



# THIS AND THAT ABOUT THE 50TH BY GEORGE NAKASATO, CHAIRMAN

## REGISTRATION FORMS DISTRIBUTED

The official registration/informational brochures for the 50th were distributed to all chapters, the first, during the week of June 1st. Earlier, at their June Board meeting, chapter presidents and reunion coordinators were briefed about the format and "what, where, how and when" about registration. These brochures were printed by Pleasant Hawaiian Holidays, our official travel service company.

To reach mainland members, a promotional team was organized to visit the Seattle-San Francisco-Los Angeles areas during the week of June. Members of the team included Chairman Nakasato, President Ron Oba, PR chairman Kats Miho, Registration chairman Bob Sasaki, plus the addition of Art Miho, travel/hotel consultant. At each area meeting, our mainland contacts invited interested members and chapter representatives to the meeting. They also worked with local Pleasant staff members in coordinating the pre-meeting receptions. Our mainland contacts were: Shiro "Kash" Kashino (l) of Seattle, Wally Nunotani (Cannon) of San Francisco and Hank Yoshitake (100th/442nd) of Los Angeles.

In the case of our Neighbor Island members, the distribution of brochures was handled by Wataru Kohashi (F), Hawaii 442nd Club, Nancy Endo (F), Maui 442nd Club and Minoru Takashima (K), Kauai 442nd Club.

In all of these meetings and with contacts, and in press releases, members were encouraged to reach out and locate non-participating members. And further, to help them work with their local contacts, particularly in signing up or registering.

## REGISTRATION TIME TABLE

A time table was developed to better coordinate the required tasks of registering, making reservations and in making final payments. With an anticipated attendance of 2,000 members, spouses and guests, the following guideline should be helpful:

- a. By July 30th: submit Registration Form A plus \$50 per person deposit to Pleasant Hawaiian Holidays; separately submit Form B to 442nd Veterans Club. (By August 15th thereof, a computerized printout of all registrants will be available to all chapters.)
- b. By November 15th: Receive two separate invoice, statements, stating your final payment for fees, banquet tickets, luncheon tickets, souvenir orders, etc., plus your travel/hotel arrangements.
- c. By January 15th: Last day to submit your final payment to Pleasant and to 442nd Veterans Club.

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AN 800 NUMBER AVAILABLE AT PLEASANT HAWAIIAN HOLIDAYS

A special 800 number is now available to all registrants for air travel reservations, airport transfers and hotel arrangement, plus with pre- and post-reunion travels. The use of this number 800-4-HAWAII or (800) 542-9244, is fully cited in the informational brochure.

MEMBERS ARE STILL VOLUNTEERING  
(after 50 years)

The following mainland and local contacts have assisted our Committee in many ways, particularly in extending and broadening our communicative network. They have also served to alert us about the so-called "local needs" of their respective areas. And, of course, more importantly, they agreed to stay with us until reunion time. If questions or concerns need to be addressed, please call them.

Mainland Contacts:

Mr. Shiro "Kash" Kashino (I)  
Coordinator  
5020 48th Street, S.546  
Seattle, WA 96818  
Phone: (206) 725-5802 (home)

Mr. Wally Nunotani (Cannon)  
Commander  
Golden Gate Nisei Memorial  
Post #9879  
166 - 19th Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94121  
Phone: (415) 751-3315 (home)

Mr. Hank Yoshitake (100th)  
President  
100th/442nd Veterans Assoc.  
1001 Yorktown Avenue  
Montebello, CA 90640  
Phone: (213) 722-5024 (home)

Mr. Tom Masamori (Anti-Tank)  
Coordinator  
2010 Lamar Street  
Denver, CO 80214

Neighbor Island and Local  
Contacts:

Mr. Nancy Endo (F)  
President  
Maui 442nd Club  
40 Ikea Place  
Pukalani, HI 96768  
Phone: 527-7337 (home)

Mr. Wataru Kohashi (F)  
Hawaii 442nd Club  
19-E Palai St.  
Hilo, HI 96720  
Phone: 959-7341 (home)

Mr. Minoru Takashima (K)  
President  
Kauai 442nd Club  
334 Makamei Road  
Kapaa, HI 96746  
Phone: 822-4877 (home)

Mr. Arnold Suzumoto  
Sons & Daughters, Oahu  
1225 13th Avenue  
Honolulu, HI 96816  
Phone: 732-1920 (home)

INVITATION TO MAYORS OF  
BRUYERES AND BIFFONTAINE

In early March, President Ronald Oba extended an invitation to both mayors and encourage them to join us for our 50th Anniversary Reunion in Waikiki. Informal responses were encouraging and we look forward to their participation in our reunion activities. Current mayors of the respective towns are Mr. Alain Thirton, Mayor of Buyerres and Mr. Georges Henry, Mayor of Biffontaine.

