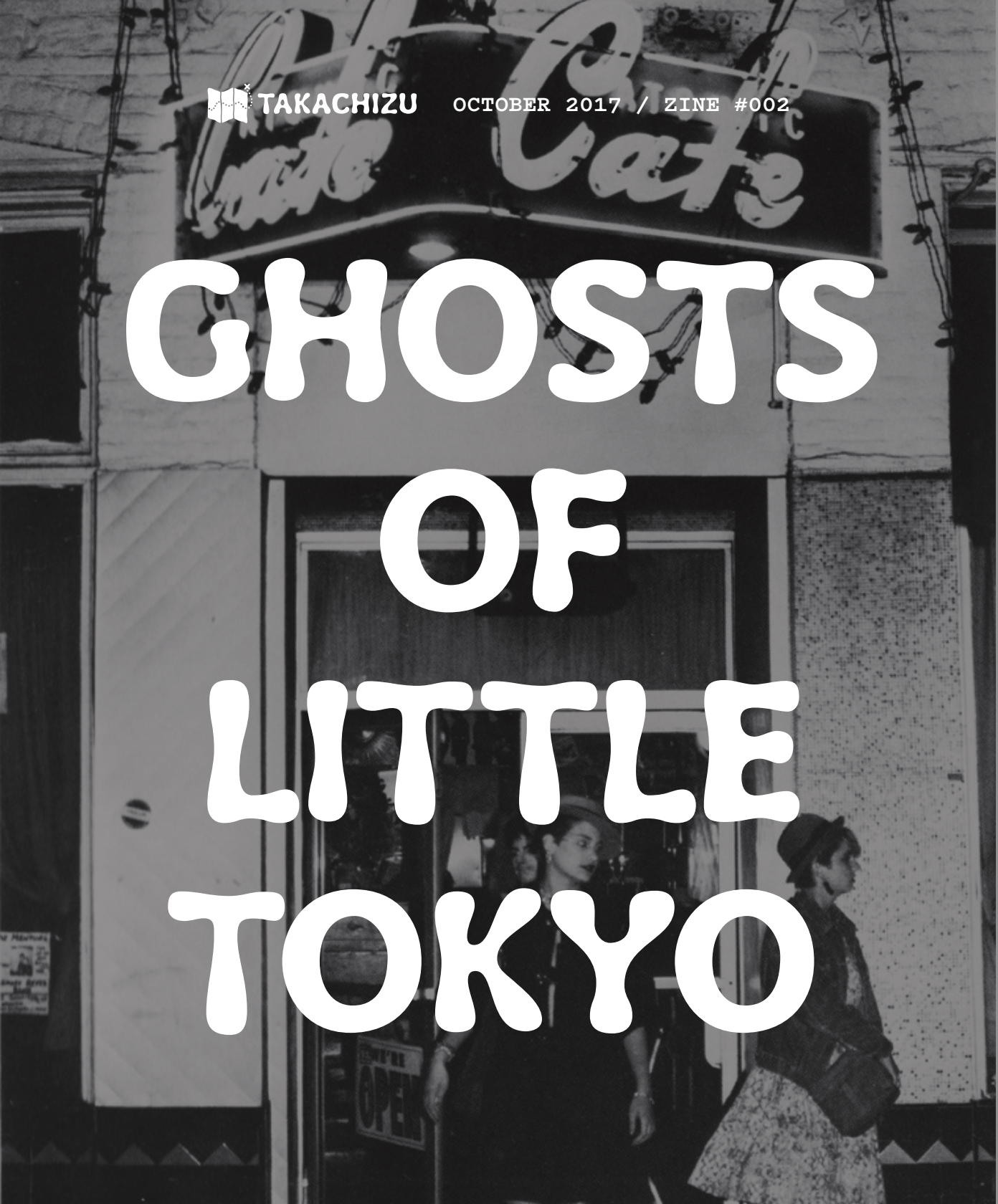




TAKACHIZU

OCTOBER 2017 / ZINE #002

GHOSTS OF LITTLE TOKYO



WHAT IS TAKACHIZU?

The Japanese words Takara (“Treasure”) and Chizu (“Map”) join to form “Takachizu” (“treasure map”). Takachizu was a temporary community “show & tell” gathering space designed to identify and reflect on that which is most valuable, celebrated, and most in need of protection in Little Tokyo.

During 2016, we conducted dozens of workshops with residents, workers, shoppers, and visitors to Little Tokyo. Participants brought in “treasures” that represented Little Tokyo’s values to them. These treasures were shared in a group setting, documented, and then added to a temporary exhibition and online archive.

The gathered treasures will help give guidance and focus to a multi-year planning initiative of Little Tokyo Service Center and Sustainable Little Tokyo.

