

# KOKORO

THE HEART AND SOUL OF OUR COMMUNITY  
SAN MATEO CHAPTER JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE NOV 2005  
[WWW.SANMATEOJACL.ORG](http://WWW.SANMATEOJACL.ORG)  
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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](mailto:katemotoyama@sanbrunocable.com).

## JUNG SHOOTS 69 TO WIN JACL GOLF TOURNEY

It was well worth the two hour drive this year for Greg Jung to play in the 2005 San Mateo JACL Golf Tournament. Jung, of Folsom, fired a gross score of 69 at Poplar Creek Golf Course on Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, to win both low gross and low overall net honors. Windless playing conditions and a hot putter enabled Jung to post a 69 – 12 for a sizzling net score of 57. Greg also won the long drive contest on hole #4.

As low as Jung's score was, it was nearly not enough to prevent defending champ Candice Nishimura from repeating as overall champ this year. Candice, a 15 year old sophomore at Aragon High School, shot a 74-17-57 to tie Jung for low net score. However, Jung prevailed as winner due to tiebreaker rules.

A strong female presence in the JACL tournament was certainly a strong subplot this year as Cherrie Shimamoto won the "B" Flight with a 95-34-61. The Callaway Flight title was captured by Ken Kuwahara. Closest-to-pin winners were: Dan McLeod Jr. (#3), Leo Nantuna (#5), Rich Farley (#15), and Keith Yakushi (#17).

Donors: We would like to thank the following businesses and individuals for their generosity:

San Francisco Zoological Society  
California Bank & Trust  
Takahashi Market  
Bay Meadows Racecourse  
Steve Okamoto  
Beep Nagumo, M.D.  
David Hayashi, D.D.S.  
Catherine Motoyama  
Mary Jo Kubota-Arcarese  
Ben Hanada

Steve Katayama/Nippon Travel  
Laminated Tops  
Ron Shimamoto  
Broadway by the Bay  
David Kawano, M.D.  
Randy Louie, D.D.S.  
See's Candies  
Vince Asai, D.D.S.  
Andy Chung

A special thanks to the following people who gave their time and energy to make this tournament a success:

Craig Ichijui  
Ted Yamagishi

Mary Jo Kubota-Arcarese  
Steve Okamoto

Carol Nishimura  
Kitty Hongo

April Smith

SAN MATEO JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS
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### Community Center Potluck and Raffle

The annual Community Center Potluck/Raffle fundraiser was held on Saturday, August 27th from 4 – 6:30 PM at the Community Center Gardeners Hall. The event was attended by some 50 persons. A good time was had by all, with delicious home cooking and good company. 234 responders supported the raffle drive and our thanks to all for their generosity.

The Raffle winners were:

- 1st Prize: \$1500 Savings Bond – Kay Yoshida, San Mateo
- 2nd Prize: \$500 Savings Bond – Paul Yamagishi, Burlingame
- 3rd Prize: \$200 Savings Bond – Patsy Ja., Hillsborough

Prizes included:

- A huge basket of assorted goodies, donated by Virginia Tanakatsubo, was won by Nobie Hirano.
- Gift certificate from Fukuya Restaurant in Foster City was won by Grace Kenmotsu,
- Two gift certificates donated by Osho Restaurant in Millbrae; winners were Bill Okine and Sachi Sakuma.

### Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund

The Community Center is conducting a fund-raising drive to assist the victims of Hurricane Katrina. All money will be forwarded to the American Red Cross. Please make checks payable to the American Red Cross and send to the Community Center, 415 S. Claremont St., San Mateo, CA 94401.

### Flu Shots

Flu shots are set for Wednesday, November 2 from 1 – 2:30 PM at the Community Center. Cost will be \$5.00 and will be administered by the Visiting Nurse Association.

### Community Center Clean-Up – October 1

Thank you to the hard working annual clean-up crew. The kitchen, windows, blinds, office, floors were given a thorough cleaning plus the yard and Gardener's Hall. Thank you JACLers, Kate and Mary-Jo.

### Volunteer Luncheon – October 6

The Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon was held on October 6th. Honored were 39 members who selflessly give their time throughout the year and are the backbone of the Center.

State Assembly Speaker Pro Tempore Dr. Leland Y. Yee was represented by his staff members, Cary Chien and Dan Lieberman, who presented a Certificate of Appreciation to each volunteer.

