

*This is  
My Life*

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**Sumi (Matsugu) Sue Kai**

THIS IS MY LIFE

From 1925 to January, 1990 (my 65th birthday)

Sumi (Matsugu) Sue Kai

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41 pages of text  
~~55~~ pages of pictures

57

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Started story in 1985 (age 60)

Resumed in 1991

Under KAI DOC - 1992 - on computer Page 1-18  
1993 - on computer Page 1-30

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T H I S   I S   M Y   L I F E

I was born Friday, December 26, 1924 (Leap Year) in Alert Bay, British Columbia, a small island off the northeastern part of Vancouver Island.

I was born at home, the fourth child of Yuhey and Kuniye Matsugu; assisting at birth was my aunt, Mrs. Sueno Kawaguchi.

E m i e

My siblings are Zenji George, Emiko Amy, Isamu Sam, me-Sumi Sue, Kunio Ken and Yoshiko Lorraine. George was born in Japan; Amy, Sam and Sue were born in Alert Bay, and Ken and Lorraine were born in Vancouver.

In the 1920's and 1930's, the Issei parents registered the birth of their children in Japan; therefore, some Nisei (second generation Japanese-Canadians) birthdate have been extended. My official birthdate is January 26, 1925, registered as Sumy Matsugu. (Birth Certificate says Sumy, but I went through school as Sumi.)

As I am a Canadian citizen, I applied to have my dual citizenship renounced. I have a letter from the Consulate of Japan in Toronto dated January 5, 1960 (in Japanese) advising me that my citizenship in Japan has been renounced.

From what I can gather,

Ma → 真 means genuine  
tsugu → 次 means next

Su → 須 means pure  
mi → 美 means beautiful

The given names of most Niseis are complimentary, e.g.

Michiko ミチコ beautiful clever child  
Kazuko カズコ peace loving child  
Sachiko サチコ fortunate child

The above are girls' names, usually ending with a "ko".

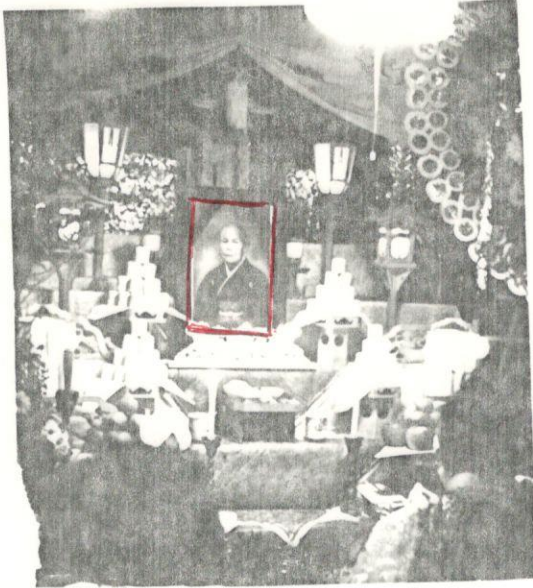
Isamu イサム brave  
Mitsuo ミツオ third son  
Mamoru マモル to protect and defend

The above are boys' names without the "ko" at the end.

Nicknames were popular for Niseis who had long or hard to pronounce names.



Sue's relatives in Fukuoka ken, Japan



Sue's grandmother Ishii



Sue's aunts, uncles & cousins



Cousin Fusao Ishii & son, Jun



The following are boys' names that became nicknames.

Masayoshi became Mush  
 Sakaye became Sock  
 Hiroshi became Rosie or Hiro  
 Makoto became Mac  
 Hideyuki became Hide (usually pronounced Heidi)

My parents, Yuhey Matsugu (father) and Kuniye (Ishii) Matsugu were born in Fukuoka Ken, Japan.

My father was born December 30, 1889. He died April 10, 1972 in Toronto at the age of 82 of ~~throat~~ cancer. My mother was born January 24, 1899. She died December 10, 1974 in Toronto at the age of 74 of liver cancer.

They emigrated to Canada around 1919, living in Port Essington and Alert Bay, B.C. The family moved to Vancouver in 1926 and stayed there until the forced evacuation in June, 1942.

As far as I know, there are no remaining close relatives on the Matsugu side (father's side). As of June, 1987, on my mother's side, there are two brothers still living. My mother's younger brother Kakuo Ishii (82) and his wife Matsuno, son Fusao and wife Sanae, and their daughter Mika and family and son, Jun; also my mother's second younger brother Masuzo Hirata and his wife Haruko and their three sons and families. (Masuzo died 1991 and Haruko died 1988).

Masuzo changed his surname from Ishii to Hirata when he married as a "Yo-shi" to carry on his wife's name as there were no sons in the Hirata family.

In Alert Bay, there were only three Japanese families - the Kawaguchis, Matsugus and the Shintanis. The Kawaguchi and Matsugu children are cousins as Mrs. Sueno Kawaguchi was my father's younger sister. The three families were boat builders living in an Indian neighbourhood (North American Indians). There were totem poles in the Alert Bay area.

When I was a year old, in 1926, the Matsugu family moved to Vancouver because of better schooling in the city. We lived at 746 Cordova Street East in downtown Vancouver, in a white two-storey six room house built by my father and Mr. Ritsuichi Uyeno. (I understand that Mr. Uyeno is still living in Toronto in 1992, age about 100). We had a large flower garden in the front and vegetable garden in the back and lots of wood piled up in the yard.

The area was known as Little Tokyo as most of our neighbours were Japanese. On our block lived the Okawaras, Hamagamis,



Sogas, Arikados, Kishimotos, Tanakas, Gotos, Taguchis, Tsurudas, Kennos, Sasakis, Nobuokas, Takimotos, Miyashitas, etc.

### KINDERGARTEN

In the 1920's, 30's and early 40's in Vancouver, kindergarten classes were held at churches (Anglican, Buddhist, United). They were happy half days of singing, craft work, dancing, etc. taught to us by "hakujin" missionary ladies. They were Miss deWolfe, Miss Florence Bird and others. I was scared of Miss deWolfe because she had a gruff personality, but I was very impressed by \*Miss Florence Bird who was so kind and gentle. Miss deWolfe and Miss Bird both spoke beautiful Japanese.

\*Miss Florence Bird was in Toronto in the early 1940's helping the Niseis get settled after relocating from British Columbia. The Metropolitan United Church in downtown Toronto where Miss Bird had an office, opened their doors and welcomed the Niseis.

As our kindergarten was held at the Powell St. United Church, all the children were Niseis in the neighbourhood, who walked about three blocks to church. I was barely able to speak English; in fact, even in public school, I was having difficulty knowing which words were English and which were Japanese. We spoke English interspersed with Japanese, a delightly pidgin language. Even today in the 1990's, I hear some Niseis speaking English with a generous sprinkling of Japanese words.

### PUBLIC SCHOOL

The public school I attended from Grade 1 to 8 was Strathcona Public School, a large school on one city block. The students were over 50% Japanese-Canadians (Niseis), the rest were Chinese, Hindus and Caucasians. In 1937, the enrolment at Strathcona School was 1,458.

For roll call in Grade 1, I distinctly remember saying "Hai" (yes) instead of "Present". I also remember my first day in Grade 1 when I went home at recess. Fortunately, I was able to get back to school in time.

It appeared that most of the teachers were old "Misses". They were Miss Stewart (she was our Grade 1 teacher, but we couldn't pronounce her name so it came out as Miss Stew or Miss Chew), Miss Foster, \*Miss Farrington, Miss Hardwick (she was our Music teacher and she lived up to her name of being "wicked".)



Powell St. United Church Kindergarten Graduates, Vancouver, B.C. Jan. 30, 1931

Sumi Matsugu, 6 years, 2nd row, 2nd right



\*Miss Farrington was still alive in 1991 when there was a 100 year celebration of Strathcona School in Vancouver. Masako Yoshida (nee Miyazaki) attended the celebration and met Miss Farrington who is in her 90's.

I don't think school discipline was a problem in those days. The teacher was someone we respected, and no one dared to speak out of turn. There were rare cases where the students got the strap from the principal.

In public school, smoking or drinking was almost unheard of, I think. Perhaps there were, but the Niseis led such sheltered lives, we were not aware of such evil.

Some of my Strathcona School friends were Fumiko Kurita (Mrs. Lily Oda), Yuriko Nagata (Mrs. Lillian Tsuji), Harumi Tomotsugu (Mrs. Harumi Nakamura), Yasuko Akazawa (Mrs. Edythe Takahashi).

In June, 1938, I graduated from Grade 8. I was 5 ft. 2 in. (157.48 cm), less than 100 lbs. (45.36 kg) at age 13, a skinny girl with straight hair who started wearing glasses. In other words, I was a very homely looking girl, self-conscious of my height as I was the tallest Nisei girl in my class.

#### VANCOUVER JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL

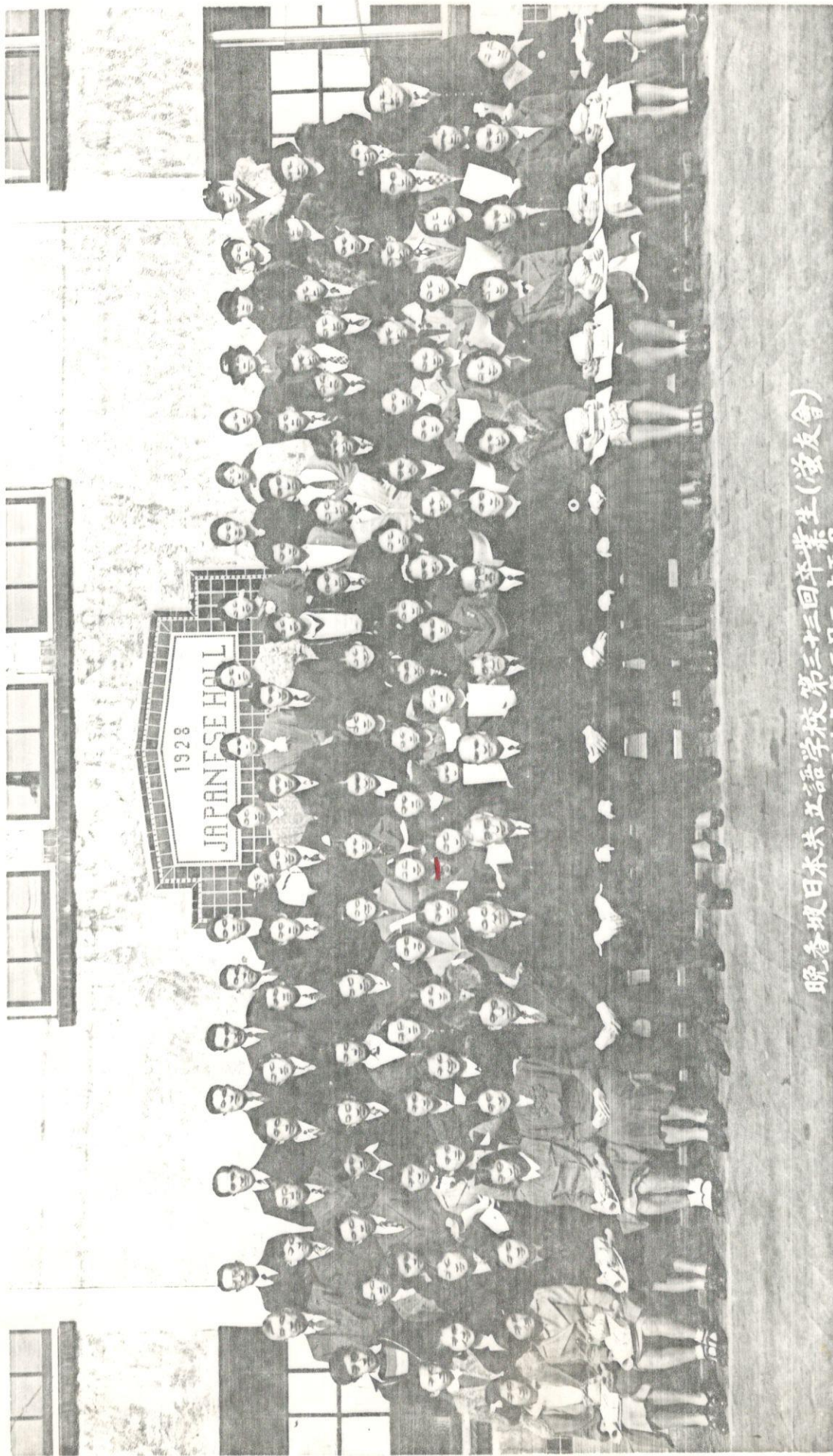
The Vancouver Japanese Language School was on Alexander Street in Little Tokyo, about four blocks away from my house. Enrolment was quite high as every Nisei was expected to attend Japanese School; in fact, there were two classes for each grade. From Grade 1 to 8, classes were held from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. This meant we rushed home from public school, had a little snack (oyatsu) and went to Japanese School carrying our school bag (kaban).

Since the Language School was not funded by the government, our parents had to pay a monthly fee (ge-sha). I can't remember the fee, but I think it was in the neighbourhood of \$3.00 per month per child, with the rate decreasing for each additional child.

I remember the double wooden desks and seats (some without backs). In the lower grades, I was sitting with a boy who frequently had a runny nose. I dreaded sitting beside him. About fifty years later at our school reunion, I met this runny nose boy and my, what a pleasant surprise - he was a tall good looking man. I didn't dare mention my childhood aversion of him.

The Japanese language was difficult to learn. You open the book from right to left, and read from top down to the bottom, and across to the left.





Graduates of the Vancouver Japanese Language School  
 Grade 8 (Keiyu-kai), March 25, 1939, Vancouver, B.C.

Sumi Matsugu, 3rd row front, 6th from left with hair barrette



The alphabet consisted of:

(a) Printing (katakana).....51 characters

(b) Writing (hiragana).....51 characters

(c) Characters (kanji). There are hundreds, or is it thousands of kanji characters, and it was a tremendous job to memorize them.

Examples of characters are:

木	ki	- tree
林	hayashi	- shrubs
森	mori	- forest
學校	gakko	- school
國	kuni	- country

One sound can have many meanings. As you can see, the word "shi" can mean the following.

四 four      死 death      city 市      teacher 師

In recent years, some characters have been simplified, e.g.

Hiro 廣 is now written 広 (Hiro means wide)

Kuni 國 is now written 国 (Kuni means country)

Although I graduated from high school, it is difficult to read Japanese newspapers (Nikka Times, New Canadian). This is probably due to non-use, and also due to the fact that so many English words have become part of the Japanese language, e.g. coffee is "Ko-hi"; apartment is "a-pa-to-", etc. *Anglo-Japanese*

One of the highlights of the Language School was the Graduation Ceremony in June. Honour students from each class had to go up to the stage to receive the Honour Certificate (yu-to-sho). I managed to get the Honour Certificate at Grade 8, thereby enabling me to skip from Grade 8 to 10. Of course, as bowing is a Japanese custom, we all had to bow as we received our certificates.

From Grades 9 to 12, school was held from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. after spending all day at high school. My formal

Japanese School education ceased on December 7, 1941 (Pearl Harbor Day when the Japanese bombed Hawaii on a sneak attack killing thousands in Honolulu). The Canadian government closed the school and \*curfew was enforced on all Japanese-Canadians on the British Columbia coast. Although I could not complete Grade 12 (short of six months), I received my Japanese High School diploma.

\*curfew meant Japanese-Canadians could not go outside between sundown and sunrise.

Those who finished Grade 8 became members of the Gakuyukai (Graduates' Club). This club is still intact, after over 50 years, and a reunion was held July, 1986 in Vancouver at Expo '86. There have been other reunions since then.

I graduated Grade 8 in 1939, and our club is called Keiyu Kai (our principal, Mr. Tsutae Sato named each graduating class)

Some of my fellow graduates are:

Toshiko Otsuka (Mrs. Tosh Usami), Miyeko Takasaki (Mrs. Mickey Sugamori), Ayako Naruse (Mrs. Aya Tsushima), Katsumi Takimoto (Dick Takimoto), Shigeru Usami (Frank Usami).

#### POWELL ST. UNITED CHURCH, VANCOUVER, B.C.

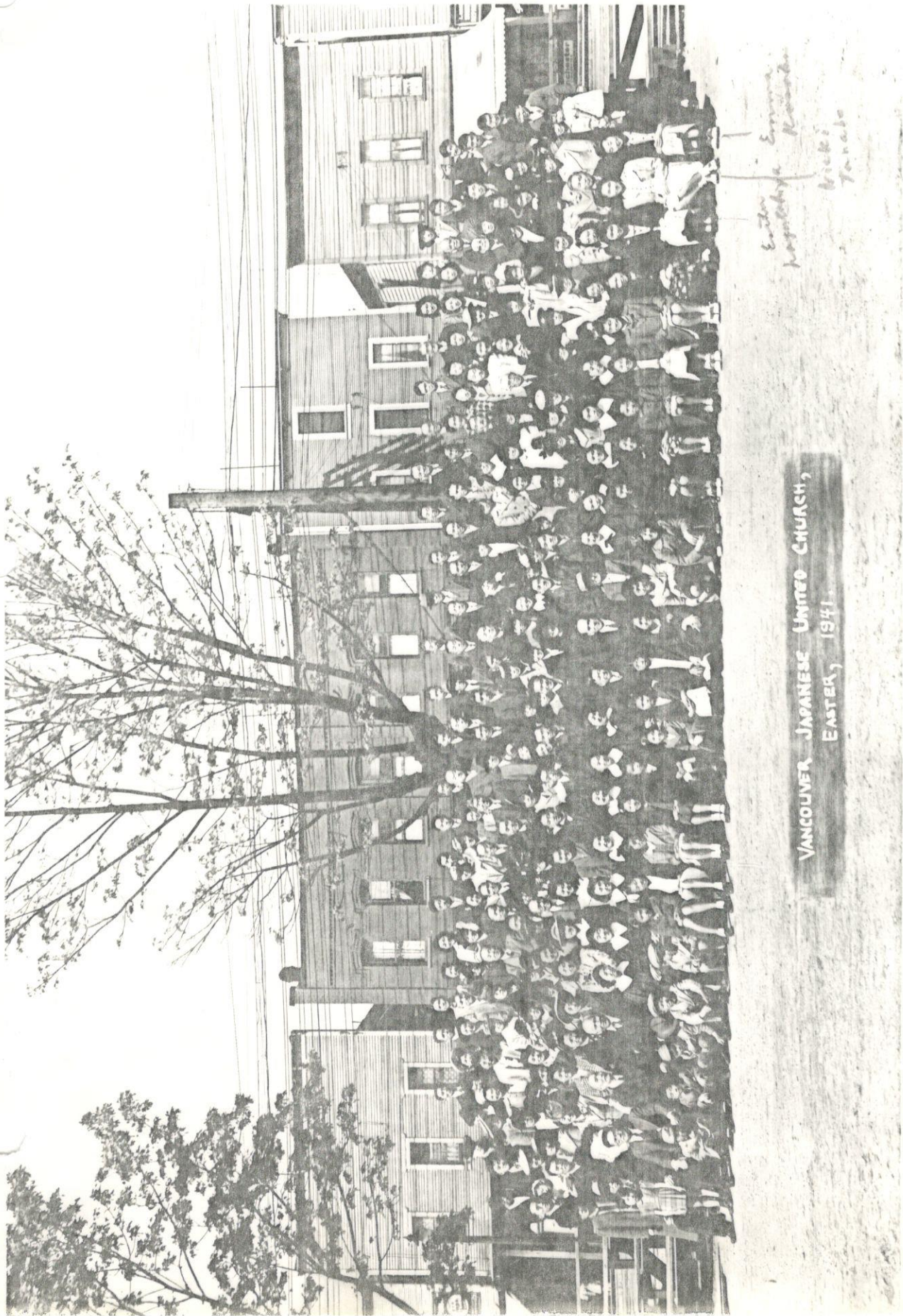
As a youngster, the church played an important role in my life, with much time spent at Sunday School, Saturday School and mid-week functions.

Powell St. Japanese United Church (Go-do- Kyo-kai) was located at the corner of Powell St. and Jackson Avenue, three blocks away from my home. It was quite a large church with a good sized chapel, Sunday School rooms, parlour and an "enormous" gymnasium with a balcony. The gym appeared large then, but it would be small by today's standards.

Sunday was a special day, a day when we wore our Sunday best - pretty frilly dresses and black patent shoes with buckles. My mother would curl or wave my hair (she would put the curling iron over the gas stove flame, then test it on a piece of newspaper to make sure it wasn't too hot, or else my hair would be singed.) My hair has been singed several times.

Sunday was my big day when I would take my offering of one cent. In those days, the one cent coin was large, the size of a quarter. I loved to sing the children's hymns such as "Jesus Loves Me", "This is my Father's World", "God sees the Little Sparrows", etc. Most of all, I loved the children's story, sometimes related to us in Japanese. Some of my





Vancouver Japanese United Church, Powell Grounds, Vancouver, B. C. - 1941

Members of the Powell St. & Fairview United Churches



teachers were Mrs. Mizuno Shimizu (Rev. K. Shimizu's first wife), Chiyo Hyodo (Mrs. John Kumagai), Mr. M. Washimoto (Dan Washimoto's father), Mr. H. Yamazaki (Martha Onodera's father).

I belonged to the Saturday Mission Band at the Church. The hakujin missinaries were the leaders and this is where I first learned to make various crafts and do embroidery, plus participate in a band. The instruments were triangles, blocks, bells, cymbals, etc.

Friday night at church was C.G.I.T. As Canadian Girls in Training, we wore our white and navy middies to the meetings. We were a giggly teenage group, calling ourselves "Crazy Girls in Tights" or "Chinese Girls in Town". I was introduced to the facts of life at one of the meetings and the bunch of us would giggle and discuss this delicate subject.