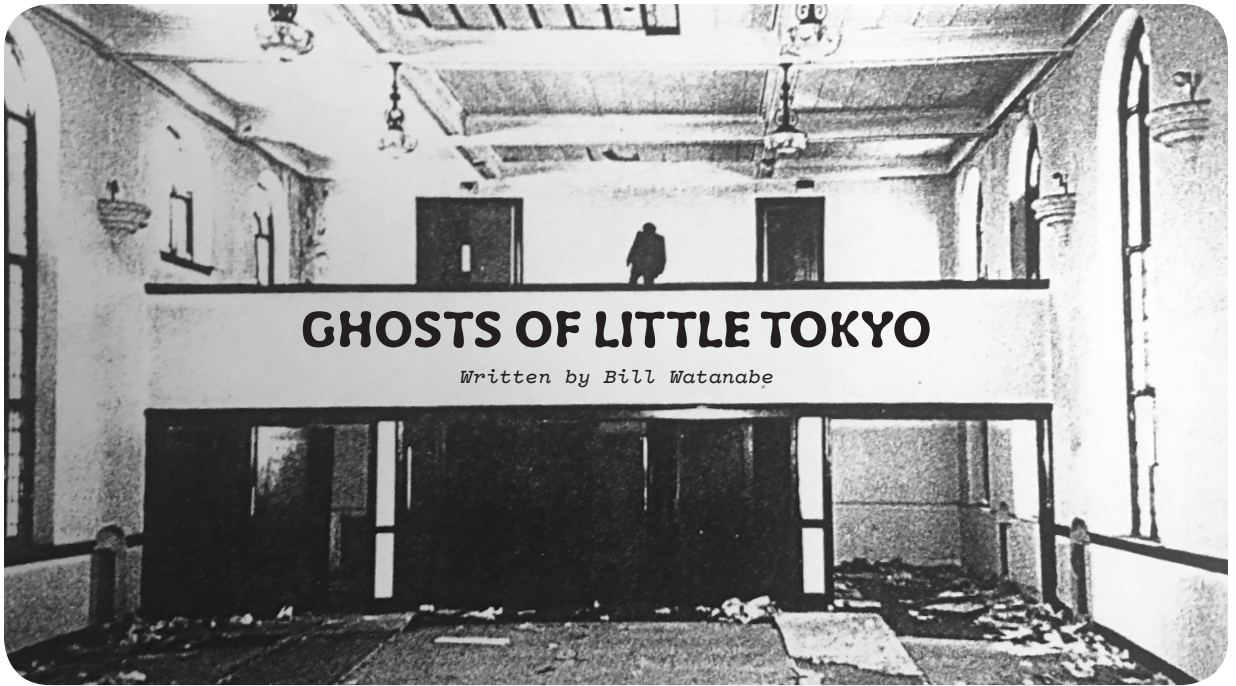
The full archive of collected treasures will be shared online at takachizu.org and selections will be presented in themed zines like this one.

This zine showcases “ghost” treasures of Little Tokyo – things that are no longer there, but greatly missed, things that give Little Tokyo layers of meaning.



Takachizu was developed and produced by artist Rosten Woo with Maya Santos and design by Tiffanie Tran and Tom Kracauer.

Takachizu is a project of Sustainable Little Tokyo initiated by +LAB, LTSC’s creative community development strategy utilizing collaboration and experimentation to advance Little Tokyo’s power over its future.



GHOSTS OF LITTLE TOKYO

Written by Bill Watanabe

Over the course of Little Tokyo's 130-year history, there have been people who had a love for this ethnic community – a love that may extend beyond our physical world, even perhaps beyond space and time.

The Union Church of Los Angeles, which is celebrating its centennial in 2018, has been a key part of the Little Tokyo community over the years. The old church building, which was constructed in 1923, featured a classic sanctuary lined with stained glass windows and a basement gymnasium. The church was built when Little Tokyo was a bustling neighborhood filled with people and the new edifice was the center of a myriad of activities. There were numerous weddings and funerals, classes and sports activities for generations of people until it was abandoned in 1975 when the congregation relocated to a new church building that was erected further south.

During World War II, when all the Little Tokyo Nikkei were incarcerated in remote camps, the

neighborhood became an African American enclave and the Union Church became a community center for the thousands of blacks who newly resided in Little Tokyo. After WWII ended, Japanese Americans began to move back to the Little Tokyo area, though fewer in number than before the war.

There was an old caretaker who lived in the building for many years – a single and solitary man, an immigrant from Japan. He made sure the doors were locked at night and kept the place clean until he died – just around the time the church congregation had moved into their new quarters at 3rd St. and San Pedro St. It is said that his spirit still occupies the old building that he cared for all those years.

