

KOKORO

THE HEART AND SOUL OF OUR COMMUNITY
SAN MATEO CHAPTER JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE APRIL 2005
WWW.SANMATEOJACL.ORG
INQUIRIES: KATE MOTOYAMA 650.574.6676

SAN MATEO JACL IS DEDICATED TO PROMOTING THE HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE JAPANESE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE AND TO PROTECTING AND ADVANCING THE HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS OF OUR MULTI-ETHNIC SOCIETY THROUGH EDUCATIONAL AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS.

Articles must be submitted before the third Friday in electronic format [Microsoft WORD, New York font] to katemotoyama@sanbrunocable.com.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE COMMUNITY CENTER'S BUNKA SHISHU GROUP



*From L to R: Back row, Hiroko Morita, Yemi Shiraishi, Lily Hioki
Front row, Mitsuye Iwai, Howard Imada, Jane Ogawa
Missing from picture: Junko Freyer, Chiyeko Harada, Sam Harmon, Mariko Miyasaki, Kate Motoyama*

Bunka Shishu is an art originated at the turn of the century in Japan. A Bunka Shishu picture resembles an oil painting as it appears to be layered and textured; however, on closer inspection, you will see the beautiful art of stitchery.

There are many techniques to learn to illustrate textures and dimension to enhance the quality of this art. Pictures of scenes, flowers, animals, children's designs, and Asian motifs are available for the beginner through advanced stitchers, all created by utilizing a special rayon thread and punch needle.

The Bunka Shishu teacher, or sensei, is Howard Imada. When a store was closing out and selling off its bunka kits in 1979, Howard took up the art on a whim. He took a couple of classes at the former JACL Community Center (on 2nd and Claremont, as he recalls) and got hooked. He completed and framed many bunka shishu pieces, but his favorite is still a large piece featuring a Kabuki lion dancer.

Howard was asked to start a class at the Japanese American Community Center in July 1998. Ever since, then, he teaches the class at no charge—which is so remarkable! The classes are held on Monday afternoons and each student works on his or her own project, with plenty of one-on-one assistance from Howard, if needed. The class is followed by tea time, where students and teacher bring in treats to eat with tea and conversation.

If you have ever contemplated starting out in bunka shishu, this is a rare opportunity for you to learn a craft and enjoy Japanese cultural tradition. Howard says that you only need “the will to learn . . . that makes it easier to do.” There is no charge for the class, only for purchasing whatever kit you desire and any materials. For information, contact Howard Imada at 650/345-3234.

2005 SAN MATEO JACL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS LUNCHEON

Please join us in honoring the 2005 San Mateo JACL Scholarship recipients Kristine Chiba, Kelley Hasegawa, Justine Morey, and Bobby Takahashi at a special luncheon on Saturday, April 30th. This year’s luncheon starts at 12 pm and will take place at Dominic’s restaurant at the Poplar Creek Golf Course in San Mateo. The scheduled guest speaker for this event will be U.S. Congressman Mike Honda. The cost is \$25 per person with all proceeds funding the San Mateo JACL Scholarship program. If you are interested in attending the luncheon, please send a check made out to the San Mateo JACL to Brent Nakagiri (3015 Los Prados St. #109. San Mateo, CA 94403). If you need a vegetarian meal, please indicate this on your response. Responses must be **received** by April 22nd.

ROZ ENOMOTO RETIREMENT PARTY



Retirement Party for Roz Enomoto, Executive Director of
San Mateo Japanese American Community Center

After 25 years of dedicated service to the Community,
Roz announced her retirement effective April 30, 2005.

Date: April 30, 2005
Saturday
4:00 PM

Location: Social Hall
San Mateo Buddhist Temple
2 S. Claremont St.
San Mateo, CA.
Supper will be catered.

There will be a \$25 charge for supper and a gift for Roz.
Please respond by 4/25/05.

Phone SMJA Community Center 650 343-2793 for more details.

JACL JUNIOR OLYMPICS SADLY CALLS IT QUITS

After 52 consecutive years, the JACL Junior Olympics will be no more. At a meeting of the organizing committee, it was decided that the Junior Olympics could not continue in its present form. Several factors were considered including a continuing decline in participation, reduced income from entry fees and advertising as well as the increasing cost of hosting the event.

Participation in last year's event drew only 175 athletes down from over 250 for the past several years with a high of 350 athletes in the 1980s. The ages of the athletes ranged from toddlers to high school seniors and masters. Since its inception in 1953, it is estimated that over 14,000 children have participated in the event.

According to long-time committee member, Tom Oshidari, "It was a very difficult decision to make because the Junior Olympics had been the longest running program offered by JACL and regardless of the numbers it was always fun for the participants and parents."

ASIAN AMERICANS IN CALIFORNIA DONATE TO TSUNAMI RELIEF

An article in the San Francisco Chronicle titled "Asian Americans in state big donors to tsunami relief" by Cicero A. Estrella [Thursday, March 3, 2005, A8, col 1-3] reports that California's Asian American population gave more than \$200 million for tsunami relief efforts—roughly one-sixth of the total contributed by all Americans. The results are from New California Media, a multilingual poll conducted Feb. 8-18 by an association of 700 ethnic media organizations.

Seventy percent of the state's Asian American population donated to the cause, even though only 8 percent of the respondents knew people who were directly affected by the tsunami. The average contribution was \$125. The breakdown by Asian ethnic groups is interesting. When asked whether a donation was made to any relief efforts, the "Yes, money" answers were: Asian Indian [80%]; Korean [70%]; Chinese [67%]; Vietnamese [65%]; Sri Lankan [63%]; Thai [57%]; Filipino [55%]; Japanese [54%]. When asked whether the tsunami made the respondent feel more connected to other Asian Americans in California, the "Yes" answers were: Vietnamese [61%]; Filipino [53%]; Chinese [50%]; Sri Lankan [50%]; Thai [50%]; Asian Indian [46%]; Korean [43%]; Indonesian [35%]; Japanese [31%].

The New Media survey polled 706 individuals who were considered representative of the 3 million Asian American adults in California. The placement of the Japanese ethnic group as last in these two categories [donations and feeling a sense of Pan Asian identity] is interesting.

SUNDAY MATINEE MOVIE

Sunday Matinee Movie: "DR. AKAGI"

April 24, 2005 1:30 PM

JA Community Center, 415 S. Claremont St., San Mateo.

Ph. 650 343-2793

Dr. Akagi is a triumphant work that solidifies Shohei Imamura's status as a Japan's greatest living film maker. Set on a small Japanese island in the final days of World War II, Dr. Akagi is the story of one man's obsession to retain his decency and stamp out a deadly disease. Free admission.

1998, 128 minutes, color in Japanese with English subtitles. Rated "R", adults only.



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NEWSLETTER NEWS

To view *Kokoro* electronically, email katemotoyama@sanbrunocable.com to stop receiving paper copies and san-mateo-jacl-announce-subscribe@yahoogroups.com to subscribe to electronic notification. The group has been set up for people who want to receive email announcements from the San Mateo JACL. These announcements include notification of the monthly newsletter being available on the San Mateo JACL's web site, and might include other items of importance to members.

