

KOKORO

San Mateo High School Day of Remembrance

On Saturday, March 2, 2019 San Mateo High School (SMHS) and the College of San Mateo (CSM) Ethnic Studies and History Department presented a touching and educational Day of Remembrance (DoR) program.



Yvonne Shiu SMHS principal and Lewis Kawahara CSM Professor, Ethnic Studies

As guests entered this event, the SMHS Jazz Band set the scene playing Big Band melodies from the forties. Lewis Kawahara CSM Professor and SMHS Class of 1965 member opened the program. Lewis had a leadership role in the development of this event in collaboration with SMHS faculty members and alumni.

DoR events commemorate Executive Order 9066 signed by President Roosevelt on February 19, 1942 that resulted in the incarceration of all persons of Japanese ancestry. San Mateo County Japanese Americans were initially taken to Tanforan Racetrack in San Bruno, including 33 SMHS students. On June 16, 1942 the SMHS Principal, a group of teachers which included the Band Teacher, some San Mateo residents, eight SMHS band members

and a few from Burlingame High School (BHS) went to Tanforan Racetrack to hold a Commencement Ceremony. The combined band played the national anthem, SMHS Senior Yoneo Kawakita led the "Pledge of Allegiance," and six seniors from SMHS and two from BHS received their diplomas.

This DoR event was held to acknowledge and thank all those who were kind and compassionate towards their Japanese-American class members and friends by being brave enough to make that trip to hold a Commencement Ceremony.



Mr. and Mrs. Yoneo Kawakita . Mr. Kawakita who received his diploma from SMHS on June 16, 1942 at Tanforan.



We were listening to HS students who attend CSM explaining their story boards that detail the history that surrounds the abrogation civil rights in our country and the specific history of the incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII.

The keynote speaker for the DoR, Mr. Bill Tsukida, SMHS Class of 1960 member and retired SMHS Social Studies teacher shared his story of being born in a concentration camp and how the incarceration profoundly affected his family and life.

Many SMHS graduates were in attendance and part of this event. It was an honor to see Mr. Yoneo Kawakita, SMHS Class of 1942, at this gathering with his family. Mr. Kawakita has been an activist in past years as part of the "History Committee" who published a comprehensive book detailing the history of Japanese Americans in San Mateo County titled Building A Community and by educating many people when sharing his story in classrooms and at other educational events.

After the formal program ended, guests were invited to stay and engage with several local high school students who attend CSM to discuss their story boards that explain the history that surrounds the abrogation of civil rights and the specific history of the incarceration of persons of Japanese ancestry during World War II.

Manga Drawing Demonstration and Class

On Saturday, March 30, George Dumanan, demonstrated and taught a 2 hour class on how to draw manga faces, facial expressions, and action figures. It was a great event with lots of snacks. Stay tuned for future youth events and activities!



Minidoka Swing Band Fundraiser

In the evening on Saturday, May 18, 2019 the JACL San Mateo Chapter will be holding a concert and dance by the Minidoka Swing Band from Portland, Oregon at the Beresford Recreation Center in San Mateo. The Minidoka Swing Band was formed as a tribute to the Japanese Americans interned during World War II and to highlight the music popular in the Internment Camps. This evening event will be a fundraiser for JACL educational activities. Please contact the San Mateo Japanese-American Community Center at sanmateojacc@gmail.com for more information.

MINIDOKA SWING BAND

from Portland, OR
Comes to the Bay Area!



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The world traveling Minidoka Swing Band (MSB) performs in the Pacific Northwest on a regular basis as a remembrance of WWII Japanese American Incarceration. They also did a four city 2015 tour in Japan, educating Japanese citizens about what Japanese Americans from the West coast endured during WWII and giving workshops.

The Minidoka Swing Band tells the story of WWII's Japanese American Incarceration using the Big Band music of the era, actual home-videos taken from inside the camps, and narration by actual survivors!

MSB uses original poetry by former Oregon Poet Laureate (2006-2010) Lawson Inada as well as personal stories by jazz musicians Larry Nobori and Nola Sugai Bogle (all three of whom are former Incarcerates) and MSB band members whose parents and families were incarcerated.

The Minidoka Swing Band will have three performances as part of the **National JACL's Education fundraiser**.

For more information please visit our website : www.minidokaswingband.com



SAN MATEO

Location: Beresford Recreation- 2720 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo.

Date: Saturday, May 18.

Time: 7-10pm.

Tickets: smjacl.eventbrite.com (advanced ticket sales only)

Cost: \$30 per person, \$50 per couple.

Light refreshments and swing dancing lessons!!