

# KOKORO

## JACL National Convention



The Annual National Convention was held at the Monte Carlo Hotel in Las Vegas in early July. Since this was the “off” annual convention there were no election of national officers. The two resolutions that captivated most of the delegates were one to honor Mike Masaoka, affectionately known as the father of JACL. Also passed was a resolution to support a Congressional bill that asked for recognition of all the blacks that were forced to be slaves in the 17th and 18th century. Finally, the Coulter Foundation offered any chapter/delegate to attend a series of workshops that taught the function of signing people up to register to vote. Each participating chapter was asked to put on a program of voter registration.

*Pictured: Steve and Diana Okamoto with David Lin, National JACL President*

## Children’s Japanese Cultural Day



Chapter boardmembers and the two JACL Scholarship winners recently several young people at the Gardener’s Hall in San Mateo. The children made note cards using origami paper by a method called “Iris”folding. They Packaged them for a Mothers Day gift of cards and envelopes. Another highlight of the afternoon was learning how to make “Gyotaku”, the Japanese art of making an impression, or “rub” of a fresh fish using paints and rice paper. The fish are painted different colors highlighting different parts of the fish. Then a large piece of rice paper is smoothly rubbeed on the fish which transfers the impression from fish to paper. The result is a colorful and beautiful depiction of the fish. Also served were Sakura manju and fish-shaped Imagawayaki honoring Children’s Day. JACL will offer this art class again in the fall.

## San Mateo JACL Presents 2015 Scholarships at the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event



*Pictured: Mary Jo Kubota-Arcarese, Kelly Toma, Ashley Yakushi*

San Mateo JACL Board was proud to present the 2015 Scholarship Awards at our 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event to Kelly Toma, San Mateo High School graduate and Ashley Yakushi, Hillsdale High School graduate. Emcee Wendy Hanamura, a JACL Scholarship winner herself, presented the awards.

Kelly will attend the University of Southern California this fall and study Biomedical Engineering, and Ashley will begin her studies at San Diego State University as a Psychology Major.

Kelly Toma, through her studies “hope[s] to improve patient care through science and technology in the future”. She is a fine student who completed all biotechnology class at her school with recognition. Kelly volunteered many hours in the community and at her school. Volunteering at Mills-Peninsula Hospital, organizing blood drives, sending gift packages to military serving overseas, are just a few of Kelly’s dedicated service activities. Kelly also managed to play varsity badminton for three years, she founded and became president of a Craft Club at her school. Both she and Ashley volunteered to help Diana Okamoto with a Japanese cultural arts program that was held last spring at the JA Community Center.

Ashley Yakushi decided to major in psychology because “It’s one of my newfound interests after taking a psychology class my fall semester of senior year”. Ashley a top student a Hillsdale High School devoted many hours to community and school service. Some of Ashley’s many volunteer activities include: JYO volunteer volleyball coach for five years, founding a toy drive for families in transition at Invision Shelter Network, Youth Leadership Council Representative helping the San Mateo Police with a variety of community events, and a volunteer worker at the annual San Mateo Buddhist Church Obon Festival. She also was a Varsity Basketball player at Hillsdale for three years and a Junior Varsity volleyball player. Ashley founded the Kendama Club at her school “to bring interest of the traditional Japanese toy to fellow classmates”.

## Millbrae Japanese Cultural Festival

San Mateo JACL will participate in the Millbrae Culture Festival. This is the third year we have had a booth at this annual event. We will share an informational booth with staff from San Mateo County History Museum and provide a koi flag art activity for the children in attendance. Additionally, we will have a separate booth to sell Kumiki Puzzles and Japanese collectibles. Please mark your calendar and join us at this fun event!

\* IF YOU HAVE ANY JAPANESE DOLLS, DISHES, OR ANY COLLECTIBLES FROM JAPAN AND YOU WANT TO DONATE THEM TO JACL TO BE SOLD AT THIS EVENT CALL MARY JO AT (650)-593 7358