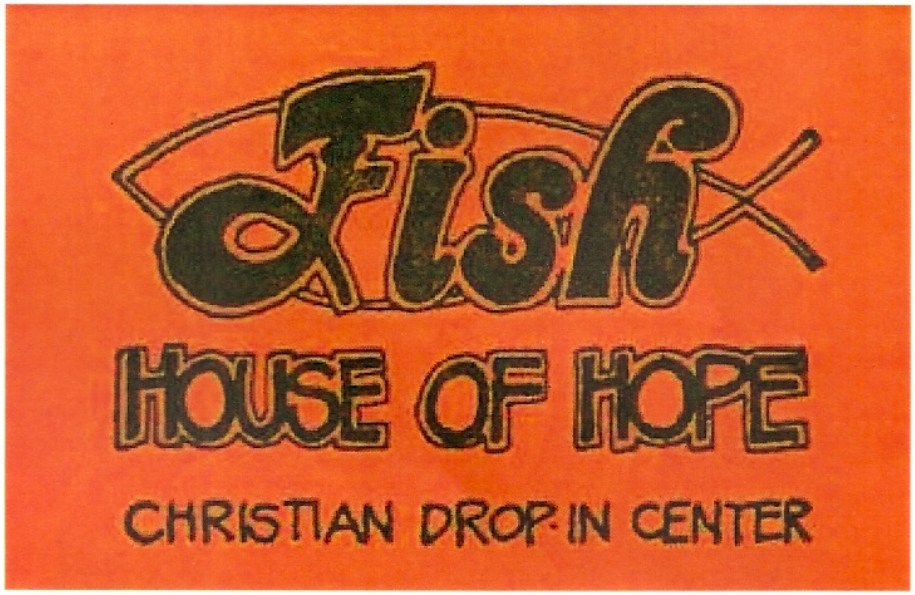
JEMS presents a reunion



March 24, 2012

Gardena Valley Baptist Church

The FISH

CHRISTIAN HOUSE OF HOPE

Every Friday Night 8:00 p.m.

IXΘYE

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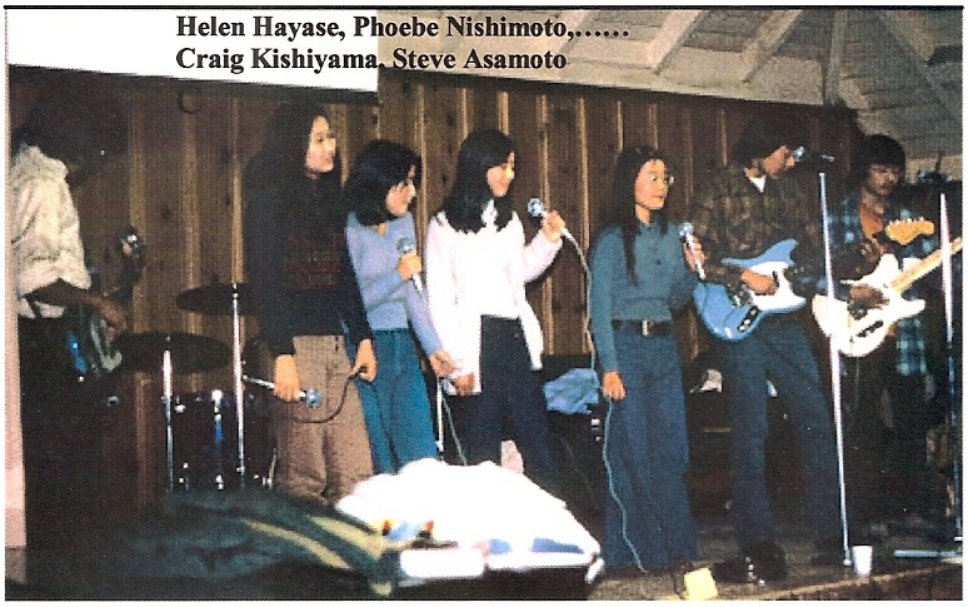
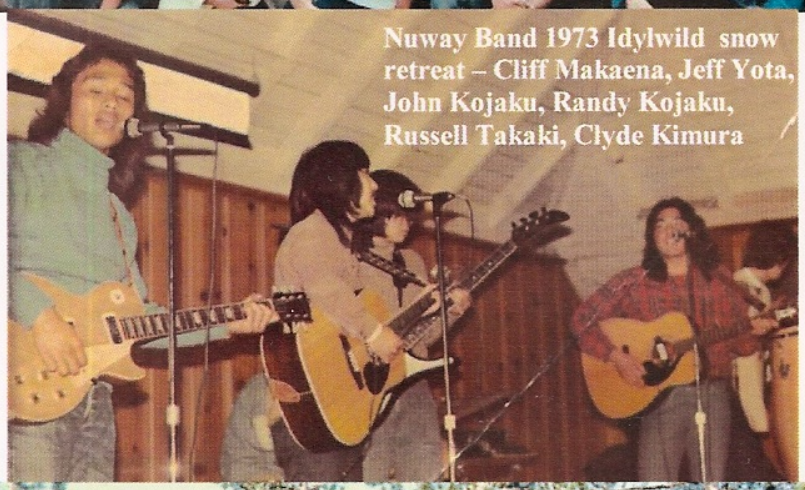
1716 Redondo Beach Blvd
Gardena, Calif. 532-HOPE
Sponsored By JEMS 629-1089



