

# KOKORO

## San Mateo JACL Hosts NCWNP District Council Meeting

On Sunday, February 9, 2014 the San Mateo JACL hosted the all-day Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific (NCWNP) District Council Meeting at the San Mateo Historical Association Museum in Redwood City. The delegates were interested and enthused to meet at such a historic venue. Thanks to Misa Sakaguchi and Mitch Postel for scheduling the SMJACL event at the museum. The business meeting was held in historic Courtroom A. Diana Okamoto, Lisa and Misa Sakaguchi, June Uyenoyama, and Mary Jo Kubota-Arcarese served breakfast and lunch to the delegates in the rotunda area.

Brent Nakagiri and Steve Okamoto attended the business session which focused on general

updates from the District as well as a spirited discussion on the No-No boys and the impact of the loyalty questionnaire on families. One highlight of the business session was an update on the upcoming JACL National Convention in San Jose from the organizing committee. The delegates also had the opportunity to tour the Immigrant Experience in San Mateo County exhibit as part of the day.

Our chapter received many accolades from the District Council Meeting attendees. They enjoyed: the venue, the museum exhibits, the curator's presentation, the bookstore, the delegate gift of a Kumiki puzzle from SMJACL, and especially the food!



Tokies Restaurant in Foster City was the setting for the Installation of the 2014 San Mateo JACL Board of Directors. We are fortunate to have an excellent group of energetic JACL members to serve on our community. Although most board members have specific roles we all work together to accomplish the tasks required of our chapter. If you would like to join us and become a board member please contact [bnakagiri@yahoo.com](mailto:bnakagiri@yahoo.com).

## Upcoming Events

**April 28:** OCA/JACL Scholarship Luncheon

**May 3:** Asian Pacific American Film Festival at College of San Mateo

**May 6:** Hiroshi Kashiwagi Book Signing at the San Mateo Public Library

**July 9-12:** National JACL Convention in San Jose

**September 6:** Kimochi Silent Auction Dinner at College of San Mateo

**October 5:** Millbrae Japanese Cultural Festival

## 2014 Scholarship Recipient: Ryan Kenji Wong

San Mateo JACL Board members presented their 2014 Scholarship Award to Ryan K. Wong, a senior at Carlmont High School in Belmont at a joint OCA / JACL Scholarship Luncheon held April 27, 2014 at the Senior Center in San Mateo.

Ryan was presented with scholarship award and certificate. Ryan and the OCA Scholarship recipients shared their future plans with the group. He also impressed the scholarship committee with his academic record, his extensive community service, range of extra-curricular activities and his sincere and mature replies during the scholarship interview process.

Ryan, a senior Year at Carlmont High School, has kept extremely busy academically, athletically, and with many extra-curricular activities. He has achieved the Eagle Scout Award and Eagle Palms which he collected over 500 children's books and assembled over 100 toiletry kits for the less fortunate, was an active member of the Young Men's Service League (YMSL), and has a passion for soccer since he was four years old. Ryan has excelled and is a part of a top Club Premiere soccer team as well as played on his high school JV and Varsity soccer teams. He loves competitive sports and enjoys lacrosse and ultimate frisbee, as well as sparring in karate class.



Music is another passion that has become an important part of Ryan's life. He is the Co-Captain of the popular Carlmont Drumline, a trombonist for the Carlmont Jazz Ensemble, and plays acoustic guitar for his church worship team. His friends and him like to sing and "jam" with their instruments during their free time.

Traveling has been a big part of Ryan's life. He has been to 42 states and 25 countries. He also visits his maternal grandparents in Hawaii every summer, where he gets immersed in the Japanese culture.

In the fall, Ryan will be attending UC Davis in the College of Biological Sciences. He hopes to pursue the fields of medicine and business administration and someday become a Hospital Administrator.

## Puzzles, Puzzles, Puzzles!

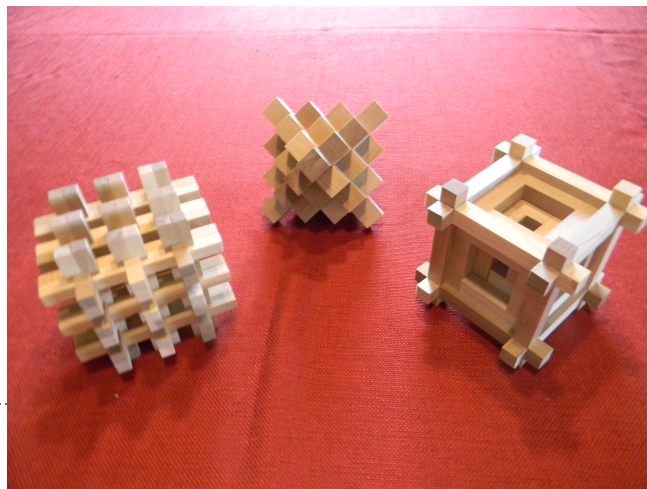
Thanks to the generosity of Akiko and Jim Docker of The Sea Ranch California San Mateo JACL has acquired a large amount of Kumiki Wooden Puzzles. We plan to use them for fundraising to benefit, our educational and community programs.

The Japanese word Kumiki means "to join wood together"; so the puzzles are without clasps. These vintage puzzles are handcrafted and quite beautiful and challenging. According to Jim Docker the puzzles were developed by J. Yamanaka, a master woodworker, to teach students the skill of constructing wooden buildings using interlocking pieces. The descendants of Yamanaka are still creating Kumiki puzzles. We are selling the puzzles at different events.

If you would like to order a puzzle call Mary Jo at 650 593-7358 or email your order at [sanmateojacl@yahoo.com](mailto:sanmateojacl@yahoo.com). When you leave an order please include your name and phone number. We will either deliver them or ship them to your home.

The puzzles we are selling are: the elephant, the lion, the professional, the prison cube, the nested cube, the kiyomizu cube, and the 4 color 4 puzzle box.

The cubes and the 4 color 4 puzzle are \$15.00 each. The lion, the elephant, and the professional are \$10.00 each.



## Meet the Board

**President:** Brent Nakagiri, Brent has served as SMJACL President for the past three years and has been a board member for ten years. Brent was a member of Berkeley JACL and currently is employed as the Business Manager at Genentech.

**Treasurer:** Lisa Sakaguchi serves as our treasurer. Lisa is an Office Manager for Alain Pinel Realtors.

**Secretary:** Misa Sakaguchi our secretary has been with SMJACL for six years. Misa is semi-retired. She works as Business Manager for the San Mateo County History Museum.

**Newsletter:** Lauren Kawawaki has been a board member for four years. She works as an Analytical Support employee for Standard and Poor's.

**Liaison with JACC:** Katy Sneath has served for several years as the representative from the Japanese American Community Center to SMJACL. Kathy is a retired VISA employee.

**Membership:** June Uyenoyama serves as our membership chair. June is the Branch Manager for Union Bank in San Mateo.

**Youth Out Reach:** Diana Okamoto serves as our Youth Out Reach person. Diana and her husband both serve as liaisons between Kimochi and the SMJACL Board. Diana is an Interior Designer and has her own business named "Metamorphosis."

**Past President:** Steve Okamoto has served JACL for most of his adult life in many different capacities at the National, District, and Chapter level. Retired from the American Cancer Society he is currently a Foster City Councilman.

**Scholarship Chair:** Mary Jo Kubota-Arcarese has served on the SMJACL Board for many years and held several different offices. She is a teacher for Jefferson Elementary School District in Daly City.

**Our Newest Member:** Elise Santucci is our newest board member. She is originally from Hawaii and has resided in Northern California since 2001.