Around 1970, the City of Los Angeles bought the property from the church with the intent that the building could be torn down for future City Hall office expansion. This gradual civic center expansion had already claimed a full block of Little



Tokyo in 1950, when the City declared eminent domain and removed all the shops, churches, and homes to make way for a new police headquarters called Parker Center. But Mayor Tom Bradley was a visionary and he had other ideas. Around 1980 he proposed that the old Union Church become the home of the East West Players (EWP) which had been renting a small-box theater space in East Hollywood near Echo Park. The Mayor earmarked a half-million dollars as a match to pay for renovations and seismic upgrades and challenged the EWP to raise another half-million to cover the estimated cost of construction. For a number of years, the EWP tried to raise additional funds but were unsuccessful, and as the years passed, the old building fell further and further into disrepair. The City had no intention of putting money into maintaining what it thought was an empty decrepit building that might be torn down soon.

The church sanctuary became a haven for many stray cats, and the colorful stained-glass windows became stained with pigeon droppings from the flocks of pigeons that roosted in the church. Plaster fell off the walls and people could no longer enter the building because of the millions of fleas that infested the floors. Perhaps if someone could have gone into the building and listened,

the old Japanese caretaker's ghost might have been heard weeping for the deteriorating building he had watched over for so long.

The Old Union Church building eventually fell into the hands of Little Tokyo Service Center, but LTSC needed to raise as much as \$4 million dollars for the necessary renovations and seismic work. Then came the Northridge Earthquake in 1994 and along with the earthquake came FEMA funds to cover most of the cost of resurrecting the building! The quake loosened tons of bricks along the upper north wall of the church, which crashed through the second floor and fell onto the ground floor. Witnesses said they could see the sky from the ground floor through the hole in the second floor! Another major after-shock could have brought the whole building down. But the church and the Mayor's vision still had a future ahead, and the building refused to "give up the ghost." LTSC and its development partner Visual Communications (VC) successfully renovated and upgraded the building in 1998 with the FEMA funds and opened the doors to the newly-christened Union Center for the Arts (UCA), which today houses the East West Players, VC, and LA Artcore gallery.

...the old Japanese caretaker's ghost might have been heard weeping for the deteriorating building he had watched over for so long.

There are newly-minted stories by those who occupy the UCA of a "presence" in the theater space – disembodied voices that call out to them by name, and various solid objects moving independently from place to place – perhaps the work of a former caretaker, long gone, whose spirit is still doing his custodial work from beyond. Late

one night, an actor (let's call him "K") was sitting at his dressing table alone except for a fellow actor sitting on the other side of the partition. K took off his earring and put it on the table and then heard someone whisper his name. K looked around, but there was no one there. He asked his colleague if he had said anything and he replied he did not call him nor did he hear anything. K heard his name called a second time-in a strong whisper-and he got up and looked around the room and then he heard his name a third time and still there was no one except the two actors. K sat perplexed at his dressing table, and then something fell from the ceiling and onto his lap and bounced on the floor. He stooped to pick it up, and, to his amazement, it was his earring! This sent chills up and down his spine!

Later that week he mentioned this incident to another colleague, and she said on one occasion she heard someone saying her name too! Some-time later, K was working for VC, and heard papers rustling and shuffling, but when he looked around, again there was no one and nothing stirring. He called his friend on his cell just to get some human contact, and then he left the premises for the night! Another time, K was in a group staff meeting when a video cassette, part of a series of cassettes which was placed securely on a book shelf, flew off the bookcase by itself and in full view of everyone at the meeting – for long moments, the room was silent as no one could speak!

There have been ghost sightings in other buildings in Little Tokyo. Guests at the Miyako Hotel, unrelated to each other and over a long period of time, have reportedly seen apparitions of figures walking the hallways of the hotel – most often the shape of a young woman! And the Sperl Building hotel on 1st Street had enough ghost sightings that the owner Tony Sperl brought in professional ghost investigators to check on paranormal signals. He said these investigators detected the presence of

a young girl who once lived in the building many years ago named "Mona," and her presence seems to still haunt the building. They also detected the presence of Tony's grandmother, who used to own the building two generations before, also still hanging around the building. The investigators told Tony that they detected an unusually heavy amount of paranormal activity up and down First Street in Little Tokyo! Tony, who has lived in the Sperl Building for many years, said that one time he was in his room on the upper floor when a bookcase (solid and heavy and situated in the same location for years) all of a sudden toppled over as if it were pushed with a strong force. Perhaps it may have been a similar force that caused the video cassette at VC to fly off the shelf?



Perhaps there are lost souls in these buildings or perhaps even the buildings themselves have some sort of "soul." No one has ever been hurt or threatened by these ghostly experiences – perhaps because these are simply spirits of people who are no longer in our dimension but it is not a stretch to imagine that a place that is loved and a building that survives over time can harbor vestiges of people who like to remain in the neighborhood they lived in and loved – the neighborhood of historic Little Tokyo. ●

A PIECE OF THE ORIGINAL STAIRWELL OF THE NISHI HONGANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE



This treasure added by Laura Blosser

The historic Nishi Honganji Buddhist Temple, now leased to JANM & sublet to the Go For Broke National Education Center (GFB NEC) was originally built in 1930 and served as a storage holding area during WWII. Now GFB NEC tells stories about Japanese American veterans of WWII. The stairwell wall treatment needed patching and was difficult to replace due to the complicated original process - "dusty rose" plaster with spray-applied aggregate.

