



2004 National JACL Convention

The 2004 National JACL Convention will be held August 10-14, 2004 at the Waikiki Marriott Hotel in Honolulu, Hawaii. Here is the [current convention schedule](#) .

One exciting event for Youth members is the [Min Yasui](#) Oratorical Contest, which will be held Friday, August 13th. One contestant from the Northern California Western Nevada-Pacific District will receive a travel stipend and two nights accomodation at the convention. The prize has not been announced, but past winners have received laptop computers or a PDA.

Please consult [this flyer](#) for more details. The contestant from our district will be chosen at the May 2004 District Council (place and date TBD). You can [contact our Regional Director](#) for more information.

The convention's web site is <http://www.jaclhawaii.org/>.

Celebrating JACL's 75th Anniversary

The Northern California Western Nevada Pacific District is holding a Recognition Dinner to celebrate JACL's 75th Anniversary and to honor the "unsung heroes" of the community. The event will take place on Saturday, March 27th, 2004, at the Blackhawk Auto Museum in Danville. Our keynote speaker will be [George Takei](#) and [Jan Yanehiro](#) will be the Mistress of Ceremonies. Our chapter's "unsung hero" will be announced shortly.

In addition to the dinner, we will be holding a silent auction and a benefit drawing. All proceeds will be used for the District's programs, including youth development, cultural enhancement, and civil rights programs.

Here is the [registration flyer](#) , and here are the [benefit drawing tickets](#). If you are interested in helping out at the event, you can download a [volunteer form](#).

New: Here is the [silent auction catalog](#).

Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston to speak at Installation Ceremony

The San Mateo JACL is pleased to announce that Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston, co-author of Farewell to Manzanar , will be the featured speaker at its combined Day of Remembrance and board installation ceremony. The event will take place on Sunday, February 29, 2004, 1-4 p.m., at the San Mateo County Historical Association Museum, 777 Hamilton Street, Redwood City (650-299-0104). Tickets to the event are \$20 and include a Japanese bento lunch.

Wakatsuki Houston's classic work is an autobiographical account of her life in an internment camp. She has also written a work of fiction, The Legend of Fire Horse Woman , a novel about three generations of women whose lives play out against the 1942 internment. Both works will be available for purchase at the event.

Checks must be received by Kate Motoyama at 583 Easton Avenue, San Bruno, CA 94066, no later than Wednesday, February 25th, in order to reserve seats.

National Leadership Conference

Applications for the 2004 Washington DC Leadership Conference (March 12-16) are due into District Governor Mark Kobayashi by January 15, 2004. The district selection committee will review the applications and choose our participants.

Applications are available on the [National JACL website](#). Send completed applications to: NCWNP Governor Mark Kobayashi, 2726 Middleborough Circle, San Jose, CA 95132.

Mochi Tsuki

The Sequoia JACL is holding a mochi-tsuki on Sunday, December 14th starting at 8:30 am at the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple (2751 Louis Rd). There will be a traditional rice-pounding ceremony. For more information, contact Al Nakai at (650) 322-6125.

Book Reading

The book "Blossoms in the Desert" is a book written by the class of 1945 of the Topaz High School, which was the last class to graduate from an American concentration camp before they were closed.

The authors received a CCLPEP (California Civil Liberties Public Education Program) grant to write their story of spending their entire high school years behind a barbed wire fence. "Blossoms in the Desert" has just been published and book readings are occurring throughout California to share their story with the public.

The [San Mateo JACL](#) is sponsoring a reading on Sunday, November 9th, at 2:00 pm at the Gardener's Hall at 503 East Fifth Ave, San Mateo, CA. The public is invited to attend, and light refreshments will be served.

History Project Book Signing

The San Mateo JACL History Project is pleased to announce the publication of "Building a Community: The Story of Japanese Americans in San Mateo County", a hard-bound book filled with historical photos and thoughtful remembrances. The book will be available on October 12, 2003 and will be celebrated with a public reception and book signing by the authors gayle yamada and Diane Fukami.

The event will take place on Sunday October 12, 2003 at the San Mateo Central Park Recreation Center at Fifth Ave. and El Camino Real from 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm.