

KOKORO

THE HEART AND SOUL OF OUR COMMUNITY
SAN MATEO CHAPTER JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE SEPT 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 by the fourth Wednesday of each month in electronic format [Microsoft WORD] to katemotoyama@sanbrunocable.com. Thank you!

NEWSLETTER NEWS

If you want 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.

Note that only the moderators—not members of this group--may post to it. This should reduce the occurrence of any spam to this list. We appreciate your help in saving trees!

SAVE CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Your letter of opposition is needed NOW to let the Governor know that the community is opposed to the elimination of the APIA Commission. On August 3, the Governor released his California Performance Review (CPR) which drastically overhauls state government and proposes to abolish the Commission on Asian Pacific Islander American Affairs.

The Commission, established by legislation (AB 116, 2002), consists of 13 members appointed by the Governor and Legislature, and is charged with advising the Governor, Legislature, state agencies, departments, and commissions on issues relating to the social and economic development, and the rights and interests of Asian Pacific Islander communities.

The Governor has appointed a commission to oversee a series of statewide hearings taking place through September. Each hearing will focus on a particular subject area with a public comment period at the end. The September 27 hearing (10 a.m.- 4 p.m.) in Davis will focus on Government Reorganization (including the elimination of Boards and Commissions). This commission will report back to the Governor with a summary of the hearings, and the Governor will decide which of the CPR proposals he will pursue. For more information go to: www.cprca.gov.

RELEASE OF CENSUS INFORMATION AND HOMELAND SECURITY

Lynette Clemetson's August 13, 2004 *New York Times* article, "Coalition Seeks Action on Shared Data on Arab-Americans," discusses concerns about the use of census data on Arab Americans.

Parallels exist between the treatment of Japanese Americans during World War II and the government's actions towards Arab and Muslim Americans today. The Census Bureau booth at the JACL biennial convention in Honolulu provided demographic information that could be used to track numbers of Nikkei by county. For example, San Mateo County, CA comes is the 13th largest county with 1,000 or more persons with at least one race that was Japanese (alone or in combination). San Mateo County has 9,703 "Japanese Alone" and 13,003 "Japanese Alone or in Combination." [Honolulu County, by comparison, ranked 1st largest, with 161,224 "Japanese Alone" and 230,044 "Japanese Alone or in Combination."] The need for Japanese Americans to question the uses of tabulated census data is important, as is standing in solidarity with Arab and Muslim American communities:

Troubled by the recent public disclosure that the Census Bureau provided demographic data on Arab-Americans to the Department of Homeland Security, a coalition of ethnic advocacy groups, privacy watchdogs and civil rights and civil liberties organizations is demanding further response from both government agencies.

A letter of complaint, drafted by the Arab American Institute Foundation and signed by more than 50 organizations and people, was sent to the Census Bureau on Thursday. The statement questioned the bureau's "judgment and discretion" in cooperating with domestic security officials and called for the bureau to announce a "plan of action" to address public concerns.

Representatives from the group plan to meet on Friday with Daniel W. Sutherland, the officer for civil rights and civil liberties at the Department of Homeland Security, and Robert C. Bonner, commissioner of the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, the division of the department that made the original requests for data.

In late July, results of a Freedom of Information Act request by the Electronic Privacy Information Center, a public interest research group based in Washington, showed that the Census Bureau had provided Customs and Border Protection with two specially tabulated population tables on Arab-Americans. One included detailed breakdowns of people of various Arab ethnicities in specific ZIP codes.

The data sharing is legal, and the various statistics used to compile the specialized tables are publicly available on the Census Bureau's Web site. But disclosure of the cooperation has generated widespread concern from groups that say the Census Bureau should not provide such assistance to law enforcement agencies. Please subscribe or visit the New York Times for the complete article.

STORIES OF JAPANESE MILITARY BRIDES SOUGHT

Miae Kim is an independent radio producer who is looking for Japanese military brides who can talk about their experiences.