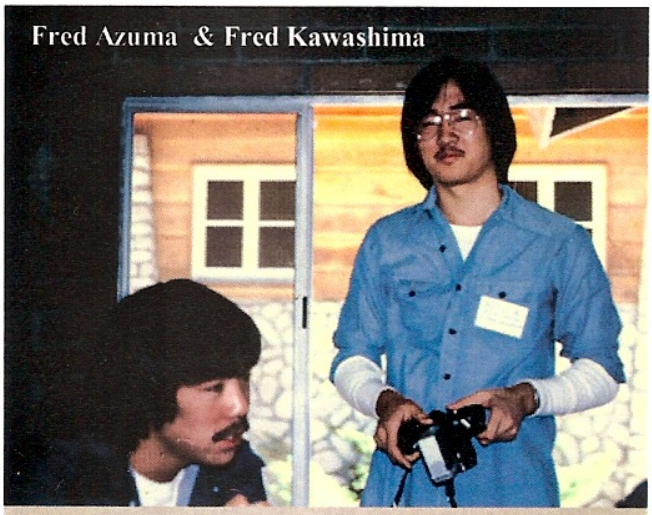
Helen Hayase, Phoebe Nishimoto,……
Craig Kishiyama, Steve Asamoto

JEMS Winter Conference
Tahquitz Pines 1975

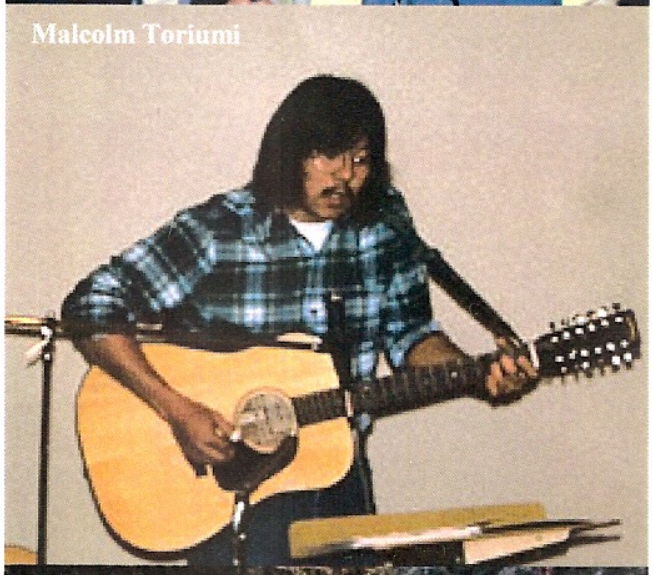


Nuway Band 1973 Idylwild snow retreat – Cliff Makaena, Jeff Yota, John Kojaku, Randy Kojaku, Russell Takaki, Clyde Kimura

