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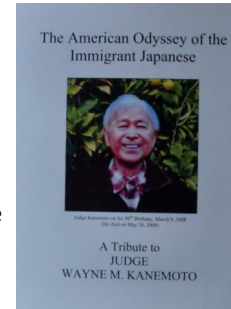
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The American Odyssey of the Immigrant Japanese ~ A Tribute to Judge Wayne M. Kanemoto

A very special tribute book is being gifted to donors supporting the historic Issei Memorial Building preservation during this Centennial Celebration year. During his lifetime, Judge Kanemoto was deeply involved with the caretaking of the IMB and it was his hope that the story of the Japanese-American experiences, as described in the book, be shared with as wide a population as possible. The JACL is proud to assist in this purpose. Printing costs are being borne by the San Jose JACL and it is being offered as our gift to special donors. No proceeds are being taken by the authors or the Kanemoto family. Please refer to the donor levels for more information.



Donor and Sponsor Level

Legacy Sponsor, \$5,000 donation—2 tables (20 seats) at the Centennial Luncheon and 10 books autographed by the authors

Heritage Sponsor, \$2,500 donation—1 table (10 seats) at the Centennial Luncheon and 5 books autographed by the authors

Preservation Sponsor, \$1,000 donation—4 seats at the Centennial Luncheon and 2 books autographed by the authors.

Table Sponsor, \$600 donation—1 table (10 seats) at the Centennial Luncheon

\$100 donation—1 book only



Issei Memorial Building Centennial Celebration

Luncheon

October 23, 2010



San Jose Chapter Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)

Invites you to help celebrate
the 100th anniversary of
the Issei Memorial Building (IMB)

Please contact us for details.

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Historic Issei Memorial Building celebrates centennial anniversary

Beginnings



In the early 1900's, several members of the local Kumamoto Kenjin Kai Association felt a need for a Japanese doctor and hospital to service the fast growing Japanese community in the San Jose area. In 1910, a two-story structure was built to serve as a hospital and Dr. Taisuke Kuwabara was persuaded to come to San Jose to manage it. The building then was known as the "Kuwabara Hospital."

In 1933, Dr. James Beattie, the owner of the building, planned to retire. A group led by Mr. Hatakeyama and Mr. Yamada approached the San Jose Japanese Association to raise the money to purchase the building from Dr. Beattie. The title of the building was put into the names of George Nakano, Tokio Ishikawa and Harry Hashimoto. With the outbreak of World War II, Dr. Ishikawa, who had been leasing the building, was called into service. The Japanese Association suspended all activity in the building until after the war in 1945. The ownership of the building was then transferred to the Nisei Service Center, Inc., a non-profit organization headed by Wayne Kanemoto, Shig Masunaga, Eiichi Sakauye, Phil Matsumura, George Tsukagawa and Dr. Ishikawa. The sole responsibility of the Nisei Service Center was to ensure that "the property...forever be used in the best interests of the local Japanese community."

Transition

In February of 1980, the City of San Jose designated the Issei Memorial Building as a historical landmark.

In 1991, the Nisei Service Center, Inc. transferred the title of the building to the San Jose JACL, with the understanding that the JACL remember the history of the building and make sure that it continue to "forever be used in the best interest of the Japanese American and surrounding community."

The IMB has had a tradition of being the "incubator" for several community groups: Yu-Ai Kai, the Japanese American Museum of San Jose, the Asian Law Alliance, and for providing office space to groups such as San Jose Taiko and Contemporary Asian Theater Scene.

Memories

"I was born upstairs in the Issei Memorial Building. My birth certificate indicates that I was delivered by a midwife, Oiye Teranishi. My sister, who is five years younger than I, was also born there. When I went to visit her and my mom, everything looked so big, especially the staircase." Sachi (Hosono) Urata

If you have any memories or recollections of this historic building, from its inception as the Kuwabara Hospital to its current state, please contact any JACL Board member so that we may add to our information. We would be appreciative of photographs and other mementos that will tell the story of this remarkable building.



Kuwabara Hospital, circa 1940s

Photo from KTEH

Lasting Legacy



San Jose JACL proudly continues to honor the legacy of the Issei Memorial Building. We face the challenge of updating and improving the IMB so that the venerable building can be preserved and showcased as a living monument to those who have been part of its history.

Funds are needed so that the building can continue its service as a home for non-profits and a meeting place for community groups and private parties. The desired project list include the following:

- Repair a portion of the foundation and the corresponding sagging wall.
- Repair deterioration (dry rot) to rails and other trim wood.
- Green Improvements to conserve energy and reduce operating costs.
- Improve functionality of the building, including fire sprinklers and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessibility.
- Weatherproof, including paint.
- Upgrade interior spaces and make technology friendly.
- Provide storage area for outdoor items (canopies, tables, chairs).

As caretakers, the San Jose JACL desires to preserve and maintain this historical landmark in Japantown for future generations.