

KOKORO

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS LUNCHEON



On a beautiful Sunday afternoon, the San Mateo Chapter of the Japanese-American Citizens League (JACL) met for a scholarship award lunch. With perfect weather, beautiful scenery, and a warm environment, everyone was ready to work together in order to not only help set up and organize the event but also to honor the two scholars Aaron Kang and Violet McNally, the newest intern Frank Hiura, and a donation to the Japanese-American Community Center (JACC).

With a vast assortment of food, drinks, and desserts, the San Mateo JACL was prepared for lunch. This event was the first time the San Mateo JACL board met in person in over a year, and the sound of friendly conversation echoed throughout the picnic tables as everyone was excited to catch up or get to know each other.

The awards were presented by San Mateo JACL President Steve Okamoto, and Scholarship Chair Liz Bissell. Bissell described how Kang had a "[t]houghtful essay on current climate of racism against Asians" and McNally has "engagement and empathy for others in all walks of life." After these wonderful words, the event ended with a picture to remember the moment.



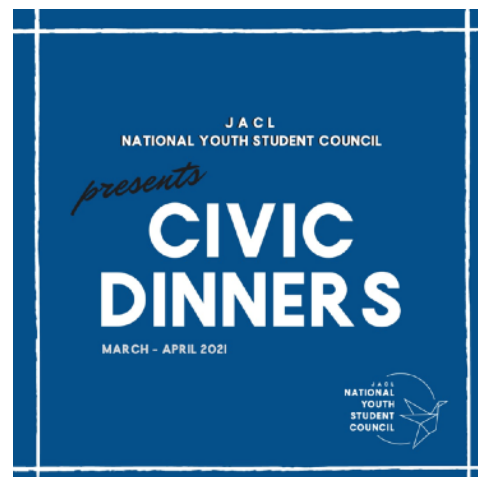
TANFORN MEMORIAL

We have been keeping you up to date on the progress of the memorial at Tanforan. The memorial is being created to honor the 8,000 persons of Japanese ancestry who were illegally and unconstitutionally imprisoned at the Tanforan Assembly Center in 1942 when Tanforan was a race track. Many of the internees had to sleep in horse stalls and were overwhelmed by the smell. We have been keeping you up to date on the (continued)

progress of the memorial at Tanforan. The memorial is being created to honor the 8,000 persons of Japanese ancestry who were illegally and unconstitutionally imprisoned at the Tanforan Assembly Center in 1942 when Tanforan was a race track. Many of the internees had to sleep in horse stalls and were overwhelmed by the smell of the horse manure. The memorial will start construction in the next month or two and should be completed early next year. The committee has asked us to help find family and friends who were incarcerated at Tanforan. If any of you know of someone who had family or friends please let us know. The committee is also in the final stages of their fundraising campaign. If you would like to contribute to the Tanforan Memorial please go to their website: "tanforanmemorial.org" to learn how to support the memorial.

JACL NCWNP Youth Student Council Hosts Virtual Civic Dinner

On Friday, April 30, the JACL Northern California Western Nevada Pacific Youth Student Council hosted their annual Civic Dinner over Zoom. This event brought together JACL Youth members from across California and Nevada to discuss issues surrounding rising the anti-asian violence, personal experiences with discrimination, as well as what future actions to take as young JACL members. In particular, participants discussed how young people can take their advocacy beyond social media by "expanding their chamber" by engaging in conversation with those outside their typical social circle. Participants also discussed the importance of representation in the media, and how examining bias is especially relevant today. Special thanks to Jenna Aoki, the Central California District Council (CCDC) NY/SC Youth Representative for organizing the evening.



San Mateo JACL Spring 2021 Fund Raiser

Despite the many restrictions necessitated by the COVID 19 Pandemic San Mateo JACL remained active both locally and nationally. Under the dedicated leadership of our President, Mr. Steve Okamoto, we have continued our Chapter's High School Senior Scholarship Program, and our High School Junior Intern Program. During the pandemic Mr. Okamoto participated in virtual activities and meetings convened by JACL's National and District Boards, the Tanforan Project Committee, and other Asian American organizations which allowed him to keep our Chapter Board members apprised of developments in the Asian American Community. We are quite of aware of the challenges facing Asian Americans and are supporting initiatives that actively fight the hate and ignorance that pervades our society. The board decided to organize a fundraising project to provide resources that address critical community concerns. (continued)

We are grateful for the overwhelming support from our membership. The fund-raising donations we received have enabled us to:

- Continue and sustain our chapter's High School Junior Intern and High School Senior Scholarship programs.
- Increase financial support of the San Mateo Japanese American Community Center as they face the challenges of reopening post-covid.
- Contribute to San Francisco JACL's Community Safety Program which provided personal safety alarms to local Japanese American organizations.
- Contribute to the Asian Pacific Fund's network of 80+ affiliate nonprofits that provide vital services to our most vulnerable Asians and Pacific Islanders in the Bay Area.

Thanks to all those generous donors that supported us in our efforts.

Origami Virtual Event

On July 29 the San Mateo Japanese American Citizens League (San Mateo JACL) Youth Representative, Aaron Kang, and Intern, Frank Hiura, hosted the second annual origami event. With nine people total, everyone was eager to learn how to fold origami. After an



introduction by Kang, he started off the event by teaching everyone how to create an origami box. With easy to understand directions and visuals with a hand camera, people were able to form and personalize their own box. Some folds were difficult; however, Kang carefully explained how to do them and went over the directions again for anyone who was still confused.

Following up, Hiura explained how to fold an origami whale, which kids of young ages could easily make. The participants were ecstatic about drawing unique faces onto their origami creations in order to add character and creativity. At the end of the event, Hiura and Kang had taught how to make boxes, whales, dogs, hearts, butterflies, and trees. Even though we were in different places, you could feel the excitement and interest coming from everyone.