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SOLICITATION OF ADVERTISEMENTS  
FOR SOUVENIR BOOKLET

Chairman Bill Naganuma and his committee members launched a campaign to sell ad space in the 50th Anniversary Souvenir Booklet. Local firms and interested organizations and individuals will be approached during early summer months. Early responses were encouraging, however, he said, "we can do better...particularly in letting sponsors or buyers know that this edition is our 50th Golden Anniversary." Bill welcomes all volunteer support to help solicitate ads or make referrals. Call him at 262-8427 (home) or the Clubhouse 949-7997.

AN OVERVIEW OF EVENTS AT THE  
REUNION

March 24th-Wednesday - Reunion headquarters open at Outrigger Prince Kuhio Hotel at 2500 Kuhio St., Waikiki. Souvenir shop and hospitality rooms open.

ALOHA BANQUET at Sheraton Waikiki Hotel Ballroom - 5:30 p.m. no-host cocktail hour; 6:30 p.m. dinner and program. Menu: American

March 25th-Thursday - Golf tournament at Leilehua Army Golf Course.

FASHION REVUE/LUNCHEON at Sheraton Waikiki Hotel, Hawaii Room.- 11:a.m.-2:00 p.m.- Anne Namba, Designer

SONS & DAUGHTERS - A GATHERING (time & place to be announced)

HAWAIIAN LUAU & SHOW at Hale Koa, Waikiki (optional)

Tickets are also available for The Brother Cazimero Cocktail Show at Royal Hawaiian Hote; SOS SHOW at Outrigger (BAST)

## March 26th-Friday

Golf Tournament at Hickam Base Air Force Golf Course (optional day tours available at all Pleasant Service desks) "CHAPTER NIGHT" - an evening of festivity hosted by individual chapters or service units.

## March 27th-Saturday

A 2-mile VETERANS PARADE through Kalakaua Avenue, Waikiki, starts at 9:00 a.m. from Fort DeRussy to Kapiolani Park.

## SAYONARA BANQUET at Sheraton

Waikiki Hotel Ballroom -  
5:30 p.m. - no-host cocktail.  
6:30 p.m. - Dinner & program

## March 28th-Sunday

ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL SERVICE at National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl). 9:00 a.m. - call to worship. Bus transportation to and from Waikiki will be arranged. ALOHA - 50th Golden Anniversary Reunion ends.

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## FOOD FOR THOUGHT BY THE KINGSMEN

Criticism is good but to help enhance the situation by doing your part is better. To be concerned about a friend is good, but to be concerned about all friends is better. Keep 'em healthy till the next time.....

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BY STANLEY  
KANESHIRO

## APRIL NEWS

Boss' night out at the Chuck Wag on with 37 heads showing by the head count. A sumptuous repast arranged by JOE OBAYASHI, ALLEN & GRACE NAKAMURA from San Diego joined in since they were in town to see their first grandchild and also to attend the funeral of his brother-in-law. Amazing! Just a few days in town and already GRACE has a wallet-full of pictures to show off her grandchild. LORI WONG, Dep. Dir. of Legal Aid Society was the guest speaker and her subject was "Living Will." Not the kind will where you donate your organs, but this is to tell the family and doctor when to pull the plug. Queen's Medical Center pushes you to make one when you're admitted.

## DACHAU

The 522 Bakers who made the pilgrimage to Dachau were ROBERT FUJIMOTO, FRED HIRAYAMA, ANN & HIROMI FUJIWARA, HILDA & STAN KANESHIRO, JANE & HAROLD UEOKA and JANE NAGAREDA. From California, KIYOSHI OKANO AND TOSHIZO IWATA, our HQ Btry wire section chief. Twelve Bakers - but you can't call that a Baker's Dozen. While the tour was staying in Munich for two days, KIYOSHI and TOSHIZO decided to rent a U-drive to visit Donauworth where HQ Btry was quartered doing occupation duty. One wonders how much time they spent at Donauworth since they used up an hour and a half to find their way out of Munich, travel to Donauworth, then back to Munich and spend another hour and a half to locate their hotel.

