

## OUR AMY PHILLIPS GETS MARRIED

Amy Phillips, our past South Bay Chapter JACL president was married to Scott Kushigemachi at the Gardena Valley Baptist Church on Saturday, September 15, 2007. Amy is the daughter of Mrs. Miyako Phillips of Hokkaido. Scott is the son of Masao and Peggy Kushigemachi of Gardena. Their wedding was unique in that it featured a pair of bride and groom Godzillas their friends made for them (as Amy is a big fan of Godzilla).



The second photo is the back view of Scott and Amy as they walk from the church – advertising that they just got married. Amy said that they tried to be conscious of their resources, not just monetarily, but also environmentally. They used a lot of recycled materials, including 100% post-consumer recycled paper and Trader Joe bags in the invitations. Even their rings were made from recycled metal! They decided to ride scooters instead of renting a limo (because they are now living around the corner from the church and it seemed silly to drive such a short distance. Their emcee suggested that they do a “victory lap” around the church gym. Many of the guests told them this was their favorite part.



Scott teaches English at El Camino & Cypress Community Colleges and Amy works at the Little Tokyo Service Center in downtown LA providing JA seniors of Little Tokyo and Gardena with social services.

## LA'S NEW OTANI HOTEL CLOSES, CONTINUES AS KYOTO GRAND HOTEL

Los Angeles (Kyodo) The New Otani Hotel & Garden in the Little Tokyo district of Los Angeles closed its business at the end of November 2007 ending its 30 years history of serving the city's Japanese community, after being brought out by an American company.



The hotel will continue as the Kyoto Grand Hotel and Gardens, but some local residents already miss the name New Otani, which has been a place for Japanese nationals and Japanese Americans in the city to socialize.

I really appreciate the New Otani's contribution to the development of Little Tokyo," said Tom Kamei, 84, one of the designers of the New Otani. I hope the new hotel will also be integrated into the local Japanese community," he said.

The New Otani hotel, a 21 story building featuring rooms in Japanese and western styles as well as a Japanese garden, opened in 1977.

It became a landmark of the LittleTokyo district in downtown Los Angeles as many Japanese travelers and the local Japanese Chamber of Commerce frequently used it for business purposes.

A U.S. subsidiary of Japanese construction company Kajima Corporation, the long time owner of the New Otani, sold the hotel to a Beverly Hills real estate company, 3D Investments in August.

