

# KOKORO

the heart and soul of our community  
San Mateo Chapter Japanese American Citizens League October 2010  
www.sanmateojacl.org  
inquiries: Steve Okamoto 650.574.2641

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) steveokamoto1@gmail.com

## Community Center News

November 13 is the Holiday Bake and Rummage Sale -10 AM to 4 PM.

December 14 is the Holiday Luncheon

## National JACL News

### UPDATES ON CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS FOR WWII VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

#### Post Congressional Gold Medal Signing

**On October 5, 2010 President Obama signed S. 1055 into law that awards the Congressional Gold Medal to the 100th, 442nd and MIS. The JACL Congratulates all 100th, 442nd and MIS veterans on the passage of the bill and JACL, along with the National Veteran's Network (NVN) will keep you and your families updated on the Congressional Ceremony and future involvement. Please forward this email to anyone you think would want updates.**

**Two updates from the NVN is a letter from Christine Sato-Yamazaki, Chairperson, concerning the WWII Vets, their families, and others who might want to attend the Awards Ceremony in Washington DC or want updates. The NVN has also launched a website to keep you updated. See links below as well as more updates:**

**Please click here for the NVN Letter:** <http://bit.ly/NVNletter>

**Please click here for the new NVN site:**<http://bit.ly/NVNwebsite>

**Here is the latest on the Congressional Gold Medal:**

- **Congressional Ceremony - the medal presentation/ceremony hosted by congressional leaders will take place either in the summer or fall of 2011.**

It will take approximately 6-8 month for the US Mint to finish the design process. Representing NVN, Christine will work closely with congressional leaders to plan the national ceremony that will likely take place in or near the Capitol Rotunda. Given the age of the veterans, we will do our best to advocate for an early ceremony date to ensure that as many living veterans are able to attend. Please be advised that only ONE medal is being awarded to the the three units. This medal is an unit award, not an award being awarded to each individual. After the single medal is officially presented, the original gold medal will be given to the Smithsonian ceremony for future display. 3" Bronze replicas of the medal will be available for purchase at the time of the ceremony.

- US Mint - NVN will work closely with the U.S. Mint on the design of the Congressional Gold Medal. Christine along with the Medal Design Committee headed by Gen. Jim Mukoyama will be interfacing with the Mint design team to ensure that the medal design best represents the 100th, 442nd and MIS. Last week, a meeting took place with the U.S. Mint to discuss the process, timeline and role that NVN will play during the next 6-8 months.
- Eligibility of Congressional Gold Medal - if a veteran or family member would like to inquire on whether one is a recipient of the gold medal, please refer to the NVN web site under "eligibility." If further clarification is needed, please feel free to contact Terry Shima ([ttshima@comcast.net](mailto:ttshima@comcast.net)) who chairs an NVN ad-hoc committee that reviews and determines eligibility based on the guidelines of the gold medal bill.
- Nationwide Nisei Veteran Search - NVN is conducting a nationwide campaign to seek 100th, 442nd and MIS veterans who are interested in attending the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony and celebration in Washington DC next year. Any interested veterans, next of kin and spouses are encouraged to register by going to the NVN web site ([www.nationalveteransnetwork.com](http://www.nationalveteransnetwork.com)) to the "ceremony" page and submitting your information via online form. Alternatively, you can also email Terry Shima ([ttshima@comcast.net](mailto:ttshima@comcast.net)) or Metta Tanikawa ([cgm.tanikawa@gmail.com](mailto:cgm.tanikawa@gmail.com)) with the required information listed on the attached letter. This list will eventually serve as the invitation list that will be provided to Congress, once a determination is made on venue, # of attendees allowed and who specifically will be invited to the ceremonies, i.e. veterans, next of kin, spouses. We encourage you to register asap and forward the attached letter to friends and family members who are related to 100th, 442nd and MIS veterans.
- Honor Flight/Southwest Airlines - Honor Flight is a national nonprofit organizations that honors America's veterans by sponsoring veterans to Washington DC to see their national memorial. Over the past five years, it has flown nearly 36,000 veterans to the nation's capital. We are pleased to announce that Honor Flight will partner with NVN to work on providing the best possible deal to fly 100th, 442nd and MIS veterans to Washington DC via their airlines sponsor, Southwest Airlines. Honor Flight will make its final determination on its support to NVN once the date of the ceremony and # of veterans attending the ceremonies is know. In order to be placed under consideration, veterans must register via the NVN web site, Terry Shima or Metta Tanikawa.

# SECOND HARVEST FOOD SORT



# FOOD BANK

We will be sorting canned food and dried goods that are going to be sent to needy families in the Bay Area!



Saturday, November 13. 9:00 am-12:00 noon

Location:

Second Harvest Food Bank

1051 Bing St., San Carlos, CA 94070

(650)610-0800

RSVP: [chrisbush2@yahoo.com](mailto:chrisbush2@yahoo.com) by 11/5



**JACL**  
***HealthBenefitsTrust***

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Non-Profit Organization  
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