Special thanks to Golden Nursery for providing beautiful potted chrysanthemums for the event.

## Holiday Party – December 8

The December 8 holiday party, 11-2:30, at the San Mateo Senior Center, will have an exchange of gifts among party goers. Gift should be no more than \$10 in value. The cost of for the lunch will be \$5. Please call the center to sign up!

## No Movies for November and December

The usual 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays for movie screenings at the enter will resume in January, since both November and December have holidays that fall on these dates.

## Do You Have . . . ?

A new item: Do you have any "not being used" wheel-chairs, walkers, canes, or commodes to donate to the Center? The Community Center often gets calls for these items from people in need.

<p>JACL'S "SUPPORT" POSITION ON AB 849, RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND CIVIL MARRIAGE PROTECTION ACT</p>
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In a letter to Governor Schwarzenegger dated September 14, 2005, JACL went on record as supporting Assembly Bill 849, the Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act and requesting that our governor sign the bill into law. A portion of the letter read:

*Our organization, with 113 chapters nationwide and 70 chapters in the State of California, is on record supporting same-gender marriage as a human right that should not be denied. This is an issue that speaks to the values of not only the State of California, but of our great nation. We must be a nation where the laws provide for equal treatment for all our citizens, without discrimination or bias.*

*It was not that long ago when anti-miscegenation laws prevented inter-racial marriage, and people of Asian ancestry were legally prohibited from marrying someone they loved if that person happened to be of another race. Today, we see how very misguided and unjust that law was, with the U.S. Supreme Court ruling it unconstitutional in 1965. We must take a stand today for equal rights and not let another day pass where bigotry based on sexual orientation is condoned in the State of California.*

Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed AB 849. Along with JACL, the legislation was supported by more than 200 civil rights, labor, and religious organizations, including the California State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Persons, Chinese for Affirmative Action, United Farm Workers, and the Anti-Defamation League.

## AN HONOR FOR STEVE OKAMOTO, SAN MATEO JA CL BOARD MEMBER



*Steve and Mary Jo Kubota-Arcarese at the Tri-District Conference, where Okamoto was presented with a Sapphire Pin for Service and Kubota-Arcarese was honored as NCWNP District's Woman of the Year*

Steve Okamoto, who works for the American Cancer Society, was presented the Nationwide Summit Award at the organization's national planned giving annual meeting in Atlanta. This national award is given to staff that have developed the highest amount of planned gifts during the recently completed fiscal year. Okamoto, representing the Silicon Valley/Central Coast and Hawaii Regions, was responsible for creating \$8,300,000 in gross gifts, which represents over \$5.3 million in net present value gifts to the Society.

When asked about his success, Okamoto says he counsels taxpayers to begin planning their charitable giving early in the year so that decisions can be made deliberately and wisely instead of being rushed at year-end. He also encourages prospective donors to determine which charities address issues that are most important to them and to decide how much they want to budget for charitable giving each year. Finally, he recommends that they consult with a professional advisor – an accountant or estate attorney – before finalizing decisions. Okamoto works closely with donors' financial and legal advisers to determine how various planned giving instruments work best for each donor.

## FRIENDS OF MINIDOKA CAMPAIGN TO PURCHASE HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT LAND

The Friends of Minidoka is launching a fund-raising campaign to purchase land which was previously part of the WWII Minidoka Relocation Center. Between 1943 and 1945, 13,000 people of Japanese ancestry (most of whom were born in the United States) were forcibly removed to a Hunt, Idaho incarceration camp. In 2001 the Minidoka Internment National Monument was created, which included 73 acres of the former camp. Currently, adjacent historic property is owned by the Herrmann family, who would like to sell this land before the new year. The National Park Service is in the process of completing the General management plan for Minidoka's future. One of the options is to include this land. The NPS cannot

purchase the land or be involved in the purchase of the property unless it is a part of the General Management Plan.

Friends of Minidoka, a non profit 503 C3 organization based in Twin Falls, ID, has decided to purchase, preserve and protect the land. The additional land would approximately double the size of the monument. The Conservation Fund, in Washington, DC, has agreed to help the Friends of Minidoka and has reached a formal option to acquire the Herrmann farm before the year's end. The goal for fund-raising is to reach \$300,000 in commitments by October 30<sup>th</sup> to enable the Conservation Fund and the Friends of Minidoka to purchase the property.

