

JANL The Japanese American National Library Newsletter

January 2006

1619 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94109

415.567.5006

Vol. 8, No. 1

LESSONS IN HISTORY: JANL HOSTS PANEL ON JAPANESE AMERICAN GARDENERS

Professional gardeners are uniquely identified with Japanese Americans. In fact, Japanese American gardeners dominated this industry in California. Before World War II, Issei farmers had the reputation of having a "green thumb," promoting the image that Japanese Americans were the best caretakers of plants. As part of the Japanese American Heritage Lecture Series of JANL, a panel was held last May at the University of California, Berkeley to discuss this topic, based on the recently published book *PLANT, PRESERVE, PROTECT: Professional Gardeners Federation of Northern California*, edited by Lewis Kawahara. The panelists, all gardeners

Before World War II, Issei farmers had the reputation of having a "green thumb," promoting the image that Japanese Americans were the best caretakers of plants.

who were interviewed for the book, included Victor Honda, Jackson Kato, Roy Kato, Fred Sugimoto, and John Yamamoto. Participating with the panelists was Lewis Kawahara, Isao Ogura, and Hisatada Imamura. The moderator was JANL president Ben Kobashigawa of the Asian American Studies department at San Francisco State University.

The history of how Japanese American gardeners became a dominant force in this industry can be traced to the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. Many Issei lost their farms during internment, and after the war, many were too old or did not have enough capital to re-establish farming businesses practices.



Panelists included Fred Sugimoto of San Jose, Jackson Kato of Palo Alto, Victor Honda of Diablo, and Roy Kato of San Mateo. Participating with the panelists was Lewis Kawahara, Isao Ogura, and Hisatada Imamura. The moderator was JANL president Ben Kobashigawa of San Francisco State University.

GARDENERS continues on page 2

INSIDE THE LIBRARY: MEET CHARLES HARGROVE

Charles Hargrove received his Master's Degree in Library Science with a concentration in Archives in 2002. In 2002-2003 he worked for the Smithsonian Institution Archives arranging the papers of 2002 Nobel Prize Winner Riccardo Giacconi and in 2004 worked at the Carnegie Institution of Washington on their Legacy Project.



Archivist Charles Hargrove

ARCHIVIST CHARLES HARGROVE HELPING TO MAKE JANL COLLECTIONS ACCESSIBLE TO PUBLIC

More than just a library, JANL is also an archives, which contains the papers and records of organizations and individuals. The library, in fact, holds several hundred feet of archival materials, including the national records of the Japanese American Citizens League and the records of the JACL-LEC (Legislative Education Committee), the separate entity formed to help lobby for World War II redress.

For a long time these records have been inaccessible due to their lack of processing. Since February 2004, archivist Charles Hargrove has been working to arrange and describe the JANL collections so that they can be opened for general use. By the end of January 2006, both the JACL and JACL-LEC collections should be fully processed with finding aids that

The ongoing processing of these collections has uncovered fascinating items.

describe and list the materials in detail. After that the collections will be fully opened for use. These two collections will provide an invaluable resource for researchers studying World War II internment and redress.

The JACL collection contains newsletters from most of the internment camps, and, more unusually, newsletters from most of the pre-camp assembly centers. The ongoing processing of these collections has uncovered fascinating items, with the highlight being an original Mine Okubo drawing from 1943. The drawing was donated to the JACL-LEC in 1988 and used in their Redress Monitor of February/March 1989. As the collections are still being processed, there are undoubtedly more hidden treasures waiting to be uncovered.

READ "YOUR LIBRARY TREASURES" COLUMN ON PAGE 4

PANEL ON JAPANESE AMERICAN GARDENERS' ASSOCIATIONS

GARDENERS from page 1

As a result, many former farmers moved to urban areas for employment. They learned from others that gardening allowed them to become independent business operators. The need for Japanese American gardeners' associations largely evolved because of the 1955 Maloney Bill in the California State Assembly. The bill was promoted by non-Japanese gardeners to regulate the state gardening industry, requiring a written test on the theory and maintenance of gardening, good moral character, and payment of a certificate fee.