Some of the girls in our C.G.I.T. were:

Amy Uchida (Mrs. Amy Koga of Hawaii), Sachi Shimotakahara (Mrs. Sachi Jean Ota), Margaret Shimotakahara (Mrs. Margaret Otsuki), Daisy Yachiyo Ushijima (Mrs. Daisy Asada).

#### CHILDHOOD MEMORIES

There are many childhood memories, some happy, some sad. As I recollect those days in the 1930's and early 1940's in Vancouver, some events are so clear, I can still "taste" them.

1. The delicious chips at the Kitsilano Beach - smothered with salt and cider vinegar. A good sized box cost 10 cents.
2. On special occasions when we were allowed to buy ice cream cone for 5 cents.
3. Ice skating at Lost Lagoon in Stanley Park. One Christmas I received my first pair of CCM skates - cost \$3.50.
4. Learning to ride a two-wheeler boy's bike and scraping many a knee.
5. Roller skating at Canco at the waterfront (a large industrial area where we used to skate on Sundays when the plant was closed).
6. Swimming in the Pacific Ocean and occasionally swallowing salty water.



*Burrard Inlet*

7. Fishing at ~~False Creek~~; looking for small crabs under the rocks.

8. Trips to the museum located at the corner of Hastings and Main streets not too far from my home. There was a picture of Jesus with his eyes closed and the caption read, "If you look at the picture closely, Jesus will open his eyes." Sure enough, his eyes opened and we marvelled at this optical illusion.

9. Playing with marbles, jacks, bean bags, chestnuts; jumping with skipping ropes - Double Dutch and reciting songs.

10. Watching the Asahi baseball team play at Powell grounds - now called Oppenheimer Park.

11. Annual Japanese School picnic at Lynn Valley, close to Capilano Canyon.

12. Japanese movies at the Language School. They were tear jerkers, but how we loved them. There was no sound so the projectionist, Mr. Tsuyuki, was the voice for both males and females during the entire show.

13. The annual P.N.E. (Pacific National Exhibition) in August. I used to get \$2.00 to spend with free school admission, and return with \$1.00. I remember going on the Big Dipper roller coaster and almost getting sick, riding a boat called "Shoot the Chute", going on the Ferris Wheel and afraid to look down. The rides were 5 cents or 10 cents.

14. As a wee youngster, my father would read the comics to us and the neighbourhood children. I always called him "Pop". He was the nicest father, so kind, cheerful and gentle, and a most wonderful person. Although he did not have formal schooling in Canada, he was a scholar, reading the English newspapers and studying the dictionary. He spoke English quite fluently without too much accent. The comics he read were Buck Rogers, Dick Tracy, Orphan Annie, Maggie & Jiggs.

15. Movies (black and white; no colour at all) at the Star, Orpheum or Beacon theatres at a cost of 5 cents or 10 cents. We would watch it twice on Saturday (for the price of one) especially if it was Shirley Temple, Deanna Durbin, Our Gang or Tom Mix.

16. Listening to the phonograph player. The player was not electric so we had to wind it up before each record. The records we had were all Japanese, the first record was "Piano no okaeko omoshiroi" - Practising the piano is fun. We must have listened to the same record hundreds of time,

and even now over fifty years later, I still know all the words.

17. Listening to the radio (no television until the 1940's). We loved listening to Fibber McGee and Molly, the Shadow, and the big bands of Benny Goodman and Glen Miller.

18. My first permanent at age 13 (1938) when I started high school. I think it cost \$2.50 and Rose Miyazaki of the Star Beauty Salon tried to make me look more grown up.

19. My first car ride at age 16, and getting car-sick.

20. The Stanley Park cannon - every night at 9 o'clock, the cannon would boom and this was a signal that we all had to be at home. There was no excuse that you did not know the time.

21. Reciting the Lord's Prayer every morning at school. Hanging in the classroom was a large picture of King George V (with a heavy beard), followed by King George VI, and singing "God Save the King."

22. Going to Woodward's department store for its monthly 99 cent day. Shoes, shirts, pants - many items sold for 99 cents. I remember taking a 3 lb. container to Woodward's to buy peanut butter - 3 lbs. for 27 cents. They made the peanut butter right in front of your eyes. A loaf of bread was 5 cents, sometimes Safeway stores would have a 2 for 5 cents special, a quart of milk in a glass bottle with the cream on top was 10 cents.

23. A very unpleasant event took place in my early teens. My mother had a nosebleed that wouldn't stop so we had to take her to the hospital by ambulance. Since that time, I have a phobia against blood and have fainted on several occasions. I have improved with old age and seem to be able to cope. My mother had a goiter operation so we worried about her health as well as the financial drain. There was no Health or Hospital insurance in those days so I can remember asking the surgeon if he can reduce his fee (what an embarrassing thing for a young girl). I think his fee was about \$150, a lot of money in the 1930's.

#### DEATH IN THE FAMILY

*Born January 24, 1922  
Died February 27, 1937*

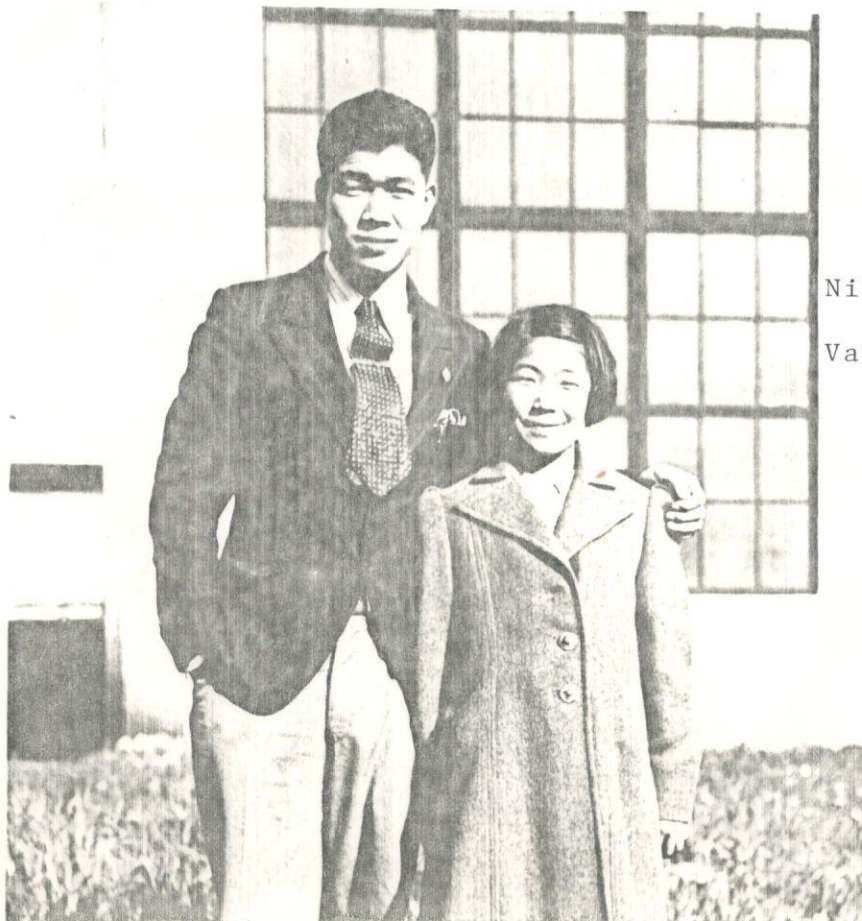
A traumatic event took place when I was ten years old. My older sister Emiko (we called her Amy) died of influenza on February 27, 1937 at the age of fourteen.<sup>15</sup> There was an epidemic in Vancouver and the hospitals were closed to visitors. Amy was a pretty girl, very fair, clever and soft spoken.

*Emiko is buried at Mountainview Cemetery in Vancouver,  
Granstone says 1922-1937 (15 yrs) - per Brian - Aug. 2011*





Strathcona School, Vancouver, B. C., Grade 4, 1936  
Sumi Matsugu, 2nd row front, 3rd from right



Niisan & Yoshiko  
Vancouver, B.C.

1939

The death was earth shattering as it was the first time I saw a corpse. In those days, the casket was brought to the house and remained there until the funeral which was held at the church. It was a very difficult time for my parents. They were devastated by Amy's death. Shortly after, my family was baptized by Rev. K. Shimizu at the Powell St. United Church.

Koden received were 50 cents, \$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00, oranges, apples, etc. which was a lot of money during the depression. After the funeral, a picture was taken outside the church with the casket, family members and everyone who attended the funeral. We had a picture of Amy in the kitchen and it was my job everyday to light a candle and place a small bowl of rice. I think this is a custom in Japan.

Amy is buried in Vancouver at Mountainview Cemetery. In August, 1968, we visited her grave when the four of us (Sam, Sue, Brian and David) went on a three-week trip to British Columbia.

### HIGH SCHOOL

In 1938, at the age of 13, I entered the Fairview High School of Commerce, Grade 9 with a few other Niseis. The High School was quite far so I had to go on the streetcar through downtown Vancouver. The streetcar fare was 4 for 25 cents.

The subjects were Shorthand, Typing, Bookkeeping, English, Math, History and Physical Education. Up to now, my entire world was centered within a one mile radius of home, school, church and homes of my Japanese girlfriends. All of a sudden going to High School changed my life style. Contrary to Strathcona Public School where the students were predominantly Niseis, we became the minority. I felt intimidated sitting in a class with girls who had blond/brown/red hair, beautiful large eyes and tall slim legs.

We were all shy and inhibited, sticking to "our own kind" at the beginning of the term. However, we were gradually accepted. I sensed some subtle racial discrimination, but we got along well with our "hakujiin" friends. Unfortunately, around this time, the Vancouver media was making a big issue about Yellow Peril which made life unpleasant at times.

Lunch times were happy get-togethers when the Nisei girls would go to a small restaurant for meat pies. They were the most delicious pies - piping hot, lots of meat and potatoes, all for 10 cents.



POWE 11 St. United Church  
Kindergarten Graduates  
JAN 30. 1931.









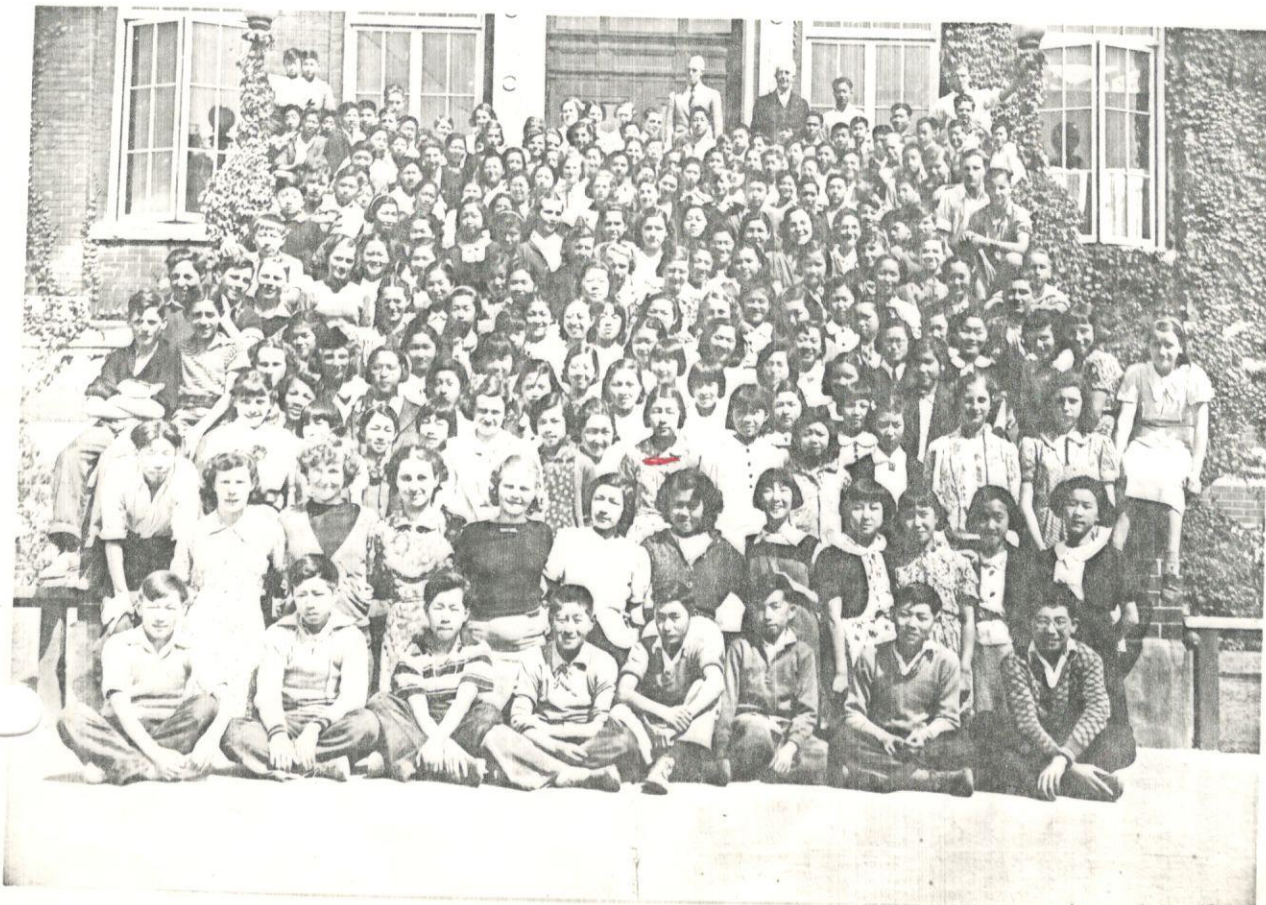
Grandview High School of Commerce, Vancouver, B.C. 1940

Sumi Sue Matsugu, Grade 11, Age 15



Strathcona Public School, Vancouver, B.C. Grade 8 Graduates, 1938

Sumi Matsugu, 3rd row middle, tall girl





Some of my classmates were:

Masako Miyazaki (Mrs. Charles Yoshida), Daisy Ushijima (Mrs. Paul Asada), Yumiko Suga (Mrs. Joe Nishizaki), Michiko Kinoshita (Mrs. Ted Harada) and Harumi Tomotsugu (Mrs. Gordon Nakamura).

In Grade 9, I was introduced to a debate where two teams, Affirmative and Negative debated, sometimes quite heatedly about some controversial topic. On one debating team was Masako Miyazaki who spoke on mercy killing. Most of us were so naive, we didn't know what mercy killing meant. (Fifty years later in the 1990's, mercy killing or euthanasia is a very hot issue with its life support equipment and other legal implications.)

I finished Grade 10 at Fairview High School of Commerce and then transferred to Grandview High School of Commerce for Grades 11 and 12. The latter was closer to home so I was able to walk to school, about three miles one way. I graduated from the Grandview High School of Commerce, receiving a silver pin for doing Pitman shorthand at 120 words per minute. In British Columbia, there is no Grade 13. You enter university after finishing Grade 12 matriculation course.

While at Grandview High, I became close friends with a Chinese girl, Josie Chung. It was my first close friendship with someone other than a Nisei. We kept in touch for some time after we were both married.

#### LIFE IN VANCOUVER IN THE 1930's AND EARLY 1940's

1. Hardly any Japanese family had an ice-box (a refrigerator was almost unheard of). There were some hakujin neighbours who had ice-boxes so when the ice-man came, usually on a horse-driven wagon, the kids would run out to get ice chips. The ice-man would chip off big blocks of ice into 25 lb. or 50 lb. chunks. I remember jumping on the back of the wagon to grab a few pieces of cold mouth watering unsanitary ice chips. Our mothers had to go shopping almost everyday due to lack of proper refrigeration.

2. Our telephone in Vancouver was black, attached to the wall. It was not a dial phone, just an ordinary phone and you had to speak right into the mouth piece. It was a party line, not a private line. When you picked up the phone, the operator would say, "Number please" and you had to give the number you are calling. Phoning was not always easy for the Isseis who had to pronounce numbers such as Hyland 5880R, which was our phone number.



3. A washing machine was a luxury. Most of the washing was done in the bath tub using a washboard and a bar of laundry soap. The laundry would hang on the long clothes line outside, but during the winter, the laundry hung in the kitchen over the stove, usually a wood stove. Since we did not have a hot water tank, the water had to be boiled in large kettles over the wood stove for the laundry as well as for our baths. We did not have baths very often, about once a week.

4. The Vancouver climate was mild with plenty of rain. I remember one year it rained everyday for two weeks straight. The fog was thick at times. One evening coming home from Japanese School, the fog was so thick, I couldn't see past my nose so had great difficulty finding my house. The scenery was beautiful with majestic mountains and the ocean nearby. We had a lovely flower garden in the front - sweetpeas, delphiniums, phlox, hydrangea, nasturtiums, daisies, etc. Our back yard was a vegetable garden and a place to pile wood. Whenever the horses left a deposit on the road, my mother rushed out to pick up manure, one of the reasons why our garden grew so well.

5. Our house did not have a basement; therefore, no furnace. As the B.C. climate was mild, our house was heated by a wood and coal stove. Our bedrooms upstairs with no heat were quite cold in the winter so my mother would place a ceramic hot water bottle in our beds. We called it yu-tan-pu. Larger homes with basements had sawdust burning furnaces. The Isseis used to say "dun-buro" for basement, and I thought it was a Japanese word for basement. Years later, I found out it was a Japanese version of "down below".

6. My childhood was very happy although when I became a teenager, I realized various restrictions. I was always told to be ladylike. "Don't be a "ten-ba" or tomboy". It appears that Nisei girls were supposed to be quiet, reserved and well behaved at all times. No wonder, the majority of us Niseis are inhibited, as we were brought up to be obedient, never question authority and not to speak out of turn.

## 7. SPECIAL DAYS AND HOLIDAYS

7 (a) New Years or Shogatsu was a great day of celebration in the Japanese community. The women would spend hours preparing "gochiso" - delicious food. The menu usually consisted of sushi, age-zushi (rice bags), seafood such as octopus, fish cooked whole with the head and tail attached, squid, sashimi (raw tuna), Nishime or Umani (chicken cooked with vegetables such as Sato-imo (Japanese potatoes), takenoko (Bamboo shoots), shii-take (Japanese dried mushrooms), konyaku (made with vegetable and lye), carrots,

konbu (seaweed). Dessert was Yokan - lima & red beans with sugar, Kanten - something like jello made with gelatin, mochi, mikan - Japanese mandarin oranges.

The women stayed home and the men would visit various homes in the neighbourhood. They would bow and bow saying, "Shinnen ome-deto gozai masu - Happy New Year." Some men would over indulge in saké and one New Years Day was my first experience with inebriated people. I was turned off completely with drunkenness. The children either stayed home to watch the visitors or played karuta - Japanese card game.

7 (b) Girls Festival, Boys Festival.

The third day of the third month (March 3rd) was the Girls Festival, and the fifth day of the fifth month (May 5th) was the Boys Festival. Japanese stores and some homes had beautiful dolls displayed on these special days. I think this practice has been changed in Japan and it has been combined into Children's Day.

7 (c) Hallowe'en

Hallowe'en in Vancouver was a little different than the ones observed in Toronto. We celebrated by lighting firecrackers and sparklers. I remember one boy on our block had a package of firecrackers in his back pocket and someone put a match to it. The poor youngster's bum was burned badly. We went "trick or treat"; the treats were usually apples and some candies, and occasionally we had to sing or do something for our treat. Our costumes were old hats, soot on our faces, boys pants; nothing like today's costumes. Late Hallowe'en night was not very safe as the boys got into mischief such as knocking down fences, wood piles, outhouses, messing up store windows with soap, throwing toilet paper over wires, etc. Even my husband Sam admits he is guilty of pulling some of these tricks.

7 (d) Christmas

I have many happy memories of my childhood Christmas. There were various activities leading up to Christmas and the excitement was wonderful. The Christmas concert at public school was a big event. I was dressed in a white satiny dress that my mother sewed, with white stockings and a big white bow in my hair. I looked forward to the Sunday School party where we played games and sang carols. The highlight of the party was when we were given a napkin which had one mikan, some cookies and candies. We thought it was great.

At home, we had a Christmas tree, a real live one, usually a fir tree, with ornaments which would be considered relics now. We got up early Christmas morning to rush downstairs to open our gifts. We received one gift each - a pair of skates, sweater or game. Our parents never received a



thing. We never thought to buy anything for them, of course, we did not have any money. We did not exchange gifts or cards with friends. Christmas was not so commercialized then. I don't know whether other families had turkey dinners, but every Christmas, my family walked to Fuji Chop Suey on Powell Street for our Christmas dinner. The soba was so delicious.

#### 7 (e) Mochi Tsuki

Usually between Christmas and New Years, my parents and neighbours participated in mochi tsuki in our back shed. It was exciting, but dangerous as my father pounded the steamed mochi rice in a "u-su" (round wooden block with the centre dug out), while my mother turned the mochi in between the pounding. Our job was to make round mochi balls, flatten them slightly and line them on shelves covered with corn starch. (There is a mochi-tsuki machine now.)

#### 8. Birth of first nephew

Harry Hiroto Matsugu was born June 6, 1940 in Vancouver, the first child of Zenji & Mitsuko Matsugu. He was born in Mrs. Watanabe's clinic where she was a midwife. Mrs. Watanabe, a pleasant Issei lady, was Yuki's mother (Yuki Matsui/Tamaki). Harry and his parents lived in Uchida rooms, right across from Powell Grounds.

Shortly after, nesan and nisan bought a variety store on Howe St. in the Granville/Robson St. area, quite far from Little Tokyo where we lived. Grandma Matsugu had a weekly streetcar pass so every morning she went to the store and brought Harry back to our house. After supper she took Harry back to the store. We were so happy to have a real live doll staying with us and grandma Matsugu was in her glory looking after her first grandchild..

