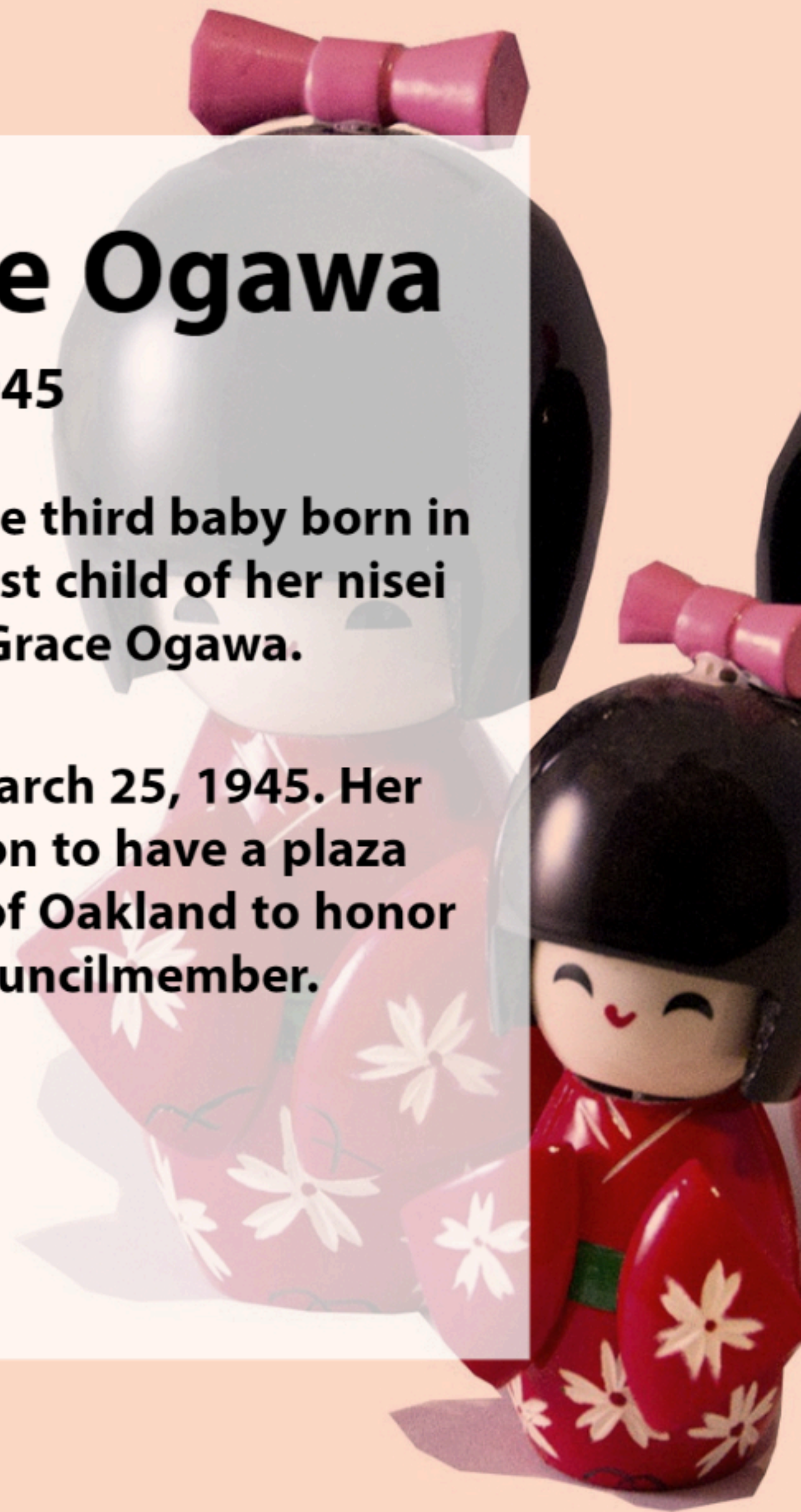


# **Nancy Lynne Ogawa**

**1942 - 1945**

**Nancy Lynne Ogawa was the third baby born in Topaz. She was also the first child of her nisei parents, Frank and Grace Ogawa.**

**Nancy passed away on March 25, 1945. Her father, Frank, would go on to have a plaza named for him in the city of Oakland to honor his years as a City Councilmember.**



ing.