By this time, Japanese Americans dominated the industry. The bill would force out Issei and Kibei whose

main language was Japanese, obviously making it hard to successfully complete a test

Today, Japanese American gardeners are quickly disappearing; Sansei and Yonsei are not interested in the industry. Just as Japanese American pre-war small farming has disappeared, this once vibrant industry is about to become history.

written only in English. Licensing also would increase operating cost. So, by creating their own association, Japanese American gardeners effectively regulated themselves. The association offered the gardeners a collective power to create a credit union, health insurance, co-op, and other benefits. It also

formed a buddy-system in which if one gardener was unable to work, another would continue to take care of his clients. Perhaps the most valuable aspect of the association was that it allowed members to develop camaraderie among each other. On rainy days, they would get together and play cards and develop a bond of friendship. This unity also led to their strong support for Japanese American community causes. Today, Japanese American gardeners are quickly disappearing; Sansei and Yonsei are not interested in the industry. Just as Japanese American pre-war small farming has disappeared, this once vibrant industry is about to become history.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: *AZUMA'S BETWEEN TWO EMPIRES: RACE, HISTORY, AND TRANSNATIONALISM IN JAPANESE AMERICA*

Eiichiro Azuma's recent book breaks new ground in the familiar tale of Japanese American ethnic struggle to become American. Azuma, now teaching at University of Pennsylvania and one of a handful of students of the late Yuji Ichioka, challenges the dominant domestic framework of American immigration history. In its place, he stakes out an alternative binational perspective in which the rivalry of the two racialized nationalisms of pre-World War II Japan and the U.S. created the international context of Japanese immigration. Azuma's foregrounding of the Issei struggle for survival in this doubly racialized context, provides a sharp contrast to the postwar orthodoxy of earlier Japanese American histories which tell the story as a Nisei-centered tale of mass removal and internment during WWII, and a demonstration of loyalty and win-

ning of postwar acceptance as Americans. Instead he focuses on the voice and agency of the Issei, who forged for themselves through the period of migration, racial exclusion, and permanent settlement from 1885 to 1924, and as a

With his ready access to Japanese language materials, Azuma is able to extend immigration history in new directions.

collective identity as "pioneers of Japanese development," which Azuma parses as a response to and synthesis of American ideas of racial supremacy and an emergent racialized Japanese nationalism.

The Issei construct an autonomous immigrant viewpoint, an optimistic, but blinkered vision of their own privileged historical role and a position of 'dual loyalty' which became untenable as

war approached.

With his ready access to Japanese language materials, Azuma is able to extend immigration history in new directions. His study of the Nisei in prewar Japan distinguishes different layers within the group, but discovers an American-ness in the positionality of the Nisei, who were resistant to the nationalist pressures of the Japanese educational programs they were enrolled in and clearly makes them a relevant extension of the Japanese American story.

RECENT LIBRARY EVENTS

May 2005

Panel on Japanese American gardeners of PGFNC. May 7, 2005. East Asian Studies Center, UC Berkeley. A panel program featuring Lewis Kawahara's newly published book on the history of the Professional Gardeners Federation of Northern California. Moderator: Ben Kobashigawa.

June 2005

Panel program commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Battle of Okinawa. June 25, 2005. Union Bank Hospitality Room, San Francisco. Three members of the Northern California Okinawa Kenjin Kai gave eyewitness accounts of the aftermath of the Battle of Okinawa. Matayoshi, president of NCOKK, lead the audience in a silent prayer followed by Wesley Ueunten's Okinawan san-shin group performing Okinawan folk songs. Moderator: Ben Kobashigawa.

Book-signing. Common Ground: The Heart of Community. Talk by James and Lane Hirabayashi and Akemi Kikumura. Saturday, June 7, 2005. JCCCNC. Co-sponsored by JANL.

