

KOKORO

THE HEART AND SOUL OF OUR COMMUNITY
SAN MATEO CHAPTER JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE JAN 2005

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 before the fourth Monday in electronic format [Microsoft WORD, New York font] to katemotoyama@sanbrunocable.com.

NEW YEAR GREETINGS FOR 2005!

Kiyomizu-dera ("temple of pure water") is located on the slopes of Mount Higashiyama, looking out over Kyoto. Construction was begun by a general of the Emperor Kammu, and the largest building, the Hôndô or main hall was completed under Iemitsu, third Shogun of the Tokugawa Shogunate. The water from Otowa no taki is drinkable and, according to local belief, has curative properties. Although I did not know it at the time, to drink from the right waterfall makes people intelligent, to drink from the middle waterfall makes people handsome, and to drink water from the left ensures longevity. And, lest you get greedy, there are those who believe that to drink from all three invites personal misfortune.



Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise. I ended up drinking from the right waterfall.

2005 is here and we will need to work together to make this a year that is full of peace, justice, and prosperity for all. The San Mateo JACL board thanks you for all you have given to us in 2004 and requests your support for this coming year.

SAN MATEO JACL OBSERVES DAY OF REMEMBRANCE & BOARD INSTALLATION ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2005, 12-1:30 PM, SAN MATEO COUNTY MUSEUM

Each year, on February 19th, the anniversary of Executive Order 9066, the Japanese American internment is remembered so that the lessons of civil liberties will be applied to choices we face today.

President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, resulting in the suspension of due process for 120,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans living along the West Coast. Forty years later, in 1983, a Presidential commission characterized the internment as an act of racism and wartime hysteria. Because of the activism of JACL and other groups, President Reagan signed a reparation agreement in 1988 that officially apologized and provided each surviving camp member with \$20,000 as compensation.

This year on Saturday, February 19, 2005, 12:00-1:30 p.m., San Mateo JACL will commemorate Day of Remembrance and install its officers for the 2005 year. The program will be held at the San Mateo County History Museum, 777 Hamilton Street, Redwood City. Tickets to the event will be \$20 and include the program, a boxed lunch (obento), and admission to the museum's exhibits.

The keynote speaker for this year is historian Michael Svanevik, professor at College of San Mateo and published author, along with Shirley Burgett, of nearly a dozen books of local history. Svanevik is an engaging presenter and San Mateo JACL is delighted that he will be joining us this year to tell us more about the history of Japanese Americans in San Mateo County and to offer his perspectives on Japanese Americans' lived experiences and contributions to the community. The title of the keynote address is "Between Two Worlds." Our membership should find the remarks insightful, as JACL negotiates its identity as a civil rights organization or one that preserves cultural roots to create a living history.

We will also be honoring as a Living Treasure the Asian American Curriculum Project, under the direction of Florence M. Hongo, President of the Board and General Manager. San Mateo JACL has honored individuals in the past but has renamed the recognition in tribute to the highest award that can be achieved in the Japanese arts. In Japan, Living Treasures are remarkable people who quietly keep the country's most precious creative traditions alive. It is in this spirit that San Mateo JACL recognizes AACP as a Living Treasure for its 35 years of service to San Mateo and the greater community.

The mission of AACP is as follows:

Our mission is to educate the public about the great diversity of the Asian American experience, through the books that we distribute; fostering cultural awareness and to educate Asian Americans about their own heritage, instilling a sense of pride. AACP believes that the knowledge which comes from the use of appropriate materials can accomplish these goals.

The Asian American Curriculum Project, Inc. has been an award winning non-profit voluntary educational organization since 1969. AACP offers an extensive collection of Asian American books and other materials for all age groups, all levels of education, and all Asian and Pacific Islander groups, including but not limited to Cambodian, Chinese, Filipino, Hawaiian, Hmong, Indian, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Samoan, Tongan, Thai, and Vietnamese.

Checks to Day of Remembrance should be made out to San Mateo JACL and mailed to Kate Motoyama, 583 Easton Avenue, San Bruno 94066; please mail them so they reach me by February 14th so there can be an accurate headcount for lunch. If there's an emergency, call me at 574-6676 and leave a message.

Directions coming from San Francisco:

Route 1:

Take 101 South, exit Whipple Avenue.
Go forward on to Veterans Boulevard.
Turn right on to Jefferson Avenue.
Turn right on to Broadway.
Turn right on to Hamilton Street.

Route 2:

Take 280 South, exit Farm Hill Boulevard.
Turn left on Farm Hill Boulevard.
Go forward on to Jefferson Avenue.
Turn left on to Broadway.

CALIFORNIA NISEI HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA PROJECT: WWW.CANISEI.ORG

*"Now my life is almost complete. . . I finally accomplished through thick and thin,
and then through 60 years with patience."*

—Mary Okumura Kitahara, Mountain View High School, Class of 1942. Honored in 2004.