FRED HIRAYAMA slipped into a store while in Israel to buy a

shirt. When he came out, he made a wrong turn and lost the tour group for hours. It was a cause for much consternation to the group because of the shooting going on. SUGAR FUJIMOTO got most of the blame for not keeping a leash on his travelling buddy. Fred finally paid \$37 for a cab and returned to the hotel. All for a \$30 Hard Rock T-shirt! En-route home, their aircraft made an unscheduled stop at San Francisco while their baggage went thru to Honolulu. The airline put them up into Holiday Inn sans baggage and Hiromi coped by wearing his underwear inside out. We all remember at one time or another wearing our socks inside out, but our underwear??? Naaah!

Enough of this chit chat. Let the guys who went there tell their story. So heeeeer's NEIL & STAN!

## ISRAEL/DACHAU BY NEIL NAGAREDA

The Israel/Dachau Commemorative tour from April 27 thru May 8, 1992, was an exciting and a memorable experience. The reception hosted by the Israeli citizens was very emotional and gratifying. Upon hugging them, we could sense their appreciation and gratefulness.

To fully comprehend the history of Israel, the archaeological discoveries and the people, it is essential to carry a video recorder. It is impossible to remember the guide's lectures, comments, dates and at the same time take pictures.

Israel is an archaeological paradise. We had the opportunity to visit a home built over an archaeological site. The resident was not aware of the historical site until he had started the excavation.

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tion. Unless one sees it with his own eyes, you cannot believe the exceptional, beautiful home built over the new discovery.

Highlight of the trip to me was a very short dip into the Dead Sea. To learn to swim, it is the Dead Sea. One cannot drown because of the buoyancy. It is as though someone is trying to sit on an inner tube. The beach floor was not covered with all over with sand as in Waikiki. It was covered with nice smooth round pebbles, just like the ones in "Nice" France. It felt clean, not to be covered with sand around the waist.

#### ISRAEL/DACHAU TRAVEL TOUR

**by STANLEY KANESHIRO**

Beyond expectations, once in a lifetime experience and much, much more. This short report requested from one with aging faculties and a babe in the woods on Israel, 'so to speak', cannot cover 5000 years of civilization and historical sites, the complex Holy Land, the mosaic population of Israel, ten days of welcome, interviews and receptions in our honor, constant television and press coverage, etc. The following accordingly are only a few highlights and thoughts on what I and others saw, heard and experienced. Only a smidgen at best.

After some anxious days of signing up paying our fares and planning for this evidently hurried or difficult-to-plan trip, RUDY TOKIWA (trip coordinator) with assistance from JUDY MIIZAWA and the Japanese American Wartime History Project, finally had 49 people on tour with name tags printed 'Unlikely Liberators' which were worn throughout the trip. The Hawaii contingent boarded UAL at 2100 hrs in HNL on Sunday the 26th

of April. Others who joined us en route during flight changes at LAX Washington D.C., and Frankfurt were YAMANOHA (C), TOKUDA (C), OKANO (HQ), MATSUMURA (HQ), YASUDA (C) and IWATA (HQ) making a total of fourteen Artillerymen and six spouses. Others on this tour were JUDY WEIGHTMAN and ANDY MIRIKITANI of the Hawaii Holocaust Project who met us at Dulles GEORGE OKAMOTO and wife (brother of Service Mess Sgt.), ERIC SAUL and fiancée, about a dozen men and spouses from King and Item companies, one from MIS, a 522 liberated Dachau survivor, YANINA IMPELMAN, and a few guests and Holocaust Project workers. At Frankfurt, after a 7½ hr flight from Dulles, and checking in for the Lufthansa flight to Israel, the group encountered tight security and severe passport and baggage checks. Armed guards were stationed near everything bound for Israel, including guards in an armored vehicle next to the plane which raised some concern for our safety. Touchdown at Tel Aviv was after a 3½ hr flight. It was 3pm Tuesday Israel time, 12½ hours ahead of Hawaii time, a total travel time of 30 hrs for us. Waiting for us at the Ben Gurion Airport was our tour guide for Israel, MIKE ROGOFF, the best guide in Israel who later turned out to be the area editor for FODOR'S which a few of us brought along. After more security checks and clearances, we boarded our bus for the next eight days with a likeable bus driver, ABRAHAM, and a banner in front of the bus reading 'Israel Tour, Japanese/American Wartime History Project' (at first glance the Israelis must have thought another Japanese tourist group - ugh!). Tel Aviv to Jerusalem was a half hour uphill bus ride. Elevations vary within short distances there,

