

# KOKORO

THE HEART AND SOUL OF OUR COMMUNITY  
SAN MATEO CHAPTER JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE JULY 2004  
[WWW.SANMATEOJACL.ORG](http://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](mailto:katemotoyama@sanbrunocable.com). Thank you!

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR ANNUAL BURGER BOOTH



*Board members and supporters of San Mateo JACL worked together this year!*

San Mateo JACL's burger booth was a huge success--thanks to you and the summery weather. We appreciate your support of our civil rights work through your membership and, of course, your purchase of our tasty hamburgers. Thank you to all those who helped with Art in the Park on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday!

TANAKATSUBO KICKS OFF CAMPAIGN FOR VP PUBLIC AFFAIRS

We are proud of Heidi Tanakatsubo, board member, who is running for the national office of Vice President, Public Affairs, JACL. We are hosting a fundraising kick-off to her campaign on Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, at the San Mateo Japanese American Community Center, from 2-4 p.m. The address is 415 S. Claremont, San Mateo. Following a “Heidi’s Pies” theme, we will be throwing an all-dessert party for her. Please come to meet her, learn about her platform, and show your support.

IKOI NO TOMO CELEBRATION

On 12:30 July 25<sup>th</sup> at San Mateo’s Central Park’s Recreation Center San Mateo JACL will celebrate the existence of Ikoi no Tomo, a Japanese-speaking women’s group that had practiced and shared the Japanese culture with its members and the larger community. The event will honor the leadership of Kimie Watanabe and the contributions of Suzu Kunitani, Tazu Takahashi, Lucy Shin, Vicky Yumoto, Nobue Okano, Sumiko Ota, Jane Akizuki, and others who were part of the organization over the years.

All those who know of Ikoi no Tomo—or who would like to meet the ladies—are warmly welcomed to come. A Japanese buffet lunch will be served so reservations are a must. Please call Kate [574-6676] or Mary Jo [593-7358] by July 21<sup>st</sup> so we can put in an accurate order to our caterer. We sincerely hope to meet you there.

TSURE ZURE GUSA OR ESSAYS IN IDLENESS, THE END

--Kate Motoyama

In Hiroshima, there is a special museum dedicated to chronicling the immigration of Japanese to Hawai’i. Nihojima-Mura Museum [17-8, Niho 3-Chome/Minami-Ku, Hiroshima 734 Tel/Fax 082(286)6331] was built because Hiroshi Kawasaki dreamt one evening that such a museum would foster good relations between the two countries.

Nihojima-Mura Museum is housed in an authentic wooden facility, formerly used for storage of rice, next to Kawasaki’s own home. Next to the museum is an actual tea house and Mrs. Kawasaki, schooled in the Omotesenke chanoyu tradition (a school for tea ceremony), serves matcha (green powdered tea) and sweets to special guests. Behind their home is an enormous and forbidding bamboo forest, where you can dig your own bamboo shoots for dinner [to die for!]. The museum’s intended audience is school-age children. Period artifacts, such as a huge wooden usu for pounding mochi, Victrolas, Brownie cameras, bark cloth furniture, ukuleles, territorial newspapers, personal correspondence, and vintage aloha shirts, bear silent witness to the ordinary lives of Japanese citizens who left their country to start a new life in the islands. Many started families in the islands while working as contract laborers in the sugarcane plantations, raising American-born children who would grow up speaking Japanese, English, and Hawaiian Creole. Despite settling deep roots in Hawai’i, these families, their children, and their children’s children often maintained close emotional ties with the ancestral village.

Even today, during the hottest days of summer, ancestral village associations or kenjin kai hold picnics under shady trees at Ala Moana Park. These are marvelous homespun events, with relay races and water balloon toss for the kids, four-legged wooden geta races for adults, bean counting contests and bingo for everyone, and all the free strawberry shave ice you can eat. My membership is with Honolulu Jigozen Jinkai--still active after over 80 years. The Japanese who immigrated from the Hiroshima area would be astonished to see our members today. There are many families that boast multiple heritages and many admixtures of different languages are spoken, but everyone gathered pays tribute to those pioneers who left Japan, coming across that broad expanse of sea, looking toward a future they could neither see nor hope to envision.