### PEARL HARBOR - THE EFFECT ON THE JAPANESE-CANADIAN COMMUNITY

At age sixteen in December, 1941, life in Vancouver was pleasant. I had a stable family life, was attending Grade 12 High School and Grade 12 Japanese School, going to church with its many activities, and enjoying life as a teenager. Occasionally, I would ponder at the future, my future and the rest of the Niseis. Why am I going to school? What will I do after I graduate?

We were second class citizens - we did not have the franchise, we could not get professional jobs; in fact, the economic situation for Niseis was bleak. Niseis who graduated from high school or university were doing menial jobs such as working in a sawmill, doing domestic work; in other words, we were not allowed to use our talents.

Our parents, the Isseis (first generation born in Japan) struggled with language problems, racial discrimination, financial difficulties, large families, etc. My father worked in a sawmill as a millwright so his wages were above average. He worked six days a week, eight hours a day so Sunday was his only day of rest.

It was the period following the great Depression when the whole world was suffering. The Isseis were determined that their children would have a good life in Canada. They sacrificed so much for the children so that we would have a good education and a better future. I can remember my parents telling us not to waste anything. I used to hear the word "kenyaku" (be thrifty) constantly. We learned to recycle early in life and we have maintained this practice to this day.

I will never forget Sunday, December 7, 1941, the day Japan bombed Pearl Harbor in Honolulu, Hawaii. We got the news Sunday morning by radio, also the neighbours were running and spreading the bad news. Life in the Japanese community changed drastically. Leaders in the community (all males) were picked up by the R.C.M.P. and shipped to an internment camp in Angler, Ontario. Japanese newspapers were shut down except the New Canadian, an English-Japanese weekly. Japanese language schools were closed; curfew was implemented which meant we stayed indoors from sunset to sunrise.

As youngsters, we were confused and worried about our future and our parents' future. There were so many rumors, we didn't know from one day to another what was going to happen. I was concerned about my parents who had to cope with this crisis in their "old age"; as a matter of fact, they were only in their late 30's, 40's or 50's, but we considered them old in their ways.

We took our radios and cameras and surrendered them to the R.C.M.P. About 1200 fishing boats owned by the Japanese were impounded.

I was going to High School, but had to quit in late May. The British Columbia Board of Education was reluctant to give me and other Niseis our High School diploma as we did not finish the school term. With the intervention of Mr. Tsutae Sato, the former principal of the Vancouver Language School, we received our diplomas.

In February, 1942, the Liberal government under Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King, announced mass evacuation of all Japanese (21,000). The evacuation was to move all Japanese 100 miles inland from the Pacific coast.

It was a chaotic time. In early March, families outside the Vancouver area, mainly from Vancouver Island, were "herded"



into the former Horse Palace at Hastings Park, Vancouver. Conditions were deplorable. Books have been written about this evacuation (evacuation is not the proper word, as to evacuate is usually to move to a safer place). One of the books is "The Enemy That Never Was", a history of Japanese-Canadians by Ken Adachi in 1976.

It was a period of great upheaval. Young single men (age 18 and over) were sent to road camps in the interior of B.C. or to northern Ontario. Those who wanted to stay together as a family went to sugar beet farms in Alberta or Manitoba.

Sam Kai (not my husband then), was 22 years old and he was in the first group of Nisei men to be sent in April, 1942 to Schreiber, a road camp on the Trans Canada Highway in northern Ontario.

Niisan and Nesan (Zenji & Mitsuko Matsugu) and Harry, 2 years old, went to Alberta (Magrath & Raymond) as they wanted to stay as a family unit. They encountered untold hardships working on the sugar beet farms. Sam, my older brother, 19 years, was sent to a road camp at Solsqua, in the interior of British Columbia.

#### KASLO, B.C.

My family - parents, me, Ken Kunio (13 years) and Lorraine Yoshiko (12 years) were sent to Kaslo, a ghost town, a former mining town in the interior of B.C. near Nelson. We were allowed 150 lbs. of baggage per adult, and 75 lbs. per child under 12 years. This included personal effects, kitchen utensils, blankets, sewing machine, etc.

*May 1942*  
 In early June, the five of us and many, many others, mostly strangers, got on a train at Union Station, Vancouver for a long trip to Nelson. We transferred to a ferry called the S.S. Moiye and landed in Kaslo. Kaslo was a picturesque spot with the Kootenay Lake and surrounding small mountains.

In comparison to the other ghost towns such as Tashme, New Denver, Sandon, Slocan, etc., we were fortunate to be living in Kaslo. The Japanese population was approximately 1,000; mainly people from New Westminster, Woodfibre, Steveston, Fraser Mills, Vancouver, etc. Quite a few were United Church members. Rev. K. Shimizu's family with their four children lived in Kaslo - Victor, Ted, Grace & Dorothy. Rev. Shimizu was very very busy travelling to various ghost towns as well as across Canada to help the Japanese get settled.

We lived in Kaslo Hotel, an old three storey building, complete with flush toilets. There were about 20 families on each floor and we lived on the second floor. There was a community kitchen on each floor, a place where the women

*Wrong,  
at was*

gathered to exchange news. We all knew what the other families were having for supper. Our mothers cooked in the kitchen and brought the food back to our rooms.

Our room was 9 ft. x 12 ft. with a double bunk bed. My mom and dad slept underneath and Yo (I called Lorraine Yo) and I slept on the top, on mattresses made of straw. Imagine, no privacy, but you learn to accept it. We ate, slept, played and studied in the one small room for three years. Ken (I called Ken "Kun") ate with us, but he slept at a boys' dormitory in ~~another building across the street.~~  
the Kaslo Hotel basement.

We gradually got used to living in crowded quarters, and became settled to our new lifestyle. The men started to work in saw mills, stores, do maintenance - the pay was about 50 cents an hour. My dad and other men were sent to Crows Nest in the B.C./Alberta border to work on the C.P.R. doing manual labor. We were scared and lonely, not knowing if the men would return home. My dad came home (I can't remember how long he was away - perhaps 3-4 months) and worked as a carpenter. He was in great demand as he was a skilled carpenter.

The summer of 1942 was pleasant - we were making new friends and getting adjusted to living in a small community of 1,000 Japanese together with some hakujin - Kasloites who owned stores, garages and other businesses. We got along well with the hakujins, and they were kind to us.

In the meantime, education for the young children became a priority. Due to a lot of red tape, the education for the Niseis were restricted to Grades 1 - 8, and the classes were taught by the evacuees. There were two Niseis who had teachers' certificates - Hide Hyodo (Mrs. Hide Shimizu) and Terry Hidaka. Hide became supervisor, assisted by Terry, and their job was to get a teaching staff from Nisei university and high school graduates.

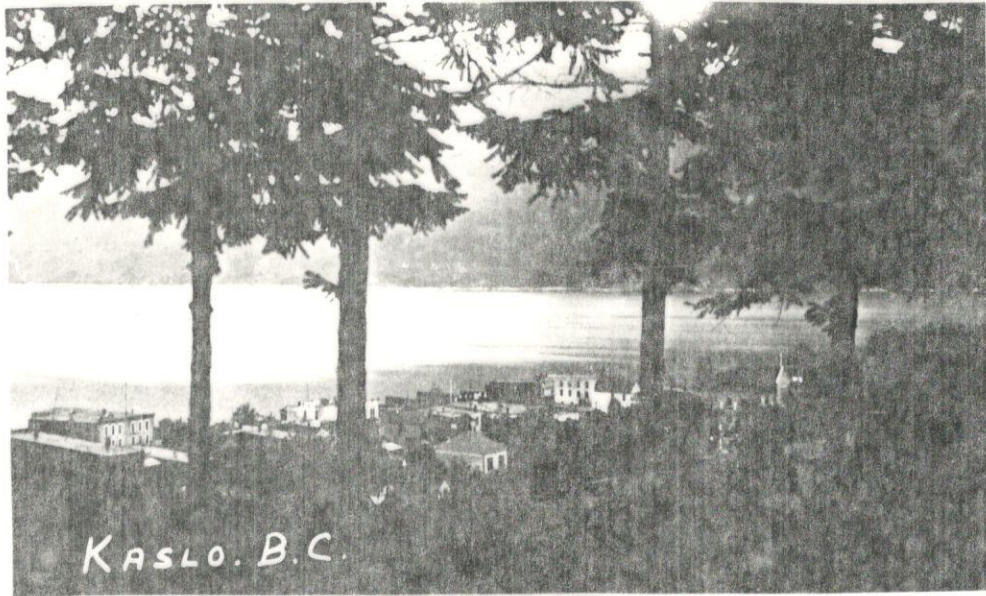
I was one of the teachers, a 17 year old high school graduate trying to teach children a few years younger than myself. We were not qualified to teach, but we did the best under the circumstances. In 1943 and 1944, I attended a Teachers' Summer School in New Denver, instructed by staff members from the Teacher Training schools in Vancouver. 4 years

I taught Grades 1, 2, 3-4 combination class and a 5-6 combination class for three years at Kootenay Lake School, a hardware store that was converted into classrooms. Each classroom had a large wood stove.

Some of my associate teachers were Betty Shinohara (Mrs. Jack Asano), Naka Suzuki (Mrs. Fred Sasaki), Martha Yamazaki (Mrs. Jon Onodera), Ayako Atagi (Mrs. Buck Higashi). Aya and Buck Higashi still live in Kaslo (1992).



Kaslo, B.C. - my "ghost-town" home from 1942 - 1945



Tam Suzuki, Betty Shinohara, Naka Suzuki



Kazuko Shinobu, Nobbie Toda & Sue  
pretending to be students instead of  
teachers





Kaslo Young People's Executive, Kaslo, B. C. -- 1944



Hiromu & Grace Fujiki's wedding  
 December 7, 1944 - Kaslo, B.C.  
 Tom Shoyama, Hiromu & Grace, Michi Kai



Kaslo United Church, Kaslo, B.C.  
 Sue's Sunday School class - 1944  
Left to right  
 Kimiko Takahashi, Sayoko Matsuzaki  
 Esther Kanda, Sayuri Konno  
 Etsuko Taira



Some of my former pupils who were nine years younger than I were twins Eiko & Amy Kitagawa who were dressed identically (Mrs. Sam Watanabe and Mrs. Amy Kunihiro), Shin Taira; also Marianne Kanda (Mrs. Frank Abe), Betty Kai (Mrs. Tom Hayakawa).

At first, teaching was on a voluntary basis, but eventually we were paid \$15/month, increased to \$30/month and in my third year of teaching increased to \$40/month. The money I saved from my teacher's salary went towards the down payment on our first house in Toronto at 503 Perth Avenue in 1946 - purchase price \$5,500.

After a year or so of living in an evacuation centre, life somehow became stabilized. The Nisei high school students were included with the local hakujin students at the high school up on the hill<sup>44</sup>. There were kindergarten, Sunday School, Young Peoples group and Church run by the United Church (Rev. Shimizu and Miss Neta Sadler). There was a clinic run by Dr. K. Shimotakahara, assisted by Michi Kai (Mrs. Joe Koyanagi) and Toyo Taira. We also had a dentist, Dr. Ed Banno, and an optometrist, Dr. Henry Naruse.

The New Canadian office was moved to Kaslo so we became friends with Tom Shoyama, T.U. (Mr. T. Umezuki, Japanese editor), and the rest of the gang - Frank Moritsugu, Junji Ikeno, Noji Murase, Harold Mayeda, etc.

We received mail, but the mail was censored - the envelope would have a large stamp saying 'CENSORED'. Nesan and nisan were struggling on the sugar beet farms in Alberta. However, they were blessed with the birth of George Masaki in February, 1943 in Magrath, and Dick Eiji in January, 1945 in Raymond. In the meantime, many of the road camps in B.C. and Ontario were being closed so the men went eastward, mainly to Ontario. My brother Sam went to Toronto.

There were deaths, births and weddings in Kaslo. I think one of the first deaths was Yusuke Kai, Sam's father, who died at age 52 on October 19, 1942, leaving behind ten children, oldest was Sam, 23 years, and the youngest was Viola, 5 years.

A man was killed in a saw mill accident; a young girl fell to her death from an open window on the third floor of Kaslo Hotel. These were tragedies upsetting the whole community.

There were weddings; not the kind of weddings we have now, but just the wedding ceremony with the family in attendance (no reception). Grace Kai married Hiromu Fujiki on December 7, 1944; maid of honour Michi Kai, best man Tom Shoyama. Rev. W.R. McWilliams came from Tashme to officiate the service.





Sue in Kaslo, B.C., age 19, 1944



Kootenay Lake School Teachers  
Back: Molly Fujita, Naka Suzuki  
Front: Martha Yamazaki, Sue Matsugu  
 Aya Sato



Sue & Lorraine



Sue & Betty Shinohara  
 1944



1944 - Kaslo, B.C.



Ayako Atagi, Kazuko Shinobu, Martha Yamazaki



5 Matsugu evacuees



Pop - 54 years old  
Mom - 45 years old



Raymond, Alberta - Fumiko & Masako Miyazaki, April, 1945 on the way to Toronto

Gradually from 1943, the young people started to move out of the ghost towns. They went to Ontario, mostly to Toronto and Hamilton, some to Montreal.

The eastward trek was happening in Kaslo, and in 1944, not only young people, but families were moving out. We certainly had many farewell dances, some rather emotional and tearful, as we didn't know what the future held for the people leaving Kaslo as well as for those left behind.

(Sam Kai left Kaslo in November, 1944 for Hamilton. At that time, Sam was just an acquaintance of mine.)

Around this time, the government was pushing repatriation; in other words, if you wanted to go to Japan, the government would pay the fare. It was a time of confusion with families split on the question of repatriation. Some Isseis wanted to return to Japan, but the children wanted to remain in Canada. The government was also starting to close the ghost towns so we had no choice but to sign for repatriation or go east of the Rockies.

#### EASTWARD BOUND

In April, 1945, after living in Kaslo for three years, the five of us (father, mother, me, Ken and Lorraine) decided to go to Ontario. With our worldly possessions, which wasn't much, we travelled by train (4 days and 5 nights sitting up). Lorraine and I were train sick most of the time, especially as the trains were full of soldiers smoking cigarettes and cigars.

In Alberta, we made a stopover at Raymond to visit nisan, nesan, Harry, George and Dick. It was a joyous reunion as we had not seen them for three years. We had never met George and Dick who were born in Magrath and Raymond respectively. They seemed to be happy; however, we were sorry to see them living in crowded quarters.

We arrived at the Union Station in Toronto on May 8, 1945 which happened to be V.E. Day (Victory in Europe was proclaimed May 7/45). We thought the world had gone crazy as everyone was screaming, dancing in the streets, with ticker tape everywhere. After being cut off from the rest of the world for three years, we were shocked and scared at this demonstration.

Clarkson

✓ Our next shock was that our placement in ~~Port-Credit~~ (to work at Sheridan Nurseries) fell through. My brother Sam had arranged this through Ernest Trueman, placement officer.



Other families were in similar predicaments with no place to go. However, there was a hostel for stranded families in Somerville (Dundas & Islington area). We lived in Somerville for a few weeks until another placement was found.

#### CHATHAM, ONTARIO 1945 - 1946

In Chatham, a seed company was looking for a carpenter and a secretary in the same family so we were chosen for this placement. Mr. Reid, the boss, arranged for us to move into a house in Chatham. We were in seventh heaven. It was a nice bungalow with a porch, three bedrooms and a large garden. My mother was so happy working in the garden. My father worked in the seed plant, and Ken and Lorraine attended C.C.I. (Chatham Collegiate Institute).

There wasn't enough secretarial work for me so Mr. Reid sent me to Toronto for three months, all expenses paid, to learn seed analysis at a government laboratory of the Department of Agriculture. I lived at the Y.W.C.A. (Young Women's Christian Association) on Pembroke St. in the heart of the tenderloin district near Dundas & Jarvis St. It was a very bad neighbourhood with many prostitutes and alcoholics. The weekly room and board at the 'Y' was \$7.00 which included a nice little room with meals in the dining room.

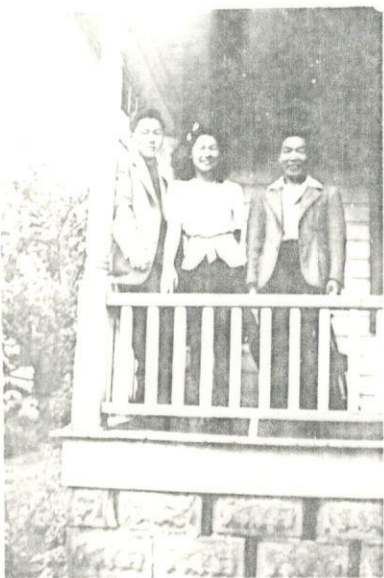
During my three month stay in Toronto, the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima City, Japan on August 6, 1945. The ladies at the Dept. of Agriculture told me about this disaster. They were most sympathetic to me.

Although I was lonely without my family, I had plenty of dates. There were many Nisei guys in the city, and as soon as word got around that there was a new girl in town, I had dates to go roller skating, dancing, see shows, etc.

After returning to Chatham, Mr. Reid was still unable to find sufficient work to keep me on the payroll. It was impossible for me to find secretarial work as there was discrimination in Chatham; in fact, some of the restaurants had signs saying "No Japs allowed". This was 1945 - conditions have changed dramatically since then, and now the Japanese-Canadians are respected members of the community.

I finally found a job working at the Maple Leaf Laundry, working 55 hours a week, Monday to Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 12 noon for 35 cents an hour. My job with three other girls was to press men's white shirts on the big presses. The first girl did the cuffs and collars, the second girl did the yoke and sleeves, the third girl did the back and front, and the fourth girl folded the shirts. We had to do 60 shirts an hour in a low ceiling room full of steam. There were days when I thought







I would die standing for 10 hours on the cement floor in the heat and the girls swearing continually. When I left after one year, the boss gave me a bonus saying I was an excellent worker.

We had happy times in Chatham too. Ken and Lorraine made school friends. Lorraine became friendly with her first black friend named Rana. They got along very well and had many many laughs. Ken got a part-time job working at *chicken feed* Darlings, a fertilizer firm close by. The stench was unbearable at times, depending on the wind, and when Ken came home from work, his clothes had to be washed immediately. There were a few Japanese-Canadian families so there was a Young Peoples Club. We also started to attend the Park Avenue<sup>St.</sup> United Church. Some of the Japanese families were the Babas, Fujiis, Moritas, Nakamuras, Odas, Shojis, Tanakas, Todas, Tomotsugu, etc.

While working at the seed plant, my dad developed a skin rash all over his body, an apparent allergy to the dust and various clover seeds. After a year in Chatham, we decided to move to Toronto where we felt there would be more job opportunities.

#### TORONTO, ONTARIO, 1946 to

As my aunt, Mrs. Sueno Kawaguchi was living in Toronto, we stayed at her house at 24 Fulton Ave., north of Danforth, east of Broadview for a short while. We bought a house in the Davenport/Lansdowne area, 503 Perth Ave. for \$5,500 (1946). It was a nice two-storey semi-detached house on a tree lined street.

Fortunately through my association with the Dept. of Agriculture, I was able to get a job as a seed analyst at Ontario Seed at 48 Wellington St. at Church in downtown Toronto. This is a well known corner as the Gooderham-Worts building is situated on a three-sided street of Front/Church/Wellington Streets.

It was my first job in the big city. My boss, John Eros, a Hungarian immigrant, was extremely good to me. He must have felt my uneasiness at my first job in a strange city. There was Mary Laidlaw, a seed analyst and secretary, who made me feel so much at home. She was the daughter of a United Church minister, Rev. Laidlaw in the east end. She invited me to her house several times for dinner. When I was being married two years later, the people at Ontario Seed were so generous - they had showers for me and they all came to our wedding.

My weekly pay in 1946 was \$20; those who worked at Simpsons and Eatons made \$11 - \$14 so I felt like a millionaire.



Auntie Mrs. Sueno Kawaguchi

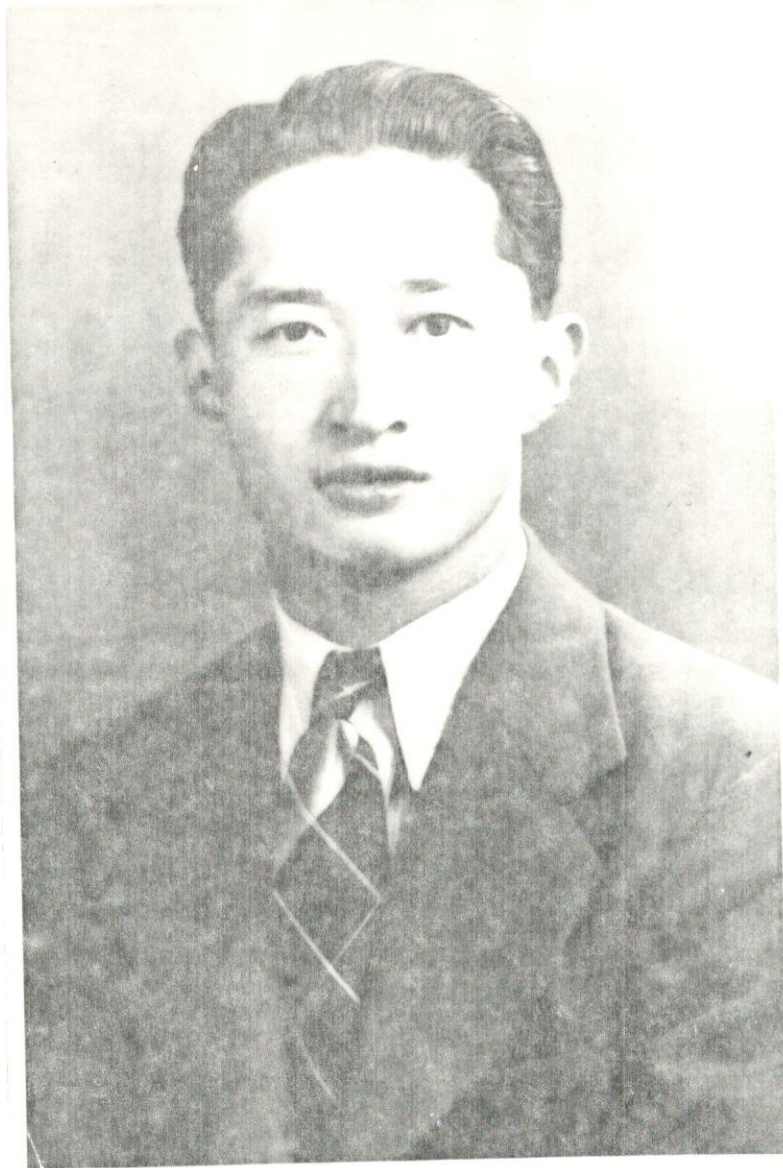


Cousin Sue Kawaguchi



Bridal shower for Martha Yamazaki 1949





Bachelor Sam 1947



Single Sue 1946



Engagement, October 4, 1947

Many Torontonians had never seen a Japanese so naturally there was discrimination; in fact, some Chinese restaurants would not serve Japanese customers. This was a period of much movement as families were moving into the big cities. Nesan and nisan's family moved to Toronto from Alberta and lived with us until they found their own accommodation. Nisan got a job at National Rubber and worked there until his retirement. Many Japanese men worked in the plant, some in management.

