

KOKORO



Kimochi Cocktail Reception

The Consul General of Japan, Masato Watanabe, invited San Mateo JACL board members to a cocktail reception at his residence in San Francisco to celebrate the new endeavor of Kimochi San Mateo. It was announced that the Capital Campaign goal to cover construction and equipment was met and they will begin construction this April. There was an accomplished young pianist and delicious food.

Pictured: Steve Okamoto, Steve Nakajo, Consul General Watanabe, Mrs. Watanabe, Sandi Mori, and John Noguchi

Children's Day: Kodomo No Hi

Girl's Day or Hinamatsuri (Doll Festival) is celebrated on the third day of the third month (March 3). Boy's Day or Tango No Sekku (Beginning of Summer) is celebrated on the fifth day of the fifth month (May 5). The Japanese government changed to the name "Kodomo No Hi" to respect all children's personalities as well as to express gratitude towards their mother, celebrating both girls and boys day on May 5. The San Mateo JACL will host a craft celebration for Children's Day, Saturday, May 9 at the San Mateo Japanese American Community Center, 415 South Claremont, San Mateo, 94401, from 2-4pm. We will make cards using origami paper (iris folding) and Gytaku Fish Printing. We chose Iris folding as the prints are found in kimono and fabric designs to represent Japanese dolls and the Gytaku to represent fish's strength in swimming upstream as seen in the "koi no bori" flags.

Space is limited. Please reserve a spot by April 30, 2015. Diana Okamoto: 650-269-0934, dianaokamoto@gmail.com

2015 Upcoming Events

May 1-2: 6th Annual College of San Mateo Asian Pacific American Film Festival

May 9: Children's Day Event

May 30: San Mateo JACL Chapter 80th Anniversary Dinner

Chapter Anniversary Dinner

The San Mateo Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year. The Chapter Anniversary Dinner will be held at the San Mateo County History Museum on Saturday, May 30, 2015 from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Wendy Hanamura, Director of Partnerships at the Internet Archive, will be the guest speaker and emcee. John Tateishi, former JACL National Director, and Satoshi Hane, currently chairman of the SMJACC, will be honored. The buffet dinner will be \$75. for more information, please contact Steve Okamoto at 650-574-2641 or Lisa Sakaguchi at lsakaguchi@apr.com.

Cherry Blossom Festival Senior Appreciation

The 28th Annual Senior Appreciation Luncheon at the 2015 Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival will be held on the first Sunday of the festival, April 12, 2015. If you are interested in attending, please contact the SMJACC by Friday, March 6, 2015 by telephone at 650-343-2793 or by email at sanmateojacc@gmail.com. The fee is \$10.00 for seniors and \$25 for non-seniors.

2015 Scholarship Winners

San Mateo JACL Board is pleased to announce their 2015 Scholarship Award Winners. Kelly Toma, a senior at San Mateo High and Ashley Yakushi, a senior at Hillside High School are to be presented with a scholarship award and certificate at the SMJACL 80th Anniversary Event on May 30, 2015. Kelly, who plans to study Biomedical engineering, and Ashley, who plans to study Psychology, will be invited to share their future plans with those in attendance. Both of these young women are highly qualified for this award! We will publish a more in depth article in our Summer Newsletter detailing their academic qualifications, involvement in the community and extra curricular activities.



Tanabata (Star Festival)



Long, long time ago, there was a weaver princess, ORIHIME, daughter of TEN-HOU, the god of the sky, who met KENGYU, a cow herder prince. They fell in love and spent all their time together, ignoring the cows and the gods' clothes. Eventually, the cows got sick and there was no more new cloth to make clothes. TEN-KOU, angered by this, banished them to the separate sides of the Milky Way, AMANOGAWA. Upon realizing that the love-struck couple could not work, he allowed to meet each other once a year on JULY 7, now called TANABATA, Star Festival. On this day, seventh day of the seventh month, people make wishes to the couple on colorful streamers and hang them from bamboo branches.