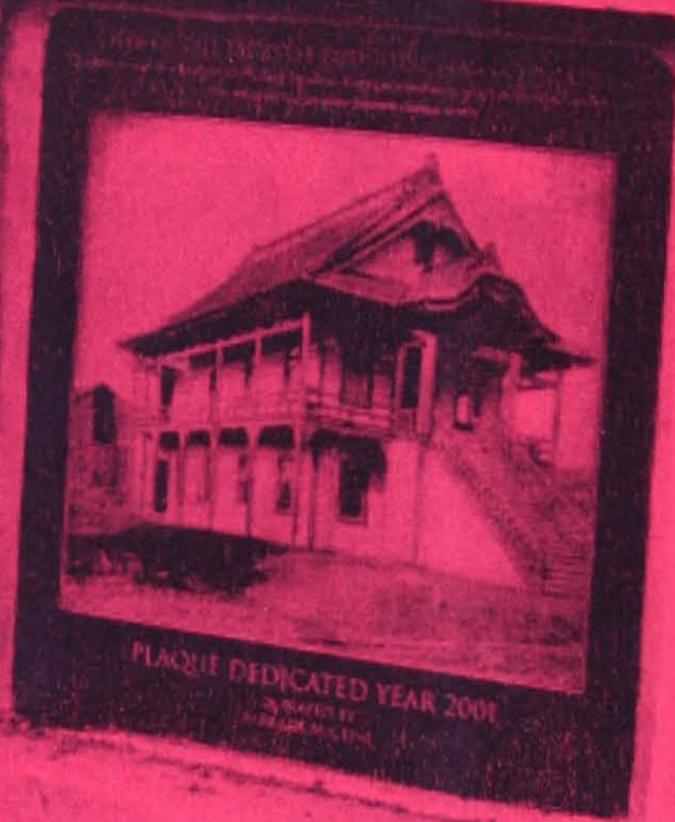


Omo i de

おもいで



Saturday, June 2, 2001

In Memory
Osamu "Combo" Minamide
1915-2001

Osamu Minamide, whose family provided valuable assistance to the Omo i de event and book, died June 20, 2001, in Sacramento after a long illness.

Mr. Minamide, known as "Combo" to his friends, was born in Vacaville on April 27, 1915, one of four children born to Tsunegusu and Naka Minamide, Issei from Wakayama-ken.

At age 6, he went to Japan with his family, returning to Vacaville in 1928. He attended Vacaville High School and was a member of its championship basketball team.

He served as the catcher for the Vacaville Buddhist Church's championship Rough Rider's baseball team, and taught wrestling at the community sumo ring.

After high school, Mr. Minamide went to work in Vacaville's fruit orchards. On April 25, 1942, he married Masako Ichimoto, whose father operated a popular Vacaville candy store.

Within a week, the newlyweds were sent to the Turlock Assembly Center, where Mr. Minamide regrouped the Rough Riders baseball team. It won the Turlock Center baseball championship. They joined



Vacaville's Japanese community at Gila River Relocation Center in Rivers, Arizona, and spent the duration of World War II there.

Upon his release in 1945, Mr. Minamide farmed briefly in Alvarado, then returned to Vacaville to manage the W. H. Buck Ranch in Pleasants Valley. The ranch became his family's home, and they purchased it in the 1970s.

He was a member of the Sacramento Betsuin Buddhist Church.

Mr. Minamide was among the Japanese-Americans interviewed for "Omo i de: Memories of Vacaville's Lost Japanese Community," and his recollections are among those included in the book, which was published by the Vacaville Museum.

In addition to his wife, Masako, he is survived by his son and daughter-in law, Ronald K. and Nancy Minamide; his daughter and son-in-law, Joanne and Zakaria Haleem; his daughter, Dianne Minamide; his brother, Kazuhiko Minamide; 10 grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

City celebrates Japanese roots

Vacaville Reporter June 3, 2001

By Kris Middaugh/Reporter Staff



Dorothy Sueko Saika of Sacramento prays during memorial services at the Vacaville-Elmira Cemetery

Like pieces of an intricate, ethnic puzzle, hundreds of Japanese-Americans came together Saturday in Vacaville to form a near perfect illustration of the word "community."

The gathering took place at several different spots throughout the day in recognition of a new book, published this week, chronicling the history of members of Vacaville's Japanese-American population.

