

KOKORO

THE HEART AND SOUL OF OUR COMMUNITY
SAN MATEO CHAPTER JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE MARCH 2008
WWW.SANMATEOJACL.ORG
INQUIRIES: MARY JO KUBOTA-ARCAESE, 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 first Friday (one month prior to publication) and in electronic format [Microsoft WORD, New York font] to katemotoyama@sanbrunocable.com

SAN MATEO JACL 2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The San Mateo Chapter of JACL had a small but very active board in 2007. We, with the help of our many supporters, accomplished the following:

- Published and mailed our monthly newsletter *Kokoro*.
- Raised funds with our: Golf Tournament, Burger Booth, and fundraising letters.
- Supported / Co-Sponsored two educational programs at the San Mateo Library.
- Supported the Tanforan 65th Anniversary Project and the Tanforan Commemorative Japanese Garden, both financially and with SMJACL Board volunteer hours.
- Provided two scholarships to deserving students and held a scholarship award event.
- Supported the Japanese American Community Center with donations and volunteer time.
- Provided Day of Remembrance educational materials to all San Mateo County schools.
- Assisted with the planning and implementation of the May, 2007 Asian Pacific American Heritage Celebration at Central Park in San Mateo.
- Assisted with the planning and implementation of the June, 2007 Immigrants Day Festival at the San Mateo County Historical Museum in Redwood City.

Thanks to the generosity of the friends of San Mateo JACL listed below the 2007 Board of Directors were able to proactively pursue the goals set forth in our chapter's mission statement:

Marvin Kobori DDS, Hana Bay Flowers, Harry and Hideko Ichijji, Craig Ichijji, Mary Jo Kubota-Arcarese, Takahashi Market, Naomi and Howard Patridge, Karyl Matsumoto, David Hayashi DDS, Ted Yamagishi, Annette Motoyama, Kate Motoyama, Todd Hanamoto, and Allan Sakamoto. Thank you very much!

KITTY HONGO: IN REMEMBRANCE



On January 19, 2008 the San Mateo Japanese American Community lost Kitty Hongo, a dear friend and community activist. Helen "Kitty" Toshie Kitagawa Hongo was a nurse and a graduate of the Queens Hospital School of Nursing. In addition, she completed her operating room training at Johns Hopkins University. During nursing school, she got the nickname Kitty, based on her maiden name Kitagawa. She moved to San Mateo from Hawaii forty plus years ago and was active in the local Japanese American Community since that time! After raising her daughters, she re-entered college and became a San Mateo County court clerk. Kitty, a long time volunteer at the San Mateo Japanese American Community Center, was a Board Member as well. Kitty also served on the Board of the San Mateo JACL as a representative from the Community Center Board.

Kitty was a model of the "spirit" of community service. If there was a community event scheduled you would be sure to see Kitty there diligently working. She helped plan and support JA Community Center and JACL events. When JACL needed workers to cut vegetables for their annual "Burger Booth" Kitty sliced pounds of lettuce, tomatoes and onions! She worked BINGO nights, donated to local causes, worked at the "Tomodachi Club" annual boutique, the Health Fair, the Human Race...there was little happening in the community in which Kitty wasn't quietly involved. She could also be found volunteering her time to programs and events at the San Mateo Buddhist Church. Kitty volunteered for NCJASC and worked on the planning of "Shinnenkai" a New Year event for Northern California seniors. One would never know that Kitty Hongo was so involved in community work as she was reluctant to talk about herself. She was a quiet inspiration to those who witnessed her endless energy for service.

At JACL Board meetings Kitty's job was to communicate the news from the JA Community Center Board. Kitty kept the JACL Board apprised of events, issues and ideas from the Community Center Board. She thoroughly explained information to both boards keeping the communications between the two entities clear. Kitty anticipated agenda items that might become issues and took the time to clarify and explain all points of view in her open and straightforward manner. She was invaluable in helping JACL understand the process the Community Center Board experienced when they moved from JACL to become a separate non-profit. Kitty's term as a JACL Board Member was memorable! She motivated us to be more active in our communication and involvement in the community.

The loss of Helen "Kitty" Toshie Kitagawa Hongo deeply saddens us, yet we are grateful to have benefited from: her spirit, her generosity, her forthright manner, and her model of dedication and service to community.

MORE ON THE YEAR OF THE RAT

With the first sign of the Chinese zodiac being the Rat, this year of the Earth Rat is predicted to be an exciting year full of new beginnings. Restless and inquisitive, those born under the influence of the Rat are active, both physically and mentally, and tend to lead busy lives. Challenge is essential for them for they love the thrill of living dangerously, adapting easily to different environments, and surviving against all odds. With clairvoyance, intuition, perspicacity, and an eye for detail, Rats are formidable problem solvers, finding workable solutions to the knottiest problems. Traveling is one of their favorite pastimes. They have a natural talent for the arts, specifically writing.

