

KOKORO

Summer Terakoya

San Mateo JACL Members helped teach children from grades 1-9 at "Summer Terakoya" at the San Mateo Buddhist Temple. The purpose of the program is to provide enriching cultural experiences for the youth of our community through a variety of activities that will deepen the understanding of Japanese culture.

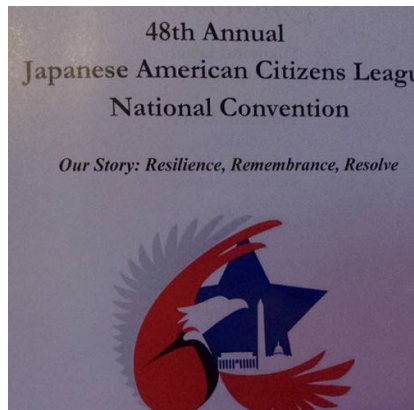
They learned how to make ramen with fresh ramen noodles, different types of broths and toppings, and topped with a shoyu (soy sauce) marinated hard boiled egg. Preparation and hard work done by Diana Okamoto. The children also enjoyed Kamishibai (Japanese storytelling), told by Mary Jo Kubota-arcarese, who used illustrated boards that she placed in a miniature stage-like device and narrated the story by changing each image.



2017 JACL National Convention- Washington D.C.



Daphne Kwok formerly head of the OCA and now head of AARP in DC.



Secretary Norman Mineta

2017 Scholarship Award



San Mateo JACL Board is proud to announce that their 2017 Scholarship was awarded to Hillsdale High School senior Lee T. Osaki of San Mateo. Lee plans to major in Mechanical / Civil Engineering. He applied to several universities and was strongly considering attending San Jose State University which boasts a highly rated engineering program. Lee participated in basketball and track and field at his school. He was also an active member of the Polynesian Club at Hillsdale. Lee has been very involved with the Japanese American Community. He was a counselor for the Tomodachi

Summer Camp Program for three summers and took responsibility for training other youth counselors. Lee joined the Japanese Community Youth Council a non-profit that assists children and youth. In his leadership role in this program Lee volunteered many after school hours to help and organize community service projects and events. His pilgrimage to Tule Lake to educate himself about his grandparent's history motivated Lee speak out against hate and injustice at several events. He is one of the narrators for the recent educational documentary film "Yonsei Eyes" about Tule Lake Concentration Camp. Lee was awarded his Scholarship at the joint San Mateo OCA and San Mateo JACL scholarship luncheon on May 7, 2017.

Meet the 2017 Board of Directors

President: **Steve Okamoto** and Youth Outreach Chair: **Diana Okamoto**: Steve is a former councilman in Foster City and is currently a pro-Bono Legacy Planner for several non-profits. Diana is a licensed and certified interior designer. She specializes in kitchen and bath design using tile and stone. They have two children, Brad, 37 and Katie, 36. They have lived in Foster City for 40 years.

Treasurer: **Lisa Sakaguchi** is an office administrator for a residential real estate company for over 10 years. She's a lifelong resident of San Mateo, born and raised here. Her passions include volunteering for several non-profit organizations (i.e. Homeless Cat Network and San Mateo County History Museum). She serves on the Board of Directors for her home owners association serving as the President for the last 19 years. She's also on the Board of Directors for San Mateo Police Department Neighborhood Watch and the San Mateo Parks & Rec Foundation. She's been the treasurer for San Mateo JACL for the last 8 years.

Secretary: After retiring from Local Union 467 Apprenticeship Committee after 39 years, **Misa Sakaguchi** was hired the very next day to work part-time with the San Mateo County Historical Association where she recently celebrated my 20th year. Misa continues to enjoy working with people and giving back to her wonderful city and county.

SMJACC Executive Director: **Wes Taoka** is currently Executive Director of the San Mateo Japanese-American Community Center. He came to the Center as a volunteer after retiring from a varied career. His last position was with a nonprofit organization working with scholarly databases. Previously he had worked in Tokyo for a Japanese company (twice), in Europe at a United Nations agency, on the East Coast at universities, as well as in California in private industry. His undergraduate studies were at UC Berkeley, which included a year at the University of Bergen, Norway, and his graduate studies were at Simmons College in Boston. He has traveled extensively both for work and pleasure.

News Letter and Web Site Manager: **Lauren Kawawaki** works at S&P Global Ratings as a Research Analyst in the local government sector. She loves running half marathons, eating delicious food, and traveling.

June Uyenoyama is a retired banker with a 44 year career with Bank of America and Union Bank. She was active with JACL as a youth and young adult and renewed her commitment to keeping alive the political, cultural, and social connection of the Japanese-American community and its relevance to the following generation.

Mary Jo Kubota-Arcarese is a Transitional-Kindergarten teacher in the Daly City, Jefferson School District. She has been active on the San Mateo JACL Board since the mid-eighties. Currently Mary Jo takes care of the JACL Scholarship Activities for the chapter and she loves to travel.

Kathryn Sneath, raised in California (born in Denver), worked as an elementary school teacher initially and later worked for financial institutions including Schwab and Visa and current volunteer for the local JA Community Center and local Buddhist Temple.

Liz (Ikeda) Bissell is a medical social worker at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital. She formerly worked for Kimochi, Inc. in San Mateo County, working with Sturge Presbyterian Church and the San Mateo Buddhist Temple to support family caregivers. Liz was born in San Mateo, the daughter of Reverend Kent Ikeda, who was the pastor of Sturge Presbyterian Church and later The Japanese Church of Christ in Salt Lake City. Liz's grandparents, John and Hatsuyo Ozawa, were the owners of Shue Do manju shop in San Jose's Japantown. Liz joined JACL many years ago, opening her first bank account at JACL Credit Union. Liz was the proud recipient of an educational scholarship from the Salt Lake City JACL for her graduate studies. She lives in Belmont with her husband Jonathan and two daughters, Llewelyn (11) and Julia (9). Liz has also I worked with the JACC, as well as Sturge and SMBT.

Union Bank Branch Manager: **Simon Liu** is a Vice President and Branch Manager at Union Bank. He currently manages two bank branches located in San Mateo and Burlingame. Growing up in San Francisco, Simon understands and values cultural diversity and is passionate about assisting local Asian communities in becoming financially strong and educated. He graduated from San Jose State University with a Bachelor's degree in Marketing. Simon also enjoys spending time with his family and parenting his 4-year old daughter. He strongly believes in family value that is essential to one's success

San Mateo JACL Board of Directors strive to achieve the aims of our mission statement: The 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. If you would like to be a part of our board please contact Steve Okamoto at steveokamoto1@gmail.com.