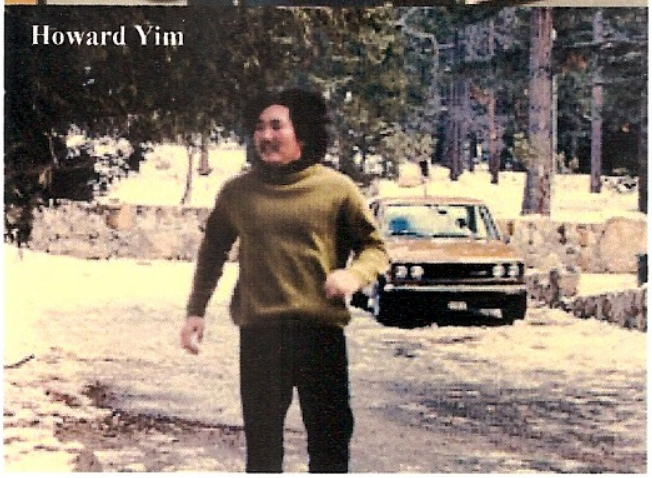
Bob Yoshinaga, Bruce Koike, Mark Tsuneishi, Jim Sakai, Doug Endo, Eldon Takeda.



Fred Azuma & Fred Kawashima



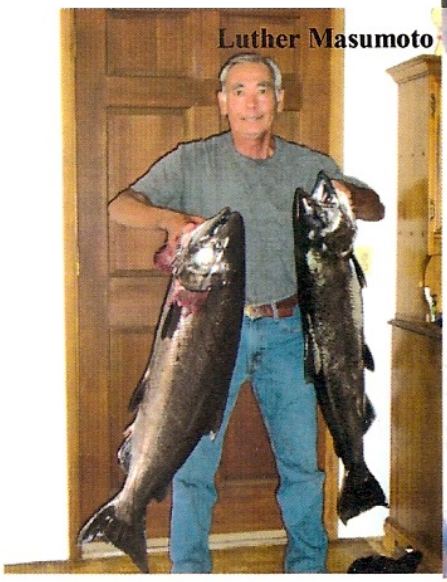
Malcolm Toriumi



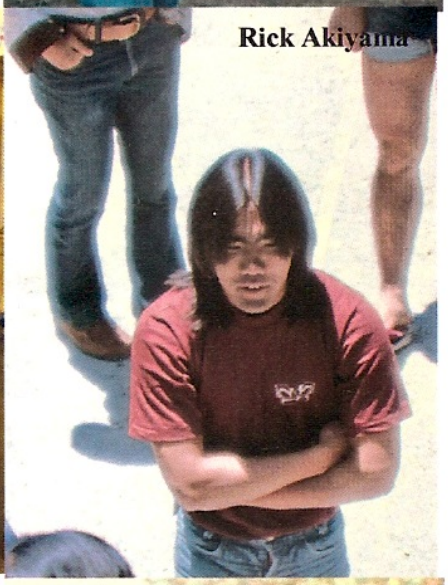
Howard Yim

Kimi Aoyagi

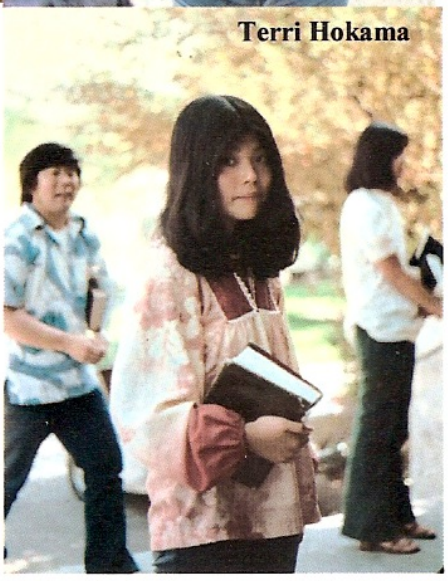
Luther Masumoto



Rick Akiyama



Terri Hokama



FISH REUNION PROGRAM

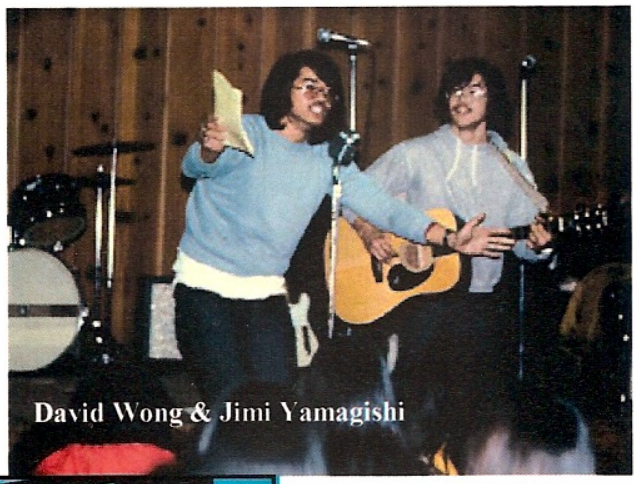
Saturday, March 24, 2012
Gardena Valley Baptist Church
12 Noon – 4 PM.

Registration/Social Hour	(Refreshments are available throughout the day.)
1:30 PM Welcome:	Doug Endo, Rev. Sam Tonomura and Rev. Rick Chuman, (Exec. Dir. of JEMS)
Opening Prayer:	Rev. Ron Matsuda, Gardena Valley Baptist Church
Worship and Music	Jimi Yamaguchi "Looking Up" band featuring original members Randy Kojaku, Cliff Makaena, Russell Takaki, Jeff Yota & Friends who led the praise time during FISH era
Love Offering	Doug Endo