My father got a job at Joseph Yolles Furniture Co. on Yonge St. north of Bloor St. working as a carpenter, usually on cabinets and antique furniture. Apparently, he was an excellent worker and a skilled craftsman. He worked until he was seventy years old when Ken graduated from Emmanuel College. At age seventy, he received his first old age pension of \$40/month.

In 1947, a handsome young man named Sam Kai started to date me. He lived in the Rogers Rd./Weston Rd. area about three miles away from my house. After a whirlwind courtship of six months, we were engaged on October 4, 1947. We took the streetcar to Club Kingsway near Sunnyside to celebrate our engagement. During our engagement period, also six months, Sam picked me after work as he worked at Reader Mail at Front and Bay St. We went home by streetcar to have supper and spend the evening at home. It was an exciting period as we were busy making wedding preparations.

#### WEDDING DAY

Saturday, April 3, 1948 was a beautiful sunny day. I wore a white satin gown made by Lorraine who was my bridesmaid. Sam wore a tailor made blue-grey suit which he bought for \$40 at a store on St. Clair & Oakwood. Sam's best man was Mitz Ohashi.

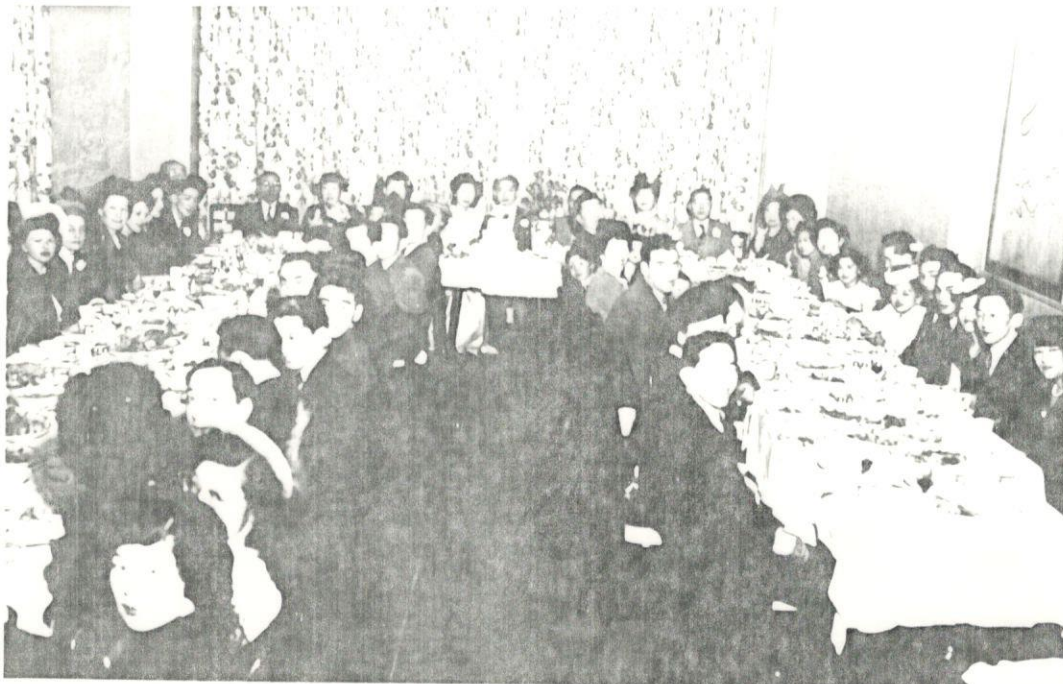
I don't know how I got to the church, but I remember running across Spadina Ave., holding up my long wedding dress. The wedding was held at the Church of All Nations on Queen Street, east of Spadina Avenue, officiated by Rev. K. Shimizu, attended by seventy guests, none of whom owned a car.

The reception was held at Lichee Garden on Elizabeth St. at a cost of \$2.00 per person. Most receptions were held in Chinatown and, of course, there was no dancing. There were quite a few speeches, some in Japanese, as half the guests were Isseis in their 40's and 50's.

After the reception, seven of us piled into a U-Drive - Mickey Takeda, George & Corrie Ikemoto and Katie Oyama from Hamilton, Mitz Ohashi and the bride and groom. They dropped us off at the General Brock Hotel in Niagara Falls. After a



Wedding of Sam & Sue Kai, April 3, 1948



Reception at Lichee Gardens



Lichee Gardens, April 3, 1948



Mrs. Tami Kai, Yoshiko Matsugu, Sam & Sue, Mr. & Mrs. Yuhey Matsugu



few days in Niagara Falls "to watch the falls", we went to Hamilton and back home to Toronto by bus.

Our "home" was one large front room on the second floor of my parents' house. In this one room was a davenport (sofa bed), dresser, stove, ice-box, table and chairs. Compared to today's standards, we were living in cramped quarters; however, we didn't mind as others were living in similar conditions shortly after the end of the war when rooms were scarce.

1949 was a significant year for the Japanese-Canadians. We were given the franchise, our right to vote and to be a true Canadian citizen. Some evacuees started to return to British Columbia, but the majority decided to remain out east in Manitoba, Ontario or Quebec.

On August 2, 1949 Ronald Satoru Matsugu was born in Toronto, the fourth son for nesan and nisan.

As more Niseis settled in Toronto, romance blossomed rapidly. In 1949, we went to the weddings of Michi Kai & Joe Koyangai, Eiko Nobuoka & Lefty Nakamura, Tosh Maeda & Junji Ikeno, and Dorothy Nakagawa & Tosh Nishijima.

In 1950, we attended the weddings of Betty Shinohara & Jack Asano, Naka Suzuki & Fred Sasaki, Fuzzy Furuya and Mits Ohashi, and Lily Kurita & Chuck Oda.

The Niseis worked in various occupations, at Imperial Optical, Tip Top Tailors, dry-cleaning plants, garment industry on Spadina Ave., sales clerks at Simpsons or Eatons. Very few had professional jobs as the older Niseis lacked higher education. Life was starting to get a little easier so people started to buy houses, even television sets.

After two and a half years in December, 1950, we were fortunate to be able to buy a house at 28 Auburn Ave. in the St. Clair/Dufferin area, a White, Protestant Anglo-Saxon neighbourhood. We thought the house was fantastic, quite a large two-storey detached house with a self-contained apartment upstairs and a big yard with lots of perennials and an apple tree. The house cost \$9,500, down payment of \$4,000, with the mortgage payable in five years. It was a real struggle as we had borrowed money for the down payment. With the rental income of \$60/month for the three room upstairs, we managed to pay the mortgage.

I continued to work at Ontario Seed so every summer, we were able to go on holidays, usually to a lodge in Muskoka, until the birth of our first child. We bought our first car in 1952, a second hand 1949 grey Plymouth.



1946 - Toronto



1950 - Matsugu family on Mother's Day



Hamilton - in front of the Takeda's house, 1948



Little Lake, Midland, Ont. - Brian, David  
John Saisho, Lori Nishino  
1950



Christmas at 28 Auburn Avenue, 1954

Michi, Clara, Katie  
Grace, Sue, Sherry  
Adachi



### BIRTH OF OUR FIRST CHILD

There is nothing more wonderful and exciting than the birth of a first child. After the initial and continuous contractions, Sam was driving me to the Women's College Hospital early Sunday morning. I was groaning and moaning, saying that the birth was imminent. Sure enough, a baby boy came into this world shortly after we arrived at the hospital. I cried at first as I wanted a baby girl, but that was soon forgotten when I saw the cute little bundle of joy.

Brian Samuel Kai was born Sunday, March 29, 1953, weighing 6 lbs. 13 oz. The doctor's report listed the birth as "violent childbirth". The doctor told me that if I had another child, I should have the baby by appointment (induced labor) or it's possible that the second baby could be born on the kitchen floor. I spent our fifth anniversary (April 3, 1953) in the hospital, and brought the baby home on Easter Sunday.

The new baby brought us much happiness. Brian was an excellent baby; he didn't fuss too much and was a good sleeper. I breast fed him for almost ten months until his first tooth came out. Our life style certainly changed after the arrival of a new member in the household, including cloth diapers that had to be washed daily. The baby took precedence over everything else, and the baby was the boss. It was an interesting and happy period, watching your child's growth, physically and mentally.

In 1954, I went to work as a secretary at Ontario Seed. Grandma Matsugu looked after Brian and she truly enjoyed baby sitting. She only spoke Japanese, but managed quite well.

In April 4, 1954, the Nisei congregation of the Toronto Japanese United Church was formed. Services were held 2-3 Sundays per month at the Queen St. United Church, Queen & Bathurst Streets, led by Rev. K. Shimizu.

On June 4, 1954, Lorraine Yoshiko Matsugu was married to Phil Kazuo Yatabe at the Metropolitan United Church. Chickie Shinohara was the bridesmaid and I was the matron of honour. Lorraine made her gown as well as the attendants - they were all beautiful. Chickie had an operation on her leg prior to the wedding, and was in a convalescent home for some time. However, on the wedding day, she walked down the long aisle of the church with no assistance. Her mother was so happy and proud, she had tears of joy streaming down her face.

### BIRTH OF OUR SECOND CHILD

Two years and two months after Brian was born, we were blessed with the birth of our second son, David William Kai, born Saturday, May 14, 1955 at the Women's College Hospital, weighing 7 lbs. 2 oz. The doctor arranged for the birth to take place Saturday evening, by induced labor. The doctor said Saturday night was a good night as that is probably when the baby was conceived, also she was free that night. David was born quickly - a nice baby brother for Brian. David also was a good baby. We only had one set of diapers to wash as Brian conveniently was toilet trained just before David's arrival.

On April 1, 1956, Brian and David were baptized at the Queen St. United Church by Rev. K. Shimizu. Brian started church nursery at age three. His favourite teacher was Beth (Kanda) Matsugu. David started nursery at the new church location at 701 Dovern Court Rd. where we shared facilities with the Centennial United Church from January, 1958.

Brian and David went to Jr. & Sr. Kindergarten at Regal Rd. Public School at the north-east corner of Dufferin and Davenport Rd. For a few years, I went back to work at Ontario Seed so Brian was at nisan and nesan Matsugus for lunch and after school. He certainly had lots of company with the four Matsugu cousins. Grandma Matsugu looked after David and she really enjoyed baby sitting.

We bought our first new car in 1957, a blue and white Plymouth with the big fins in the back. It was gear shift, and cost \$3,500. This car was a lemon and we had nothing but trouble from the beginning. It became apparent that if I wanted to be self-sufficient, I had to learn to drive a car. The thought was terrifying, but I made up my mind that if other women can drive, so can I. With the exodus to the suburbs, it was almost imperative to be able to drive.

My first driving lesson was at the Exhibition ground. My teacher was Sam, a person who is normally quite patient, but when I was behind the wheel, all of a sudden, I was a stupid driver. Can you imagine me behind the wheel, not knowing anything about the gas pedal, brakes, gear shift, etc. After a heated quarrel and trying to learn from an amateur teacher, I took professional lessons from the Hertz Driving School.

In the 1950's, the driving permit was valid for sixty days. Fortunately, I received my driver's license at the Keele St. Motor Vehicle office, with on-road examination. I was so happy, I could have kissed the examiner. I think it was the summer of 1959.



Phil & Lorraine Yatabe's wedding, June 4, 1954



Sue & Chickie Shinohara



Christmas at  
28 Auburn Ave.  
1953



Brian & his cousins,  
Ron, Dick, George  
& Harry Matsugu  
1954





In front of our 28 Auburn Avenue house



Brian & Michael Koyanagi

MAY • 55



Brian & Jeanne



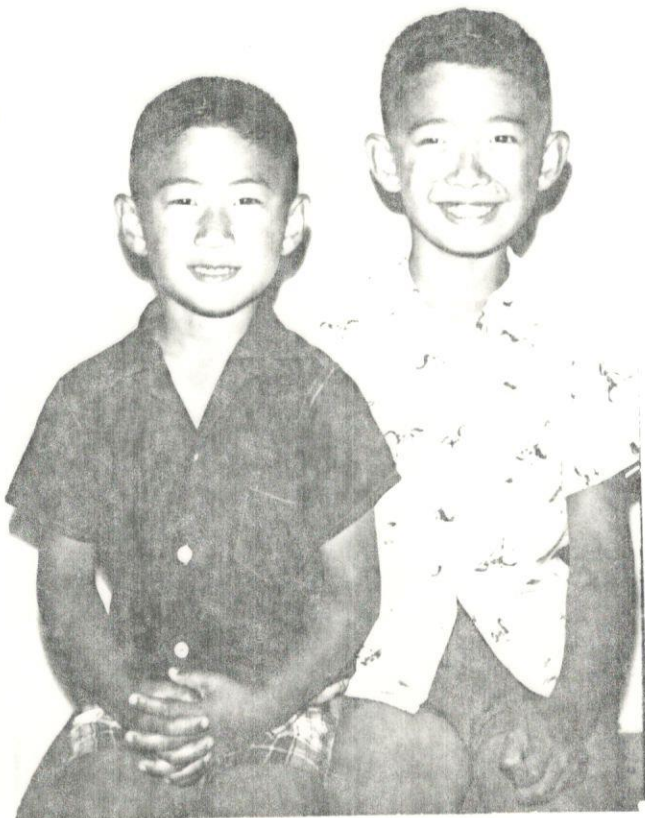
Brian & David's baby pictures are in their respective baby books.



1957 (4 and 2 years)



1958 (5 and 3 years)



1961 (8 and 6 years)



1966 (13 and 11 years)

## CAMPING

Camping was very popular in the 1950's and 1960's. In the late 1950's, we bought our first tent, a 9 ft. x 12 ft. bustle back Woods tourist tent made of heavy canvas.

Brian and David loved camping and we have many happy memories of our camping days at Little Lake in Midland, Pancake Bay near Sault Ste Marie, Pinery at Ipperwash - Lake Huron, Kilbear near Parry Sound, Cape Cod, Presqu'ile near Brighton, Grundy Park, Ivanhoe near Folyet way up north, Mikisew on Eagle Lake by South River, etc.

We went camping with the Saishos, Koyanagis, Yatabes, Kinoshitas, Bill & Clara, mostly families with boys. The camps were run by the Provincial Parks on a first come basis. On long weekends, the camp sites would be completely filled up.

We enjoyed swimming, some fishing, cooking, eating and sleeping outdoors. The evenings were great fun, singing around a roaring campfire, occasionally to the accompaniment of a guitar by Brian. It was great getting away from the city to watch the bright stars, the Milky Way, the smell of trees and pine cones, and breathing real fresh air

## WEEKEND ESCAPE

One long weekend in the summer of 1959, five girls - Koko Kinoshita, Jean Oiye, Barb Saisho, Michi Koyanagi and I flew to New York City to see the famous all girl dance troupe from Japan called the Takarazuka Dancers.

It was very exciting, our first plane ride, our first trip to New York, our first time away from our husbands and our children. We all had sons except for Jean who had a daughter. We had a wonderful time at Radio City, Empire State Building, Rockefeller Centre, and, of course, shopping at Macy's and other stores.

Koko, Jean and Barb shared one room. The following year in 1960, the three girls all became mothers rather "late" in life. Koko had Gail, Jean had David, and Barb had Bruce.

Michi and I shared a room. We didn't get pregnant, but shortly after, Michi had an ulcer operation, and a few years later, I had a gall bladder operation. The moral of the story is that strange things can happen when five young mothers leave their husbands for a "wild" weekend in New York.

In the 1950's, the Sansei population was mushrooming. At women's get-togethers, we would compare our swollen bellies.

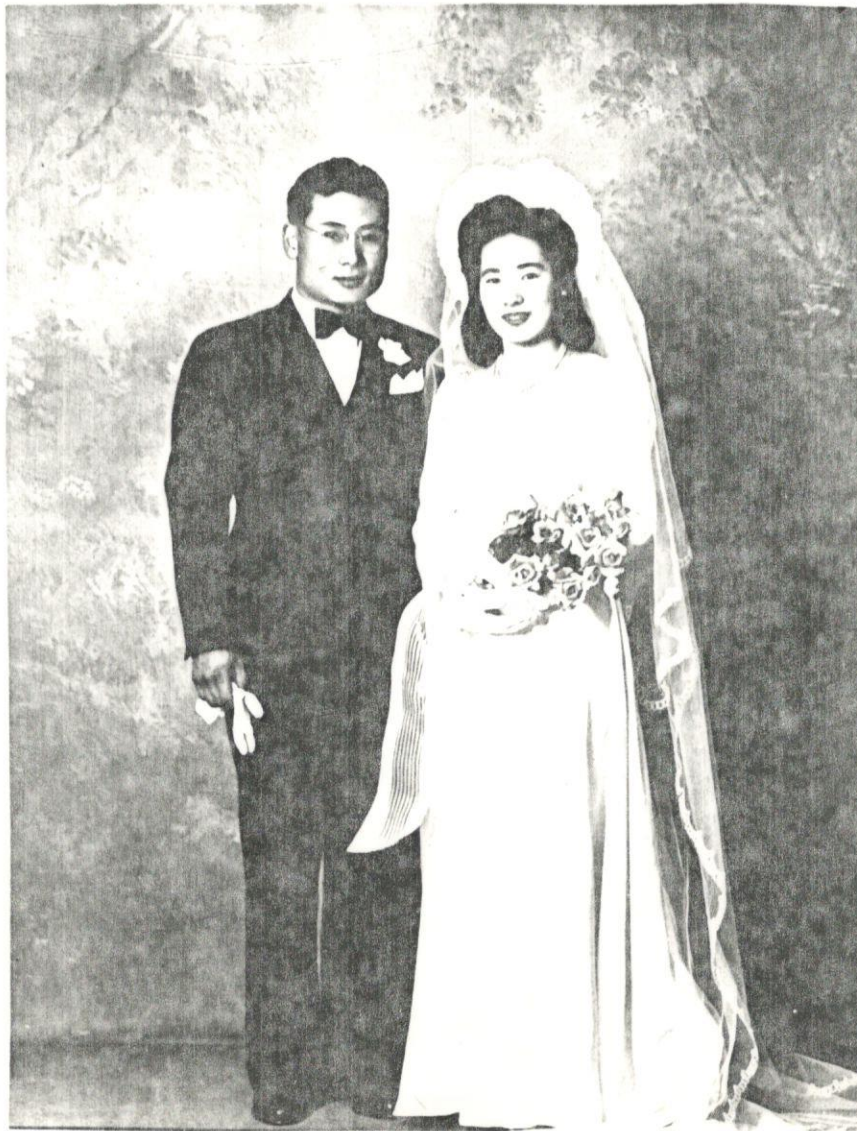




Jim & Mimi Kai's wedding  
September 28, 1957



Tosh & Junji Ikeno's wedding  
October 14, 1950



Roy & Sherry Adachi's wedding  
March 24, 1947

My friends from Vancouver and Kaslo - we were all having babies about the same time.

In the Kai and Matsugu families, we became auntie and uncle to the following nieces and nephews - Michael Koyanagi - 1952, Tim Fujiki - 1955, Linda Hayakawa - 1957, Julia Kai - 1958, Stan Kai - 1958, Raymond Kai - 1959, and Leslie Yatabe - 1959.

The following are weddings in the Kai and Matsugu families.

October, 1955 - Betty Mayko Kai married Tom Tamio Hayakawa.

May, 1956 - Bill Tsutomu Kai married Clara Sumiko Seo.

September, 1957 - Jimmy Mitsugu Kai married Mimi Miyoshi Kawahara.

October, 1957 - Samuel Yoshimitsu Nakagawa married Jeanne Sakaye Ogawa.

October, 1960 - Viola Akemi Kai married Mush Masayoshi Alan Arima.

August, 1961 Don Megumi Kai married Margaret Jackson.

October, 1962 - Ken Kunio Matsugu married Noby Nobuko Sasaki.

The first subway in Toronto opened on March 30, 1954 on Yonge Street, running from Front St. to Eglinton Ave. Tickets were 3 for 25 cents.

By the late 1950's, life for the average Nisei was quite stable. We had become middle-aged, most families owned their own homes, in fact, some were selling their houses downtown and moving to the suburbs. The majority of the Niseis had steady jobs and it appeared that the Japanese-Canadians were gradually being accepted in the main stream of the "white" society. Jobs were plentiful and the economy was healthy.

May 6, 1961 was another important plateau in our lives. After living over ten years at 28 Auburn Ave. (I was 28 years old then), we moved to the suburbs. Auburn Ave. has many memories. This is where the children started their lives - their first day at kindergarten, learning to ride their bikes, getting chicken pox and measles, playing with the Matsugu cousins as they lived a few blocks away, walking to St. Clair Ave. to the ice-cream store, ice skating and playing hockey in the back yard, etc.

