

KOKORO

THE HEART AND SOUL OF OUR COMMUNITY
SAN MATEO CHAPTER JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE NOV 2004
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 fourth Wednesday in electronic format [Microsoft WORD, New York font] to katemotoyama@sanbrunocable.com.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU KNEW WE COULD NOT FAIL? --Kate Motoyama

Our Nisei built upon the foothold created by the pioneering Isei; their legacy continues

At the Community Center's annual clean up, I had some good conversation with several long-time Nisei who are easily among the pillars of our organization. After we washed and spray cleaned the outside of the building; swept and mopped the floors; washed, scrubbed, and put up the blinds; applied elbow grease to the stove, sinks, shelves, and toilet; and threw out junk from the garage and attic, we enjoyed a little lunch and hot green tea.

Now in their seventies, these men spoke truths that have been on their minds for years—from the time they were children or teenagers:

"We faced a lot of discrimination in those days and it was hard after we got released from camp."

"Our children haven't faced the discrimination we faced. That's why I can't get them to join JACL."

“It took me a long time before I could talk about the camps. The hurt . . . , you know . . . “

Their plain words and noble spirit made me think about how I love and admire the Nisei and why I am a member of this board.

Many people I meet assume that my family was interned during the war. They were not. My mother is from Japan and my father is from Honolulu. These same people are surprised to learn that I have served as a board member for ten years.

The reason I serve and ask that *you* now consider service is because it is our turn, our small part, and our commitment to carry on the Nisei’s struggle for social justice in the world. That is *our* issue--not a Japanese American issue. I have been more than emotionally moved by their stories and experiences; thanks to the Nisei’s activism and persistence, I have been granted the opportunity to earn the highest academic degree in our culture and teach young people as a college professor.

I know I will never face the hatred that the Nisei faced. I remember clearly one Nisei, sent to Tule Lake, telling me that after he was released from camp, the only place that would hire Japanese Americans was the mattress factory. When I shared that story, my workmates on Clean Up Day related how so-and-so was a maid or somebody else was a chicken-sexer. Few places would hire Japanese Americans so that was the work they did. Even though all labor has honor, my point is that many had to give up their dreams, throw away their education or training, and take what was left for them to do.

Your membership is important because this organization fights for civil and human rights as well as preservation of Japanese American culture. JACL’s work is far from over. Discrimination finds new ways to reinvent itself and diminish the dignity of who we *all* are. Please stay active with our organization. Share your views. Consider service on our board. Working together and in the face of great odds, we create change in the world.

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION ON ABBREVIATION FOR “JAPAN” AND “JAPANESE”
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Did you know it was as long ago as July 28, 1986 when Congress passed a resolution to recognize that “Jpn” is the appropriate abbreviation for “Japan” and “Japanese” and that the term “Jap” is racially derogatory and offensive? The House of Representatives, with the Senate concurring, took that action nearly 17 years ago.

TEEN TIED TO HATE CRIME MUST DO PUBLIC SERVICE
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A white teenager from Sacred Heart Cathedral who committed felonious assault in a hate crime against Asian American teenagers last summer was ordered to 100 hours of community service and one year of juvenile probation. The victims’ statements revealed

the intent to rehabilitate the teenager and prevent him from committing another hate crime. But they also attest to the lingering effects of race bias:

Jeff Woo wrote: *"I can't help but think there are racist people around me wherever I go and that there are many people that just caught up in the fact that I am Chinese. Something in the back of my mind that constantly tells me that I am being watched; it makes me feel that I am not equal, and my mere presence is clouding another's well-being."*

Relatedly, AB 2428, "Kenny's Law," signed by Governor Schwarzenegger, will go into effect on January 1, 2005. The law is named after Kenneth Chiu, a 17-year-old, who died as a result of a hate crime.

"ACTIVE CHOICE 500" PLAN FOR 2005

JACL Health Benefits Trust is offering the new "Active Choice 500" Plan for 2005. This plan is "for the next generation of JACL members," targeted toward those age 50 and under.

The plan is structured for younger JACL members who are looking for quality, low-cost health insurance coverage. For individuals, the plan provides \$500 of health care coverage up front (or first-dollar coverage) per year. These dollars can be applied to preventative care, office visits, or diagnostic testing and, if unused, will roll-over to the next year for a maximum of \$1,000 for the subscriber to use. For emergencies and surgeries, services are covered at 80% for Blue Shield providers with no deductible, and generic prescriptions are just \$10 each. For full details or for other questions, please call the Health Benefits Trust Office at 1-800-400-6633 or look up details for applying at www.jaclhealth.org.