"Omo i de: Memories of Vacaville's Lost Japanese Community" was co-authored by local journalist Karen Nolan and former Vacaville resident Takashi "Tak" Tsujita. Published with the help of the Vacaville Museum, the book focuses on the strength of the proud community - an integral part of the city's history - and does not dwell on the somber tale of Japanese internment during World War II.

Saturday was indeed a celebration, not only of the book's publication, but of the rediscovery of a wealth of local history surrounding Vacaville's Japanese community.

The day began with an 11 a.m. memorial service held at the Vacaville-Elmira Cemetery, then moved to a new kiosk located along Vacaville's Creekwalk. The kiosk depicts the Japanese business district, once a thriving part of the Dobbins Street area. The procession then moved to a site that once housed a local Buddhist Church, where a plaque noting that fact was dedicated.

In early afternoon, more than 250 Japanese-Americans and other local citizens attended a banquet in honor of the book. There, for the first time during the day, attendees had a chance to renew old acquaintances, get to know strangers who shared a common past, and generally celebrate the lives and stories that fill the pages of the new book.

"This is a very great thing," said Mike Takashi Mikumo, a visitor from Japan whose family once lived in Vacaville. "It's very nice to try to tell a true statement of the history of the Japanese here. "Mikumo arrived in Vacaville on Friday along with six other members of his family. He said visiting the cemetery was especially moving because several relatives are buried there. What Mikumo seemed most impressed with, however, was the fact that the book had been published at all - that there had been enough interest in Vacaville's Japanese residents to generate such a work.

"It's surprising to see so many Japanese," he said. "But there are so many older people scattered about. They may be feeling lonesome, or homesick for Vacaville. It (the book) is good for them."

Grace Amemiya was one of the former residents, interviewed for the book, who may have been feeling a bit homesick for her hometown. Valedictorian of the Vacaville High School class of 1938, Amemiya - then known as Grace Obata - went on to attend the University of California at Berkeley. There she met her husband, who would eventually move his family to Ames, Iowa, where Amemiya still resides. All that took place, however, after her years spent in an internment camp. Amemiya and her husband, who died six months ago, lectured for years about the internment camp experience.

"When our generation - the generation who experienced it (internment) - goes, it's something that the next generation will need to know about," said Amemiya. On Saturday, Amemiya was not dwelling on the life-altering experience of spending years imprisoned in her own country. Rather, she was busy renewing old friendships and greeting the many new faces who had come to celebrate the day. The book's co-authors, Nolan and Tsujita, were thrilled with Saturday's large crowd, and the reuniting of the dispersed community.

"It's marvelous," said Nolan. "It's just wonderful to see people's eyes light up as they recognized each other, hugged, and got to speak to each other." Tsujita had similar feelings.

"It's been so nice, we've filled up 260 seats here (at the banquet)," said Tsujita. "We've got so many good people here."

Part of the banquet program included the introduction of 72 members of Vacaville's Japanese community who had been evacuated to internment camps following the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Those individuals represented a total of 333 from Vacaville who were scattered to various camps almost 60 years ago. And although the introductions provided a particularly poignant undercurrent to the day's events, the overall feeling of the gathering remained one of celebration. That feeling continued at a reception held in the Vacaville Museum.

Tsujita was able to express the mixture of feelings that permeated the day. "There is no Japanese community here (in Vacaville) now, but this book will leave something. That's what I like about it," he said.

"Omo i de: Memories of Vacaville's Lost Japanese Community" is available for purchase at the Vacaville Museum. Copies of the book have been donated to local libraries and the libraries of area schools.

バカビル

バカビルで「おもいで」記念行事

10000人の日系史を出版

六十年前バカビルに住んでいた人が戦時収容所に送られて以来、同地の日系社会は今日に至るまでに、ほとんど消滅している。去る六月二日、その昔

バカビルに住んでいた人、出身者やその子供たちら関係者約二百人が州外や日本から参加して、同地日系人史「おもいで」の刊行を祝うにぎやかなリユニオンが行われた。

午前十一時のバカビル・エルミラ墓地での追悼法要から日程は始められ、辻田喬(たかし)さんの司式、湯川孝紹サクラム・ノーランさんと資料収集で執筆協力の辻田喬さんが紹介された。

辻田さんはバカビル関係者七十二人を呼びあげ、出版に至るまでの経過を説明していたが、経済的

でブラック・デディケーションがあり、午後零時半、マクブライド・シニアセンターで昼さん会となった。司会はシャーン・ラム・バカビル博物館長、祝とうを湯川輪番、国旗宣誓は斎藤ジョーさんが行った。