## THIRD BABY



A baby girl, Nancy Lynn was born to Mrs. Grace Ogawa at 8:30 PM, Tuesday, Sept. 20. The father of the 6 lbs. 14 ozs. baby is Frank Ogawa, 10-1-F, who was passing out expensive cigars to his friends Wednesday. Nancy Lynn was the first child to be born in the new hospital building. Dr. Eugenia Fujita was in attendance.

TOPAZ  TIMES  
T R I - W E E K L Y

## APPRECIATION

We express our sincerest appreciation to our friends for the kindnesses and sympathies extended to us during our recent bereavement of our daughter, Nancy. We wish to thank especially those who attended her funeral and wake services.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank  
Ogawa, 10-1-C  
Tomochi Kitano



# Remembering the legacy of Frank Ogawa

**T**HE lush green lawn in front of Oakland City Hall that used to be a tree-shaded gathering place for downtown office workers is now crawling with overall-clad construction workers as they build an elaborate \$117 million city administration complex.

Please be patient.

Soon — though time does pass slowly at times — the edifice complex will be up and the construction area will be replaced with a new gathering place already named the Frank Ogawa Plaza. It's not quite there yet.



Frank Ogawa

The new plaza will give an all-different look to the historic space whose centerpiece is the landmark Jack London oak — its heavy branches held up by cables — yet still reaching out like the arms of an old man using two canes.

**M**ANY of Frank Ogawa's friends want to do more than name the plaza after him. They want to commission a bronze bust of a likeness of him.

Sadly, there could be Oaklanders who didn't know Frank Ogawa, who was an Oakland city councilman for 28 years. He died in July 1994, leaving behind broken-hearted friends and a legacy as a peacemaker and a loyal citizen of his city and country. Besides all that, he was a fun-loving and extremely caring human being.

Two prominent Oakland businessmen are heading a committee to raise private funds



Peggy Stinnett

for the bust: Leo Sorensen, president of Sorensen Properties and retired telephone company executive, and George Vukasin, owner of Peerless Coffee and president of the Coliseum Board of Directors.

They're trying to raise at least \$25,000 for the bust and for foreign exchange student scholarships.

"While we are raising funds here, the city of Fukuoka in Japan, our Sister City, is also raising money to contribute to the Frank Ogawa Foundation," says Sorensen.

Surely it would be embarrassing if the folks in Fukuoka beat Oakland in its contributions. He was well-known there for his frequent trade missions on behalf of the Port of Oakland and the city.

It was a measure of the man's character that he could put behind him a tragic period of his life. You could have understood if Ogawa had been a bitter man.

Like other Japanese-American citizens after the attack on Pearl Harbor, he and his wife, Grace, were interned at Topaz, Utah, where their young daughter died of an undiagnosed illness.

But Ogawa was forgiving of his country and when the war ended, he returned to Oakland to become a highly-successful nurseryman and the city's first Japanese-American council member. He had registered for the draft and, until his final days, treasured his draft card as a symbol of his loyalty to the United States.

Frank Ogawa was also a world citizen. He personally opened the doors of trade and commerce to the Far East for the Port of Oakland and successfully helped bring major shipping lines from the Far East to the Port.

His economic contribution to the Port was immeasurable, and remains the foundation of the Port's good relations with foreign shipping firms.

"Some elected officials are liked, few are truly loved," Sorensen observes as he remembers Ogawa. "Frank was one of the most loved and respected politicians anywhere and certainly in Oakland."

**A** bronze bust in the plaza will be a constant reminder of the man's contributions to the city. And it will also remind us of the plaza as it was before the new complex was built.

It's hard to imagine the plaza, as we have known it, transformed as the plans of Yui Hay Lee Architects show — an amphitheater, no parking on the San Pablo Avenue side. The grand Jack London oak will remain as another reminder of the past.

There will be some Japanese cherry trees — a favorite of Ogawa — near the spot favored now for the bronze bust.

Two oaks at the 15th Street side will remain, although one of them is seriously threatened by street digging that could terminally damage its roots. All but five of the tall sycamore trees will come down.

At the time of his death, we said how fortunate we had been to have Frank Ogawa as a city leader and a wonderful human being.

We're also fortunate that he had so many good friends who want to keep his memory and legacy of peacemaking alive. The Frank Ogawa bronze bust will help us remember that legacy each time we pass by it in the new City Hall plaza.

Donations may be sent to the Frank Ogawa Foundation at 6114 LaSalle Ave., No. 107, Oakland 94611. For more information, call Leo Sorensen at 339-9584.

*Peggy Stinnett is editorial page editor of The Oakland Tribune.*