Speaker	Rev. Fred Tanizaki Wintersburg Presbyterian Church and others
'The FISH'	Jim Sakai
'A Moment to Remember'	Malcolm Toriumi
Sharing time	Elected and Open Sharing Time
Closing Remarks	Rev. Sam Tonomura
Benediction	
Fellowship Time	Until 4:15pm 'Afterglow' will be at Marukai food court across the street. Please repark your car if you intend to have dinner there.

Special Thanks to….

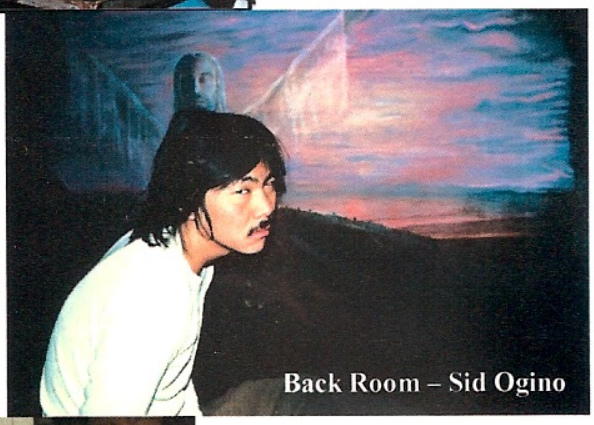
Host Church	Gardena Valley Baptist Church
Special Hospitality	Kiyomi Shishido & Friends
Planning Team	Mitchell Matsumura-Event Organizer
	Doug Endo, Jim Sakai,
	Rev. Sam Tonomura,
	Jimi Yamagishi
Travel	Russell Takaki
Banner	DVI
Program & CD Graphics	Ken and Mary Tabuchi
Video and Photography	Jim Sakai, Doug Endo, Ken Tabuchi
Reunion Momento	Doug Endo
Refreshments	Everyone…thank you

Additional copies of the "The Fish" CD will be available by placing an order through: Info@JEMS.org