続いて、デービッド・フレミング・バカビル市長、ウィリアム・キャロル・ソラノ郡スーパードライの祝辞、ラム博物館長のあいさつがあり、「おもいで」執筆者のカルメン・ノーランさんと資料収集で執筆協力の辻田喬さんが紹介された。

宮下さんは車いすを使う身で訪米し、お土産に山梨県の日本酒、大吟醸「春鷹嘯」(しゅんおうてん)を各テーブルに贈呈していた。

「おもいで」はバカビル博物館(電話707-447-4513)が取り扱っている。価格は一部三十二ドル二十五セント(税込み)。(サクラメント支社 木村恵子)

な後援者エバ・ベンソン・バック・チャリタブル・トラスト(バカビル)および在日の宮下照夫さん、セネターライオンズクラブ(サクラメント)を紹介、謝辞を述べていた。山開教師だった。午後三時半からは博物館の前庭で茶菓接待のレセプションがあり、有志たちが参加、歓談していた。なお、辻田さんの話では、先般サクラメントJACJが出版した「桜府」の資料集めに協力しバカビル関係を集めたが、「桜府」に載せきれないほど多く、そのまま散逸するにしのびず、独立した「二巻」の刊行を始めたとのこと。

サクラメント

広田 勝子
(916) 395-19726

バカビル史出版を祝う
同出身者ら200人が出席

バカビルの日系人史「おもいで」の出版を記念し六月二日、米国各地と日本から約二百人の同市出身者とその親族が同市を訪れ、記念行事に出席した。

まず、先亡者追悼法要がサクラメント別院の湯川孝紹輪番とワシントン州タコマ仏教会の小山ディーン開教使により、エルマイラ墓地の一角にある日系人墓地で営まれた。小山師の母親はバカビル出身。

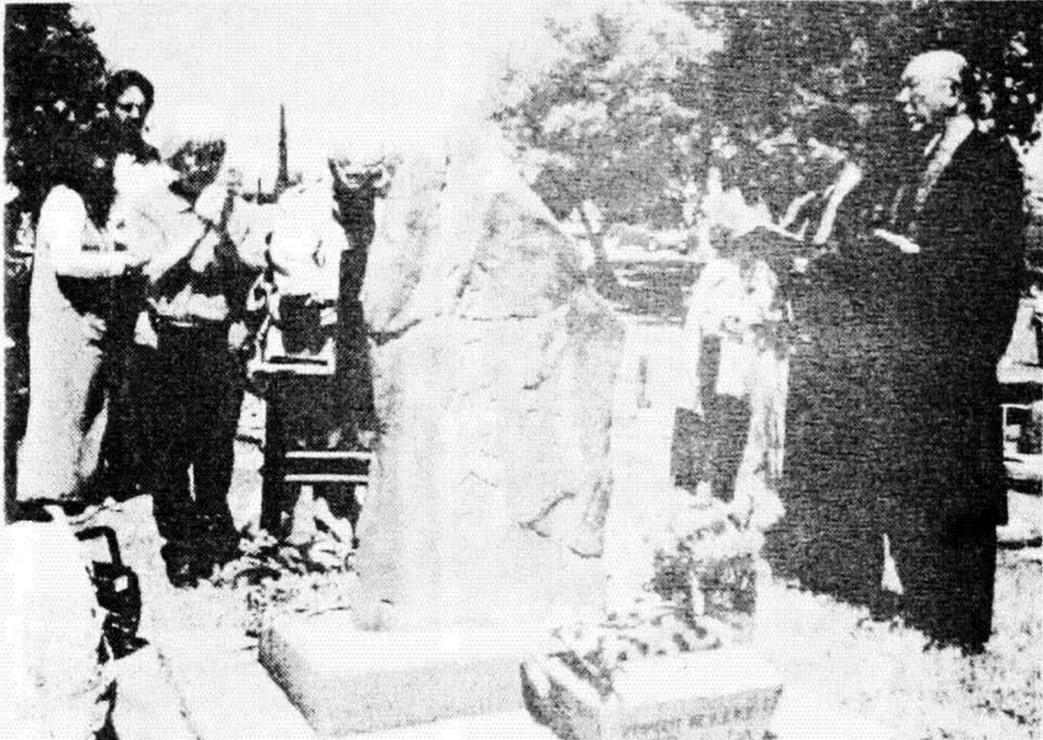
法要の後、一九五一年に焼失したバカビル教会跡で記念碑献呈が行われ、引き続きマクブライド・シニア・センターで記念昼食会が開かれた。昼食会は、バカビル資料館館長のシヨーン・ラムさんの司会で始まり、湯川輪番による食前の合