We decided to move as the house was quite old requiring repairs, also it did not have a garage. We needed larger living quarters as Brian and David were eight and six years old respectively. We hired a U-Haul Rental with family and friends helping us move.

#### OUR FIRST NEW HOME

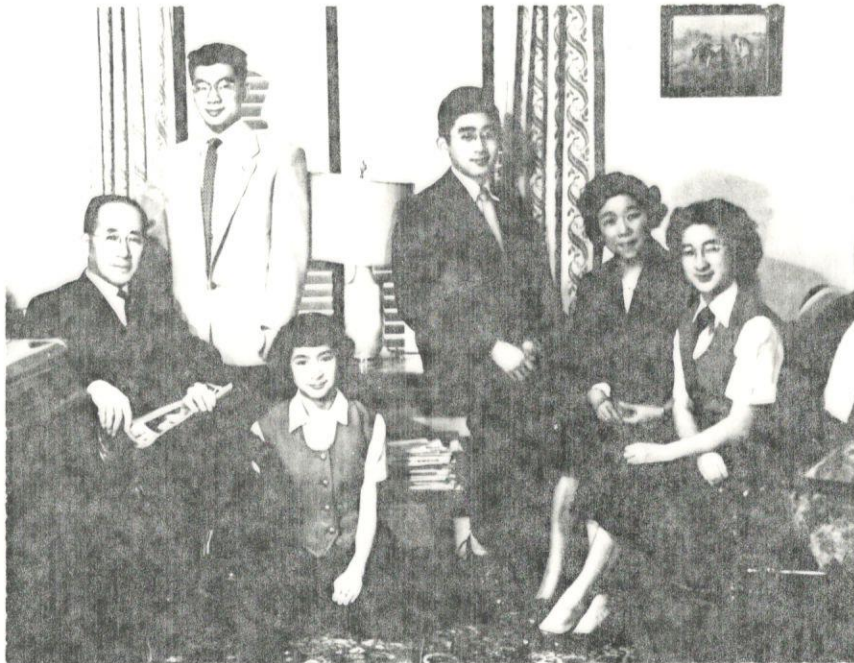




Betty & Tom's wedding, October, 1955



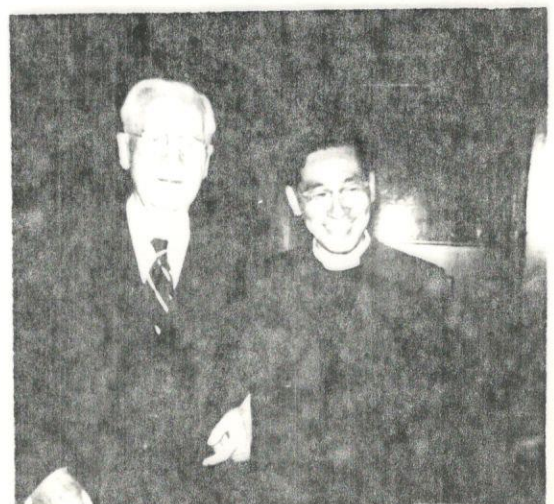
Sam & Jeanne's wedding  
October, 1957



Shimizu family - 1953

Rev. K. Shimizu, Ted  
Dorothy, Victor  
Hide, Grace

Ken's graduation from Emmanuel College, 1961





Vi & Mush's wedding, October 8, 1960 (Vi with Sam)





We felt our new house was a dream - 62 Coral Gable Dr., Weston; even the name sounded so romantic. It was a seven room side split home with an attached garage on a 55 ft. wide lot and 113 ft. deep. The purchase price was \$19,300, 7% interest, including a small recreation room with a fire place.

This was a sub-division in the Sheppard Ave./Weston Rd. area called Woodview Park, and most of the surrounding area was vacant land. Shortly after, houses started to mushroom, and there was a period when our house was always covered with dust with all the construction. Mimi and Jimmy with their children, Julia and Raymond, lived close by at 148 Verobeach Blvd.

Brian and David started Gulfstream Public School in Grades 3 and 1 respectively in September, 1961. They made friends and were happy in their new school and neighbourhood. Brian and David were both in the enrichment programme; in other words, they completed Grades, 2, 3 and 4 in two years.

In Brian's class, there was Brian McCulloch; in David's class, there were five Davids - David Hollands, David McCulloch (Brian's brother), David Kai plus two others. I think they split up the Davids into two classes. It was a good place to bring up the children, a young growing community and a pleasant neighbourhood.

#### REV. KEN MATSUGU

A very joyous occasion took place when Ken Kunio Matsugu graduated from Emmanuel College in May, 1961. Ken was almost 34 years old then, the first in the family to receive a B.A. degree, as well as a B.D. (Bachelor of Divinity) degree. We were all so proud of him, especially my parents as Ken had returned to school after working as a carpenter for many years. Very few Niseis were able to get a university education at that time.

Ken was ordained, and as Rev. Matsugu, his first placement was in ~~northern Manitoba, in Steep Rock, serving the native Indians.~~ *NorthWest Interlake Pastoral Charge and Fisher River Indian Reserve*

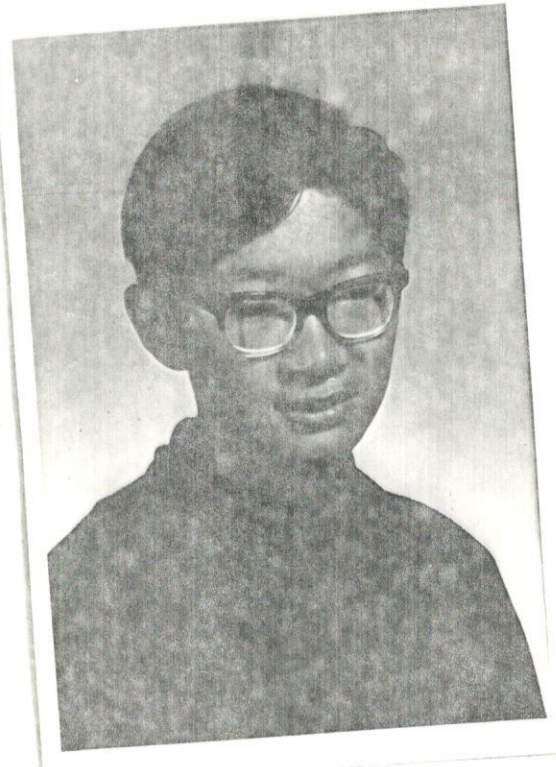
October 27, 1962 was another happy occasion when Ken and Noby Sasaki were married. Noby had graduated from the United Church Training School (now known as the Centre for Christian Studies) as a Deaconess (changed to Diaconal Minister). She was certainly a perfect mate for Ken, so gentle and kind. The wedding was held at the Toronto Japanese United Church, with the reception at Guildwood Inn.

They lived in Steep Rock from 1962 to 1965, and in Koostatak from 1965 to 1969. While in Manitoba, Ken and Noby adopted Bruce born February, 1965 and Dee-Ann born September, 1966.

David  
Hollands  
1966  
David  
Ron  
David  
Melueloe



David's friends (3 Davids, Kim and Ron)



David - 14



They stayed in Manitoba until 1969 when Ken was called to the Toronto Japanese United Church.

#### SAM'S BACK PROBLEM

Our first setback occurred in October, 1962 when Sam hurt his back at work. He did not fall, but the way he bent over to perform his work "snapped" his back. The pain was excruciating and Sam was immobilized so he landed in the Humber Memorial Hospital for a whole month. He underwent many tests, was in traction; one doctor suggested spinal surgery which Sam refused.

After two more months at home, Sam gradually got better and returned to work in January, 1963. Fortunately, Sam was covered by Workmen's Compensation (changed to Workers' Compensation) so we managed quite well financially. However, the stress of not knowing when Sam was going to recover was hard on Sam and the family. After an incident like this, we have learned to be very careful with our backs. A spinal injury can be disastrous.

#### JAPANESE CANADIAN CULTURAL CENTRE

With the Japanese-Canadian population increasing in Toronto, there was a need for suitable accommodation where J-Cs could meet for meetings, socials, cultural activities, etc. Fund raising started around 1961. Most people supported this project, but, of course, there was some controversy. The J-C's had assimilated so well that some felt that there was no need to erect a building for the J-C's to congregate.

Through the efforts of the hard working committee, the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre (JCCC or Centre for short) was officially opened on June 7, 1964 by Prime Minister Lester Pearson. It is situated at 123 Wynford Drive, Don Mills, north of Eglinton Ave., east of Don Mills Rd. The architect was Raymond Moriyama.

In 1988, a 25th Anniversary book was published, also a gala dinner and dance was held to commemorate 25 years of "Friendship Through Culture". The JCCC has served Canadians from all walks of life, not exclusively for Japanese-Canadians.

#### SUE AT WORK

In March, 1963, I was hired as an executive secretary at Dominion Cellulose (Facelle) Ltd. on Weston Rd., south of Lawrence Ave. I don't know the difference between an executive secretary and a secretary (an executive secretary makes more money and probably works for a big shot), but

I started out at a weekly salary of \$75. That was the most money I have ever made so I was ecstatic. The men in the plant made \$48/week, and the other secretaries made about \$60/week. I guess I got in with some pull as Mr. James Murphy, the General Manager asked me, "Are you a Nisei?" When I said yes, Mr. Murphy turned to the Personnel Manager and said, "I had a Nisei gardener in Los Angeles and he was an excellent worker. Hire Sue and get her to start tomorrow."

### S. KAI

Mrs. S. Kai has been appointed to the position of Assistant Purchasing Agent. In her new position, Sue will be responsible for the purchasing of office supplies, furniture, printing requirements and for expediting all materials. Sue joined Dominion Cellulose in 1963, most of the time working for the Production Department as Administrative Secretary.



Facelle Christmas party at the Old Mill, 1972



Sue's graduation from Packaging Course, 1982



POTPOURRI - 1960's

November 22, 1963 was a black day when President John Kennedy of the United States was shot and killed in Dallas, Texas.

In 1964, Yorkdale, the largest indoor shopping mall in North America was opened at Dufferin St. and Hwy 401. In the 1980's, I think the Edmonton Mall is the largest mall in North America.

In 1964, four youths from Liverpool, England appeared on the Ed Sullivan show in New York. They were Paul McCartney, John Lennon, George Harrison and Ringo Starr and they were known as the Beatles. They took the world by storm - Beatlemania.

Their singing style, hairdo, guitar, etc. became an overnight success. Ricky Ioi, Michael Koyanagi, Brian and David called themselves the Japanese Beatles and performed in concerts at the church and the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre.

In February, 1964, Terminal 1 of the Toronto International Airport was opened (now known as Toronto Pearson International Airport).

On September 13, 1965, opening ceremonies were held for the new Toronto City Hall in Nathan Phillips Square. A Finnish architect, Viljo Revell was awarded \$25,000 for his submission.

Music played an important role in our children's lives. Miss Marjorie Rowe came every Tuesday from 5 - 6 p.m. to teach piano. From 5 - 5:30 p.m. was Brian's lessons, from 5:30 - 6 p.m. was David's turn. They started their lessons in 1961; the fee was \$5.00/hour. Some days, David wasn't too keen in practising, but I'm glad he persevered as he is now a talented pianist.

In High School, Brian played the trombone and the baritone, and David played the violin. Their music enabled them to participate in musicals at High School, Kiwanis Festivals, concerts at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre and the church. (Miss Rowe passed away in 1994 at the age of 79).

In the 1960's, the family increased and the following nieces and nephews were born.

1959 - Leslie Philip Yatabe

1960 - Larry Hayakawa

1962 - Joanne Kai

1963 - Beverley Kai

1964 - Steven Hayakawa, Dwayne Arima

1965 - Bruce Matsugu, Glenn Yatabe *later*

1966 - Dee-Ann Matsugu, Keith Arima, \*John Yatabe  
*Christopher*

1967 - Leslie Kai, Stacey Whitby  
 1968 - Terry Nakagawa, Stacey Lee Whitby  
 1969 - Brandon Whitby

\*The most exciting birth was John Christopher Yatabe, born Christmas morning at home in the washroom. I remember rushing to the Yatabe's house just when the ambulance was taking Lorraine and John to the hospital. Phil was in total shock.

Our first nephew to get married was Harry Hiroto Matsugu to Beth Shoko Kanda on August 20, 1966. The wedding was held at the Toronto Japanese United Church, followed by a reception at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre. There were few weddings in the late 60's and early 70's as the niseis had passed the marriagable age, and the sanseis had not quite reached that plateau.

EXPO '67 - One of the most exciting holidays we had was to Expo '67 in Montreal to celebrate Canada's 100th birthday. Brian and David were 14 and 12 years old respectively, and we had a wonderful time visiting the different pavilions. After three days at Expo, we continued on to the Maritimes and went camping at various national parks.

#### KATIE OYAMA

Katie was a special person, a close family friend of the Kais and the Oyamas for many years. The two families originated from the same area in Japan called Kagoshima-ken. Katie was about 4 ft. 6 in. tall. She was handicapped with a hump on her back and she had numerous operations on her leg. Despite her physical limitations, she led a full life. She played the piano, sang and had a good sense of humour. Unfortunately, she passed away quite early in life (late 40's) on October 29, 1967.

In 1968, the four of us went on a three week trip across Canada pulling our first brand new tent trailer. It is a trip we will not forget - the majestic Rocky Mountains, Pacific Ocean, flowers, beautiful scenery, etc.

It was our boys' first visit to British Columbia, but to Sam and me, it was our "Home Coming", our first trip to British Columbia after the forced evacuation in 1942. With mixed feelings, we returned to Vancouver and New Westminster to see where we had grown up. After over twenty years, the community had changed greatly. The places that were big then, now looked small such as Powell Grounds where the Asahi ball team used to play (Now called Oppenheimer Park), Strathcona School, Japanese Language School, etc. 700 Cordova Street where I grew up was gone so I was disappointed not to be able to see the house again with my

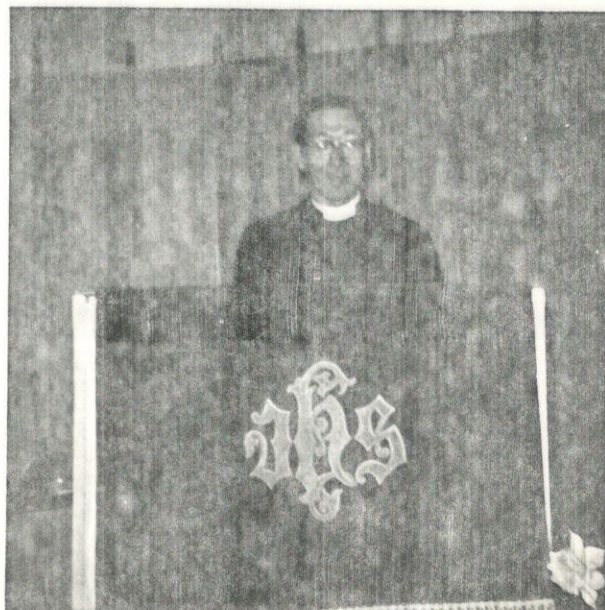




Matsugu family 1968

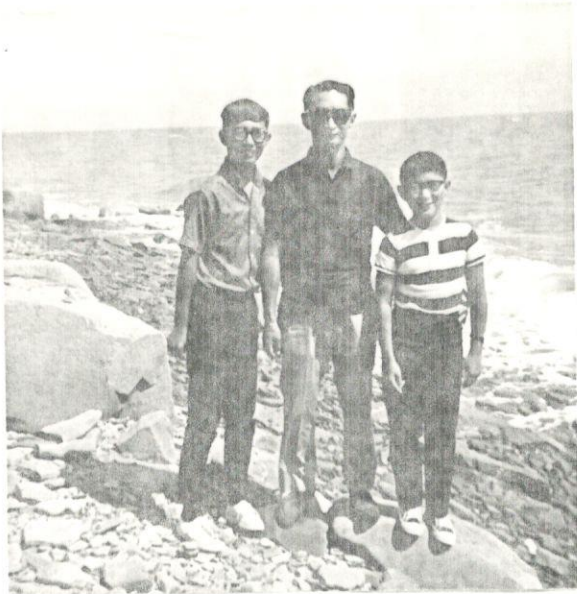


Mom (69) & Pop (79) in 1968



Ken preaching in Upper Chapel

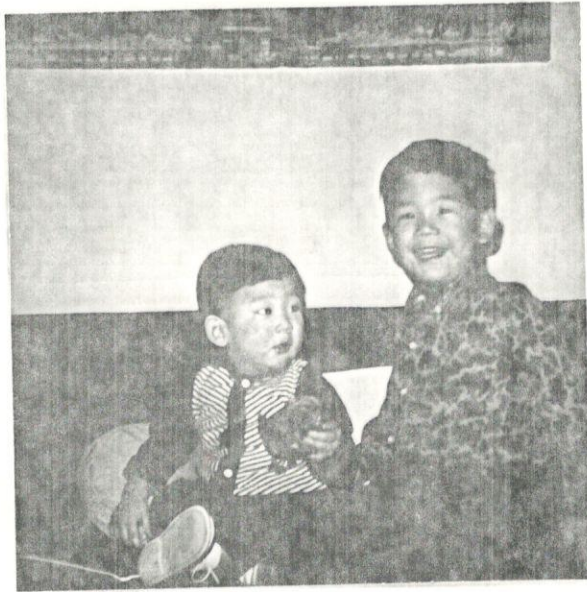




New Brunswick, 1967 Expo year



Beth & Harry's wedding  
August, 1966  
20



December, 1967

John (1) & Glen (2) Yatabe



Jim & Mimi's family



Sam & Jeanne Nakagawa



childhood memories. Sam's house on 11th Street in New Westminister was still standing (in 1994, we visited New Westminister and the house at 328 - 11th was still there, rather dilapidated).

A very nostalgic trip was to the interior of British Columbia, to Kaslo, where I lived three years from 1942 - 1945. We were fortunate to visit with Ayako (Atagi) Higashi, a school teacher who has lived in Kaslo since the 1940's with her husband Buck (still there in 1995).

The Toronto Japanese United Church, Nisei congregation was served by Rev. Kosaburo Shimizu 1954 - 1955; Rev. Bruce Cunningham 1956 - 1959 on a half-time basis; Rev. Ed Yoshioka 1960 - 1961; Rev. Min Takada 1961- 1966; Rev. William Morris 1966-1967 (died June 14/93 at the age of 72), Rev. Gordon Imai, 1967 - 1969.

Ken & Noby Matsugu served the Toronto Japanese United Church for ten years from 1969 to 1979 until their departure to Steveston United Church in Richmond, B.C.

Our church was active with Sunday School, youth groups, UCW, Fellowship Club, Camp Koyu, Satsuki Matsuri, etc. I was the editor of a monthly Newsletter from 1969 - 1978. Postage ranged from 4 cents in 1969 to 12 cents in 1978. It is interesting to note in the Church's Annual Report of 1969 that the budget was \$14,800 and the minister's annual salary was \$5,200.

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#### WEDDINGS

Family members married in the 1970's were

October 1, 1971 - Dick Eiji Matsugu to Judy Reiko Yamashita (married at the Toronto Japanese United Church, reception at the Oak Room, Union Station).

October 20, 1973 - George Masaki Matsugu to Barbara Eng (married at the Toronto Japanese United, reception at Tam O'Shanter Golf Club)

April 27, 1974 - William Robert (Bob) Fujiki to Helen Ann Corbett (married at Richmond Hill Baptist Church).

September 14, 1974

Ronald Satoru Matsugu to Jeanne Mitsuko Ebata (outdoor service and reception at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre).

Judy & Dick



Oct. 1, 1971

Oct. 1971



1971

The Saishos - Gord, John & Bruce  
Barb & Keigi



Nipponia Home, 1971, Married Couples Club



Dec. 1972

Grandma Kai and grandchildren, December, 1972



February 8, 1975 - Richard Arthur Fujiki to Joan Marie Corbett (married at Richmond Hill Baptist Church).

September 10, 1975 - Gordon Susumu Kai to Ruth Yukiko Maikawa (married at Toronto Japanese United Church, Upper Chapel), reception at the Savarin.

July 9, 1977 - Brian Samuel Kai to Kim Nora Harumi Uyede (married at Toronto Japanese United Church, reception at Beverley Hills Hotel).

September 30, 1978 - Michael Douglas Koyanagi to Louise Satomi Kimura (Married at Melville United Church in Fergus, reception at Cutten Club, Guelph)

We also went to weddings of the children of our friends, also our friends.

September 19, 1970 - Elaine Robbins to Jack Durette

April 29, 1978 - Donna Lynn Murakami to Mark Yasunobu Fujimoto (married at St. David's Anglican Church, reception at H.M.C.S.YORK).

June 24, 1978 - Peggy Ann Lyons to Gordon Bruce Clark (wedding and reception at the Terra Cotta Inn, Terra Cotta.)

#### B I R T H S

In the 1970's, the Kai and Matsugu families increased with the arrival of the following nephews/nieces or great-nephews/great nieces.

February 25, 1970 - Tracey Lynn Nakagawa (Sam & Jeanne's daughter).

