

KOKORO

THE HEART AND SOUL OF OUR COMMUNITY
SAN MATEO CHAPTER JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE APR 2006
WWW.SANMATEOJACL.ORG
INQUIRIES: MARY JO KUBOTA-ARCAESE, CO PRESIDENT, 650.593.7358

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 third Friday in electronic format [Microsoft WORD, New York font] to katemotoyama@sanbrunocable.com.

SAN MATEO JACL SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON—Heidi Tanakatsubo

The San Mateo JACL Scholarship Program was revived in 2005 with a fantastic luncheon featuring Congressman Mike Honda and honoring four outstanding high school seniors: Justine Morey, Bobby Takahashi, Kristine Chiba, and Kelley Hasegawa.

We're well underway planning our 2006 program and we'd love to have you join us honoring this year's scholarship recipients. Keith Kamisugii is our keynote speaker and will address different ways to become involved in the Asian American community and why such involvement is vital to the future of our community.

2006 San Mateo JACL Scholarship Luncheon

Saturday, April 29, 2006

12:00pm - 2:30pm

Cost: \$30

RSVP by 4/21/06 (please specify choice of entree: Chicken Toscano or Penne Domenico (veg)).

For more information please contact Heidi Tanakatsubo at 650-345-9618. Please also see the flyer that is printed inside.

SAN MATEO JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER RUMMAGE SALE—Fred Sakamoto

The SMJACC Rummage Sale will be held on Sat. May 20th from 9:30 am to 4:00pm. Again we will need volunteers to sort, price, display, and sell items. Sorting will start on Wednesday May 17th pm and continue to Friday. Look for sign-up sheets in the Center. Please, no shoes, mattresses, computers, or large appliances. Your help will be greatly appreciated

EXCERPT FROM US SENATOR BARBARA BOXER'S CONGRESSIONAL RECORD STATEMENT ON THE PASSING OF DAVE TATSUNO

Mr. President, I take this opportunity to honor the life of Dave Tatsuno, whose courageous documentation of life in a Japanese American internment camp contributed immensely to our knowledge of this dark time in U.S. history. Mr. Tatsuno passed away on January 26, 2006. He was 92.

Mr. Tatsuno, born in 1913 to a family who had come to the United States in the late 19th century, was raised in San Francisco, in my home state of California. Mr. Tatsuno changed his first name from Masaharu

San Mateo JACL Scholarship Luncheon

Keynote speaker: Keith Kamisugi

Associate Director of Communications, Equal Justice Society

“Why community activism and political involvement are vital to the future of Asian Americans.”



Date: April 29, 2006

Time: 12pm—2:30pm

Dominic's Restaurant at Oyster Point
425 Marina Blvd.

South San Francisco, CA

Cost: \$30 per person

RSVP deadline: 4/21/06

Please join the San Mateo JACL
as we honor our scholarship
recipients for 2006!

Please call Heidi Tanakatsubo at 650-345-9618
for more information.

_____ complete and return with payment _____

Name(s) of attendee(s): _____

Number of people attending: _____ Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Please specify choice of entrée(s): Chicken Toscano [] or Penne Domenico (veg) []

Please make checks payable to **San Mateo JACL**

Mail responses to: Heidi Tanakatsubo, 2275 Allegheny Way, San Mateo, CA 94402

to Dave when he successfully ran for student body president of his junior high school; Masaharu was too long to fit on his campaign posters. In 1936, Mr. Tatsuno graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in business and went to work at Nichi Bei Bussan, a department store in San Francisco that his father founded.

After Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which forced "all persons of Japanese ancestry, including aliens and non-aliens" into internment camps until the end of World War II. Mr. Tatsuno and his family were forced to move to the Topaz Relocation Center, an internment camp in Topaz, Arizona. Over the next three years, Mr. Tatsuno secretly filmed life in the camp with an 8-millimeter Bell & Howell camera that Walter Honderick, his supervisor at the internment camp's co-op store, helped smuggle in. Because the camera was forbidden, Mr. Tatsuno kept it hidden in a shoe box, taking it out only when guards were not looking. These images of daily life in Topaz--of church services, of people gardening, of birthday celebrations--have left viewers with a stark image of what life was like during those hard years.