With a non-profit organization MediaRites, [<http://mediarites.org>] she and a colleague are producing an eight-hour series on Asian American History that will be aired on National Public Radio (NPR). One of the pieces is about Asian War Brides stories and they would like to include Japanese military brides. Kim wrote, "I would appreciate if you introduce Japanese military brides to me to talk or to interview for the piece. I look forward to hearing from you."

JACL, HISTORIANS OPPOSE MALKIN'S DEFENSE OF INTERNMENT

A new book by right-wing columnist Michelle Malkin, *In Defense of Internment*, argues in favor of extensive discrimination and racial profiling against Arab-Americans and Muslims in the United States, and defends the imprisonment of tens of thousands of Japanese Americans during World War II.

A rising star on the US extreme right, Malkin specifically denies advocating the mass imprisonment of Arabs and Muslims, but the logic of her book contradicts her disavowals. She is scheduled to speak at UC Berkeley on September 9th.

"Make no mistake: I am not advocating rounding up all Arabs or Muslims and tossing them into camps, but when we are under attack, 'Racial profiling' - or more precisely, threat profiling - is justified," Malkin argues. Malkin defends the wartime imprisonment of tens of thousands of Japanese-American men, women and children on the supposition that their ethnicity made them a security threat.

John Tateishi, JACL's National Director, issued this statement:

Malkin's thesis depends on World War II intelligence cables for her argument that Japanese consular offices in the U.S. had successfully recruited Japanese Americans as spies and saboteurs, notwithstanding the fact that those intelligence communiqués had previously been examined by scholars and government researchers for decades and rejected as justification for the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans.

The Magic cables were reviewed by the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, a fact-finding commission created by the President and Congress in 1980. Following a thorough investigation, the commission found no evidence connecting the decision to intern Japanese Americans to any of the information contained in the cables.

The ad hoc Historians' Committee for Fairness, which includes professors and researchers from Stanford, UCLA, Harvard, and more than two dozen other universities and colleges, issued a statement affirming that Malkin's book is "contradicted by several decades of scholarly research, including works by the official historian of the United States Army and an official U.S. government commission."

YOUNG AMERICANS HONOR ETHNIC ROOTS—MIRETA NAVARRO

Board member Steve Katayama sent us the following article from the August 2, 2004 issue of the *New York Times*. Titled "Young Japanese-Americans Honor Ethnic Roots" and authored by Mireta Navarro, this article also available through the *New York Times*:

In her rhinestone crown, Nicole Miyako Cherry had an air of royalty as she grabbed a heavy mallet and took a swing at a wooden barrel full of sake during the opening ceremonies of the Nisei Week Japanese festival in mid-July. Not too long ago, the traditional "breaking of the sake barrel" to celebrate a notable event would not have been on Ms. Cherry's to-do list. As a Southern California teenager growing up in the suburban comfort of South Pasadena, Ms. Cherry was into skating on the beach, playing intramural soccer and Boyz II Men.

The daughter of a Japanese-American mother and a white American father, Ms. Cherry, 24, said her integrated lifestyle allowed for few conspicuous ethnic markers other than perhaps wearing a kimono for Halloween or attending an obon festival. But last year, she competed for, and won, the title queen of Nisei Week, the oldest Japanese-American cultural event in the region. "If people in my generation don't get involved, who's going to take over?" she asked.

Ms. Cherry's transformation from typical American teenager to ethnic ambassador is a statement about how young Japanese-Americans have struggled to hold onto an identity of their own. Shrinking population numbers, high intermarriage rates and the legacy of the rush to assimilate after the World War II internment experience created an uncertain cultural path for the sansei (third generation) yonsei (fourth) and gosei (fifth). Ms. Cherry is among a minority awakening to an unsettling realization - it is up to them to fight the forces of cultural extinction, even if most of them may not speak Japanese, or have visited Japan

or, increasingly, even look Japanese. –Please subscribe or visit the *New York Times* for the complete article.

