

KOKORO

the heart and soul of our community
san mateo chapter Japanese American citizens league sept 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, Calibri font] to katemotoyama@sanbrunocable.com

DOCUMENTING MULTIRACIAL IDENTITY

An article in the August 16, 2008 edition of the *San Jose Mercury News* titled "Finding a multiracial identity, in small numbers," by Mike Swift discussed the growth of the "multiracial" category due to changes made by the U.S. Census Bureau in 2000. At that time, the federal government allowed people to choose all applicable racial categories. While it was believed that this would create a boom in multiple-race classification, it has not been the case.

Although there are more mixed marriages and multiracial children—specifically a 16 percent increase in the former over five years—respondents have not checked off more than one category in the census. The article points out some interesting—and famous—multiracial individuals whose claim to racial heritage differ:

In 1997, [Tiger] Woods caused a firestorm when he said he did not want to be pigeonholed in a single racial box—black. The former Stanford University student, whose late father was black and whose mother is Thai, famously described how he made up the word "Cablinasian" to incorporate his full heritage of Caucasian, Black, American Indian and Asian.

Obama talks extensively about being the son of a black father from Korea and a white mother from Kansas, but consistently describes himself as African American.

The Hapa Issues Forum, based in Berkeley, is one of a few organizations that seek to give an identity and build community for those with a multiracial background. Swift's article describes one serious consequence of not having a specific "multiracial" category on the census. It can be difficult to find genetic matches for multiracial individuals who need a bone marrow transplant, for example. An 18-month-old was diagnosed with leukemia and needed a transplant, but his chances of finding a donor were "slim to none," due to his heritage of Japanese, Irish, and Japanese.

THE 100/44 IS ALIVE AND WELL, contd.

Not so many people know that the unit name [Go For Broke] still exists. First Sgt. Beau Tatsumura of D Company (his regular job is at Aloha Airlines) tells of meeting an elderly woman, saying he was in the 100/442nd and she scoffed at him as a liar. "You're not old enough to have been in that," she scolded.

The current 100/442nd men and women did a 20-month deployment in 2005-06 for training and then Iraq combat duty. Most are going on a new, one-year deployment to Kuwait and/or Iraq this fall. That's a strain on family life. But as Tatsumura says, "When you sign on the dotted line . . ."

This Sunday at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom, survivors of the original 442nd, their sons and daughters, and some current 100/442nd reservists—altogether about 12,000 strong—will lunch and observe the 65th anniversary of the founding of the original regiment. The keynote

speakers will be one of their distinguished brothers-in-law, Medal of Honor holder and U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye. The theme of the day is: "65 Years And Still Going For Broke."

There are so many stories to be told about the 442nd that most writers wrestle with where to begin. There are books and movies—some movies were OK, but the first one with Van Johnson was very bad. The stories, however, live in well-recorded oral histories and in the 442nd clubhouse archives on Wiliwili Street in McCully. But that cadre of amazing men dwindles as the years race by.

The above article, authored by Bob Jones, is excerpted from *MidWeek*, March 28, 2008.

IN SUMMER, A TASTE OF HOME

In an article by this title authored by Jessie Mangaliman in the August 2, 2008 edition of *The San Jose Mercury News*, it was revealed that the Western Pacific Oriental Grocery Store in Sunnyvale has been a source of hard-to-find ingredients for Filipino immigrants hungry for a taste of home.

Local gardeners from the South Bay, all Filipino immigrants in their 70s and 80s, bring homegrown fruits and vegetables to the store. Many gardeners are from Ilocos Norte, a northern Philippine province "known for its gardeners." One backyard gardener is "Manang Isabel," an 84-year-old who, on a trip 37 years ago from the Philippines, ate a calamansi and saved two seeds before going through immigration. One of those seeds is now the tall calamansi tree in her backyard garden.

Sometimes, store owners Manuel and Estela Agustin said,

[T]he gardeners refuse to get paid. Instead they might barter bunches of "ampalaya" leaves, the young, leafy shoots of bitter melon for a home-made snack, or "karioca," caramelized sticky rice.

Buckets of "calamansi," a cherry tomato-sized citrus from the Philippines began arriving in recent days. Last week, "upo," a white gourd the length of two baseball bats was delivered announced. Deep purple "talong," banana-shaped eggplants, are in profusion now.

Executive Chef Tim Luym of the trendy Poleng Lounge visited recently with plans to make "tinola," a brothy dish of boiled chicken, green papaya and "sili," or pepper leaves. When he found "calamansi," he added "Calamantini," a cocktail made with the tart juice of the citrus. Another customer of Western Pacific, Beth Ponce, said, "I can't wait for the tabos ng kamote [tender young shoots of a sweet potato]. I don't see it any other place. So I come here."