If you would like to assist in purchasing this land and protecting the physical history it has to offer, donations may be sent to Friends of Minidoka, PO Box 1085, Twin Falls, ID 83303. For more details contact Jim Azumano at [Azumano@aol.com](mailto:Azumano@aol.com) or visit <http://www.minidoka.org/>.

### PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN FUNDRAISING FOR 92 ACRES OF TOPAZ SITE

For five years Topaz Museum Board members have been talking with the owner and he has decided to sell the land, a parcel that includes eight blocks. The Topaz Museum Board has partnered with The Conservation Fund to raise \$250,000. Of that sum, \$200,000 will be used to purchase the land and the rest set aside for the next acquisition to complete the camp. The museum's portion of the purchase price is \$125,000 and already \$30,000 has been raised.

The contract was due on October 15, 2005, but if you feel that preserving Topaz is important for all Americans—and especially important for those whose lives were altered by internment—join in the effort so that future generations will know the story and never forget it. Topaz Museum, P.O. Box 241, Delta, UT 84624. <http://topazmuseum.org>

### OCTOBER WAS FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH: FOCUS ON THE BURTANOG FAMILY

In honor of Filipino American History Month, Nester Palugod Enriquez shared information about the Burtanog Sisters, 5<sup>th</sup> of the 9<sup>th</sup> generation of Filipino Americans in New Orleans:

While there is some dispute about the exact year the first Filipino sailor landed in New Orleans--1763 or 1765—we do know that the 1860 census listed Felipe Madrigal (born circa 1815), a 45 year old fisherman, as husband and the former Bridgett Nugent (Nogent), a 27 year old Irish girl, as wife. Pictures taken over 100 years ago show the couple, children, son in laws, and grand children (<http://filipinohome.com/cart.html>). The Felipe family name could not be passed on as Felipe had only three daughters. Madrigal sought to preserve whatever was left of the Filipino Creole and designated the young girls to marry only Filipinos. The immediate generations of girls were married to the Filipino sailors sailing from New Orleans--many of whom were at times as old as the father. From these roots will come a 9<sup>th</sup> generation of Filipino Americans.

The famous Burtanog sisters of St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana, were typical of their generation. They have kept alive the history of Filipino Americans in New Orleans through their stories, family archive, and warm welcome to researchers, journalists, and filmmakers, such as author Marina Espina and filmmaker Renee Tajima-Peña, who featured the sisters in her PBS documentary. In "My America or Honk if you Love Buddha," the interview with the Burtanogs might have been unfairly judged because they were too honest and, perhaps, at times too naïve. Viewers might have expected total denunciation of early segregation in the south. Instead, the Burtanog sisters spoke about how they were treated as fairly as whites. It was not the politically correct thing to say, but they were definitely proud of their Filipino roots.

The extended Burtanog family lives in an area to the south and east of New Orleans, interlaced with waterways and directly in the path of Hurricane Katrina. All evacuated safely--in some cases through perilous rescues--but they lost everything. Thus, Renee Tajima-Peña and Helen Zia authored a letter appealing for donations in any amount to be sent to Burtanog family members Lillian Mae or Rhonda at the address below:

Lillian Mae Faxon, Cabin 4  
Rhonda Fox, Dorm 302  
Jimmie Davis State Park  
1209 State Park Road  
Chatham, LA 70226

**SENATOR DIANNE FEINSTEIN STATEMENT  
ON THE NOMINATION OF JUDGE JOHN G. ROBERTS, JR. TO BE CHIEF  
JUSTICE**

JACL, as you may know, took an “oppose” position to the nomination of Judge John G. Roberts, Jr., to be Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Our statements are on record Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif) also submitted her position on September 22, 2005. Excerpts are printed below:

“There is no question that Judge Roberts is an extraordinary person. I think there is no question that he has many stellar qualities, certainly a brilliant legal mind and a love and abiding respect for the law, and I think a sense of its scope and complexity as well.

But before taking the momentous step of agreeing that a nominee serve as the Chief Justice of our Supreme Court, for what in this case could be over 30 years, I wanted to have a reasonable sense of confidence that he would uphold certain essential legal rights and protections that Americans rely on, and rights that reflect the values and ideals that make our country so great.

I don’t ask for certainty.

I don’t ask for promises—especially as to how a nominee would rule in any case—even one as important as *Roe v. Wade*.