THE CALIFORNIA NISEI HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA PROJECT

The California Nisei High School Diploma Project is established to provide community outreach and education for a new law, AB 781. California Nisei Project seeks to identify and support individuals of Japanese descent who were unable to complete their high school education in their neighborhood schools because of forced removal and incarceration from California during World War II.

In accordance with AB 781 [authored by Assemblymember Sally Lieber, D-San Jose], which became law in 2004, any high school district, unified school district, or County Office of Education is now authorized to retroactively issue a high school diploma to any of these individuals. For more information, contact the Japanese Cultural & Community Center of Northern California, 415/567-5505.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS FOR ALL AGES

The San Mateo Japanese-American Community Center will be sponsoring their second Health Fair, "HEALTH AND WELLNESS FOR ALL AGES" on Saturday, October 9, 2004 at the San Mateo Senior Center located at 2645 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo, CA 94403. The Fair will be open from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. The Fair is also being supported by the San Mateo Buddhist Temple and the Sturge Presbyterian Church of San Mateo and the San Mateo JACL

Co-Chairs Lillian Munakata and Marian Kanaya announced that free health services on Body Fat Composition, Blood Pressure Testing, Chiropractic Screening, Cholesterol Screening, Dental Screening, Diabetes Screening, Hearing Screening, Body Mass Index, and Vision Screening will be provided. Flu Shots will also be given at no cost from 10:00 A.M. to noon.

Information will also be available on Abuse (Child/Elders/Parental), Alzheimer's, Arthritis, Bone Density, Cancer, Cardiology Concerns, Children's Fingerprinting Communicable Diseases, Dermatology, Drug Interaction, Feet and Ankle Care, Long Term Care, Mental Health, Nutrition, Osteoporosis, Pharmaceutical, Respiratory Therapy, Safety in the Home and Wheels on the Go

Medical personnel (a family doctor, a pediatrician, and an internal medicine specialist) will be available to answer questions and discuss medical concerns. For more information, contact the Community Center at (650) 342-2793.

COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS

Sunday Matinee Movie on **September 26, 2004**

At JA Community Center, 415 S. Claremont St., San Mateo. Ph. 650 343-2793

1:30 PM **"I LIVE IN FEAR"**

Directed by Akira Kurosawa, starring Toshiro Mifune and Takashi Shimura.

The movie is an expressive, caustic portrait of madness. Mifune portrays an aging industrialist driven to madness over fears of a nuclear attack. 1955, B & W, 103 minutes. Japanese with English subtitles.

ALL CENTER CLEAN-UP If you haven't already done so, mark Saturday October 16th, 8:30 a.m. for the annual Cleanup Day at the Center. Everything is scrubbed and dusted. Kitchen floors, windows, walls, stove, refrigerators, bathrooms, vacuuming, laundering curtains, to name a few of the tasks that need to be performed.

BONSAI CLUB SHOW. The San Mateo Bonsai Club is having their 41st annual Fall Bonsai Show at Central Park Recreation Center on 9/18/04 and 9/19/04.

Saturday, 9/18/04

12:00 noon to 6:00

Demonstration @ 2 p.m. by Hitoshi Takeshita

Sunday, 9/19/04

10:00 a.m. to 5p.m.

Demonstration @ 2 p.m. by Stephen Prevost

2004 HUMAN RACE TEAM. Walkers raised over \$1000 this year. Sats Hane was chairman. Thanks, Sats, for the great job—bouquets to all the walkers, runners, and pledge collectors



Some of the Human Race walkers.



JACL
HealthBenefitsTrust

1-800-400-6633

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.

*Everybody can be great . . . because anybody can serve.
You don't have to have a college degree to serve.
You don't need to make your subject and verb agree to serve.
You only need a heart full of grace.
A soul generated by love.
-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Japanese American Citizens League
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