatly, for I took them up one by one...introducing who they were and where they came from.

Thank you again for always supporting the Chatter, and writing to me periodically to let us know that you're well...take care, and looking forward to future letters... Love... sumi

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Dear Sumi, ..First of all, I want to thank you for mailing me the C.C. Chatter news. I also want to thank you for your support you have given the Campaign for Justice.

On February 10th, our delegation including myself will be traveling to washington D.C. for the Court hearing and also to meet with the Congress members to make another push for the Redress.

Your kind and thoughtful support helps us to keep fighting for the justice that is long overdue to the Japanese Latin Americans.

Enclosed please find a small donation to help defray some of the mailing expenses.

Sincerely, Alice Nishimoto

Dear Alice...I pray for you and your "Campaign for Justice" success...yes, it is long overdue and justice must be met by this country...I commend you, Carmen and many of the others who have been working hard to fight this injustice! "Gambare gambare!!! Kokorokara inotte imasu" (Fight on, fight on...I will be praying from my heart).

SO EVERYONE...OUT THERE...PLEASE SEND DONATION TO "CAMPAIGN FOR JUSTICE" FOR OUR MANY FRIENDS FROM PERU WHO WERE IN CRYSTAL CITY INTERNMENT CAMP:

Gardena CA 90248

\* \* \* \* \*

Happy Tiger Year to you! Grrrrrrrrrowwwww! Let's make it a terrific one full of kindnesses, large and small, and delight in the ordinary as well as extraordinary. Let's be healthy, full of vigor and chi and restrained by no limits. Let's welcome the flow of wealth and abundance into our lives -- on a permanent basis -- so that we can enjoy the gift of generosity and giving. (Cont'd on pg. 10)

(Letters...Cont'd from pg. 9)

We are already trying, in our own unique and peculiar ways, to make a difference in our worlds, large or small as it may be. We strive for balance but end up doing whatever's necessary, in our faces, due tomorrow and whatever. Not this year. I'm going for the gusto. I'm not sure what that means yet, but I know that means I come first. No more of this "taking a back seat to anyone" or enryo (hesitate) or pushing myself because of "on" or "giri" (obligation).

I am going to make sure each decision I make is in the best interest of me, then mine, etc. I can no longer assume that I can "do it all" and expect my body to deal with the resulting stress. Unh uh, I am taking better care of me so I'd just better put myself up there on the top of my list where I belong.

Oh, I'm not going overboard and throwing myself a party or asking everyone to focus their attention on me; I'm just quietly revolutionizing my way of thought and at the same time, those of my family.

Anyways, these are some thoughts...not resolutions...for this coming Tiger year...gotta grab it by the tail and make it run where I want it to go...

Anonymous

Hey...I like that! Many of us allow ourselves to become the "sacrificing" souls who allow others to be "first" in attention...and according to Japanese women's role...we put ourselves on the bottom of the list..."nokori mono"... (leftover)...maybe that's what Hamlet's "To be, or not to be" is all about...be the best that you can be... we each are worth the best!!! so treat yourself the best!!! Thank you very much for your new image!!!

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OBITUARY: Our deepest and heartfelt condolences to: The Taniguchi Family...for the loss of ALAN TANIGUCHI, who spoke at the Pilgrimage trip in Crystal City, Texas. We appreciate the monument that he had designed for us...

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*"Never be afraid to sit awhile and think..."* Lorraine Hansberry

*"If you can't convince them, confuse them"* Harry S. Truman

*"The art of being wise is the art of knowing what to overlook."* William James

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sumi utsushigawa-shimatsu  
CRYSTAL CITY CHATTER  
[Redacted]  
Camarillo CA 93010



TAD & SATOMI ISHIDA  
[Redacted]  
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94116

*Practice Random Kindness  
And  
Senseless Acts of Beauty*