*A straw thatched roof home in nearby Jigozen, circa 1918-1919, still stands today.*

#### COWBOYS COACH PARCELL USES RACIAL SLUR; JAC, AJC, OCA RESPOND

Bill Parcells, coach of the Dallas Cowboys, apologized June 7 for calling the surprise plays used in practice “Jap plays,” saying the remark was inappropriate. Parcells was talking to reporters at the team’s minicamp when he made the comment. “You’ve got to keep an eye on those two, because they’re going to try to get the upper hand,” he said about quarterbacks coach Sean Payton and defensive coordinator Mike Zimmer. “Mike wants the defense to do well, and Sean, he’s going to have a few . . . no disrespect to the Orientals, but what we all Jap plays. OK. Surprise things.” ESPN wrote, “After a murmur in the room of reporters, which included a Japanese journalist, Parcells repeated, ‘No disrespect to anyone.’” The NFL stated that the league will not take action or review the coach’s remark.

John Tateishi, JACL National Director, immediately communicated to Coach Parcells about the incident. A response to Tateishi’s letter stated:

Parcells was unequivocally pointing to a specific historical happenstance -- i.e., a war crime committed in 1941 by the Japanese [sic] empire. Why aren't you complaining about the Japanese citizens who take tours of the Pearl Harbor memorials and laugh loudly when the tour guides talk about the American sailors and soldiers murdered by the insidious Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941? Why aren't you sending your representatives to Pearl Harbor to educate Japanese tourists as to how their behavior is outrageous in the eyes of American citizens?

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor was the original "Jap Play" that America won't forget until citizens of Japan stop laughing about it. And while we're at it: When is the JACL going to tell to

Japan to apologize to the People's Republic of China for the rape of Nanking? Or is this outside the scope of your charter?

Allies such as the American Jewish Committee stated that Parcells' use of the statement "Jap plays" points to a more pervasive issue—the use of a pejorative phrase. Ann Schaffer, director of AJC's Belfer Center for American Pluralism, responds, "Such slurs, whether used deliberately or thoughtlessly, demean and offend the targeted group, at a minimum. Coaches and administrators have a responsibility to the world of sports to set the standards of acceptable speech, by example and through education." The Organization of Chinese Americans made a strong statement as well, stating the importance of education and using as an example how the term "Oriental" is inappropriate usage because it "exoticizes" Asians and Asian Americans.

#### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

We received some information from Lucy Kishiue, Membership, in the National JACL Office that is important to you.

Q: How many days does it take to process a person's membership from the date it is received?

A: We process membership as soon as we receive it from the bank lockbox. The Bank expresses the copy of the checks and membership forms/renewals one day after the deposit. It is important that we receive [membership renewals, applications, and checks] at the P.O. box.

Q: How many days does it take to deposit the person's check into the bank?

A: It is deposited, inventoried, and reconciled the same day.

Q: How many days does it take until the person receives a thank you from National?

A: We only batch the membership letter at the close of each month. We print, fold, and stuff over 1500 cards monthly. We send it bulk mail and those in the Bay Area should receive by the second week. The issue is that there is only myself and Tomiko doing membership. I am only part time.

Q: How is the chapter notified of a new member's name and address? We want our own database of names as we send out our own newsletter.

A: Monthly rosters are provided to each chapter membership chair. I try to get this out by the second week of the month but there are times that it may be delayed especially when I am project managing the convention and the business sessions/events. Your membership chair receives this information.

Some of our members drop off their membership payments at the Community Center. For secure and expeditious handling of the processing of memberships, they should be mailed directly to National JACL.

#### COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS

Please encourage your friends and family to support the annual "Potluck Dinner and Raffle" slated for Saturday, August 14, 5-8 p.m. at San Mateo Senior Center, 2645 Alameda de las Pulgas. Chairman Sats Hane wants everyone to invite the whole family. He promises good food and lots of fun for the little ones.

KIRAKU KAI. President Tak Obata announced the Kiraku Kai anniversary barbecue on July 21<sup>st</sup>, on the patio. Henry Hiraki will be the chief cook. New members are invited; please call 343-2793 if you plan to attend.

TOMODACHI. Pauline Harmon invites interested women to attend Tomodachi meetings, held on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month. In July, Yoko Uchida of Burlingame, to the delight of all members, demonstrated cooking "okonomiyaki."