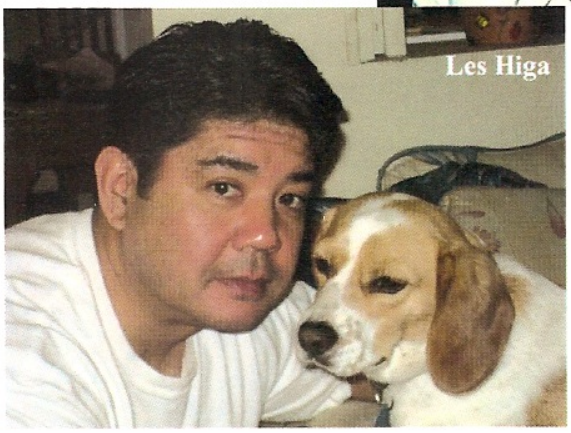


David Wong & Jimi Yamagishi

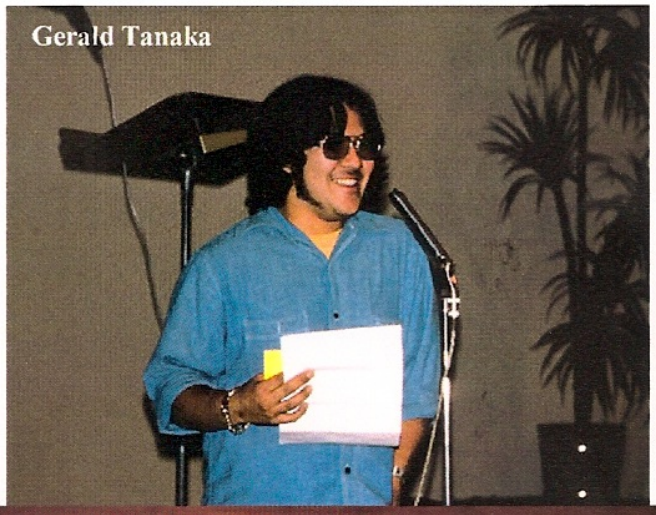
Back Room – Ron Sugimoto



Back Room – Sid Ogino



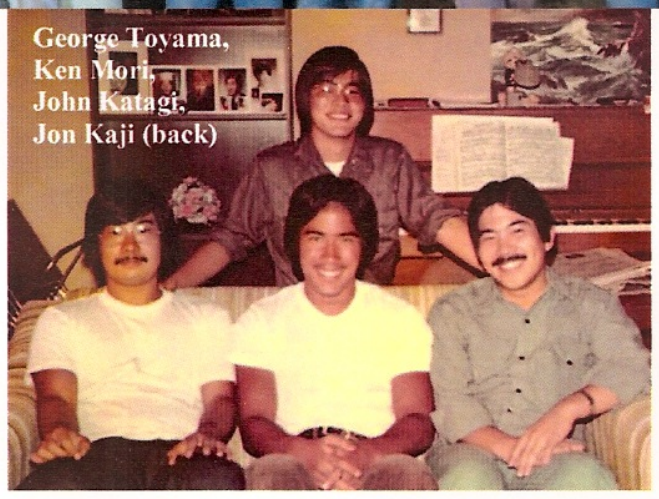
Les Higa



Gerald Tanaka

JEMS WINTER CONF. Tahquitz 1977
with Steve Uyehara, Kay Shinozaki,
Lori Shiozaki, Fred Kawashima,
Sharon Koshiyama, Terri Takusagawa,
Ray Yoshinaga, Glenn Miyoda,
Grace Sagara, Bobby Tadokoro,
Ron Sugimoto,

Ron Ushiyama, Reiko Uyehara, Bob Yoshinaga,
Jacob Quon, Jimi Yamagishi, Carol Konishi, Sid Ogino,
Mitchell Matsumura, Billy Yoon



George Toyama,
Ken Mori,
John Katagi,
Jon Kaji (back)

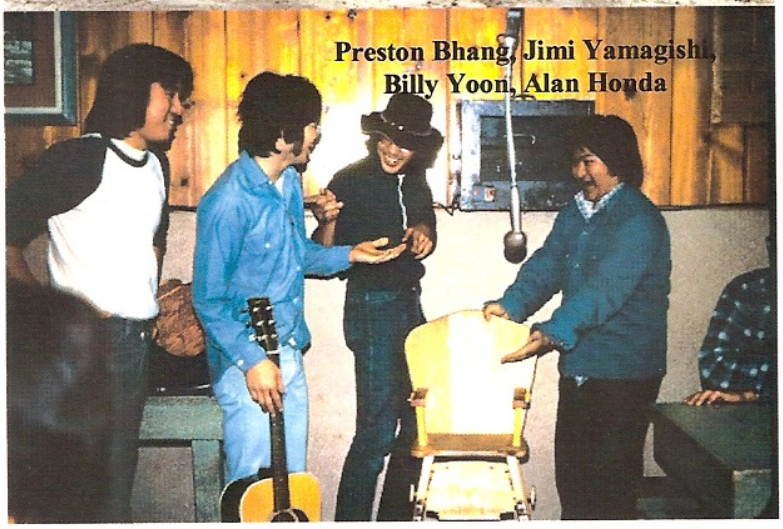
Inspirit Band
David Akiyama, Grace Sagara,
Reiko Uyehara, Jimi Yamagishi

