

KOKORO

THE HEART AND SOUL OF OUR COMMUNITY
SAN MATEO CHAPTER JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE SEPT 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 third Friday in electronic format [Microsoft WORD, New York font] to katemotoyama@sanbrunocable.com.

HATE CRIMES CIVIL REMEDIES ACT SIGNED INTO LAW

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed AB 378 (Chu, D-Monterey Park), the Hate Crimes Civil Liberties Act, into law.

AB 378 extends the time limit for which hate crime victims can file a civil suit from one year to three years. AB 378 was inspired by a 2003 case in San Francisco where five Asian American teens were brutally attacked by a mob of white youth. The five teens were accosted with racial slurs and chased down by their attackers as they tried to flee the scene. Although three attackers were caught at the scene, only one attacker was identified and charged with a crime. Even then, it took one year to bring that perpetrator to trial. It was only at trial that the identity of the other attackers came to light.

The lengthy process of identifying hate crime perpetrators and concluding a criminal trial created obstacles that bar hate crime victims from seeking meaningful civil remedies. Victims are advised not to file civil suits until the criminal case has concluded since civil suits could negatively affect the outcome of the criminal trial. The unfortunate consequence, though, is that many victims find themselves beyond the statute of limitation to file a civil lawsuit. The Hate Crimes Civil Liberties Act remedies that, enabling hate crime victims to achieve justice in the criminal system and obtain civil redress for the crime committed against them.

GHOSTS OF LITTLE BOY: ARTISTS FOR PEACE EVENTS

"Little Boy" was the name given to the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, Japan on August 6, 1945. 2005 marks the sixtieth year since the atomic devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This unleashing of nuclear weapons upon the world created untold suffering for hundreds of thousands in an instant, and a legacy for all future generations.

The legacy of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki is a lasting one and, in the words of the hibakusha (survivors) themselves, "it must never be repeated." Yet the nuclear threat today is more widespread than ever before. The message of Hiroshima and Nagasaki echoes to us with resounding urgency that it must never happen again.

The Hiroshima and Nagasaki 60th Anniversary Commemoration, which began in August 2005 and continues through January 2006, is a remembrance of the victims and survivors of the atomic bombings during World War II and an opportunity to learn from the past. It is a time to understand the nature of the nuclear threat to humanity and to our environment in the face of changing times and to understand what we as individuals can do. Finally, the 60th

Anniversary Commemoration is a time to promote the peaceful resolution of conflict, at home and abroad, and to rebuild and renew community ties with one another towards a future of peace.

An Artists for Peace exhibit, "Ghosts of Little Boy," brings together "multicultural artists who think globally by addressing the broad concerns of atomic energy, war and peace, and act locally by working together to build a community of peace," says curator Bob Hanamura. It will be held in two parts: Part I: August 6, 2005 to October 7th; and Part II: October 15th through January 31, 2006. Featured artists in Part I include: Lucy Arai, Marlene Aron, Robert Brady, Sayko Dairiki, Ronald Garrigues, Esther Hernandez, Chiei Ishida, Betty Kano, Betsie Miller-Kusz, Masaru Tanaka, Diana Krevsky, Lucien Kubo, Dawn Nakanishi, Glen Moriwaki, Asuka Ohsawa, Arthur Okamura, Emiko Oye, Jos Sances, Ben Sakoguchi, Lewis Suzuki, Kana Tanaka, Kumiko Tanaka, Scott Tsuchitani and Jeremy Waltman. For more information, contact NJAHS at (415) 921-5007, or visit www.njahs.org

TRI-DISTRICT CONFERENCE

The Tri-District Conference "Effecting Change," hosted by PSW was scheduled for Sept. 9-11 at the Irvine Marriott. Workshops focused on civil rights, youth, and cultural issues.

SAVE THE DATE: HELP CLEAN UP YOUR COMMUNITY CENTER!

The annual clean-up of our Community Center will be Saturday, October 1, 2006, from 8-12. Please let the Center know if you can make it or whether you want to contribute a dish to feed the volunteers. It will be fun to work together and enjoy refreshments and chitchat!

SAVE THE DATE: COMMUNITY CENTER VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON

The Advisory Board has chosen the date of Thursday, October 6th for its annual luncheon to thank its volunteers who staff various positions at the center. It will be from 11-2 at the Gardeners' Hall. Invitations will be mailed to these dedicated volunteers; however, if you have inadvertently been missed, please leave a message at the Community Center. The keynote speaker will be Honorable Karyl Matsumoto, Council Member, South San Francisco and San Mateo JAACL member. Thank you, volunteers, for making the center the resource it is today!

MEETING DATES FOR COMMUNITY CENTER GROUPS: PLEASE JOIN IN!