The Rat possesses a marvelous sense of humor, which makes them stimulating and amusing company to have around. This is also a year of major accomplishments and excellent relationships, as the elements of Earth and Water come together.

MIN YASUI ORATORICAL COMPETITION

The 2008 Minoru Yasui Oratorical Competition, named in memory of Min Yasui, an attorney and civil rights activist, is intended to develop, encourage, and reinforce verbal communication skills among the younger members of JACL. Any questions may be addressed to San Mateo JACL.

Eligibility

- All competitors must be members of JACL at the time of the District Council or National competitions. Family membership does not qualify.
- The competition is open to high school students, age 16 or older, or full-time undergraduate college students.
- Competitors must compete in-person at the District Council where they hold their JACL membership.
- National contestants must be approved by their JACL District Council.

Rules

Speeches are limited to 3-5 minutes in length. All speeches must be composed by the contestants. Speeches should be committed to memory. An outline on index cards is permitted. The same speech may be used for both District and National competitions. Visual aids are not allowed. No more than 150 words may be a direct quotation from any speech or writing. Extensive paraphrasing of another source is prohibited.

Topic

The current generation of Japanese American youth faces issues of growing ethnic and generational diversity within the community. As a youth member of the JACL, how will you approach this challenge of increasing diversity to meet the needs of the changing community?

COMMUNITY CENTER EVENTS

The first Wednesday of every month, volunteer nurses from our community will take your blood pressure at the San Mateo Japanese Community Center. The time is 1 p.m.-2 pm., free of charge. If you have any questions, please call 650-343-2793.

March 29, 2008, Saturday: *Shinnen Kai at SACBC*, 10 am to 2:30 pm

April 13, 2008, Sunday: *"Open House" at SMJA Community Center*, 11 am to 2 pm.

The Center celebrates the 5th Anniversary of formally incorporating "San Mateo Japanese American Community Center" as an independent non-profit organization. Legal transferring of the Gardeners' Hall and Community Center Building at 415 S. Claremont Street to the Center was accomplished later in 2005. Refreshments will be served.

April 20, 2008, Sunday: *Cherry Blossom Senior Appreciation Brunch at Kabuki Hotel* (formerly Miyako Hotel), San Francisco, 9 am to 11:30 am.

April 26, 2008, Saturday: *Rummage Sale at Gardeners' Hall*, 9 am to 4 pm. Donations will be accepted from 10am to 4pm, Monday to Friday. Please, no shoes, furniture, appliances, vinyl records, and VCR tapes. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

May, 2008. Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

June 12, 2008, Thursday. Quality of Life Conference at South San Francisco Conference Center. Sponsored by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and the community center.

August, 2008, Saturday. Potluck and Raffle.

September, 2008. San Francisco Opera Dress Rehearsal.

September 27, 2008, Saturday. City of San Mateo Health Fair, 10 am to 2 pm. Alameda de las Pulgas Senior Center.

September, 2008. Volunteers' Appreciation Luncheon at San Mateo Gardeners' Hall.

October, 2008, Saturday. Community Center clean up.

November 8, 2008, Saturday. Holiday Boutique at San Mateo Gardeners' Hall.

December, 2008. Holiday Luncheon.

SUNDAY MATINEE

February's Sunday Matinee was "Duel at Ichijoji Temple." The movie depicted the legendary Musashi Miyamoto's wanderings through the turmoil of 17th Century Japan in search of both the skill and temperament worthy of a great warrior.

Upcoming Sunday Matinee, March 23rd, 1:30 pm
SMJA Community Center, 415 S. Claremont St., San Mateo

Japanese American Citizens League
415 Claremont San Mateo CA 94401

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"Duel at Ganryu Island"

This movie provides samurai fans with some of the most scintillating swordplay and battle sequences ever filmed. It is the final showdown for Musashi Miyamoto and his arch rival, Kojiro Sasaki. Toshiro Mifune, Koji Tsuruta, and Kaoru Yachigusa star.
1956, Color, 108 min. In Japanese with English subtitles.

April 27th Sunday 1:30 pm

"Planet Earth"

Documentary: Five discs to choose from.

May 25th Sunday 1:30 pm

"Riding Alone for Thousands of Miles" 2006 Directed by Yimou Zhang
Starring Ken Takakura who traveled to China with his dying son to learn the local opera of Yunan.



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