掌、国旗掲揚があり、デービッド・フレミング・バカビル市長が歓迎のあいさつで「おかげさうなさい」と出席者を歓迎した。ソラノ郡会議員のウィリアム・キャロルさんは、郡議会で二〇〇一年六月二日を日系人の日と定めたと発表し、その決議案を資料館に贈呈した。

野球が好きだというラム館長は、バカビル教会青年会の野球団が着ていたユニフォームを持参、

「純毛の生地だバカビルの夏、これを着て試合に挑んだのはさぞ暑かっただろうが、当時(四〇年代)バカビルのチームは、試合でいつもローダイヤスタクトンチームを負かすほどの強いチームだった」と述べた。また同館長は戦前、強制収容

墓地での追悼法要。右端が湯川輪番、その隣りが小山師。中央の石塔は焼失したバカビル教会にあったもの



所にいる前の二世らの生活を紹介、「戦争のためにバカビルの日系人町は姿を消してしまっただが、日系人の残した功績は忘れられることはないだろう」と語った。

「おもいで」の著者の一人である、カレン・ノーランさんは「過去一年間にさまざまな記録を調べたが、その中にもう一人の著者である辻田喬さんの通信簿が見つかった

記念撮影する、国久さんの弟の宮下輝雄さん(前列中央)と、後列左から宮下家の親せきの三雲隆さん、国久さんの妹の中込菊子さん、輝雄さんの妻綾子さんと娘の和子さん、国久さんの従兄弟の宮下武磨、たま子夫妻



たことは印象的だった。また日本人の名前を正確に記録することは非常に難しいことだった」と語った。辻田さんは一年半前、サクラメント地方の日系人の歴史を調べる

ように依頼され、十ページほどに収めるつもりが百五十二ページになってしまったと語った。なお、同書出版記念行事に出席するため、バカビルで生後一週間に亡くなった宮下国久さんの親族らが同市を訪れた。九年、宮下一家は国久さんの墓を探しに渡米、五年に撮った写真を頼りに、バカビルの墓地で墓碑の名前を一つずつ読んで国久さんの墓を探し当てたという。