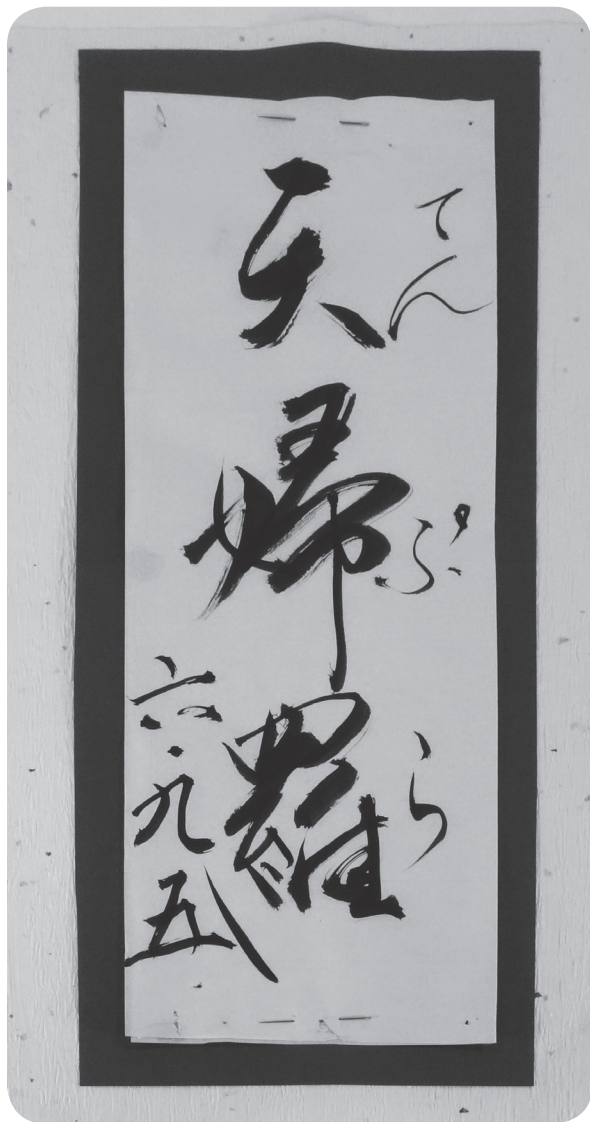
The treasures collected here represent parts of Little Tokyo that are no longer here. "Ghosts" that give Little Tokyo layers of history and deeper meaning.



TREASURES

CALLIGRAPHY OF "TEMPURA" SIGN FROM AOI RESTAURANT

This treasure added by Patty Nagano



331 E. 1st Street

Aoi Restaurant had to close in 2014 and was a big loss to Little Tokyo. After moving to Little Tokyo in 2010 we gravitated to Aoi because of the wonderful down home feeling we felt being in that space. Owners Grace Murayama and Hiroko Yamagata became good friends of ours. We loved eating their delicious Japanese food. We especially loved the miso nasu, tempura and special combination meals.

When they were getting ready to close the shop, I asked for one of Grace's food signs on the wall. Grace wrote all the signs, and I always admired her beautiful calligraphy. She said I could take any one I wanted. I picked this one that said Tempura. I could read the hiragana, and friends have wondered why the hanging in our house says 'tempura'!!!

They were always so generous and kind to us. We ended up being the lucky ones because they moved into Teramachi! Sometime Grace would call and let us know that she would be bringing nasu to us just freshly made by Hiroko. We are glad they are our neighbors and can continue the friendship!

ASAHI SHOE CO. SHOEBOX



This treasure added by Mike Murase

Sample of shoes and dry goods sold at a store in Little Tokyo. There are stories of immigrants who survived racial hostility and contributed to the economic vitality of the community.

Excerpted from: LITTLE TOKYO-ONE HUNDRED YEARS IN PICTURES, by Ichiro Mike Murase

Even though the Gentlemen's Agreement reduced Japanese immigration considerably, the tide of anti-Japanese sentiments continued unabated. San Francisco papers warned, "JAPANESE WOMEN A MENACE TO AMERICAN WOMEN" and "BROWN ASIATICS STEAL BRAINS OF WHITES." Mob violence broke out in the streets several times and assaults on Japanese became commonplace. A shoemaker named M. Sugawa was attacked by three boys on Sutter Street, and a grocery clerk named I. Ikuta was beat up five times within a few months. These incidents, and others, were rarely reported to the police. They knew that no action would be taken. "Shikataganai!" (What can you do?)