After the Tatsuno family was released from the internment camp, Mr. Tatsuno's footage of life in Topaz was turned into a 48-minute silent film, "Topaz." In 1996, the Library of Congress placed "Topaz" on its National Film Registry, which was established in 1989 by Congress to preserve culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant films. Mr. Tatsuno's film is one of only two home movies on the Registry's 425-film list; the other film is Abraham Zapruder's footage of the John F. Kennedy assassination. The original footage for "Topaz" is now a part of the permanent collection at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles.

SAN JOSE'S 29TH ANNUAL NIKKEI MATSURI IS APRIL 30, 2006

This is a one day festival in the heart of San Jose's Japantown featuring foods, Japanese American and Asian American inspired arts and crafts, cultural arts and performing arts and associated events around Japantown such as Yu ai Kai's Health Fair and Walk/Run, Suzume No Gakko's kid's activities, the Japantown Farmer's Market and the Japanese American Museum-San Jose's Open House.

GAY COUPLES CHALLENGE CONNECTICUT'S MARRIAGE LAWS

By Cara Rubinsky. A lawyer for eight gay couples argued in court Tuesday that Connecticut's marriage laws illegally create a separate class of people based on sexual orientation. The couples, with the help of the Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, sued in 2004 in an attempt to overturn the state's ban on gay marriage.

Last year, Connecticut approved civil unions for gay couples, which gives them the same legal rights as heterosexual married couples, but that law also defined marriage as existing only between a man and a woman. That law "is nothing less than the government's announcement that these are second-class citizens," Ben Klein, a senior attorney for Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, told Superior Court Judge Patty Jenkins Pittman.

GLAD used a similar argument in Massachusetts, where gay marriage became legal after a 2003 state Supreme Judicial Court ruling, and similar lawsuits are pending in other states. In January, a Baltimore judge ruled that a law against gay marriage violates the Maryland Constitution's guarantee of equal rights.

Connecticut Assistant Attorney General Jane Rosenberg defended the laws Tuesday, arguing that there is no fundamental right to marry. She said it was reasonable for the state to create civil unions to give gay couples the legal rights of marriage while also dealing with administrative issues, such as federal Medicaid and Medicare programs, which do not recognize gay marriage.

Pittman asked Rosenberg if Connecticut's law preventing same-sex couples from marrying is any different from a Virginia law that prevented interracial couples from marrying until it was declared unconstitutional. Rosenberg responded that race is not an essential part of marriage but gender is. The judge did not immediately rule.

Japanese American Citizens League
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CALIFORNIA CIVIL LIBERTIES PUBLIC EDUCATION PROJECT PROPOSAL

We propose to create and maintain the “San Mateo Video Archive of Japanese American Internment Testimonies”--an onscreen repository of edited, digitally videotaped interviews and transcripts of witnesses and survivors of the internment experience. To this end, a website will be developed that combines the vivid memories of those who are able to chronicle this moment in history with a wide variety of archival materials. Stories will be complemented by visual elements--such as footage from the Army Signal Corps and newsreel films--that reinforce what they are describing. The internment was documented by the War Department, which used photographers Dorothea Lange and Ansel Adams to record the experience. The photographs are available at NARA and the Dorothea Lange collection at the Oakland Museum, and the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles has a collection of home movies that portray the pre-war lives of Japanese Americans. There is also a rich source of material in the personal possessions of those interned who kept journals and created art or saved photos and personal mementos. This website will be the first to feature not only audio-taped or transcribed personal testimonies but PDF files of select interview footage that powerfully attest to the truth of the tellers’ lived experience. As years pass and these individuals pass on, their words and images will serve as witnesses against public amnesia.



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