SPIRIT OF JAPANTOWN FESTIVAL 10/4/2008

JCCsj will host a San Jose Japantown Festival on Saturday, October 4, 2008, 10 am to 6 pm, for eight blocks surrounding its heart -- 5th Street and Jackson Street. The theme of the festival is "UPP!:"

Unification of all ethnicities, community organizations, artists, and businesses in Japantown.

Promotion of San Jose Japantown to bring awareness of the community to San Jose and surrounding areas.

Preservation of San Jose Japantown and its unique blend of culture.

San Jose Japantown is one of the last three major Japantowns that remain in the United States. Japantown Community Congress of San Jose (JCCsj) was created to continue the cultural and historical preservation of a 118 year-old, multi-ethnic Japantown. The JCCsj is composed of Japantown advocates, including representatives of major organizations, members-at-large, residents, businesses, and property owners.

Activities

The Spirit of Japantown Festival has a variety of sections and activities:

- . Main Street - Local San Jose Japantown merchants, restaurants, professionals, and organizations
- . Original Arts and Crafts
- . Car Exhibition - including imports, classics, and more

- . Sports sections, including local San Jose sports teams and martial arts
- . Fruits, Flowers and Plants
- . Antiques and Fine Arts
- . Food and Products from Japan
- . Hawaiian Section
- . Kid's Activity Zone
- . Entertainment
- . Exhibitions: Ikebana, the art of Japanese flower arranging, Bonsai the art of Japanese plant sculpting, Samurai Sword Exhibit and Nisei (Japanese American) Veterans Exhibit

Profits from this festival will be used to continue JCCsj efforts for the historical and cultural preservation of San Jose Japantown.

"DREAM CENTER" FOR AUTISTIC ASIANS

An article titled, "Autistic Asians get a window of opportunity," by Lisa Fernandez, that appeared in the August 11, 2008 edition of the *San Jose Mercury News*, stated that there's a pilot program in San Jose that seeks to provide a fun, helpful, and culturally relevant experience for autistic children and their parents of Chinese heritage.

The two-week day camp schedule, run by the Friends of Children with Special Needs Dream Center, has activities such as kung fu lessons, math and music lessons, potlucks, speech therapy, and socialization skills. This year, the camp served a dozen 9 to 18 year olds. The article states, "The Dream Center was founded by a few Chinese families in 1996, in an uphill struggle to help fellow Asians who were raised to feel ashamed of disabilities. [Anna] Wang said that in the past, many autistic children have been hidden away. She added the parents have often been blamed for somehow causing this developmental disability marked by anti-social behavior, such as scant eye contact, verbal outbursts and self-harming acts." Wang, who is co-founder of The Dream Center, states that the stigma of being a "special needs" family is beginning to wane. In 10 years, the membership has gone from 10 families to 600.

UPDATE ON PROJECT TO RECOGNIZE CSM STUDENTS INCARCERATED DURING WWII

Lewis Kawahara, an ethnic studies professor at College of San Mateo, asked that *Kokoro* publish an article addressing his search for former CSM students who had to withdraw from college due to Executive Order 9066. His research and quest to ask that the college recognize these students is continuing. If you have any information, please contact Lewis through the San Mateo JACL president or you may contact him directly at 650-378-7301, ext. 19056, email: KawaharaL@smccd.edu.

Through his research, Lewis has discovered 45 persons of Japanese descent who were enrolled at College of San Mateo whose records show "no grade," "withdraw," "evacuated," "leave of absence," "army," "W," "evacuated to Denver," "left school," "transfer," "special problems," and the like. Some of these 45 former CSM students are deceased, unfortunately. As a professor, one comes across students with life circumstances that necessitate withdrawal. Sometimes, it is because the student is called up into service; at other times, it could be an illness or move because of a new position that creates the reason for withdrawal. These emergency withdrawals are treated as exceptional and so, no matter the date of withdrawal during the semesters, the student's grade would be factored out of the overall GPA.

The Japanese American students enrolled at CSM were, like their peers and students anywhere, pursuing their dream of working toward a higher education. This dream was deferred or destroyed because of EO 9066, which interned Peninsula residents and removed them to remote rural areas in the United States such as Utah, Arizona, and parts of California. In other words, the students' withdrawal from school was one that is directly attributable to an error of commission by our government, and Kawahara and others would like to see the students recognized in some manner by the college and community.

What happens to a dream deferred? --Langston Hughes

What happens to a dream deferred?

Does it dry up

Japanese American Citizens League
415 Claremont San Mateo CA 94401

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #440
San Mateo, CA

like a raisin in the sun?

Or fester like a sore--
and then run?

Does it stink like rotten meat?
Or crust and sugar over--
like a syrupy sweet?

Maybe it just sags
like a heavy load

Or does it just explode?



JACL
HealthBenefitsTrust

1-800-400-6633