In Los Angeles too, opposition to the Japanese continued for many years, and Issei were not permitted to live in most areas of the city. Long-time shoe merchant Mitsuhiko Shimizu recalled, "In those days, they insulted us at will. The best thing was not to go outside Little Tokyo at all." Yet, by 1910, the segregated ghetto called Little Tokyo could not house all Japanese in Southern California. Gardeners, nurserymen and produce men, among others, formed small pockets of Japanese in the West Jefferson, Uptown (now Koreatown), Hollywood and North Virgil areas where they would be closer to their workplaces.

Yet, through the "golden twenties"- at a time when the whole country was experiencing tremendous economic growth and many people were predicting that this new era of prosperity would never end-and when hard times came after the total financial collapse of 1929, it was the economic cohesion of the Japanese community which saw them through the Great Depression. And at the heart of the Japanese community's economy was the vertically integrated agricultural business from the farms to the wholesale markets to the retail stores that provided relative stability in an otherwise dismal era. Little Tokyo suffered along with the rest of the country, but the number of jobless in the Japanese community remained between 5 to 10 percent while the national unemployment rate had risen to 25 percent by 1932. The Issei merchants in Little Tokyo tried to do their part by acting in accordance with the age-old values of *on*, *gimu* and *giri* by retaining as many employees as possible. Mitsuhiko Shimizu of Asahi Shoes recalled the basic attitude of the First Street proprietors: "You don't let your help go when things get tough; they worked hard for you when times were good."

AMERASIA BOOKSTORE



This treasure added by Lisa Hasegawa

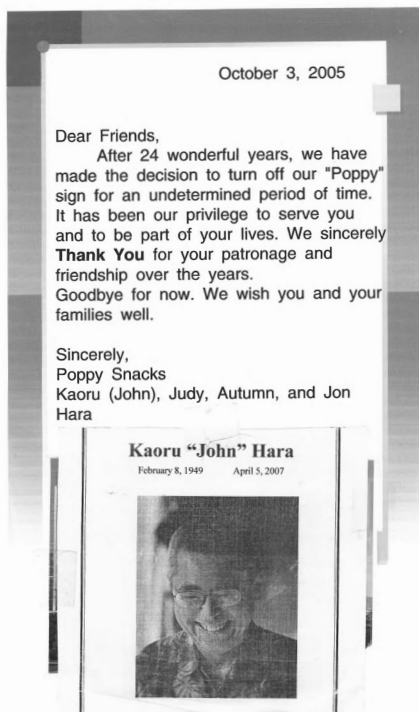
Early 90's community groups and leaders came together to save Amerasia Bookstore. They hosted many (all?) Asian American authors for book readings.

Johnny Mori adds: Asian-American studies started down at Long Beach State, and a lot of people from the community went down to Long Beach to help organize and discuss issues within the Japanese American community. And through that came discussions of "Where are we going to get the materials to teach classes?" There were so few resources. It wasn't like today. There was no internet, no social media, no nothing. There was a lot of preplanning and then finally, in 1969, we got a physical place in Little Tokyo. 313 1/2 E. 1st Street was the first location, above Matsuno Sushi-Ya.

I had a speech class at LA City College and just happened to find this book in the library called "America's Concentration Camp" and it just kinda floored me, lit a lightbulb in me, in terms of "this is really fucked up." So I started to get a little pissed. When Amerasia Books came along, I thought: I can get behind this. I can get behind making sure the truth is told. At that time you never read about it. You can read about it now but when I was in high school or junior high school high, all you heard about was the bombing of Pearl Harbor and Hiroshima and nothing in between.

The original space was unbelievably small, but later when the CRA came, we moved to a larger space on 2nd Street (next to where the Pinkberry is now). We had enough space for a little stage and even a silkscreen operation in the back.

POPPY'S SNACK SHOP (KAJIMA BUILDING)



This treasure added by Tom Sogi

“Home Cookin,” Poppy’s was very important to those of us who worked in Little Tokyo but couldn’t cook. For 24 years since 1980, John provided home cooking, and we didn’t have to worry about lunch because he had it all planned out for us. For the week it was: spaghetti, tacos, meatloaf, enchiladas, mabo toku, all for \$5.00. Best of all, John was a special guy. He must of had over 100 regulars, and knew them all by name. He saved us food when we were late.

ME & MY NANA



This treasure added by Rémy De La Peza

Photograph taken in 1983 of me (age 3) and my maternal grandmother, Naoko Mikuriya, originally from Saga, Japan. Little Tokyo was a frequent destination for the two of us on weekends for Japanese groceries & lunch. After she passed in 1991, I’ve always felt her spirit here in Little Tokyo. Little Tokyo will forever be a special place full of memories with my Nana.