All meetings are held at the JA Community Center:

Kiraku Kai, 3rd Wednesdays, 11 a.m.
Tomodachi, 2nd, 4th, and 5th Wednesdays, 1 p.m.
Widowed Group, 3rd Sunday, 2 p.m.
Community Center Advisory Board, 2nd Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

Note that Saturday, November 12th, is Tomodachi's Annual Boutique, where there will be a lot of goodies to buy and good food, such as sushi, manju, cookies. If you have Japanese crafts you would like to contribute or would like to make Japanese food or dessert, please leave a message for Tomodachi at the Center.

Finally, in December, there will be a "Holiday luncheon" for everyone. Details to follow later.

The Center's website is "smjacc.org".

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS FOR THE REST OF 2005

Free blood pressure readings will be taken at the Japanese American Community Center on these dates:

September 7
October 5
November 2
December 7

In addition, flu shots will be available on November 2nd, 1-2:30 p.m., at a cost of \$5.00. Please call the Center with any questions.

COMMISSION ON AGING AND MINORITY ELDERS COMMITTEE

The Commission on Aging provides the opportunity for seniors to influence and participate in the development of public policy. The mission is to maintain, enhance, and improve the quality of life for seniors in San Mateo County through the promotion of independence and self-sufficiency, mental and physical health, and social and community involvement.

The goals of the Commission on Aging are to:

- * Promote advocacy of senior issues
- * Develop and enhance community-based systems of care
- * Plan and develop programs for minorities and ethnically diverse groups
- * Promote and support the planning and development of transportation systems, affordable housing, employment opportunities, and new resources and services where none exist
- * Develop and communicate appropriate public policy
- * Identify unmet needs through public forums

The Minority Elders Committee, part of the Commission on Aging, recognizes that 30% of the county's population is 65 years old and over and Asian, Latino, African American, Pacific Islander, or Native American. The Minority Elders Committee seeks to provide ethnic-specific information to the minority elders in their native language, remove obstacles to their accessing available services, and advocate with organizations and agencies to be responsive to the needs of minority elders.

If you have questions or suggestions regarding the Commission or Minority Elders Committee, or if you would like to participate on a committee or apply to serve as a commissioner, please call 650.573.2700 or TTY 650.573.2220.

ROGER SHIMOMURA, ARTIST, "STEREOTYPES AND ADMONITIONS"

The Greg Kucera Gallery in Seattle, WA exhibited Roger Shimomura's body of work, "Stereotypes and Admonitions," in 2003. In the catalogue published in 2004, Shimomura's paintings examine the personal conflict experienced by so many Japanese Americans as they "navigate the troubled waters between their ancestral Japanese culture and their contemporary American history." The critic Lucy Lippard comments in her essay, "Perilous Times," that the racist stereotypes Shimomura uses as content in this series of paintings are "alas, still common" in the United States.

Of this exhibit, Shimomura states, "This series illustrates incidents of racial insensitivity I have experienced during my life. . . . Also included in this series are events that have affected the Asian American community on a regional and national basis over the past 60 years—essentially my lifetime." Shimomura's work covers the 1982 murder of Vincent Chin, whose perpetrators received three years probation and a \$3,000 fine, to the 1997 incident where Asian and Asian American students were attacked at Denny's in Syracuse, New York, to Shimomura's experience with guest artist in residence Edgar Heap-of-Birds, who were mocked by an administrator who said, derisively, "I want you to check the Ids of those two characters out there."

One painting, "Housing Discrimination," is described in this way in the catalogue:

"A study released July 1, 2003, by the Department of Housing and Urban Development shows that among Asians and Pacific Islanders attempting to buy or rent a home, one out of every five experience some kind of discrimination—a rate similar to that of African Americans and Hispanics. The study was conducted in Anaheim/Santa Ana, Chicago, Honolulu, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, New York, Oakland, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, and Washington, D.C. This is the first time HUD has measured the extent of housing discrimination against Asians and Pacific Islanders."

Shimomura was born in 1939 and, at the age of three, was interned at Camp Minidoka in Idaho. He received his BA from the University of Washington and MFA in Painting from Syracuse University, New York. He has lived in Lawrence, Kansas, since accepting a teaching position there in 1969. Several bodies of his work were inspired by fifty-six years of diaries kept by his late immigrant grandmother.

SUNDAY MATINEE MOVIE AT JA COMMUNITY CENTER

Sunday Matinee Movie, September 25, 2005, 1:30 pm at JA Community Center, San Mateo

“EAT A BOWL OF TEA”

Endearing new comedy of cross cultural manners. A taste of life in New York’s Chinatown of the late 1940’s. Directed by Wayne Wang (Maid in Manhattan, The Joy Luck Club). Starring Cora Miao, Russell Wong & Victor Wong. Chinese with English subtitles, 102 minutes. Free admission.



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