Grace
Amemiya
& Robert Amemya



Junji & Patsy
Doami



Louis & Ikue
Fujikawa



Shiro
Handa
& Ineko Mino



Edna
Handa



Jack & Faye
Harada



Keichi
Hayame
Art & Barbara Hayame



Warren & Jane
Hayashi



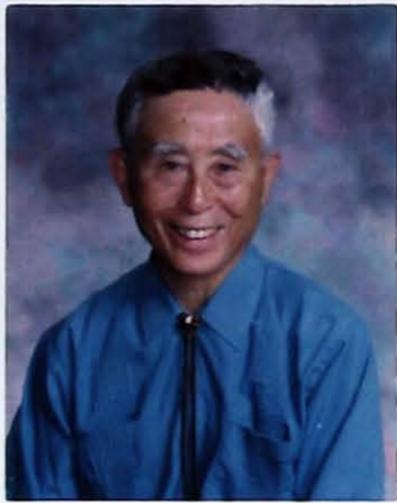
Jack & Betti
Hayashi



Carole
Hayashi



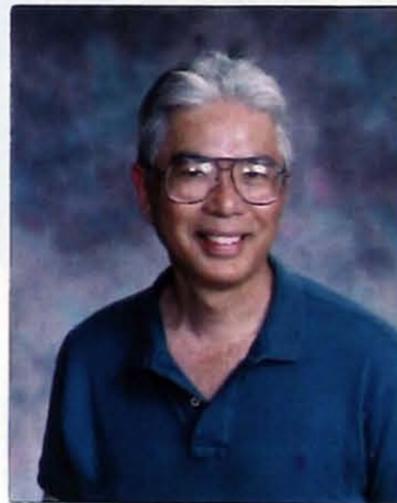
Rev. Reiji & Alice A
Hoshizaki



George
Hoshizaki



Rev. Reiji & Alice A
Hoshizaki
& Carol Barrett



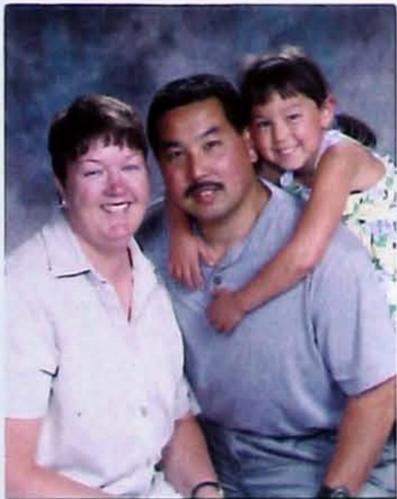
Garry
Ichikawa



Toshiko & Art
Imagiri



Momoye
Kansaki



Jon
Kitamura
Chris & Lindsay



Joyce, Fujiko & Keizo
Komura



Toshiharu & Sumiye
Komura



Fujiko & Keizo
Komura



Craig & Alanna
Koyama



Kenny
Koyama
& Stacie Hiromoto



Yone & Chizu
Kubo



Tony Y & Sumiko
Kusaba



Kaoru
Maeyama



Michiko & Akira
Matsuno



Ben, Nancy & Toki
Matsuura
& Helen Mukai



Gwen Nakahara
Koyama Family
Kenny, Dean & Craig



Sueko & Toyoko
Nakahara
& Michiko Matsuno



James & Sueko
Nakahara



Dan Terukazu & Ann
Nakamura



Noriaki & Rose
Nakamura



Richard & Kaoru
Nakamura
& M Miranda & J Dimoff



Yoshio & Tatsuyo
Nakatani



Joyce & Herb
Nakatsu



Henry & Shinji
Noguchi,
Joe Mori & Alice Kanagaki



Minoru
Nojima



Joe & Pepper
Nozumi



Ken & Mary
Osugi



Dorothy Sueko
Saika



Fred & Toyoko
Sakayeda



Yukiko
Sato
& Raymond Kozuma



Babe Kikuyo
Sentachi



Yoshiharu & Emi
Shimada



Fumiko
Soga



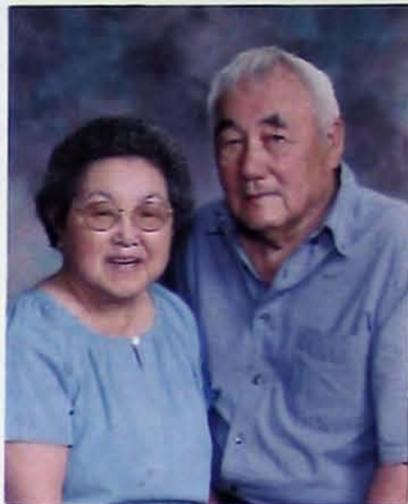
Nancy
Takashiro



Yayoi & Yukiaki
Takeda



Hideyo & Mizufune
Takimoto



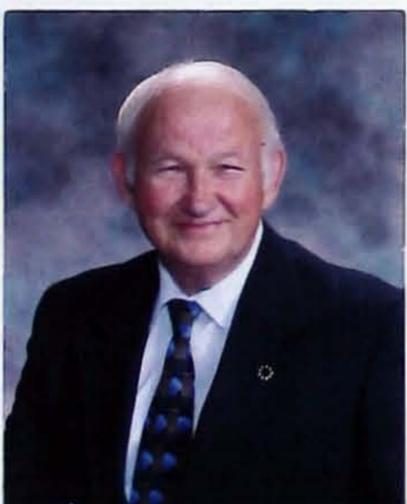
Shigeru & Jeanette
Tsujita



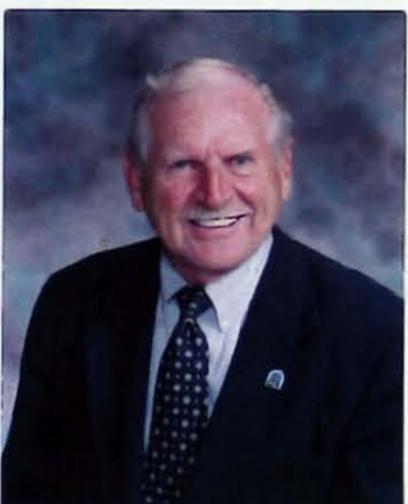
Irene M & Takashi
Tsujita



Yoshiko
Uno



William Carroll
Vice-Chairperson
Solano County



Len Augustine
Vice-Mayor
City of Vacaville



Flo
Waki



Aiko & Chester
Yasutomo



Alice Hom-Yee
Howard Yee



Polly
Yoshimoto



Rev. Koshi
Yukawa



Yatake, Takagi & Harada
Family



Robert & Helen Allen,
R Holtz, J Bowen,
C Vervaecke, B Hughes



Plaque Dedication June 2, 2001

This historic marker indicates the site of the Japanese Buddhist Temple built in 1912 and destroyed by fire in 1951. The temple, with its attendant school, was the focal point for the Japanese Community of Vacaville. The temple was undoubtedly the most beautiful building in Vacaville—and would be so today. Look at the marker and see for yourself. This marker is for future generations to look upon with pride.