But I ask for some ability to find a commitment to broad legal principles that form the basis of our fundamental rights:

- Equal protection under the law, and the ability to remedy discrimination.
- A basic right to privacy that extends from the beginning of life to the end of life.
- The ability of the American public to elect representatives that have the constitutional power and authority to protect and respond to America’s safety, social, and environmental needs; and
- A view of Executive Power that extends deference—but within the law.

Senator Feinstein’s questions to the nominee grew out of these fundamental rights. After looking at Judge Roberts’s record—including memos from 16 cases when he was Principal Deputy Solicitor General, transcripts, written comments, and margin notes—and questioning the nominee, the senator found she could not support the nominee.

**FROM THE JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE SUMMER 2005 REPORT**

The Japantown Task Force, in its summer 2005 report, thanked those who signed its on-line petition and written petitions (over 5,500 people), wrote letters, and provided personal testimony to keep Starbucks out of Japantown:

*We would especially like to thank Starbuck's for listening to us and respecting our community's wishes to preserve and sustain our Mom and Pop businesses such as Benkyo-do, Café Hana, May's Café, Tan Tan, Café Lavendar, and others.*

*When major corporate chain stores and franchises supersaturate the market in a particular area, the tendency is to drive small family businesses out of business, since small businesses have small profit margins in comparison to large corporate structures.*

*The community support for Japantown was very broad-based, including the Bayview, Chinatown, the Fillmore, the Missino, the Richmond, the Sunset, and the Tenderloin.*

The report also features, among other articles, Benkyodo Manju Company on 1747 Buchanan Street. Benkyodo produces about 1,500 *manju* and *mochi* every day, using a hand-made traditional style of baking imported from Japan in 1906. The confections, which are made from pounded rice, are used most frequently in local celebrations, including birthday parties, festivals, etc. Benkyodo has been a constant presence in the neighborhood. Besides its bakery counter, its lunch counter provides the neighborhood with standard American fare, such as sandwiches and hotdogs, and a place to meet.

Benkyodo is one of the oldest remaining businesses in Japantwon. It was opened in 1906 by Suyeichi Okamura and is currently the last remaining manufacturer of *manju* and *mochi* in San Francisco. The store was forced to close during World War II when the family was interned at Amache, Colorado, but reopened later, moving to its current location at Sutter and Buchanan Streets in 1959. Suyeichi passed on his business to his son, Hirofumi, who operated the store for thirty years. His sons, Ricky and Bobby, took over in 1990 and carry on the unique technique and tradition of Benkyodo.

### SEEKING HOME VIDEOS AND MOVIES FROM AFTER THE CAMP EXPERIENCE

Lindsay Nakano, 2005 Hikari Award winner, asks for help with a documentary for KVIE, the Sacramento PBS station: The main focus of the documentary is the rebuilding of the Japanese American community after camp. We are looking at a time period from approximately 194 to the late 1980s. We are asking the help of the community in finding home videos and movies on Super 8 or regular 8 format--nothing special, just everyday life, watching families adjust back to routine. Birthdays, Christmas morning, vacations, learning to ride bicycles--all are exactly what we are in search of. We are willing to cover all costs of shipping and handling and can even offer to transfer the footage onto VHS format. . Thanks for all your efforts in helping to preserve the stories of our community. Please contact Lindsay Nakano at [lmnakano@ucdavis.edu](mailto:lmnakano@ucdavis.edu) or call 510-332-2425.

### IT'S TIME FOR JACL HOLIDAY ADS

When you receive a letter, call, or notice about putting in a JACL Holiday Ad, please respond generously. This is a way for us to keep in touch with our own JACL membership in San Mateo and with other JACLers, and represents a fundraiser for us. Kevin Wong has headed this effort for the past few years. Help us continue our work by submitting a greeting for the *Pacific Citizen's* Holiday Issue.

### DAY OF REMEMBRANCE PLANNING

For February 19, 2006, Day of Remembrance, San Mateo JACL is investigating having a screening of a film related to the internment experience. We would like to make this a family event, so please begin to share this information with your family, friends, and neighbors. We would like to meet you and make this a *community* rededication to the principles of a democratic and just society. There will likely be a short

ceremony to install the San Mateo JACL Board for 2006. Stay tuned for more details and participate with us in creating a living and vibrant community that celebrates its heritage.



**Japanese American Citizens League**  
415 Claremont San Mateo CA 94401

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