March 7, 1974 - Jason Hideharu Matsugu (Dick & Judy's son)

May 5, 1976 - Janice Miki Matsugu (Dick & Judy's daughter)

June 10, 1976 - Jennifer Kai (Gord & Ruth's daughter)

December 29, 1977 - Shawn Fujiki (Richard & Joan's son)

October 20, 1978 - Karen & Kevin Kai (Gord & Ruth's twins)

June 26, 1979 - Mark Fujiki (Robert & Helen's son)

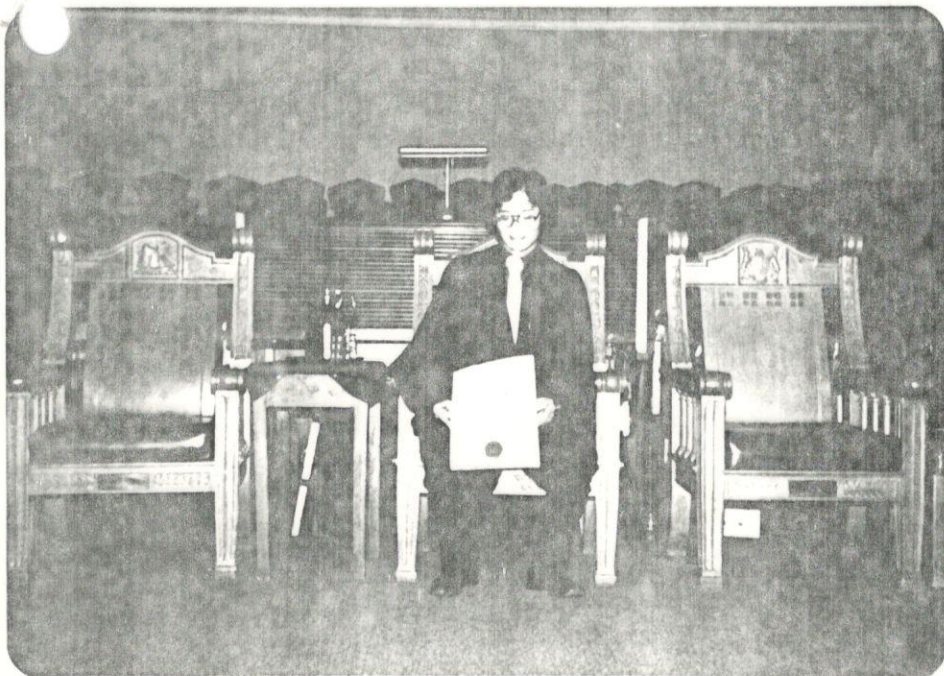
September 3, 1979 - Tracey Miki Matsugu (George & Barb's daughter.)

#### DEATHS





Ken & Noby Matsugu's wedding, October 27, 1962



David's graduation from Humber College, 1979



Brian's graduation from the University of Toronto, 1975



The Isseis were now approaching their 70's and 80's so their population was decreasing steadily. My father, Yuhey Matsugu died April 10, 1972 at the age of 82 with cancer. My mother, Kuniye Matsugu died 2-1/2 years later on December 10, 1974 at the age of 74. She also died of cancer without suffering too much, unlike my father who was in great pain. It was a sad time for me as I realized I was an "orphan" in my 40's. They were good parents, hard working, compassionate people whose lives were centered around their children so that we would have a decent life. Their motto was "kodomo no ta-me-ni - for the sake of the children", which meant sacrifice upon sacrifice so that we would have a good education and a better life.

Another death that affected me was when Aya (Sato) Kuwabara died in Hamilton, Ontario on July 9, 1977. She was in her early 50's; died quickly of leukemia, leaving her husband Tom and two daughters. I had taught school with her in Kaslo, B.C. for three years so became good friends.

Naomi (Tanaka) Chiba and Min Ota who were active at church died in March, 1976 and March, 1979 respectively.

#### GRADUATION

Brian graduated from the University of Toronto in 1975 (Bachelor of Science) and 1976 (Bachelor of Education). Brian was a Mathematics teacher at Etobicoke Collegiate from 1976 to 1981.

Kim graduated from the Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in 1976 (Bachelor of Applied Arts), Social Services.

David graduated from the University of Toronto in 1979 (Bachelor of Arts), then three years at the Humber College in Music.

#### 25th WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

The following couples celebrated their 25 years of wedded bliss.

- 1972 - Roy & Sherry Adachi
- 1973 - Sam & Sue Kai
- 1974 - Joe & Michi Koyanagi
- 1975 - Jack & Betty Asano
- 1975 - Chuck & Lily Oda

#### VACATIONS IN THE 1970's

##### 1970 - 1975

We went camping at Mikisew Provincial Park on Eagle Lake near North Bay, also at Camp Koyu at Lake Scugog where our









Sue & Lorraine at Harbour Castle  
1976



Ken & Noby's farewell to B.C.  
1979



Florida, 1976 - Phil, Glen, John & Lorraine



Trip to Japan, a Centennial Project  
October, 1977



At Beppu, niisan, nesan, Sue & Sam



Welcome party  
Cousin Fusao Ishii

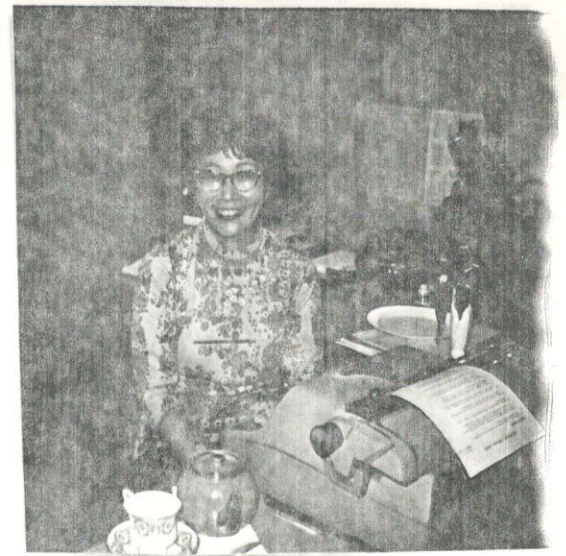


Sam's aunt & uncle  
& cousins in  
Kagoshima-ken





George & Barb's wedding, Oct. 1973



Sue at work



Sam & Sue's 25th anniversary



Nakagawa family



1973

Brian & David  
both need a  
haircut





1971 - Arima, Fujiki & Kai families



Gord & Ruth's wedding, September 10, 1975



Jeanne Ebata &  
Ron Matsugu's  
wedding, Sept. 14/74



Joe & Michi's 25th wedding  
anniversary, Sept. 1974



church leased the property. Brian and David spent many summers at Camp Koyu as participants and leaders of various camps.

From 1976, our vacation style changed, and we travelled by plane. Sam's first plane ride at age 57 was when we went to Hawaii in April. Our two week trip to three islands of Hawaii was the most exciting and wonderful holiday. In July, we flew to Florida for the first time with Phil & Lorraine, Glenn & John.

#### October, 1977

A month's vacation in Japan was a thrill of our lifetime. This was our Centennial Project (100 years since the arrival of the first Japanese immigrant to Canada). We went with nisan and nesan and it was the most wonderful and interesting trip, especially meeting my mother's two brothers and their families in Fukokoka-ken. We also had a chance to meet Sam's relatives in Kagoshima-ken. Sam's uncle, Mr. Unoki (Sam's mother's brother) looked very much like Sam.

#### AUGUST, 1979

Four relatives from Japan visited us for about two weeks. They were my Uncle Masuzo Hirata, cousin Fusao Ishii and his wife Sanae, and Yukiko Nomiyama (nesan's sister)

#### SEPTEMBER, 1979

We went on a three week bus trip to California with Trentway Tours, mostly senior citizens. It was an enjoyable trip visiting places like Las Vegas, Mormom Tabernacle at Salt Lake City and the tourist attractions in California.

#### POTPOURRI - 1970's

1970's - A period of prosperity with low unemployment. Economy was good with households purchasing microwave ovens, VCR's, computers, answering machines, etc.

1973 - Brian and David's first car - a lime green Toyota purchased for \$3,000 at Toyota Rexdale.

1973 - Metric system was introduced in Canada (not in the United States) to keep up with other European and eastern countries. It took a long time to get adjusted to kilometer (km), not miles, litres (l) instead of gallons, kilogram (kg), not lbs and oz., Celsius (C) instead of Fahrenheit F, etc. To this day, I still think along the old Imperial system.





Kai children & spouses at Mother's 80th birthday party at the China House, November, 1979





Brian & Kim's wedding, July 9, 1977

David & Marly's wedding, May 9, 1987







1979 - Fellowship Club Executive, Toronto Japanese United Church



1978 - Sansei musicians of the Toronto Japanese United Church



4 Relatives from Japan, August, 1977



Left to Right  
Sanae Ishii  
Yukiko Komiyama

Fusao Ishii ↓

Masuzo Hirata ↓



1976 - C.N.Tower, the tallest free standing structure in the world was completed in Toronto after four years of construction.

1977 - Japanese Canadian Centennial Year. Manzo Nagano was the first Japanese to arrive in Canada in 1877. There were many projects within the Japanese-Canadian community to celebrate this occasion.

1978 - My first management job as Assistant Purchasing Agent at Dominion Cellulose (Facelle). Took Purchasing course at Humber College for six months in the evening, also monthly Packaging course at various hotels for two years.

1979 - Ken & Noby Matsugu's family left for Steveston United Church in Richmond, B.C. Rev. George Tomita became the new minister at the Toronto Japanese United Church. George and Amy moved here from Quebec and stayed in Toronto until 1984

1979 - We celebrated mother's (Tami Kai) 80th birthday at the China House.

In the 1970's, the Fellowship Club of the church was very active and our Annual Dinner was a big hit. We enjoyed dining and dancing at the Holiday Inn, White Castle Inn, Airport Holiday Motor Inn, Four Seasons Sheraton, Prince Hotel, Royal York Hotel, etc.

Life was starting to get comfortable for many Nisei families.

1 9 8 0

### Weddings

Family members married in the 1980's were:

May 3, 1980 - Lawrence Stuart Seward to Julia Miyoshi Kai (married at the Toronto Japanese United Church, reception at Rexdale Lions Club)

June 26, 1982 - Stanley Hiromu Kai to Carolyn Lori Iwata (married at the Toronto Japanese United Church, reception at the Constellation Hotel).

October 26, 1985 - Philip Kazuo Yatabe to Irene Sakaye Kanzako (married at the Centennial-Japanese United Church, reception at the Fiesta Inn).

May 9, 1987 - David William Kai to Marly Marilyn Bown (married at the Centennial-Japanese United Church, reception in the Friendship Centre).



1979

Ken & Robyn's departure to B.C.  
Phil & Lorraine's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary





Louise  
Kimura &  
Michael  
Koyanagi's  
wedding  
Sept. 30/78



Julia Kai & Larry  
Seward's wedding  
May 3, 1980

Bill & Clara's  
25th wedding  
anniversary  
May 12, 1981



Sharon Adachi &  
Jack Milligan's  
wedding  
August 2, 1980



September 12, 1987 - Ronald Martyn Wilson to Joanne Jyunko Kai (married at the Richmond Hill United Church, reception at Richvale Community Centre).

June 3, 1989 - Leslie Yatabe to Sandy Halge (married at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, outdoor service followed by reception indoors)

We also went to weddings of the children of our friends or colleagues from work.

August 2, 1980 - John Jack Winston Milligan to Sharon Gail Adachi (married at home, reception at Half Way House Restaurant, Black Creek Pioneer Village)

September 4, 1982 - David Russell Austin to Deidre Hanako Yatabe (married at Bethesda United Church, reception at the Toronto Cricket Skating & Curling Club).

October 9, 1982 - Victor Gregory Loghin to Susan Patricia Thompson (married at St. Timothy by the Humber Church, reception at Tudor Room, Boaden Catering)

May 23, 1983 - Douglas Toshio Hirano to Lillian Peng (married at Casa Loma Conservatory Room, reception in the Library)

May 11, 1984 - Corey Genn Kiyonaga to Dawn Marie McArthur (married at St. Andrews Church, reception at Fantasy Farm)

August 11, 1984 - Michael Kenji Tanouye to Donna Lynn Michiko Murai (married at the Toronto Japanese United Church, reception at the Toronto Airport Hilton)

September 15, 1984 - Clayton Jamison (Jamie) Uyede to Kimberley Anne Brandon (married at St. Andrews United Church, reception at Da San Rama Banquet Hall.)

September 22, 1984 - Robert Naoki Takimoto to Tina Yuri Asada (married at the Toronto Japanese United Church, reception at the Harbour Castle Hilton)

August 24, 1985 - Michael Donald Vincent to Youn Hwa Suh (married at home followed by reception)

October 11, 1986 - Gordon George Jarvis to Margaret Naomi Sugamori (married at the Toronto Japanese United Church, reception at the Rameses Shriner Temple)

September 19, 1987 - Bruce Hiroshi Saisho to Alison Hibari Tanaka (married at the Centennial-Japanese United Church, reception at the Rameses Shriner Temple)

September 10, 1988 - Kevin Masazo Murai to Brenda Izumi Matsuba (married at the Centennial-Japanese United Church, reception at th Ramada Hotel)

### 25th WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

25th wedding anniversaries were celebrated by the following family members.

October , 1980	-----Tom & Betty Hayakawa	1955
May, 1981	-----Bill & Clara Kai	1956
September, 1982	-----Jim & Mimi Kai	1957
October, 1982	-----Sam & Jeanne Nakagawa	1957
October, 1985	-----Mush & Vi Arima	1960

A 50th Wedding Anniversary was celebrated by Zenji & Mitsuko Matsugu in January, 1989 at the Prince Hotel. They were married in Japan on January 19, 1939.

### B I R T H S

In the 1980's, the Kai and Matsugu's extended families increased. Joe & Michi, Sam & Sue, Bill & Clara and Jim & Mimi became grandparents for the first time.

May 1, 1980 - Darren Tadayoshi Matsugu (Ron & Jeanne's first son)

December 18, 1980 - Susan Corbett Fujiki (Robert & Helen's daughter)

June 7, 1982 - Michael Anderson Whitby (Lawrence & Donna's son)

August 29, 1982 - Adam Fujiki (Tim & Sandy's first son)

March 30, 1984 - Jeffrey Isao Koyanagi (Michael & Louise's son)

May 3, 1984 - Jennifer Whitby (Lawrence & Donna's daughter)

July 31, 1984 - Trevor Jordan Kai (Brian & Kim's first son)

Nov. 30, 1984 - Ryan Fujiki (Tim & Sandy's second son)

April 26, 1985 - Ryan James Stuart Seward (Larry & Julia's son)

May 18, 1985 - Bradley Yuhichi Matsugu (Ron & Jeanne's second son)

December 17, 1985 - Stephanie Noelle Satomi Koyanagi - (Michael & Louise's daughter)

April 8, 1987 - Gregory Naoyoshi Kai (Stan & Carolyn's son)

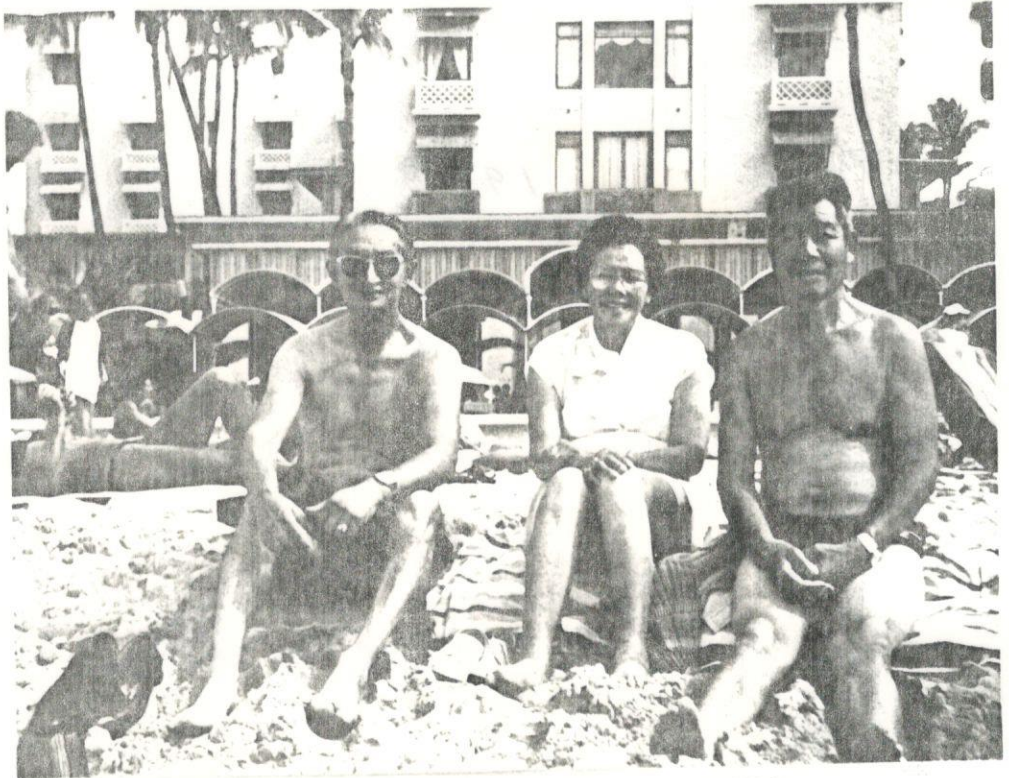
July 9, 1987 - Jeremy Travis Kai (Brian & Kim's second son)

May 26, 1988 - Caitlyn Miyoshi Norah Seward (Larry & Julia's daughter)

November 22, 1988 - Tamiko Linda Bown-Kai (David & Marly's first daughter)

May 3, 1989 - Brittany Lorraine Wilson (Ron & Joanne's first daughter)





Waikiki Beach, Honolulu - 1982



Naka & Fred Sasaki - 1982



Sam caught a Wahoo on the  
big island of Hawaii



1979



Lorraine  
Yusaku

& Tak

Hatanaka (Ferry's wife, Bill  
Hatanaka's mother)



DEATHS

In the 1980's, we lost the following family members and friends.

1981 - Gus Hirano, Charles Yoshida, Mr. M. Seo, Kiso Sora, Tammy Tamura, Frank Hatanaka  
 December 4, 1981 - Lorraine Yatabe, 5 days before her 52nd birthday, leaving behind husband Phil and three sons, Leslie - 22, Glenn - 16 and John - 14.  
 1982 - Mary Nakamura, Mrs.H. Oyama, Masaru Fujita.  
 October, 1983 - Lillian Yoshioka, age 16.  
 November, 1984 - Chee Eng  
 January, 1985 - Tom Asano  
 February, 1985 - Joe Koyanagi, age 67  
 March, 1986 - Masao Fujita, age 67  
 April, 1988 - Tami Kai, age 88

VACATIONS IN THE 1980's

1980 - 2 week motor trip to the Maritimes  
 1981 - Discovered Toronto (*Lorraine was sick, didn't want to go any*)  
 1982 - 2 weeks in Hawaii & 5 days in California (with the Matsugus)  
 1983 - 16 day bus/fly trip to B.C. (Trentway Tours)  
 1984 - 1 week Caribbean cruise (with Phil & Irene)  
 1985 - 19 day motor coach trip to Maritimes & Newfoundland  
 1986 - 1 week trip to EXPO B.C. & tour of interior (with church group)  
 1987 - 2 week bus trip to Florida  
 1987 - 3 week European trip for Sue & girls  
 1988 - 2 weeks in Hawaii (with Asanos & Saishos)  
 1988 - 2 weeks in Newfoundland (with David & Marly)  
 1989 - 2 weeks in Manitoba (with David & Marly)  
 1989 - 10 days in Orleans & Montreal (with Ken & Noby)

1980 POT POURI

1981 - Brian changed jobs from teaching at Etobicoke Collegiate to Manufacturers Life. Kim worked at the United Church House at 85 St. Clair Ave. East. Kim & Brian bought a house at 97 Bigham Cr., Etobicoke. David had his own business, Kai Keyboards, tuning pianos, prior to enrolling at the Centre for Christian Studies in September, 1984

July 29, 1981 - Wedding of Prince Charles and Princess Diana  
 August 10, 1981 - 42 day postal strike (from June 30, 1981 to August 10, 1981)  
 June 27, 1982 - 100th birthday party for Mr. Tsunekichi Matsuoka, from Haney, B.C. Secret of long life - a nip a day.  
 January 15, 1983 - Testimonial dinner for Mrs. Hide Shimizu at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre.