The California Nisei High School Diploma Project (California Nisei Project) is a program established to provide community outreach and education for a new law, Assembly Bill 781. AB 781, which became law in 2004, authorizes any high school district, unified school district, or county office of education to retroactively issue high school diplomas to any person of Japanese descent whose high school education was interrupted due to forced removal and incarceration from California during World War II.

San Mateo JACL extends its support of the project and is available to provide local assistance to individuals and their families who are interested in participating. Application forms are available by visiting www.canisei.org or contacting the project director, Jill Shiraki, at jshiraki@sbcglobal.net or calling Naomi Funahashi, project coordinator at the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California at 415.567-5505.

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Notice of JACL scholarship applications were sent on November 19th to all high schools in San Mateo County. To be eligible, applicants must have a membership in San Mateo JACL (parents' membership does not count). Applicants must fill out the paperwork and write responses to an essay question. If selected as a finalist, applicants can expect to participate in a brief interview

with the Scholarship Committee, headed by Brent Nakagiri, a former recipient of the JACL Scholarship. A special luncheon to recognize and honor winners is being planned for April 2005.

Application forms are available from the San Mateo JACL website (sanmateojacl.org) under scholarships or from your high school counselors. The deadline for applications is March 1, 2005; applications are to be sent to the Japanese American Community Center c/o Brent Nakagiri/JACL Scholarship Committee. The address is 415 S. Claremont Street, San Mateo 94401.

JAPANESE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Please join us in our challenge to raise \$50,000 dollars for this important project—preserving the legacy of Japanese American heritage on the Peninsula at the San Mateo County History Museum

With the History Museum's help, Japanese Americans and many other ethnic groups are preserving their histories.

- SHARING -- Your stories, family histories, and talents are invaluable to our research project. Much can be learned from YOU!
- SERVICE -- There are many tasks to be accomplished. Some require a simple phone call; others take a bit more effort. Donating your time will help to preserve our history for future generations.
- SUPPORT -- Your old photographs, newspaper articles, films and artifacts will help illuminate and clarify the stories of our past. Tax deductible contributions from YOU--our community--will make this project a reality!

If you are interested in this project and/or would like to contribute financially, please contact:

Japanese American Heritage Committee
San Mateo County History Museum
777 Hamilton Street
Redwood City, CA 94063
Tel:(650)299-0104
www.sanmateocountyhistory.com

Below are some ways to help:

I will contribute \$ _____ to help finance this important project.

(Donations are tax deductible.)

I would like to learn more about this project.

I have artifacts to add to this exhibit.

I would like to volunteer my time to help.

COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS

SMJACC will hold its first Rummage Sale on Saturday, April 2, 2005. This event will be a fund raiser to benefit the Center so please start minimizing and clean out those closets and storage areas in your home. Because of the limited space in the Gardener's Hall, clean and resalable items would be greatly appreciated. Look for further information in next month's Kokoro.

SUNDAY MATINEE MOVIE RETURNS

Sunday Matinee Movie on January 23, 2005
at JA Community Center
415 S. Claremont St, San Mateo
Ph. 650 343-2793
1:30 PM

“DRUNKEN ANGEL”

The chaotic worlds of the Yakuza and an alcoholic doctor collide in this film noir classic from Academy Award winning director, Akira Kurosawa. Yakuza, Toshiro Mifune, visits doctor, Takashi Shimura, after an unfortunate incident with a bullet. “Drunken Angel” is the film that started the amazing collaboration of Mifune and Kurosawa. Also stars Michiyo Kogure. 1948 B & W. Japanese with English subtitles. 98 minutes. Free admission.



JACL
HealthBenefitsTrust

1-800-400-6633

NEWSLETTER NEWS

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.

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

Please consider joining our board! We need your ideas and energy.

You make a living by what you get.

You make a life by what you give.

--Winston Churchill

SAN MATEO JACL OBSERVES

**DAY OF REMEMBRANCE &
BOARD INSTALLATION**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2005

**SAN MATEO COUNTY HISTORY
MUSEUM**

**777 HAMILTON STREET
REDWOOD CITY, CA
12:00 - 1:30 p.m.**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
PROFESSOR MICHAEL SVANEVIK,
HISTORIAN,
"Between Two Worlds"

LIVING TREASURE RECOGNITION:
FLORENCE HONGO &
ASIAN AMERICAN CURRICULUM PROJECT



Name of attendee(s): _____

Telephone: _____

Mail this slip with your check for \$20 [includes museum admission, obento (box lunch), and program] made to San Mateo JACL. Send it to Kate Motoyama, 583 Easton Avenue, San Bruno CA 94066 by February 14th. Thank you very much for your support!

Japanese American Citizens League
415 Claremont San Mateo CA 94401

Non-Profit Organization
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San Mateo, CA