OIWAKE HAPPY HOUR MENU

This treasure added by Sean Miura

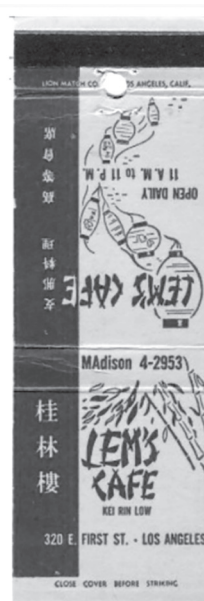
There was a specific type of panic that set in when you realized that you might miss happy hour at Oiwake. As a legendary bar that hosted birthdays, after parties, and uncle/auntie driven karaoke sessions, Oiwake provided space for broad intersections of people. It's hard to put the importance of Oiwake into words. Perhaps like many JTown ghosts, you had to have been there.



MATCHBOOK FROM LEM'S CAFE

This treasure added by Kristen Hayashi

Chinese American pioneer George Lem opened Lem's Chop Suey on First Street. The favorite Chinese food dishes on the restaurant's menu included homyu, almond duck, and egg foo young. Japanese fishermen from Terminal Island as well as Japanese who lived in the greater Little Tokyo area frequented Lem's Chop Suey/Cafe. The Lem family maintained the restaurant during WWII and witnessed the change from Little Tokyo to Bronzeville.



USUI



This treasure added by Gary Idama

My name is Gary Idama, and I'm going to give you something that's called a send-in, in advertising. There are places that still have Nihon-damashi, Japanese spirit, in one way or another. Otomi, which is not in Japanese town but it's close enough, another is Fugetsu-do, you already know their strawberry mochi is out of this world. If you want to sample something very Japanese like going to the shtamaji, uh, Tokyo, go to a place called Mako sushi. Mako-san talks like a 'Tokyo native', he's fun. Another place is called Tamon; it's upstairs. You can't find it, but it's in a little hotel.

It's very underestimated but the sushi is amazing. Another one is Suehiro, the elegant Denny's of Little Tokyo. I love the food. It's inexpensive. It's open till 1 o'clock. I mention Denny's but it's so much more elegant. The food is better. The other is Kouraku. It's a real down home place. You can eat until, sometimes, 3 o'clock in the morning - what a deal! The food is sort of Sino-Japanese. It's not totally Japanese but it has a lot of Japanese influences.

And lastly I want to give a tribute to Usui. Right now it's occupied by Sushi Enya but Mr. Usui was an amazing person - very warm hearted and he liked to be with the boys. Good food; not expensive. A lot of us who knew Japanese would go there and we formed a kind of all-male Japanese community there. We would go and talk about you know, suberanai hanashi, which is like off-color jokes and stuff like that. Mr. Usui loved it; he would eat it up. Ms. Usui would be there too and she would, you know, pretend not to see or hear us.

Mr. Usui created a relaxed, warm, friendly place where the food was delicious, inexpensive, and nourishing. It became an unofficial Japanese-speaking meeting place for many of us who wanted a "Cheers"-like home. Unfortunately, Mr. Usui passed away recently. I would like to honor him in my memories.

ARE YOU SERIOUS, YOU'RE TEARING DOWN TOKYO KAIKAN?

This treasure added by Tom Sogi



The 'A' from the Tokyo Kaikan sign

The Tokyo Kaikan restaurant opened in the 1970s, originally on 1st, moved to 225 S. San Pedro Street. I didn't know it at the time, but the Head Chef named Mr. Mashita created the California Roll. Up until then, most of the sushi originated from Japan. It was so convenient for us, right around the corner. The food was great. Tempura and Shabu Shabu were my favorites, and the decor was cool, Polynesian atmosphere with bamboo decorations.

ATOMIC CAFE

This treasure added by Mike Murase



I took this photo at about 3 a.m. some time in 1983. A lot has been documented about Atomic Cafe, but it was an iconic hangout for local Japanese Americans and for “punks” from Hollywood and other places throughout the city. The Atomic was known for the jukeboxes and for the eclectic home-spun Asian American menu, and for the random clientele. Above all, Atomic Nancy made the place an iconic eatery.

Bill Watanabe adds: Noodle fights (Atomic Nancy), David Bowie, Blondie, Go-gos after the Go-Go, Sid Vicious started a food fight throwing rice balls, Andy Warhol dropped by - curiously peering through the window, Linda Ronstadt and boyfriend Jerry Brown sat in Booth #2, and David Byrne's order was Egg foo young and a glass of milk.

Atomic closed in 1989, and then became Troy, a hangout for Latinos from the Eastside. It hosted many hot Latino bands including Quetzal (Grammy winner for best Latin Pop 2013).

AN INTERVIEW WITH TONY SPERL



Illustration of the Sperr Building from Visual Communications

So, what's your relationship to Little Tokyo?

Well, my great grandfather was one of the first people to build anything in the area. My great grandfather's blacksmith shop was where City Hall is today. In May of 1882, he purchased the current site [on 1st. Street], which is actually four different buildings. He just kept tacking onto it. It went from him, to his wife, to my grandfather, to my father, to me and my sister. So it's been in the family since 1882.