July 2005

Karl Matsushita, our director, attended the Western Archives Institute this summer, a special training course for archivists. July 10-22. UC Davis.

SWEET SUCCESS: JANL HOSTS MOCHI-TSUKI

Tradition must go on!
It was annual mochi-tsuki time on December 28 at Christ United Presbyterian Church Mochigome (rice) was donated by Mr. George Okamoto of Nomura and Co.

As always, everyone was encouraged to participate in the pounding of the rice, shaping of

the mochi cakes, and eating and socializing all afternoon.

Mochi pounding is a traditional Japanese American cultural practice started by the Issei and carried on by Nisei, Sansei, and Yonsei. JANL has continued the annual tradition since 1968.

JANL'S RECENT ACQUISITIONS: RECENTLY PUBLISHED TITLES

TITLES FROM 2005

- Azuma, Eiichiro. **BETWEEN TWO EMPIRES: Race, History, and Transnationalism.** Oxford University Press, 2005
- Doi, Roy. H. **SAGEBRUSH MEMORIES: Of the Heart Mountain Class of '49.** Roy H. Doi, 2005
- Fiset, Louis. **NIKKEI IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST: Japanese Americans and Japanese Canadians in the Twentieth Century.** University of Washington Press, 2005
- Forrester, Michael. **TSUCHINO: My Japanese War Bride.** American Book Publishing, 2005
- Fujino, Diane Carol. **HEART-BEAT OF STRUGGLE: The Revolutionary Life of Yuri Kochiyama.** University of Minnesota Press, 2005
- Gotanda, Philip Kan. **NO MORE CHERRY BLOSSOMS: Sisters Matsumoto and Other Plays.** University of Washington Press, 2005
- Gruenewald, Mary Matsuda. **LOOKING LIKE THE ENEMY: My Story of Imprisonment in Japanese American Internment Camps.** NewSage Press, 2005
- Hirahara, Naomi. **GASAGASA GIRL.** Delta Books, 2005
- Hirasuna, Delphine. **ART OF GAMAN: Arts and Crafts from the Japanese American Internment Camps 1942-1946.** Ten Speed Press, 2005
- Hongo, Kurenai Tsuneko. **PETALS OF THE VANDA.** Asian American Curriculum Project, Inc., 2005
- Ingram, Scott. **JAPANESE IMMIGRANT.** Facts on File, Inc., 2005
- Ito, Toshiko Shoji. **ENDURE.** Bear River Press, 2005
- Japanese American National Museum. **LOS ANGELES'S BOYLE HEIGHTS.** Arcadia Publishing, 2005
- Kashiwagi, Hiroshi. **SWIMMING IN THE AMERICAN: A Memoir and Selected Writings.** Asian American Curriculum Project, Inc., 2005
- Kikumura-Yano, Akemi. **COMMON GROUND: The Japanese American National Museum and the Culture of Collaborations.** University Press of Colorado, 2005
- McClellan, Ann. **CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL: Sakura Celebration.** Bunker Hill Publishing, Inc., 2005
- Muller, Eric L. **JUDGEMENT JUDGED AND WRONGS REMEMBERED: Examining the Japanese American Civil Liberties Cases on Their Sixtieth Anniversary.** Duke University, School of Law, 2005
- Neiwert, David. **STRAWBERRY DAYS: How Internment Destroyed a Japanese American Community.** Plagrave Macmillan, 2005
- Parkhurst, Liz S. **UNDER ONE FLAG: A Year at Rohwer.** August House Publishers, Inc., 2005
- Pearce, Ralph M. **FROM ASAHI TO ZEBRAS: Japanese American Baseball in San Jose, California.** Japanese American Museum of San Jose, 2005
- Salisbury, Graham. **EYES OF THE EMPEROR.** Random House, Inc., 2005
- Smith, Susan L. **JAPANESE AMERICAN MIDWIVES: Culture, Community, and Health Politics, 1880-1950.** University of Illinois Press, 2005
- Sonoma County JACL. **GIRI: Giving Back, Going Forward** Sonoma County Japanese American Citizens League, 2005
- Tanaka, Gi'ichi. **CRUCIBLE OF TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS: Memories of a Meiji Missionary.** Creative Continuum, 2005
- Tomine, Adrian. **JOURNAL.** Chronicle Books, 2005
- Tomine, Adrian. **OPTIC NURVE: 30 Postcards by Adrian Tomine.** Chronicle Books, 2005
- Yamanaka, Lois-Ann. **HEARTS LANGUAGE.** Hyperion Books for Children, 2005
- TITLES FROM 2004**
- Austin, Allan W. **FROM CONCENTRATION CAMP TO CAMPUS: Japanese American Students and World War II.** University of Illinois Press, 2004
- de Nevers, Klancy. **THE COLONEL AND THE PACIFIST: Karl Bendetsen, Perry Saito, and the Incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II.** University of Utah Press, 2004
- Hayashi, Brian Masaru. **DEMOCRATIZING THE ENEMY: The Japanese American Internment** Princeton University Press, 2004.
- Hibi, Hisako. **PEACEFUL PAINTER: Memoirs of an Issei Woman Artist.** Heyday Books, 2004
- Hirahara, Naomi. **SILENT SCARS OF HEALING HANDS: Oral Histories of Japanese American Doctors.** California State University Fullerton, Oral History, 2004
- Japanese American Historical Society of Southern California. **NANKA NIKKEI VOICES: LITTLE TOKYO: Changing Times, Changing Face.** Japanese American Historical Society of Southern California, 2004
- Japantown Task Force. **SENATE BILL 307, NEIGHBORHOOD CULTURAL PRESERVATION REPORT FOR SAN FRANCISCO'S JAPANTOWN, December 28, 2004.** Japantown Task Force, 2004
- Kawahara, Lewis. **PLANT PRSERVE PROTECT: The Cultivation of the Professional Gardners Federation of Northern California.** Professional Gardners Federation of Northern California, 2004
- Konoshima, Kisaburo. **HUDSON: A Collection of Tanka.** Japan Times, 2004
- Manzanar Committee. **KEEP IT GOING, PASS IT ON: Poetry Inspired by Manzanar Pilgrimage.** Manzanar Committee, 2004
- Miki, Roy. **REDRESS: Inside the Japanease Canadian Call for Justice.** Raincoast Books, 2004
- Mukai, Gary. **DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH: Baseball and** **TITLES continues on page 4**