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Tel Aviv at sea level, Jerusalem at 2767 ft and the shores of the Dead Sea, a 16 miles drive East at 1300 ft below sea level (lowest point on earth). Close to five million people live in Israel - a country no larger than our state of New Jersey or only a little more than twice the size of our Big Island. Bounded by Lebanon and Syria at the North, Jordan all along the East, Egypt at the South and the Mediterranean along the West, Israel occupies an elongated strip of land much of which is desert mountains. The people show color and shades from black to white and blond. 90% live in urban areas and in large cities of Jerusalem (capital), Tel Aviv (business and arts) and Haifa (port). The widely known kibbutzim (plural) make up less than 3% of the population. As we headed for our five-star (Israeli standard) Ramada Renaissance Hotel, MIKE was near apologetic for what appeared to a greener-than-usual desert countryside and explained that they just had the wettest winter in 160 years with some flooding along the shores of the Galilee. Observing the many buildings built with stone, he also informed us that Jerusalem had a law requiring construction with limestone. After checking in at the Hotel, a welcome dinner was held at the hotel with greetings and orientation from Da'at Travel, our hosts.

Breakfast the next morning was a standard Israeli Hotel buffet of various pickled fish, boiled and scrambled eggs, olives, rolls and buns, canned and some fresh fruits sliced vegetables (usually tomatoes and peppers), cereal and nuts, yogurt and cheeses and a few others. Mixing meat with dairy products wasn't kosher and pork was a no-no. Incidentally, we saw no bagels during our en-

tire trip. All breakfasts, most suppers and all lodging, travel and transportation were part of the tour for which we from Hawaii paid \$2954, unbelievably low. The first tour day started with a military briefing by Colonel from the Israeli Chief of Staff's office. Some of our concern for safety was relieved then. A bus ride and tour in and around Jerusalem followed giving us an overview of the ancient city and its 3000 year history. Then a walk through a gate of the walled city, a look at the Wailing or Western Wall (men praying on the left and women separately on the right). Another walk through the Church of the Holy Sepulcher (place of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection) and a view of King David's tomb, etc. TV cameramen followed us nearly everywhere we went. Israel being a tourist or visitors' country, there were hawkers at most all tourist sites. Back at the hotel after much site seeing and walking, we dressed to attend, as special seating guests, the annual Holocaust Memorial Day opening ceremonies at Yad V'Sham with the Israel Prime Minister and his cabinet (more TV cameras). The evening included speeches in Hebrew and lighting of flames in memory of the six millions who perished by the hands of the Nazis.

During and after breakfast the next morning on Thursday, there were more interviews. One by a Japanese professor at Hebrew University writing for a Japanese journal. Back on the bus we drove through the Green Line that had split Jerusalem between the Jews and Jordanians in 1948, then to Mt Olives for a panoramic view of the city and the oldest cemetery in the world still in use. Bussing down the Kidron Valley with its

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innumerable biblical sites had us thinking of all the bible studies forsaken. At 10 a.m. the sirens wailed throughout Jerusalem and everyone stood in silence in memory of the Holocaust victims. The 1967 sixth day war memorial site at Ammunition Hill was our next stop with a welcome by the museum director, a tour of the museum and a movie of the war (more TV coverage on us). A few of us from Honolulu were then invited to lunch with Professor Emeritus YEHUDI BAUER at Hebrew University as JUDY WEIGHTMAN had offered to present DR BAUER with copies of the Hawaii Holocaust Project which he somewhat initiated. All others went to the Israel Museum to view the Dead Sea Scrolls housed by the Shrine of the Book. DR BAUER at lunch related the story he heard of SUGIHARA, a Japanese Counsel in Lithuania where Polish Jews had fled from the Nazis. Fearful of expanding Nazism, the Jews begged for visas to Japan, but SUGIHARA was ordered by Japan (a WWII axis partner) not to issue such visas. To save the lives of the Jews, SUGIHARA disobeyed his orders and issued 6000 visas in 1940 and was subsequently fired. Being fluent in Russian, he found other work and died at age 85 in 1984. Today his hometown in Gifu is building a memorial to honor his heroism and a tree has been planted for him in YAD V'SHEM'S Avenue of Righteousness - a memory lane for gentiles who risked or lost their lives in harboring or helping Jews escape the Nazis.