David's trip to Japan, 1983



With great  
uncles & great  
aunt of Fukuoka  
Ken

FUJICOLOR 83

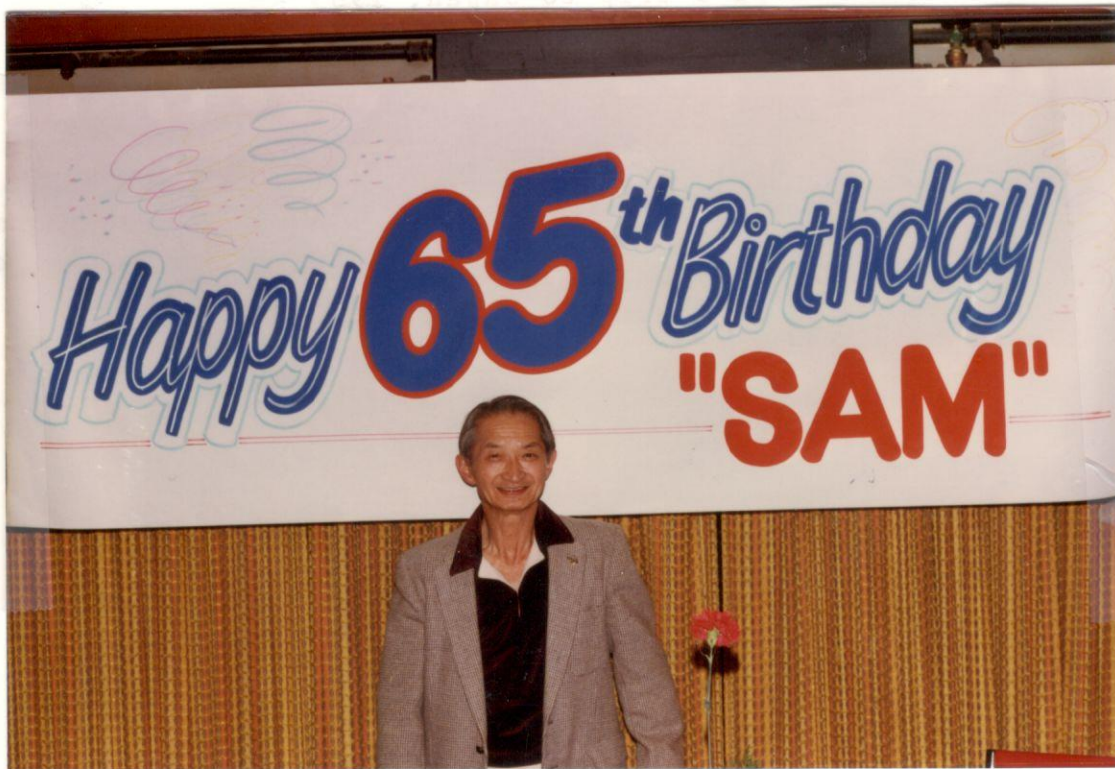


With second  
cousins at  
Mount Aso

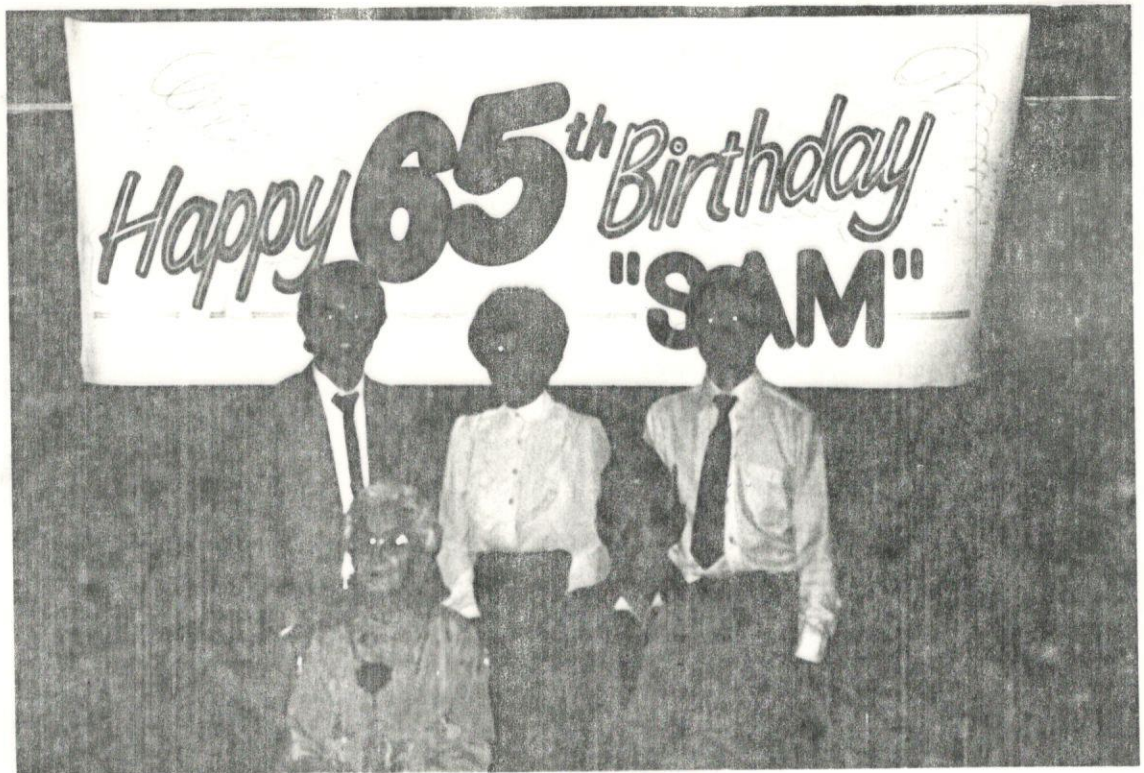


Sam & Jeanne's  
25th wedding  
anniversary  
September, 1982









1984 - Sam's 65th birthday party at the J.C.C.C.



1987 - Sam's retirement party at Brian & Kim's house





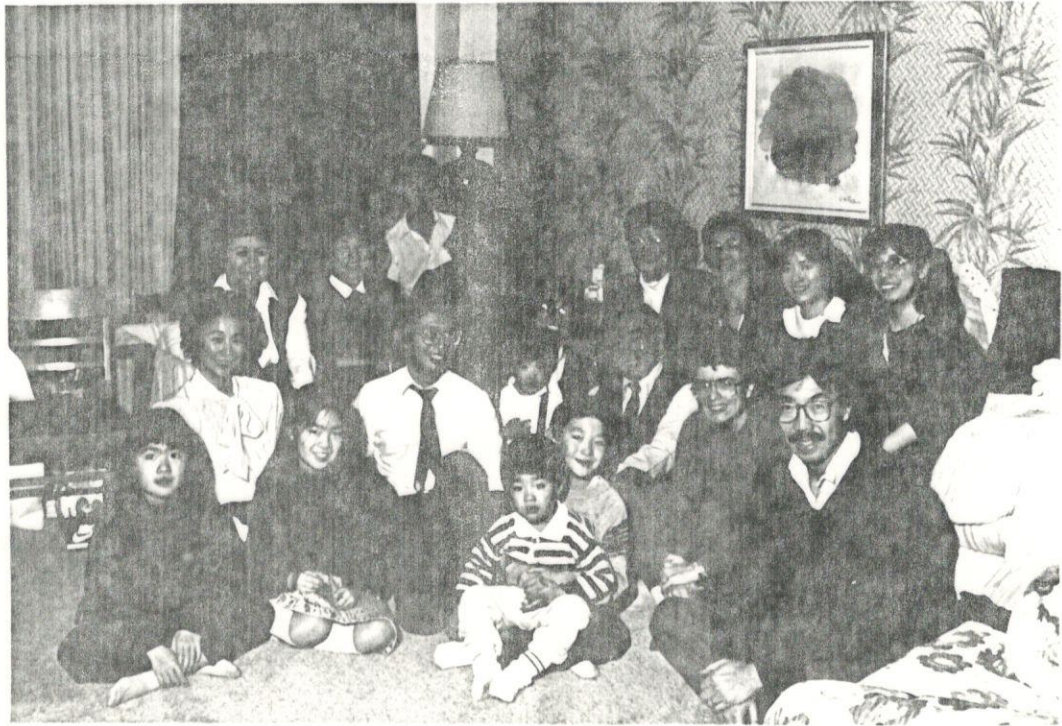
Hide Shimizu's Order of Canada Reception, JCCC, Jan. 15, 1983



Susan King & Clare Darby's wedding, August 6, 1988  
Summerside, P.E.I.



Trevor's baptism, 1984



Jeremy's baptism, 1987  
Where's Jeremy??





Trevor - 4 months, 1984



Phil & Irene Yatabe's wedding  
October 26, 1985



Sam's 1983 Camaro and Sue's 1978 Monte Carlo





Sam and Tora - 1987



Ken & Noby's 25th Anniversary, 1987, in B.C.





David & Marly's graduation from the Centre for  
Christian Studies, April, 1987



Trevor & Jeremy - 1988



Tamiko Linda Bown-Kai, 2 days old at the  
Brandon, Man. Hospital, November 23, 1988



1 9 8 8

Our 40th anniversary in Hawaii with Jack & Betty Asano and Keigi & Barb Saisho







International Market

Sam & Keigi flirting  
with a real "live"  
girl



A visit from  
Amy Koga (centre)  
in Honolulu



With Terry & Tak  
Hatanaka





Joanne Kai & Ron Wilson's  
wedding, September 12, 1987



Sandy Halge & Les Yatabe's wedding  
June 3, 1989



Zenji George & Mitsuko Matsugu's 50th Anniversary  
January, 1989 at the Prince Hotel





At the Matsugu's cottage - 1989



1989 - David's Covenanting Service - Orleans United Church  
with George & Amy Tomita

SAM'S HEALTH

January 3, 1982 - collapsed at home. In York Finch Hospital for 12 days with bleeding ulcers.

September 21, 1982 - part of stomach removed at York Finch Hospital.

November 1, 1988 - Humber Memorial Hospital for 4 weeks - revision of gastro system and removal of gall bladder.

That's when he stopped smoking, a blessing in disguise for his pain.

In 1987, David & Marly graduated from the Centre for Christian Studies. They were in Birtle, Manitoba at a three point charge for two years. They moved in 1989 to Orleans, Ontario, David as Diaconal Minister at Orleans United Church.

In 1989, Ken & Noby Matsugu transferred to the Montreal United Church from Richmond, B.C

RETIREMENT

Sam - In 1987, after working at Reader Mail for forty years, Sam retired at the age of 67. As a retirement gift, the children gave Sam a dog, a Sheltie (Shetland Sheepdog - a small Collie) named Tora. Tora was Sam's best friend (next to Sue, of course) and gave Sam much enjoyment and companionship. On his 65th birthday (1984), there was a surprise party at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre.

Sue - In November, 1988, after working at Dominion Cellulose (Facelle) for 25 years, Sue retired at age 63. Sue worked 15 years in Production and 10 years in Purchasing with some great bosses and co-workers.

R E D R E S S

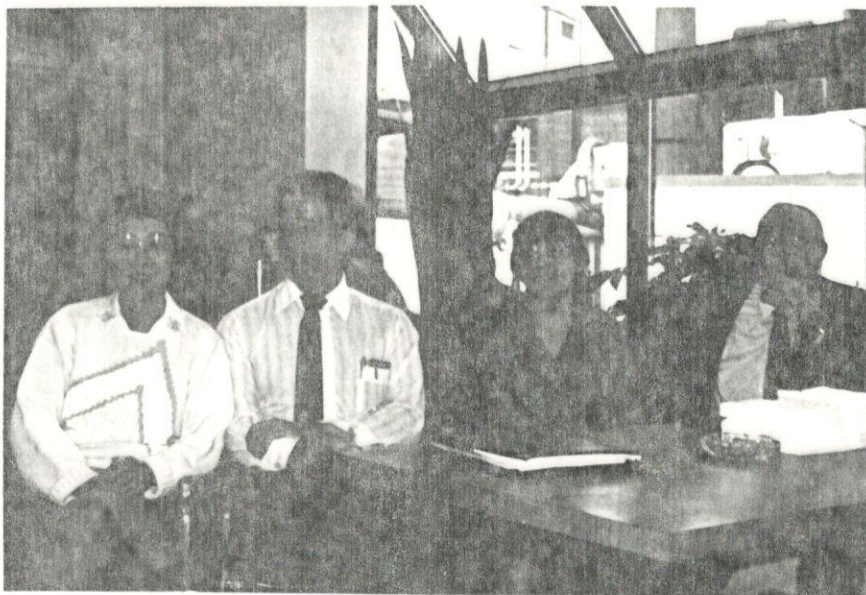
September 22, 1988 was a historic day for Japanese-Canadians as Prime Minister Brian Mulroney issued a formal and sincere apology to Japanese-Canadians for their treatment during World War II. There was a \$291 million compensation package which included a tax free payment of \$21,000 each to an estimated 12,000 survivors of the camps. In other words, Sam and Sue with other Niseis, Isseis and some Sanseis received \$21,000 in 1989. We should be grateful to the hard working committee who fought hard for this compensation despite many conflicts within the Japanese-Canadian community.





At the Howard Johnson Hotel

Sue's retirement from Facelle, November, 1988



In the company cafeteria

## Sue Kai says, *'It's nice to wind down'*

"For over 25 years I enjoyed every day I worked at Facelle," says Sue Kai. "But now a new chapter has opened in my life. Of course I'll miss Facelle people. But I'm also happy to let things wind down."

This matter-of-fact approach—her ability to adjust to whatever comes along—was cited repeatedly when various speakers praised Sue's years of service at her retirement party.

Her latest boss Purchasing Manager Peter Paskevicius said: "I've never known Sue to lose her temper or become flustered. She always stayed with a job until it was done."

In 1963 Sue was working at an employment agency when she noticed an ad that had been placed by Facelle. "I was intrigued and my qualifications seemed right," she said. "So I answered the ad and

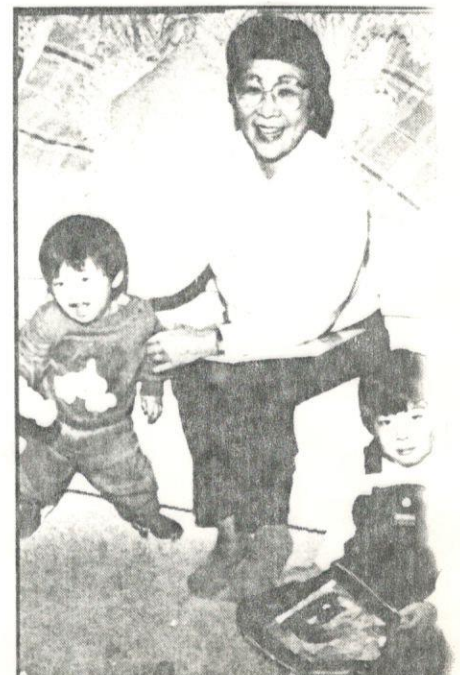
I got the job before it was even listed."

Almost coincident with her retirement, Sue became a grandmother for the third time. The new arrival was a daughter, Marly, in Birtle, Manitoba where David is a United Church minister.

Sue's other son, Brian and his wife, Kim, in Toronto, have accounted for Sue's two grandsons, Trevor and Jeremy.

When she retired, Sue was concerned because her husband, Sam, had undergone an operation and was in hospital.

"He has now been released and is doing fine," she reports. "He even has his appetite back, which means before long, maybe we'll get out to Manitoba. Both of us—we can't wait to see our new granddaughter."



Sue with her two grandsons

Minister of State  
Multiculturalism  
and Citizenship



Ministre d'État  
Multiculturalisme  
et Citoyenneté

October 26, 1989

Mrs. Sumi Sue Kai  
62 Coral Gable Drive  
Weston, Ontario  
M9M 1P1

re: File # 11239

Dear Mrs. Kai:

I am pleased to inform you that your application for individual redress has been reviewed and that you are eligible to receive payment according to the terms of the Japanese Canadian Redress Agreement.

You will find enclosed a cheque in the amount of \$21,000, as well as the acknowledgement signed by the Prime Minister. The acknowledgement summarizes my feelings and those of many millions of Canadians.

The Japanese Canadian Redress Secretariat has returned your original documentation under separate cover. Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Gerry Weiner', written in a cursive style.

Gerry Weiner

Enclosures



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As a people, Canadians commit themselves to the creation of a society that ensures equality and justice for all, regardless of race or ethnic origin.

During and after World War II, Canadians of Japanese ancestry, the majority of whom were citizens, suffered unprecedented actions taken by the Government of Canada against their community.

Despite perceived military necessities at the time, the forced removal and internment of Japanese Canadians during World War II and their deportation and expulsion following the war, was unjust. In retrospect, government policies of disenfranchisement, detention, confiscation and sale of private and community property, expulsion, deportation and restriction of movement, which continued after the war, were influenced by discriminatory attitudes. Japanese Canadians who were interned had their property liquidated and the proceeds of sale were used to pay for their own internment.

The acknowledgement of these injustices serves notice to all Canadians that the excesses of the past are condemned and that the principles of justice and equality in Canada are reaffirmed.

Therefore, the Government of Canada, on behalf of all Canadians, does hereby:

- 1) acknowledge that the treatment of Japanese Canadians during and after World War II was unjust and violated principles of human rights as they are understood today;
- 2) pledge to ensure, to the full extent that its powers allow, that such events will not happen again; and
- 3) recognize, with great respect, the fortitude and determination of Japanese Canadians who, despite great stress and hardship, retain their commitment and loyalty to Canada and contribute so richly to the development of the Canadian nation.



Prime Minister of Canada







1990  
Ji-chan &  
Ba-chan with  
Jeremy, Trevor  
& Tamiko



1990  
Auntie Michi with  
Tamiko





January, 1990 - Jii-chan & Ba-chan's birthdays



Lily Oda & Sue  
1990

# A 65th Birthday Party



Please join us in celebrating  
the 65th birthday of

**Sue Kai**

on Saturday, February 17th, 1990

at 8:00 P.M.

at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre

123 Wynford Drive, Don Mills

West Room (downstairs)

In lieu of a gift, please create a hand-made birthday card to present to Sue.

*R.S.V.P. Brian or Kim at 622-1249*





Sue's 65th birthday party at the JCCC, 1990



April, 1996

I have completed the first 65 years of 'THIS IS MY LIFE'.

I became a Senior Citizen on January 26, 1990, reaching an important plateau in my life.

I am now working on the events that are taking place in the 1990's. Many events have already taken place such as the birth of our granddaughters, Michiko in 1990, and Mariko in 1993, both born in Ottawa; also the weddings of nieces and nephew, the birth of grand-nephews, etc.

The turn of the century should be an exciting period, at which time, I will try to complete my book at the age of 75. The last decade of the 20th century will be interesting as well as frightening with the rapid advancement in technology.

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE YEAR 2000.

*Sue Sumi Kai*  
*April, 1996*





(2016)

甲斐  
Kai  
カイ  
がい

# KAI FAMILY

(5 boys, 5 girls)

All born in  
New Westminster, BC,  
except Grace in  
Japan.

	Name	D. of Birth	D. of Death	Spouse
①	Sam Isamu 勇	Jan. 14, 1919	May 18, 2002	Sue Sumi Matsugu
②	Grace Shizuko 静子	Dec. 24, 1920	Nov. 19, 2011	Hiromu Fujiki (died Feb. 2002)
③	Bill Tsutomu 務	Feb. 1, 1923	Feb 15, 2016	Clare Sumiko Sec (died Dec. 19, 2013)
④	Jimmy Mitsugu 貢	July 3, 1924	Aug. 28, 2005	Mimi Miyoshi Kawahara (died Apr. 23, 2013)
⑤	Michi Michiye Koyanagi 美知恵	Nov. 30, 1925	Mar. 6, 2006	Joe Isao Koyanagi (died Feb. 4, 1985)
⑥	Don Megumi 恵	May 23, 1927	Jan. 13, 2007	Margaret Annette Jackson (died July 14, 2015)
⑦	Gordon Susumu 進	Mar. 10, 1930		Ruth Yukiko Maikawa
⑧	Betty Mayko Hayakawa 明子	May 1, 1932	March 17, 2014	Tom Tamio Hayakawa
⑨	Irene Ritsuko 律子	Oct. 20, 1935	Feb. 25, 2001	
copy for	⑩ Viola Akemi Arima 明美	Sept. 29, 1937		"Mush" Alan Masayoshi Arima
	Samuel Yoshimitsu Nakagawa 申川	March 20, 1934	May 25, 2015	Jeanne Sakae Ogawa (died Dec. 8, 1998)

① 甲斐 眞次 (Kai Makitsugu)

② 須美 勇 (Sumei Yu) (Sue) (Am)

③ 藤木 (Fuji) (K)

弘 (Hiromi) (Hiroru)

④ 甲斐 静子 (Kai Shizuko) (Brave)

子 (Shizuko) (Brave)

⑤ 瀨尾 (Sei) (O)

子 (Sumiko) (Sei) (Seam)

⑥ 甲斐 勉 (Kai Tsutomu) (Bea)

務 (Tsutomu) (Bea)

⑦ 川原 美好 (Kawahara Miyoshi) (Mama)

好 (Miyoshi) (Mama) (Jenny)

⑧ 甲斐 貢 (Kai Mitsugu) (Jenny)

貢 (Mitsugu) (Jenny)

⑨ 小柳 (Koyanagi) (Jae)

伊佐男 (Koyanagi) (Jae) (10)

⑩ 甲斐 有馬 (Kai Arima) (Jae)

有馬 (Arima) (Jae) (10)

⑪ 明美 (Akemi) (Muda)

明美 (Akemi) (Muda)

⑫ 正義 (Masayoshi) (Muda)

正義 (Masayoshi) (Muda)

⑬ 律子 (Ritsuko) (Jenny)

律子 (Ritsuko) (Jenny)

⑭ 聖子 (Seiko) (Rada)

聖子 (Seiko) (Rada)

⑮ 進 (Susumu) (Jenny)

進 (Susumu) (Jenny)

⑯ 甲斐 明子 (Kai Mayko) (Bea)

明子 (Mayko) (Bea)

⑰ 早川 民雄 (Hayakawa Tamio) (Jenny)

早川 民雄 (Hayakawa Tamio) (Jenny)

⑱ 甲斐 恵 (Kai Megumi) (Am)

恵 (Megumi) (Am)

JACKSON MARGARET JACKSON MARGARET



New Canadian  
 that you  
 for Jami Kai  
 April, 1988 re death +

故母 甲斐民 (八八歳) 儀  
 四月二日トロント・ウエスト  
 ン病院で安らかに永眠しまし  
 た事を知友の方々にお知らせ  
 致します。  
 追って葬儀を四月五日トロ  
 ント日系人合同教会にて村田  
 有真西牧師司式の下に営み、  
 翌朝六日クレンデル・メモリ  
 アル・ガーデン墓地に埋葬致  
 しました。皆様から沢山の供  
 花 過分なる御厚志を賜り有  
 難く厚くお礼申し上げます。  
 故人生前中は皆様から色々  
 と親切にして頂きましたこと  
 遺族一同厚くお礼申し上げます。

List of children & spouses in  
 chronological order.

喪主	長男	甲斐	勇	Best	Obit	Son			
	妻		須美				Wife		
長女	藤木	尊子	弘	Best	Daughter				
	妻		スミ子				Wife		SUMIKO
次男	甲斐	務	貢	2nd	Son				
	妻		美好				Wife		MIYUSHI
次女	小柳	美知恵	恵	2nd	DAUGHTER				
	妻		マユ子				Wife		MARGARET
三女	早川	明子	子	3rd	DAUGHTER				
	妻		民夫				Wife		TAKIYO
五男	甲斐	進	進	5th	Son				
	妻		雪子				Wife		YUKIKO
四女	甲斐	律子	子	4th	DAUGHTER				
	妻		明美				Wife		
	有馬	正義	美	5th	DAUGHTER				
							Wife		MASHAYOSHI

Please turn over

"This is my Life"

1990 - 2009

(second edition)

First book

1925 - 1990

Sue Kai



①

I wrote "This is my Life"  
at age 65 when I became a Senior  
Citizen on January 26, 1990.