San Mateo JACL Board Meeting

Thursday June 17, 2004

Present: Kitty Hongo, Steve Katayama, Kate Motoyama, Brent Nakagiri, Steve Okamoto, April Smith, Heidi Tanakatsubo, Kevin Wong, Ted Yamagishi  
Guest: Virginia Tanakatsubo

The meeting was called to order at 7:25 p.m., following dinner. No members of the public were desirous of comment. Many thanks to Ted and Jen Yamagishi for their hospitality. The agenda was approved with one additional item of new business, Tanakatsubo's campaign for VP Public Affairs. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Committee Reports

**MEMBERSHIP.** Nakagiri stated that, overall, membership in San Mateo chapter has declined; however, we gained 3 new memberships and are entitled to "gift" an individual with a membership. The board decided on Eric Milton Law-Hing, who has helped us in our last two fundraising ventures. The board decided to concentrate on college-young professionals for recruitment. Tanakatsubo's fundraiser will offer a 25% discount on memberships for sign-ups on that day. The board will agendize for future business a re-examination of JACL scholarships, which are currently held in conjunction with McDonald's as a way of capitalizing on scholarship money; the call for scholarships could be used to encourage high school students to support the organization.

**COMMUNITY CENTER.** Hongo reported that three additional keys to the center were provided to JACL. August 14 is the date of the potluck and raffle at the Senior Center on Alameda de las Pulgas. The San Mateo Nippon Gakuen will be using the center as a point of contact for its telephone/mail/answering service. She reminded the board that the Community Center Board should be approached with any new proposals.

**TREASURER'S REPORT.** In a clarification of a question raised last month, Smith stated that the "dance" income is a reimbursement for the NCWNP District Dinner. The balance in the Museum Fund account can be signed over to JACL as soon as we contact the proper signatory. Smith said that our chapter had received an infusion of National Dues monies. The report was accepted as filed.

Unfinished Business

**National Convention/Resolution on Same Gender Marriage.** There was a clarification that the Ikoi no Tomo donation would be added to the \$2000 already allocated for the National Convention to support the travel/lodging/reg of 2 delegates, 2 alternates, and 1 youth. Motoyama reported that the resolution had been signed by NCWNP District Governor Mark Kobayashi and received by the Resolutions Committee; unfortunately, the resolution had been withdrawn because it jeopardized several candidates' campaigns for national office.

**Craig's Burger Booth.** Although our namesake had been conspicuously missing for "good" reasons for the past two years, chair Nakagiri was pleased to report a net profit of \$1824.00 despite a few desperate moments without cheese, lettuce, or teriyaki sauce. He offered a thank-you to all who helped in any way, shape, or form. A big mahalo goes to Yamagishi, who donated the cost of the new booth.

**Newsletter.** Motoyama reported that it's difficult to put out a newsletter without articles; board members should submit articles for their projects and initiatives. Articles must be submitted electronically or else she needs to retype everything. Jeff Okamoto has converted the database of newsletter recipients so that we can update and manage it. Board members who are able to receive the newsletter electronically, as well as members who wish to do so, can access the PDF of the newsletter through our website. This may cut down on costs, which have gone up because of the addition of photographs.

**Ikoi no Tomo Recognition.** We had reserved July 25<sup>th</sup> for this event; however, we learned the San Mateo Buddhist Church has scheduled an event that conflicts with our event. We are considering alternate dates. [Update from the editor: The July 25<sup>th</sup> date will stand.]

New Business

OCA Picnic. Those board members who are not attending the JACL convention are asked to help with the picnic, August 15th. We are responsible for games, the piñata, and bingo.

Heidi Tanakatsubo Campaign for Vice President of Public Affairs. Tanakatsubo informed us that all campaigns are run on a \$1000 limit, which includes all campaign collateral. The board contributed \$200 to her campaign (MSU). We are hosting an event to kick-off her campaign on July 10, 2-4, at the Community Center. It is a fundraiser for her but also intended to bring new and interested members together to meet our candidate. Board members will bring cakes and pies to this "all dessert" gala. Tanakatsubo asked that people visit her website, put together by Jeff Okamoto, [www.sanmateojacl.org/heidi](http://www.sanmateojacl.org/heidi).

Announcements

Golf Tournament is on October 31<sup>st</sup>; please save the date.

The Health Fair is set and the board is reminded to send its \$100 donation.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kate Motoyama

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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](http://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 -----  
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? -----  
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Would you be willing to receive an electronic newsletter? Y/N

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.

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

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