TITLES from page 3

Japanese-American Internment, Teacher's Guide. Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education, 2004

Ohtaki, Paul T. *IT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO!* Walt and Mildred Woodward Publishers of the Bainbridge Review, Bainbridge Island, Washington, December 1941, During/After World War II. Paul T. Ohtaki, 2004

Yasutake, Rumi. *TRANSNATIONAL WOMEN'S ACTIVISM: The United States, Japan, and Japanese Immigrant Communities in California, 1859-1920.* New York University Press, 2004

YOUR LIBRARY'S TREASURES by STEVEN J. DOI

Your library has a rare, complete collection of documents from May 1942, when Japanese American communities were evacuated and placed in relocation camps. The government issued "Instructions to All Persons of Japanese Ancestry," specifically those residing in California, Oregon and Washington. These instructions named the date and location where "aliens" and "non-aliens" were to report for evacuation, and listed exactly what each person could bring to camp -- all to be securely packaged and plainly marked with the family name and number. Size and number of packages were limited to what family members could carry. Visitors to the library can research their particular pre-war hometown's evacuation instructions and map. My hometown was Loomis, California in Placer County. As I've discovered, researching the order and instructions can awaken latent memories.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: RARE BOOKS BY NIKKEI ARTISTS DONATED FROM THE HIDEO KOBASHIGAWA COLLECTION

Yasuo Kuniyoshi. Yasuo Kuniyoshi. NY: American Artists Groups, 1945. Illus., 64pp.