HATE CRIMES AND HATE INCIDENTS

The JACL Anti-Hate Program, made by possible through a grant from Ford Motor Company Fund, has a network of chapter and campus liaisons that stands ready to act when hate-related incidents occur. San Mateo chapter is part of the network, as well as Harvard, Princeton, Tufts, UCLA, and University of Iowa.

A network update reports the following hate incidents:

April 2004: Matthew Hale, the white supremacist leader of the World Church of the Creator was found guilty in a federal court in Chicago for soliciting the murder of a federal judge. In 2000, a member of WCOTC went on a shooting rampage in the Chicago area, killing two individuals including Won Joon Yoon, a student at Indiana University.

November 2003: Two Pakistani-born brothers were assaulted and beaten by a group of Hispanic teenagers as they left a mosque in Queens, NY. The assailants yelled "You're Taliban."

October 2003: In an election bid for a Summit, NJ city council seat, Peter Suzuki received a letter with this remark, "People like you sneak into the United States knowing how to speak two words of English—political asylum. On your way to citizenship you are given housing, food, education, health care, and more. We teach you how to use a toilet, we fix your rotten teeth, we teach you to speak English, and more."

COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS

ANNUAL ALL CENTER CLEAN UP. Thanks to all who came out to give the Community Center a good scrubbing. It was a lot of work but, from the looks of things, you did a thorough job! Chairman Sats Hane would like to thank the following volunteers who gave up their Saturday to join the cleaning crew:

Sue Imada, Howard Imada, Roy Kato, Kate Motoyama, Brent Nakagiri, Chikako Sakamoto, Fred Sakamoto, Tamaki Suzuki, Heidi Tanakatsubo, Virginia Tanakatsubo, and Sats Hane. Thank you from the hard workers to Vickie Yumoto and Fumiko Yamashita, who contributed food.

JINGLE BELLS! JINGLE BELLS! Mark your calendars! Santa will be making his annual trip to San Mateo to visit the annual Holiday Lunch for Seniors on Thursday, December 9th, 11:30 am to 2:00 pm at San Mateo Senior Center, 2645 Alameda de las Pulgas.

Lunch will be served at 12 noon. The cost of lunch is \$5.00. Chairman Sats Hane promises an afternoon of fun and games. All seniors are urged to attend! Please encourage your friends and neighbors to attend, too. After the games there will be the popular gift exchange. Please keep your gifts under \$7.00. Make reservations for the lunch by December 2nd.

If you would like to volunteer to help on the decorating committee, community singing, or games, call the Community Center (343-2793) to sign up.

PUBLICATION OF BOARD BUSINESS: PROPOSED BUDGET AND OFFICERS FOR 2005

PROPOSED BUDGET 2005

INCOME

Dues:

Associate	1000.00
Full	7000.00

Fund Raising:

Art in the Park	2500.00
Golf	6000.00
Golf Raffle	400.00
Scholarship raffle	600.00

Installation Dinner	2500.00
Installation Raffle	1000.00
Interest	50.00
Miscellaneous:	
Donations	500.00
PC Ads	1600.00
TOTAL:	23,150.00

EXPENSES	
Accountant	600.00
Community Center	1200.00
District Dues	550.00

Fund Raising:	
Art in the Park	1300.00
Golf	4000.00
Scholarship lunch	200.00

Programs:	
Education	2000.00
College Youth	400.00
Scholarship	2000.00
Installation Dinner	2000.00

Meetings:	
District Council	200.00
Newsletter	5000.00
Office Supplies	200.00
PC Ads	1400.00
Postage	1800.00
Junior Olympics	300.00
TOTAL:	23,150.00

PROPOSED OFFICERS, put forward by Nominating Committee:
 Mary Jo Kubota Arcarese, Kate Motoyama, April Smith

Co-Presidents	Mary Jo Kubota Arcarese & Kate Motoyama
Co-Vice Presidents, Programs	Steve Katayama & Kevin Wong
Vice President, Membership	Brent Nakagiri
Treasurer	April Smith
Education	Mary Jo Kubota Arcarese
Newsletter	Kate Motoyama
Hate Crimes	Heidi Tanakatsubo
Scholarship	Brent Nakagiri & Heidi Tanakatsubo
District Council Representative	Heidi Tanakatsubo

