

KOKORO

the heart and soul of our community
san mateo chapter Japanese American citizens league aug 2009
www.sanmateojacl.org
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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 first Friday (one month prior to publication) to katemotoyama@sanbrunocable.com

UC TO GRANT HONORARY DEGREES TO NIKKEI STUDENTS FROM 1942

An article, "UC to grant Japanese WWII internees degrees," by Jill Tucker in the *San Francisco Chronicle* [July 17, 2009] focuses on Grace Obata Amemiya and her loss of her dream of earning a UC degree due to forced internment. Executive Order 9066 affected 120,000 individuals and about 700 University of California students of Japanese ancestry.

The UC Regents voted to end a 37-year ban by the University of California on granting honorary degrees, suspending the ban exclusively for Japanese American students such as Amemiya. Most of these students, if living, are now well into their eighties. Each honorary degree will bear the phrase, *Inter Silvas Academi Restituere Institiam*, to restore justice among the groves of the academy. It has been 67 years since these students were forced to leave their studies in the University of California system.

Amemiya, who is now 88, said the internment was "shocking" but added, in testimony before the Regents Committee on Education Policy, "And yes, you can start your life over again with just two suitcases." But Amemiya never returned to California, earning a degree in nursing in Minnesota. In her service in the Army Nurse Corps, she tended soldiers, many of whom were former prisoners of the war in Japan. Tucker's article includes this comment from Amemiya, "We, with patriotism in spite of prejudice, did our best." And, thinking on her long-held desire to earn a degree from UC, "This is a dream I was living all this time. Please know our hearts will be full of joy."

Now UC officials, like College of San Mateo before them, need to work out the many details involved in conferring the degrees—identifying the individuals, locating and contacting them, planning the details of the ceremony. CSM had identified 45 Nikkei students who were forced to leave their studies and awarded these students honorary degrees at its June 2009 commencement. San Mateo JACL supported this project and was proud to plan the reception in these students' honor before the honorary degrees' bestowal.

UC officials need now need help in identifying students who were unable to graduate because of internment during World War II. Anyone with questions or information is asked to e-mail honorarydegree@ucop.edu or call (510) 987-0239.



2009 SAN MATEO JACL ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Place: Poplar Creek Golf Course
1700 Coyote Point Drive, San Mateo, California
Date: Sunday, September 13, 2009
Time: First Group Tees off at 9:30 AM

Entry Fee: \$85.00 including cart (A cart is now required for tournament play)
Entry Fees Due: August 28, 2009

Please come out to support the Scholarship Program sponsored by the San Mateo JACL Chapter. Proceeds benefit the Scholarship Fund to graduating high school seniors.

Join us for a fun filled day on the greens. Players of all levels are encouraged to play! No established handicap necessary. There will be tee prizes for all entrants and awards for flight winners, closest-to-pin, and longest drive.

Please send your entry form and fees (checks made payable to "San Mateo JACL") to:
Steve Katayama, c/o NTA America, Inc.
643 Bair Island Road, #301, Redwood City, CA 94063

If you have any questions, please contact either Steve at skatayama@ntasfb.com 650-306-1880, or Bruce Furukawa at brucefurukawa@yahoo.com 415-652-6597. Please submit one entry form per player.

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Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone No: (H) _____ (C) _____ E-Mail: _____
Handicap: _____

If you are arranging your own group, please complete the following:

<u>Player #1</u>	<u>Player #2</u>	<u>Player #3</u>	<u>Player#4</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____

Sorry, I can't play. Enclosed is my donation.

\$ _____ Other _____
Description of Merchandise or Gift Certificate

KARATE AS AN OKINAWAN MARTIAL ARTS FORM

In Japan's past, only the military were permitted access to weapons. But, in Okinawa, everyone could practice karate. Charles C. Goodin stated, "Karate is much broader than just a martial art. It's Okinawan culture," in an article titled "How karate reached Hawai'i," by David Pham [*The Honolulu Advertiser*, July 5, 2009]. Pham goes on to write that everyone used traditional Okinawan weapons such as nunchakus, bo staffs, or sais. This is an interesting history as explained by this account:

Documentation of karate in the island communities came in newspaper articles that occasionally described gangs of thieves who were knocked unconscious by elderly, unarmed Okinawan men whom they had attempted to rob. Small local groups that had taught karate privately in homes and backyards as the secret art of self defense began to teach the art outside the Okinawan community.

INTERNS HELP CLEAN UP THE NATIONAL JA MEMORIAL TO PATRIOTISM

President Obama signed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act into law, ushering in a new era of service and volunteering for our nation. The Act specifically encourages and calls upon the youth to volunteer in their communities through the Summer of Service initiative. In response, the Japanese American Citizens League hosted a service project in collaboration with the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation to inspire summer interns in the Washington, D.C. area to rise to the challenge of community and national service.

Nearly two dozen interns and volunteers assembled on a warm Sunday morning to assist in the cleaning of the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism During World War II, located at the intersection of Louisiana Avenue and D Street in Washington, D.C. After spending the morning collecting trash, hungry volunteers were treated to lunch by the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation.

The National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism During World War II honors the Japanese American soldiers who bravely fought for our freedom in a time when the freedom of their family and friends was stripped away as they were forced into desolate internment camps. It not only pays tribute to the loyalty and bravery of these Japanese American soldiers but it acknowledges a dark period of American history brought on by prejudice and fear. During tough economic times as these, where funding for state parks and historic landmarks are often on the chopping block, it is imperative to assist in the preservation and education of the Asian American experience.

HELP IN GRANTING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS TO NIKKEI SOLDIERS

U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) introduced legislation to grant the Congressional Gold Medal to the Japanese-American 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team of the U.S. Army in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II. Senators Daniel Inouye (D-HI), Daniel Akaka (D-HI), and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) have signed on as original cosponsors of the measure. Companion legislation introduced by Congressman Adam Schiff (D-CA) passed by a vote of 411 to 0 in the House of Representatives. Senator Boxer said, "These

noble Japanese-Americans enlisted in the army and bravely fought for their country while many of their family and friends were being sent to internment camps. These soldiers made a bold and honorable sacrifice and should be recognized for their patriotism."

The military units, known as the "Go For Broke" regiment, earned several awards for their distinctive service in combat, including: 7 Presidential Unit Citations, 21 Medals of Honor, 29 Distinguished Service Crosses, 560 Silver Stars, 22 Legion of Merit Medals, 15 Soldier's Medals, 4,000 Bronze Stars and over 4,000 Purple Hearts, among numerous additional distinctions.



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