Undoubtedly, the most famous Issei artist in terms of international reputation, Kuniyoshi first immigrated to the U.S. in 1906 and established himself in New York.

Yone Noguchi, Hiroshige and Japanese Landscapes. Tokyo: Japan Travel

Bureau, 1934. Reprint 1946. Illus., 74pp.

Yone Noguchi, father of the artist Isamu Noguchi, immigrated to the U.S. in 1893 and returned to Japan in 1906. He

was the first Japanese to publish poetry in English.

Koho Yamamoto, Is Anyone Missing A Pigeon? 1988.

Japanese and English. Illus. A nisei artist, one of the post-war New York Nisei artists' group. This small book is a story about a pigeon named Pabla, illustrated by the artist with text in Japanese and English.

Taro Yashima, Horizon Is Calling. NY: Henry Holt, 1947. Autographed copy.

An autobiographical account, continuing the story from *The New Sun*, of Issei artist Taro

Yashima and his wife's struggle against fascism in Japan before WWII, their imprisonment by the secret police, and decision to come to America with their son Mako.

15 Japanese Woodcuts: Produced by 9 members of the Japanese Council to Promote Graphic Arts. NY: Nisei Progressives, 1952. N[ew] Y[ork] Bungei (journal). No. 1 (1955), 3 (1957), 5 (1959), 6 (1960). In Japanese.

Very RARE! A 1950s literary journal of Issei and Kibei-Nisei writers in New York featuring essays, poetry, and stories.

LIBRARY PRESENTS LECTURE ON THE BATTLE OF OKINAWA

The Northern California Okinawan Kenjinkai and JANL presented a panel lecture program on native Okinawans' perspectives of the Battle of Okinawa in June at the Union Bank of California in San Francisco Japantown. In commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Okinawa, the program analyzed the battle from the perspective of people who were located in Okinawa at the time, using short excerpts of actual film footage and a discussion of the battle's legacy. There was also a short performance of Okinawan music related to the wartime experience.

During the battle, which officially lasted from April 1 to June 23, 1945, the U.S. used more ships, put more troops ashore, transported more supplies, dropped more bombs, and fired more naval guns than any other operation in the Pacific. Casualties were extremely high. About 38,000 Americans were wounded, and

12,000 were killed or missing. On the Japanese side, more than 107,000 soldiers were killed. In the crossfire of the battle, at least 100,000 Okinawan civilians were killed. Although the numbers are not clear, many Korean laborers and comfort women brought forcibly to Okinawa by the Japanese military were also killed. Among the 107,000 Japanese killed, included many Okinawans who had been recruited by the Japanese military in the war effort. By some estimates, about one third of the Okinawan population was killed during the Battle of Okinawa. Most of the centuries-old cultural treasures in Okinawa, including buildings, art works, ceremonial objects, and written records also perished. The panelists included Frank Higashi who served with MIS, Yoshiko Sueyoshi, and Maria Bartruff, who was one of a few survivors from the sinking of *Tsushima Maru*.

By some estimates, about one third of the Okinawan population was killed during the Battle of Okinawa.

IN THE NEWS: HONORING HERZIG

Retired Army Lt. Colonel John "Jack" Alois Herzig, a World War II paratrooper and unsung hero of the Japanese American redress, passed away on August 21, 2005 at the age of 83 in Gardena, Calif. Herzig served with the 503rd Parachute Regimental Combat Team in World War II and then the United States Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC) during the Korean War. Together with his wife, Aiko Yoshinaga Herzig, Jack Herzig devoted hours to researching and corresponding with other redress activists to provide key government documents for the *coram nobis* lawsuits overturning the wartime felony convictions of Fred Korematsu, Gordon Hirabayashi, and Min Yasui and the class action lawsuit *William Hohri et al. versus United States*. The Herzigs recently moved to Southern California from Virginia to continue documenting the internment. They contributed their papers to UCLA's Asian American Studies Center.