CAMPAIGN TO EXPAND THE SAN MATEO COUNTY HISTORY MUSEUM

San Mateo JACL received this letter from the Campaign General Chairman:

On behalf of the San Mateo County Historical Association, our heartfelt thanks to the members of the San Mateo chapter of JACL for the donation of \$1,000.00 toward the creation of the Japanese exhibit for the Immigrants Gallery at the History Museum. We understand the donation is to honor Ernie Takahashi.

We look forward to the day when the Immigrants Gallery will be completed and enjoyed by our visitors to the museum. Our efforts to restore the courthouse and grounds and to complete the many projects inside the courthouse will be successful because of the interest of our community. Your support of this project is very important to us and is much appreciated.

Once again, thank you for your gift toward the creation of the Japanese exhibit.

EXCITING NEWS ABOUT A JAPANESE CULTURAL SPOTLIGHT PROGRAM AT SAN MATEO LIBRARY

Components of a Japanese American spotlight in the San Mateo Library would include:

- Surrounding the Japanese Language Collection in a sight and sound experience of cultural music, art and digital graphics,
- Creation of a Japanese American Lecture & Performance Series with dynamic artists, poets and scholars,
- Expansion of the bilingual Japanese Heritage Programs for children and youth to familiarize the younger generation with the richness and beauty of their cultural background,
- Exhibitions of Japanese American artwork and artifacts in three distinct display areas in the new main library and
- Presentations of culinary events that will encourage the appreciation of Japanese cuisines and the sharing of specialty recipes.

The Cultural Spotlight Program will be planned, built and evolve only in collaboration with local community members. Partnerships with many cultural organizations and centers currently exist, and will continue to be developed by designated library staff members including Outreach Librarians and volunteers. We hope the Japanese American Citizens League will be interested in partnering with the library on a Japanese Cultural Spotlight Program.

If you want to help with this exciting program, please contact Yasuko Ann Ito, Co-Chair of the Asian Library Committee at 650-343-9198 or yasito@juno.com. This San Mateo Library Foundation committee is currently reaching out to the community to develop the resources and funding necessary to secure a highly visible Japanese cultural presence in the New Library.

THIS JUST IN

The Japanese American Community Center's second Health Fair on October 9 was a successful event due to the dedication of the co-chairs, Lillian Munakata and Marian Kanaya and the committee members. Thank you, volunteers, for your hard work at the fair. Special appreciation goes to all the supporters who made this event possible.



NEWSLETTER NEWS

To view *Kokoro* electronically, email katemotoyama@sanbrunocable.com to stop receiving paper copies and san-mateo-jacl-announce-subscribe@yahoo.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.

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If you support our work, join the San Mateo chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League by filling out the application below. You may also visit our website www.sanmateojacl.org and print out membership forms. The website has more information on pertinent and timely topics of interest.

First name ----- Last name -----

Complete address -----

Home phone number ----- Work phone number -----

Email address -----

Are you willing to read our newsletter electronically? Y

Age ----- Occupation -----

Are you a registered voter? Y/N Are you a new member? Y/N

What are your interests? -----

What attracts you to JACL? -----

How can JACL better serve you? -----

Circle the category of membership you are interested in:

Individual - \$67 For members of the national and San Mateo organization

Couple/Family - \$120 For a person, spouse and children less than 25 years

Youth/Student - \$21 For a person 25 years or younger or currently enrolled in a college, trade school, or university

Thousand Club - \$100 For a person who makes an annual contribution to the chapter and national programs of the organization

Thousand Club Life - \$1000 A lump sum to establish lifetime membership

Associate - \$45 Associate members affiliate with the local chapter only

To complete the application process, please mail the completed application, along with a check made out to "JACL" to:

Membership, JACL, 1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115

You matter to us! If there are issues or concerns with our chapter, or things you wish to bring to the attention of the board, please speak with Kate. Thank you for your input.

Please consider joining our board! We need your ideas and energy.

*You make a living by what you get.
You make a life by what you give.
--Winston Churchill*

Japanese American Citizens League
415 Claremont San Mateo CA 94401

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