Across the street was the Japanese business district of Vacaville, which it shared with the Chinese people. There is a second marker placed here to identify the site. One tin building of the old business district still remains near the site of the ABC Store.

The Japanese Temple marker was donated by Barbara McCune whose family has always been an important and caring force in our town. The Vacaville Asian Business District marker was placed with the assistance of Steven Nadeau.

These markers were donated by citizens of Vacaville who care. They were placed at the request of Takashi Tsujita through the efforts of the Vacaville Museum, the City of Vacaville Marker Committee and the Vacaville Heritage Council.

We are here today because "Tak" did not want the Japanese Community of Vacaville to be forgotten. May these historic markers help to meet this goal so dear to us all.

Thank you "Tak"!

Presented by Robert Allen

SITE OF THE JAPANESE BUDDHIST TEMPLE 1912-1951

This temple and its school served the large Japanese-American community which worked on ranches and in the once thriving Japanese business district nearby.

PLAQUE DEDICATED YEAR 2001

DONATED BY
BARBARA McCUNE





Kaoru Nakamura	Yoshiko Uno	Takamaro Miyashita	Irene M Tsujita Shigeru Tsujita	Sumiye Komura Keiko Komura
Jane Demoff	Momoye Kansaki	Richard Nakamura	Sumiko Kusaba	Toshiharu Komura
Joe Miranda	Kazuo Louis Fujikawa	Toshiharu Komura	Keizo Komura	
Midori Miranda	Polly Yoshimoto	Kikuko Nakagome Tama Miyashita	Tony Y. Kusaba	
		Charlotte VerVaeske Alice Hoshizaki	Fujiko Komura	Audrey M Tsujita Irene M Tsujita Gail M Tsujita
			Toyoko Sakayeda	Takashi Tsujita

Alice Kanagaki	Grace Tsujimoto	Mizufune Takimoto	Shigeru Tsujita	Dana Ohara Jeanette Tsujita Bill Ohara
Shinko Obata	Chizu Kubo	Shigeru Tsujita Keizo Komura	Chizu Kubo	Shigeru Tsujita Marlene Ohara
Kin Kanagaki	Jeanette Tsujita	Kaoru Maeyama	Yone Kubo	Ann Nakamura
Grace Amemiya	Emi Shimada	Shigeko Takahashi	Gail M Tsujita	Shigeko Takahashi
Robert Amemiya		Jun Maeyama		Terukazu Nakamura

Takashi Tsujita Rev. Kosho Yukawa	Rev Dean Koyama Gwen Nakahara Bill Ohara Craig Koyama Takashi Tsujita Dana Ohara Stacie Hiromoto Marlene Ohara	Late Miyashita, Kunihisa's Grave	Rev. Dean Koyama Tacoma Buddhist Temple Tacoma, Washington
Keizo Komura	Irene M Tsujita Gail M Tsujita Shigeru Tsujita Audrey M Tsujita Craig Koyama Alanna Koyama	Rev. Reiji Hoshizaki	Rev Kosho Yukawa Rinben Sacramento Buddhist Temple, Sacramento, California
		Ben Matsuura	Gloria Toshiko Imadiri
		Masako Minamide	Kaoru Maeyama
		Nancy Matsuura	Keizo Komura
		Charlette VerVaecke	Fujiko Komura

Ayako Miyashita Kikuko Nakagome	Marlene Ohara Bill Ohara	Takashi Tsujita	Minoru Nojima
Teruo Miyashita Kazuko Miyashita	Dana Ohara Rev. Dean Koyama		Toshiharu Komura
Tama Miyashita	Gwen Nakahara		Akira Matsuno
Takamaro Miyashita	Craig Koyama		Toyoko Sakayeda
Takashi Mikumo			Fred Sakayeda
Margaret Urbino			