The book was completed in April, 1996,  
with the second & final edition to start  
at age 75 in the year 2000.

Almost twenty years later, I have  
a synopsis of my life from 1990 - 2009.

Sue Sumi Kai (84)  
July 21, 2009

Grandchildren

My second granddaughter was born in Ottawa on July 3, 1990 in Ottawa.

Michelle<sup>Julian</sup> Brown-Kai just turned nineteen, and in September, shall be entering her second year at Western University, London, Ont., majoring in Social Justice.

My third granddaughter was born in Ottawa in the middle of a snowstorm on April Fools Day.

Mariko<sup>Sandra</sup> Brown-Kai is sixteen & attending Sindain High School in Albury.

My second son David & his wife Nady & family lived in Orleans, a suburb of Ottawa, for twelve years where David was a United Church minister for twelve years.

Now I have five grandchildren. Brian's two sons, Jason (25) & Jeremy (22) both graduated from OCAD University (Ontario College of Arts & Design). They are musically talented playing the piano, guitar & drums as well as being very creative.

Brian has been semi-retired for a few years, now working for Manulife Financial. His extra-curricular activities include playing the trombone for a jazz band called the Advocates; also playing the piano & string bass for a Gospel group called Spirit. Calm.

He has a great tan from golfing. He is active with the C-S.U.C. Centennial Joyance United Church, being an Official Council member in the capacity of Team Leader for the Communications Ministry, also as a Trustee.



2(a)

Linda

My first granddaughter Jamiko Dawn-Kai was ~~not~~ mentioned in the "This is my Life" book as she was born November 21, 1988 in Brandon, Man. In September 2009, she will be in her fourth year at McMaster University, Hamilton majoring in Nursing.

David's family moved from Orleans to Whitchurch in 2001. One of the reasons for moving closer to Toronto was David's failing health (he died in 2002).

David has been a minister at P.V.U.C (Pickering Village United Church) in Ajax since 2001, working with another minister + a volunteer minister at a large church (parking for 200 cars!). He is very busy, using his musical talent (graduate of Humber College in musical composition, piano, etc) composing hymns + other church related activities.

Our God Goes With Us  
©2005

words and music: David Kai

Chorus:

Our God goes with us wherever we may roam,  
Our God goes with us, makes each new place our home.  
As God goes with us we live by faith, not fear,  
Thanks be to God, ever 'fore us, ever near.

David was commissioned to write a song/messiah when our church moved from 701 Davenport Rd to 49 Bogart Ave.

The Spirit moved, blew boats across the sea. *Isaiah*  
brooded in hearts that struggled to be free.  
New life, new faith, new challenges to dare,  
through blood, sweat, toil, bitter tears, our God was there.

The Spirit wept as hatred's flames were fanned. *Discrimination*  
as trains of tears streamed from the promised land.  
In lonely mountain paths our God was found,  
Faith, hope and love making ghost towns holy ground. *Evangelism*

The Spirit urged, go forth and start anew,  
rebuild my church, a sanctuary true,  
Welcomed by friends, their paths entwined as one,  
stronger united with ev'ry rising sun.

The Spirit leads; the future, still unknown,  
is not to fear, we trust in God alone,  
Be with us still as we move on again,  
strengthen, inspire us, our Saviour and our Friend.

## Free Time after Retirement 1990 - 2000

(a) Bowling - In the early 1990's, there was a craze for bowling among the niseis. Many niseis had retired & were at loss with their spare time. Bowling was not too popular at that time, but all of a sudden, it was Bowly, Bowly & Bowly! & socializing!

O'Connor Bowl or O'Connor Lane was (still is) a popular alley every Thursday & Friday mornings with 2/3 lanes <sup>each</sup> taken by the niseis. (excluding summer)

There are other lanes in the east & west end where the niseis are actively bowling. Sam & I travelled from the west to the east, picking up friends on the way. After eight years, we transferred to the west - Jane Park Plaza (Jane & Alliance) & Reeddale Bowlerama (Kipling & Reeddale Blvd).

(b) Oil Painting - I took up oil painting at a nearby school, also at the community centre for about five years, on Thursday mornings. There were approximately fifteen senior ladies & one gentleman, mostly from the neighbourhood. Some of the seniors were very talented. I did ten oil paintings, mostly sceneries; one of Sam's dog Tama, & one of flowers for Sam after he died. I had them all framed & they are now in my children's homes & my room in Yee Hong.



3(c)

### Bunke Shishu

I learned Bunke Shishu (Japanese embroidery with steel needle) at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre - J.C.C.C. The teacher was Mrs. Pauline Tanaka, a very patient person indeed. The students were mostly senior nicei women. I went every week for several years. All my Bunke Shishu have been framed (from Pauline's husband, Austin Tanaka). They are pictures of goldfish, pansies, birds, Japanese dolls now hanging in my son's home or at Yee Hong Centre.

### 3(d) Line Dancing

I took up Line Dancing at a community centre as did many nicei at Wynford Senior or the Morniji Centre.

### 3(e) Travelling

Our annual big vacation schedule slowed down to a trip to B.C. + close-by places due to Sam's health issues.

### 3(f) 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party was held April 25, 1998 (wedding April 3, 1948) at the China Buffet Rg. Brian + David organized a great party (135 guests) with a variety of entertainment including hula dancing, family skits, harmonica playing, etc.

Get-togethers / Reunions

(a) Vancouver Japanese Language School - Keryu Kai  
For many years, the 1939 Grade 8 graduates of the Vancouver Japanese Language School have been meeting in Toronto for a yearly reunion<sup>in</sup> the summer. There were 78 Grade 8 graduates in 1939; approximately one-third have deceased.

Recently, we have been meeting at the Moriji Centre, Chinese restaurants or the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre. Approximately 25-30 members & spouses attend this event. The last reunion was held June 25, 2009 at the J. C. C. for our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, at which time, we invited the three younger graduate classes: Iwano-kai - 1940 graduates, Futaba-kai - 1941 graduates & the Aoba-kai - 1942 graduates. This year's reunion may be the last as we are either 84 or 85 years old. Fortunately, this group is still vibrant considering our age.

(b) Kotai Kai - Vancouver Language School 1935 graduates  
This group of graduates were born in 1920-1921. They have been meeting regularly at the China Buffet King (Vancouver & Aug 4<sup>th</sup>). This year's reunion was special as most of the members are 88 years old (Beijing, an important year in Japan). For the first time, the event was organized by the Sansais - daughter of Nori Kasugi, a graduate, (Karen Boniface) and son of Dick Matsui, a graduate, (Rick Matsui)  
Hopefully other Sansais will follow suit.

Beijing



(c) Ushi-Doshi Birthday Party - 1990

The first Ushi-Doshi Birthday Party was held in July, 1990 at the JCCC, 123 Wynford Drive. Guests were all born in 1925, the year of the Ox (Ushi 牛), mostly born in British Columbia & all became Senior Citizens (65 years old).

Since then, a party has been held every five years in 1995, 2000 & 2005 at the JCCC (6 Garwood Ct.). Hopefully there will be another party (probably the last) in 2010 when we will all be 85 years young. Wow!! The person who spearheads this event every 5 years has been Kay Fujiwara & her friends who did a tremendous job!

(Pictures enclosed)



Keiyukai 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion - June 25/09

Members - 84/85 years old



This year the Keiyukai group (graduating class of 1939), pictured above with spouses, organized a joint reunion with Taiwa-kai, Futaba-kai, and Aoba-kai. Photo: Shag Tabata

## Keiyukai Holds Joint Reunion

By MARY HIRAISHI

TORONTO—On June 25, 2009, the Vancouver Japanese Language School graduating class of 1939, known as the Keiyukai, held their 70th anniversary reunion, joined by Taiwakai (1940), Futabakai (1941), and -Aobakai (1942). Former teacher Mrs. Fumi Kamitakahara who is in her 101st year was the guest of honour. She was accompanied by her daughter, Ikuko, and her husband Ted Teshima. A total of 87 people, including members,

spouses, guests and family members, with several from Burlington and Hamilton attended the festivity. It was held in the Wood Room at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre in Toronto. Out-of-town attendees were Masako Yoshida from Vancouver, B.C., Hannah Tabata of Kamloops, B.C., and Betty Putnam and her son and daughter-in-law, Bob and Carolyn from Texas.

Tosh Hashimoto was the Master of Ceremonies. Tomi Hiraishi read congratulatory letters received from Peggy Shimoi (Keiyukai), and Takeshi Tabata (Futabakai), both residing in Osaka. After lunch, entertainment was provided by the harmonica group led by George Tsushima, songs by Susie Iwata, and odori by Betty Ura and her dance

group.

A good time was had by all.



Former teacher Fumi Kamitakahara was the special guest at the Keiyukai reunion.

Photo: Mika Fukuma



Kokikai Reunion -- June 24, 2009

88 years

# Beiju Year Celebrated at Kokikai Annual Reunion



About 30 people including family and friends of Kokikai members attended the luncheon reunion on June 24.

Photos: Mika Fukuma

## By STAFF WRITER

TORONTO—The Vancouver Japanese Language School's graduating class of 1936, known as "Kokikai," held their annual luncheon reunion at China Buffet King on June 24, 2009. About 30 people attended, with 18 of them being Kokikai members.

The special guest speaker this year was former ward councillor and Mem-

ber of Provincial Parliament for the city of Markham, David Tsubouchi.

As the occasion was a Japanese school reunion, Tsubouchi started off his talk noting that his name was read "tsu-bo-uchi." Tsubouchi went on to explain the importance of telling the stories of the nisei and their struggles, to create a "lasting legacy." The talk included memories and influences of his late-father who was in POW Camp 101, in Angler, Ont. during the war.

"We all learn from struggles. I learned from Dad," said Tsubouchi.

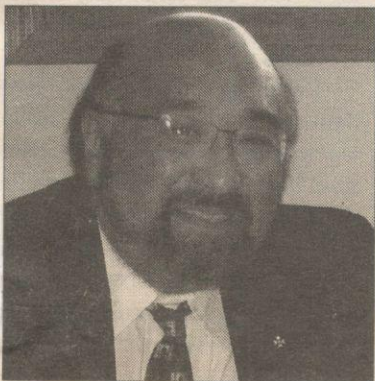
This year's gathering was especially a joyous one. Many members are 88 years old—known as "beiju" in Japanese customs. Rev. George Tomita, who drove in from Cumberland, Ont. with his wife explained that the word "beiju" comes from the Chinese characters for "rice." And so, in the goodie bag, a small bag of rice was included, along with chocolate, and manju.

It was also noted that Tomita, who served as MC for the afternoon event, was celebrating his 60th wedding anniversary this year.

Terry Komori (Sugiura) who attended from Buckhorn, Ont. expressed, "We come a hundred miles. Well, we never miss it, because it brings about a lot of lovely memories of our school. It's such a privilege to be able to see everyone."

Other out-of-town Kokikai members at the reunion included, Bud Tanaka from Burnaby, B.C., Jack Nakamoto from Ottawa, Ont., Nori Kosugi (Arikado) from Cobourg, Ont., Kazuko Nakamura (Sanmiya) from London, Ont., and Teiso Uyeno from California,

Although it was originally rumoured that this would be the last reunion, members showed interest in having another one next year. The date has already been set, and will take place on June 23, 2010.



David Tsubouchi was the guest speaker at the Kokikai reunion.



## Volunteering during Retirement

(a) Humber Memorial Hospital (now known as Humber River Regional Hospital, Church St. side). From 1991 for approximately eight years, we volunteered every Friday morning from 8:30 am to 12:30 noon on the Patient Enquiry / Information Desk. This is a very busy desk with the phones ringing constantly, Dan escorts people to different locations, & Sue on the computer. Volunteering has been most satisfying & rewarding, and we enjoyed Friday mornings helping people.

### (b) Griefstream Rd. Public School

Brian & David attended Griefstream Rd. Public School so I volunteered at their school on Monday mornings for five years helping the Grade 1 class. It was a great experience since I taught Primary/Junior grade for three years in the Lake ghost town school. This time the students were a definite multi-cultural mix, unlike my previous experience with Japanese students.

### (c) Canada Cancer Society

I volunteered with canvassing for the Canada Cancer Society for ten years. It enabled me to meet my neighbours, some of whom became close friends & I'm still in touch with them now.

It also made me aware that cancer can strike anyone any time; never realizing that one day I had to use their services.



# Grateful patients join Volunteer ranks

Every Friday morning, rain or shine, Sam and Sue Kai can be found in the main lobby busily carrying out their volunteer duties. While Sue provides visitors and patients with information and directions and handles patient inquiry phone calls, Sam escorts patients from Admitting to various areas throughout the hospital.

As retirees living in the Weston community, the Kai's could choose a more leisurely way to spend their Friday mornings. But, according to Sue, they can't think of anywhere they would rather be than at Humber.

"Sam enjoys his work very much and I find it satisfying and rewarding," says Sue. While busy with a number of volunteer commitments in the community, Sam and Sue set aside this special time for the hospital because they are grateful for the care they each received as patients.

"I had gall bladder surgery and Sam had a serious life-threatening illness and surgery in 1988," Sue continues.

ues. "We are grateful that Sam is alive."

Sue believes that the couple's interest in serving the community is directly related to the fact that they come from a family of many ministers. "We've always been taught to help people."

Doug Burtch, another Friday morning volunteer on the new Coffee Bar service, couldn't agree more with the Kai's philosophy. A self-employed businessman, Doug takes a morning a week from his business to perform his duties in the front lobby of Humber Memorial.

"It's interesting work and it's fulfilling," Doug smiles. "We have two daughters, both were born here in this hospital."

Humber Memorial has 220 active volunteers and Auxilians who contribute their time and energy in 30 hospital services, according to Catherine Barley, Co-ordinator of Volunteer Services. A summer youth program usually attracts about 45 volunteers from high schools, colleges and universities. While many volunteers work in areas ranging from the Chemotherapy Clinic to Health Records, Auxilians run fundraising programs through ventures such as the Gift Shop and Coffee Bar. I

*John Henry pretend to patient John is a volunteer.*

1992

*While bringing a patient to his room, Volunteer Sam Kai stops to greet his wife, Sue, who volunteers at the lobby information desk. Sam and Sue are part of a 220-strong team of Humber Volunteers and Auxilians who contribute their time and energy in over 30 hospital services.*

## Calling all Volunteers!

Are you interested in becoming a Volunteer at Humber Memorial? For further information, contact Catherine Barley, Co-ordinator of Volunteer Services at 243-4112. Catherine will tell you about upcoming information meetings. Volunteers should be willing to give a minimum of two hours every two weeks for up to six months. Interviews, orientation, training and volunteer education are all part of the process. An annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner is held in the fall.

**LENNOX, Reverend John Alexander**  
Peacefully, Anglican Church of Canada, August 12, 2007, in his 80th year. John, formerly of the Royal Canadian Navy and a 32-year employee of Bell Canada, was the cherished husband of Olive, and much-loved father of Peter (Kathy) and Karen (Farron Joanna and Sarah), the wonderful Grandpa of Joanna and Sarah, and the uncle and dear friend of too many people to mention. John was predeceased by sisters Mary, Lennox, Jean Coullier, Barbara Clime and Billie Wood. Friends may call on Wednesday, August 15, 2007 from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. at The R.S. Kane Funeral Home - 1630 Yonge Street, at Goulding, south of Steeles). A Funeral Service will be held on Thursday, August 16, 2007 at 11 a.m. at Charon Of The Incarnation (15-Clairville Road). Interment to follow at Christ Church Cemetery, Woodbridge, Ontario. As an expression of sympathy, donations may be made to the Diabetes Association or Heart and Stroke Foundation. Condolences [www.rskane.ca](http://www.rskane.ca)





Points to ponder in the 21st Century

(a) C-J.U.C. Centennial Japanese United Church, 49 Bogert Ave, Toronto (name change after Japanese amalgamated with the Centennial United Church).

In 1954, it was known as Toronto Japanese United Church - Nisei Congregation, probably the largest Nisei congregation in Canada.

The future of C-JUC is unknown; decrease in Nisei members due to sickness & death & very few Sansei to take over.

(b) TJUC - Toronto Japanese United Church - Issai congregation, <sup>49 Bogert Ave.</sup> Japanese minister since January, 2009; working with part-time and/or retired ministers.

Possible solution - Eventual amalgamation with the English speaking CJUC.

(c) Memiji Seniors Residence, 3555 Kingston Rd., Toronto  
A wonderful Seniors apartment complex serving over 100 residents. In 10-15 years, who will be living at the Memiji Residence?

(d) Canada Times, Nikka Home - Toronto  
Weekly Japanese newspaper (with lots of advertising) discontinued in December, 2008

(e) Nikkei Voice, Toronto  
A vibrant monthly English newspaper (some Japanese at back) enjoyed by Nisei & some Sansei. What's the future of this newspaper when the Nisei are gone?

Editor: Mika Fukuma



(f) Bowling

In the 1990's, Nisei were put on the waiting list to get into the Bowling League. Now they are looking for bowlers.

(g) Wynton Seniors Club, Toronto

A great social club which meets the first & third Wednesday of the month (excluding July & August) at the JCCC.

Club has been in existence for over 25 years bringing many happy years of fun, travel & socializing.

Members are finding it hard to travel long distances to the JCCC.

(h) Various Kenjin-Kais

There are many Kenjin-Kais (Prefectural) such as Shiga-ken, Kumamoto, Fukuoka, Hiroshima, etc. They meet once or twice / year socializing & finding their roots in Japan. I understand these clubs are looking for new members, but find it difficult to attract Sansei or Nisei.

Year 2000 & on

7

Jan. 1  
2000 - The new Millennium was a frightening & exciting time. Thank goodness, the computers did not break down & we have survived without too many hitches.

2001 - September 11, 2001 Twin towers bombings in New York City. Security has been extremely tight all over the world, especially at airports.

Many Nisei passed away including members of the Kai and Matsugu families.

2001 - Irene Kai, 2002 - Sam Kai, 2005 - James Kai, 2006 - Mizuki Kai Koyanagi, 2007 - Don Kai. Five members of the Kai family died within six years & my brother George Zenji Matsugu died in 2004.

2002 - My dear husband Sam Isaac Kai died May 18, 2002 at the age of 83, after 57 years of marriage. He encountered health problems in recent years including a serious aneurysm operation, hospital stay at Humber Memorial Hospital, Baycrest, followed by nine months at Leisurewood until his death. 16 day garbage strike in August.

2003 - SARS outbreak in Toronto as well as all over the world

2004 - Aue is diagnosed with left breast cancer, second stage; resulting in mastectomy, followed by chemotherapy with many complications.



2005 - Yee Hong Centre - Scarborough - Finch.  
There are four Yee Hong Centres - in Mississauga,  
Markham & Scarborough (2).

I moved into Yee Hong Centre - Scarborough - Finch  
on June 17, 2005, a long term care facility run by  
the Chinese, with 25 beds allocated to the Japanese  
(since 2004). When I came to Yee Hong I was not  
well. However, I regained my strength physically,  
emotionally & spiritually & before too long, I was  
functioning extremely well.

This transition is partly due to the wonderful care  
given by the staff & volunteers. They all believe in  
their motto of looking after all the residents with  
respect, compassion, dignity & love. Early Japanese  
meals lunch & supper everyday is great; however, I  
have put on some weight.

I have been at Yee Hong for four years,  
participating in most activities. I go out frequently,  
visiting with family, friends, ex-neighbours, church;  
using Wheel Trans whenever possible. Yee Hong is a  
great place for me. I have nothing to worry  
about - my family is relieved that I am happy.  
I am here to live, not die for awhile.

## Deaths / Funerals

The Nisei population is gradually decreasing & the average age appears to be in the mid 80s. It's a joke among Niseis that they look at the Obituary column first to make sure their name is not ~~in~~ in print in the Star.

The Koden custom started with the Issei when the money received helped with the cost of the funeral & other expenses. This Koden custom is still carried on with the Niseis, & most of us have such lists of our parents, spouses, family deaths. I still continue with this custom & keep a Koden list of my parents & husband. I try to reciprocate as much as possible; however, money is not too important now so the bereaved family asks for donation to the charity of your choice.

In recent years, we have gone to many funerals. I did the eulogy for Toyo Jima & Frank Kami; I did the eulogy for Amy Ong & David Quidado.

## Happy Occasions - 2009

I've had many <sup>happy</sup> events recently - 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday, 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday, 88<sup>th</sup> Birthday; 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, Homecoming party, university graduation, birth of three baby boys, wedding in September.

To top it off, the visit of Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko to Toronto July 8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> was very exciting, especially their visit to the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre & the Moriyama Centre.



Emperor Akihito & Empress Michiko  
Toronto July 8-10, 2009



J.C.C.C. - July 10, 2009



Sick Children's Hospital

July 9, 2009



J. e. c. c.  
July 10/09



写真提供: 日系の声 福岡美香



写真提供: 日系の声 福岡美香

Momiji Centre July 10, 2009



### Heritage

Some Danseis are unaware of their parents' childhood - where did they live? where did they go at evacuation time? did they repatriate to Japan? did they relate part of the Forbes? I think the parents were too ashamed to discuss this touchy subject.

Before the Nisei Magazine, it would be great to have some stories from the average Nisei.

The JSCC Heritage Committee is doing an excellent job per their mandate "to promote + display Japanese Canadian history, culture + ~~history~~ heritage." The programs that the Heritage Committee have organized such as speaker sessions, Nostalgia night, etc. is a marvellous way of "linking the youth to their ancestral past."