In catching two taxis to the University, we also got a taste of Israeli taxis. One taxi practically flew, ran over a concrete medial strip, took the exit side entrance to the University to avoid the parking barrier and attendant and charged us \$2.50 more than the second taxi (a lesson for future

trekkers to the Holy Land). In the afternoon, it was another walk to Herzl Memorial (the one who fathered the State of Israel to provide Jews a haven) and more walking to the military cemetery which was closed in preparation for the Day of Remembrance (for soldiers killed in Israel Wars). Israel honors and memorializes their fallen soldiers and they in fact do the same for all who lend or give themselves to good. Before returning to the hotel, we stopped to visit a magnificent 1:50 scale model of what Jerusalem looked like in its heydays.

Back at the hotel, we were met by a swarm of TV cameramen (CBS, ABC Israeli TV, etc) for a reception like interviews. Quite a number of us were seated to answer questions such as: How Japanese-Americans were treated during WWII, What were our relocation camp experiences, How we felt when we liberated the Jews at Dachau, etc. A joint Liberators/Dachau survivors dinner followed that night and it was a tear jerker as survivors and SHARKEY KOBATAKE related their heart-rendering experiences. ERIC SAUL also lauded the 442nd.

Friday, after the usual hotel breakfast, we were honored by the presence of the Director of the English Dept. of the Israeli Television Broadcasting System who gave an excellent one hour briefing (in fluent English) on Israel political, social and economic problems. Israeli's parliament has 120 members representing some 29 parties and political instability is common as small religious parties cast their votes with the larger parties who support their wishes such as no port raising and abortion, stricter definition on who is a Jew, more control on

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businesses on the Sabbath, etc. Incidentally, English is taught at all elementary grades. With 450,000 immigrants, nearly one-tenth of the population and many of them professionals, housing and work for the immigrants are major problems. This was followed by a bus ride to Bethlehem, a walk through Manger Square and the Church of Holy Nativity (birthplace of Jesus and oldest standing church in Israel - 4th century AD). The hawkers were there, too. Most of the buildings on the road to Bethlehem were covered with unsightly graffiti. Returning to the heart of the old city of Jerusalem, it was more historical sites, place of the last supper, etc. and to a Roman style luncheon (like they do a luau for tourists in Hawaii). The old city has walkways - no streets or vehicles, so a few of our members were encountering some aches and pains. More interviews at the hotel that afternoon. One with a reporter for one of the major newspapers in Japan. As others had taken to a Chinese restaurant a few of us ordered room service for dinner and were disappointed to find that the kosher rule applied to room service - no mixing of meat and dairy products.

Saturday was the day of the Sabbath when most unorthodox Jews flee Jerusalem for the beaches or countryside and we ourselves were headed for the Dead Sea. Passing through orthodox Jewish Jerusalem, we found the shops closed and nary a one on the streets. Then crossing over to the Arab or Muslim sections, there were full of human activity (they say the unorthodox Jews join the Muslims on the Sabbath and the Muslims move over to the Jewish side when their shops close on Sundays). Enroute to the Dead Sea and Masada, we visited Gethsemane Garden (where

Jesus was betrayed) and saw olive trees over 2,000 years old. The hour and half bus ride to Masada (last Jewish fortress to fall to the Roman conquerors and where 980 men, women and children committed suicide instead of surrendering) took us through desert hills and valleys with Beduins here and there in tents or tending their sheep and goats and, also, down a long stretch south along the Dead Sea. A long cable car ride (40 in a car) took us nearly 1000 ft up to Masada (a hike up a trail would take 45 minutes). The sights and evidence up there were unbelievable - an intricate water catchment system, Roman-style baths, storehouses, etc.

Israelis have found a State Symbol here "Masada will not fall again!" Here we, also, experienced our one and only food or water problem as one of the ladies took a drink off the water tap and got sick temporarily. We were advised earlier to buy bottles of mineral water at a dollar each and drink lots of it to combat the dry heat. Israeli beer (Goldstar and Maccabee did just as nicely for some of us). Down back at the Dead Sea, a few hardy souls, HIROMI AND HILDA from Hawaii joined the many beach-goers and tested the 2/3 salt water floating like they were balloons. Nearby in Qumran was also where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found in a cave. Returning to the hotel and after freshening up we dined to a mid-eastern oriental style dinner and show at the Mara keish Restaurant. Enroute we saw Jerusalem lighted as they always do and it looked like a city on Christmas Eve.

This is it for now. Japanese American 100/442 display and ceremonies at Yad V'shem, a visit to the Knesset, Golan Heights, Galilee, Kibbutz, Dachau, etc will be in the next Bulletin issue.