This building has been everything. It's been restaurants, it's been a hotel. It was a Chinese

restaurant at this location for a very long time. There was a perfunctory association on the second floor, this Black group that dealt with the Azusa Street Revival — you know, the Pentecostal Movement. The upstairs was an original meeting hall for Little Tokyo, and then it was the Tokyo Kaikan restaurant which was there until they closed in the 1980s.

I've been here since I was born — Day One. When I started, one half was the Ida market. It had been there forever, well, from after World War II to the early 80's. 1986 is when Suehiro café moved in. I've watched 'em come and go. I've watched buildings being torn down.

In the 1960s you had a strong Japanese community presence Issei, Nissei, immigrants, small businesses. But, it was on its way down. By the '70s, it really was on its way down. People stopped going to Little Tokyo. The Japanese community had spread out. In the early 80s, they brought in homeless to stay in some of the warehouses where MOCA is. It destroyed business. It destroyed everything. They stayed there at night and they were released in the day and they'd hang out in Little Tokyo and scare everybody away. Things are still on the slide. Then you got some development.

It will remain in name Little Tokyo. But you may not see Japanese people at all.

Part of what was going on in the late 60s is they wanted to take out the entire block to widen the street and my father was part of the team that stopped it. That's where they went for historic designation. And across the street it happened. They were knocking old buildings down and putting up what they did. Where the Uyeda building is now was the old Harris Newmark building. Very famous. In the '87 earthquake, the building at the SE corner of 1st and San Pedro was the only building that was damaged so bad they had to tear it down.

Then you had an up-tick. I can speak to this personally. The first loft building in downtown L.A. was 1308 E. Factory Place, Howard Klein HBK investments. I've been affiliated with Howard for 30 years. That was the first one and then you had another client of mine for almost 30 years, Steve Zimmermann of ZDI Zimmerman Incorporated. And then you had Traction and the American Hotel and it was a slow 30 year process but then 10 years ago it sped up. And so that cycle is what's

spilled over into Little Tokyo — which resurrected Little Tokyo.

I do all kinds of things for these developers. Everything from property management to private investigations to security to maintenance. I've literally gone through 100 employers over 30 years. I have a master's degree in correctional counseling. I've been a policeman and a probation officer. I do all kinds of stuff.

I had a meeting in 1996 with state senator Polanco because of all the homelessness. I said to the State senator 'we need tax credits for all the buildings on Broadway.' All the upper floors were empty, and I said 'low income housing' and it went absolutely nowhere. Then, a couple of years later it's all market-rate and a lot of people have made a fortune.

What do you see for the future?

Corporate America. It's nothing but the master plan for an international city. It will remain in name Little Tokyo. But you may not see Japanese people at all. That may be in 20 years.

But why is that?

Money. Location to City Hall. The community hasn't come together like it should. As more properties are bought out by corporate America, they're not going to listen to us. They have a 100 million, 200 million, 500 million dollars. They're going to push through their own agenda and we're done. These are faceless corporations; there's just nobody necessarily behind them. They're just so huge. And that's the real threat in Little Tokyo. The next good earthquake that damages all our historic buildings — it then opens that up for them to step in and wipe us out and then that block is fair game for whatever they want.

I won't sell my building. When it falls down that will be the end of it. It's been in my family so long. What would I do with the money?

Favorite Place?

The 442 (Go For Broke) memorial is my favorite place to go. I had personal relationships with those people. I knew them from walking my dogs. I really loved those guys. And I really miss them. They used to sit there Monday through Saturday. There were thousands of these guys, OK. But there were probably 25 or 30 who actually sat there Monday through Saturday, put out chairs, sat at a table, and talked to the community. And I would show up. If I didn't show up for a day it was big news. 'What happened? Why weren't you here yesterday?' It was a community kind of a thing; it was a family.

Haunted Little Tokyo?

Oh yeah. I mean living in the upstairs of the building, people would say 'Aren't you afraid of the ghosts?' And I was like 'If there are ghosts in this building, these are my relatives. Why would they want to hurt me? I've kept the building!'

Now I'm going to tell you a couple crazy things that have happened. I'd been there about seven years. And there was this area that had been a makeshift kitchen. I'm in there. And I had no coat on, just a t-shirt. It's summertime and it's hot. And I put a plate on the table like this. And I turn. And the plate goes and flies to that wall. . . Like 'Oh, my coat must have hit it!' But I didn't touch it and

I'm just standing there. I was like 'Oh, dude, this is weird. This is creepy.'

But then nothing else happens. I'm still getting from different people in the community 'Oh, the ghosts!' I'm like 'Yeah, OK, drop dead.'