Jim Sakai, Karen Onitsuka, Chris Kakimi,
Kay Shinozaki, Ron Sugimoto, Ray Yoshinaga,
Kathy Kakehashi, Kimi Aoyagi, Carol Konishi,
Bob Yoshinaga, Steve Uyehara, Jimi Yamagishi,
Michelle (Miwa) Heredia and Cindy Aoyagi

Looking Up Band - Jeff Yota, Randy Kojaku,
Cliff Makena, Russell Takaki

Fish Congress-Evangelism 1975 – Fred Kawashima,
Bob Yoshinaga, Jimi Yamagishi,
Jim Sakai, Gerald Tanaka, Sid Ogino

Preston Bhang, Jimi Yamagishi,
Billy Yoon, Alan Honda



History of The Fish

The Fish was an inspiration to youth in the 70s. The idea for the Fish came from Luther Masumoto who frequented a Christian coffee house in Chula Vista near San Diego. Together with Russell Takaki, a Gardena high school student, they shared the idea with Rev. Roy Ishihara, former pastor of Gardena Valley Church, and JEMS' (Japanese Evangelical Missionary Society) Executive Director Sam Tonomura at the Mount Hermon Christian Conference in the summer of '71. In a few months, the Fish Christian Drop-In Center was born. The location was near the southeast corner of Redondo Beach Blvd. and Western Ave. in Gardena.

Luther Masumoto became the first leader of the Fish and he lived in the back room of the tiny building next to a Taco Bell. Luther kept the back door open for anyone to come and share their problems and prayer requests. He called us to action to truly care for our fellow brothers and sisters. The Fish was open from 10am to midnight and the programs included music, bible studies, and rap sessions. One of the early music groups that performed at the Fish was 'Looking Up' whose members were Randy Kojaku, Cliff Makaena, Russell Takaki, and Jeff Yota. The group has recently reunited and will be performing at the Reunion. One of their signature songs is 'Riverside'. Here is an excerpt of the lyrics:

Living on the riverside taking it all in my stride
Living on the riverside, I'm taking life like a big long ride
You stay on your side and I'll stay on mine
You take what you want and I'll take the SON shine.

At the Fish, we could talk about things that we might not talk about at home like issues with parents, relationships, peer pressure, and more. We could come as we were and feel the love of Jesus. Jimi Yamagishi from Union Church, who regularly led worship at the Fish said: "The culture of the Fish was all about freedom. You had the freedom to drop in, no matter where you were in your spiritual state. You had the freedom to express yourself and freedom to be the person God wanted you to be."

A new leader came to the Fish named Howard Yim who was a graduate of Talbot Seminary. His leadership grew the Fish beyond the local community of Gardena and reached out to a wider audience in Los Angeles and Orange Counties.

JEMS who sponsored the Fish created a concert tour at churches throughout Southern California. The big one was at the famous Roger Young Auditorium in downtown L.A. with over 1000 in attendance. Music included Morningstar, Nuway, Koko and Susan, Malcolm Toriumi, and Joyful Noise. The Fish really took off and people often had to stand outside the door of that tiny room in Gardena. The Fish also sponsored two Fish camps which were held at the Salvation Army campgrounds in Pacific Palisades and Sequoia Park in Monterey Park.

The Fish was a unique place of fellowship from its early days of meeting in a circle and just sharing with one another on patches of carpet donated by local merchants. With humble beginnings, it was first opened as a drop-in center. During the Howard Yim years, the Fish was open only on Friday nights for evening fellowship. A 150-watt light bulb hung from the ceiling and the guest speakers stood underneath this light. We remember the young preachers, each with their own preaching style, namely Sid Ogino, Fred Azuma, and Gerald Tanaka. There was a close bond that grew from the Fish that many of us will never forget. We were truly brothers and sisters in Christ.

Mitchell Matsumura, Event Organizer

The following contributed to this history of The Fish: Luther Masumoto, Russell Takaki, Doug Endo, Jon Kaji, Jim Sakai, Rev. Sam Tonomura, Rev. Malcolm Toriumi, Jimi Yamagishi