One morning I'm out doing errands. My girlfriend is sleeping upstairs. And I come back and she's all creeped out, I was gone for like an hour. I say 'What's going on?' She goes 'While I was sleeping somebody touched me'. 'What? What are you talking about?' 'Somebody was stroking my face.' That's a little creepy. So I just figured that she'd been dreaming or whatever but weird little things started happening.

For example, I had all these cats around and one day the cats are jumping around being maniacs. And I totally go off. And I'm screaming 'God damn it, I'll put every one of you cats to sleep! You're dead!' And there's a bookcase on the wall next to me. It had been there for five

years. Books on it. There are no cats on it. I'm not even close to it. And it falls over.

My eyes are popping out of my head. I'm just like frozen. I'm feeling creepy. And I look around and I scream. 'OK I'm not touching the babies! Everything's cool!' And things cooled down after that.

But I'm not done. . .

On the first floor, there used to be a video store, it was the largest Asian porn video store, at least in L.A., probably in the United States. It was huge.



So when the owner abandoned the place, I threw a lot of the videos out. There's a mezzanine in between the first and second floor. It was kind of dark and creepy back up in there. And my girlfriend's dog, whose name was Sophie, kept going up there. And then I heard my girlfriend talking. I thought she was talking to the dog. She never said anything. And one night we're in front of the building cleaning it out and getting stuff at 3 o'clock in the morning and this kid was with a couple other kids he had worked with at the video store and one of the other kids says 'Hey, I want to see the ghosts.' I said 'yeah, right.'

And here comes the story.
Ready for this?

There were tenants that were complaining about a very old white man and a very old white woman that would be in there staring at them. And employees would go back and see them.

So my girlfriend was there when this kid was talking about these phantom people. And my girlfriend says 'Well, didn't you hear me talking to that guy?' And I said 'What are you talking about? I thought you were talking to Sophie! (the dog)!' And she says 'No, I was talking to a guy up there!'

So, I called Dr. Larry Montz who's been on the Art Bell program. I've been on the Art Bell program. I don't believe any of this stuff, but anyway, I called Dr. Larry Montz, a parapsychologist. He comes into the building. Some people from the Japanese American community show up. Mrs. Wong, who used to own the Daimaru hotel, starts going APE on me. She was a tough Chinese woman and she

was like 'SHUT UP!' And I say 'Ms Wong, what's going on?'

She says 'When people tell me that there are monsters and ghosts in my building, I tell them to leave.'

Dr. Montz channeled a young Japanese girl who was nine years old. No foul play, she just died. She lived in the building and died. There was proof that people were living upstairs at one time. OK. He didn't channel my dad, my grandfather, my great-grandfather . . . you know who she

channeled? My great-grandmother. And she had showed up and was concerned for my welfare. And the girl who was sleeping upstairs. My great-grandmother had showed up and touched her. She liked her. It was really creepy.

Montz said that the apparitions can walk up and down the block. Above the Far East building? That was a hospital so you can assume people have died in there. It was a

hospital! Hospitals are very haunted spaces.

Somebody in the Christian community was telling me that if you believed in Jesus and angels and stuff you've got to believe in demons. And they said they believe that there were demons attached to all those porno movies and that they would make their apparitions appear because I was getting rid of what they lived off of. I was throwing the videos, their homes, away. So in essence they had no way to live. So of course they are going to disrupt my life. That's what he said. ●



DON'T LET LITTLE TOKYO BECOME A GHOST TOWN... TAKE ACTION!

- **Go Local!** Shop at local community-supporting businesses. Avoid chains, corporate stores and corporate restaurants.
- **Support legacy small businesses** with word-of-mouth advertising, positive Yelp reviews, and social media check-ins and tagging.
- **Attend cultural events and festivals.** Check out www.SustainableLittleTokyo.org and www.GoLittleTokyo.com for more.

STAY CONNECTED!

Email us at sustainable@littletokyola.org to stay informed and involved in our campaign for community control over First Street North.

Sustainable Little Tokyo is a community-driven initiative working to ensure a healthy, equitable, and culturally rich Little Tokyo for generations to come. Led by Little Tokyo Community Council (LTCC), Little Tokyo Service Center (LTSC), and Japanese Cultural & Community Center (JACCC), Sustainable Little Tokyo began in 2013 as a multi-day community vision effort and has evolved into a holistic, neighborhood-wide campaign to promote the environmental, economic, and cultural sustainability of Little Tokyo.
sustainablelittletokyo.org

+LAB is LTSC's effort to strategically incorporate collaborative and experimental creative strategies into key community development efforts in Little Tokyo. +LAB works to advance equity, sustainability, community empowerment, and cultural vibrancy within a community of color.

Little Tokyo Service Center (LTSC) is a social service and community development organization committed to improving the lives of individuals and families through culturally sensitive social service care, strengthening neighborhoods through housing and community development, and promoting the rich heritage of our ethnic communities.
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