



*Japanese American Citizens League  
San Jose Chapter*

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# OUTLOOK

## San Jose Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony *by Leon Kimura*



The Congressional Gold Medal (CGM), one of the highest civilian awards in the United States, was bestowed by Congress collectively to the **100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 442 Regimental Combat Team** and the **Military Intelligence Service**. But for 159 honorees who could not travel to Washington D.C. last November to participate in the ceremonies, the party came to them on February 23rd in San Jose, California.

Over an eight month period, a nine member planning committee worked to create a local CGM event while constantly keeping focused on “what was best for the veterans”. The JACL NCWNP District chapters were contacted so they could notify their members in case any of them wished to participate, and in the end, the San Jose Buddhist Church Annex in the heart of

one of the three remaining Japantown's in the United States, was packed to the rafters with a capacity crowd of over 750 attendees. Co-Masters of Ceremony, **Wendy Hanamura**, Vice President and General Manager of Link TV, and **Mike Inouye**, Traffic Anchor, NBC Bay Area News, kept the program moving with both reverence and humor.

Program highlights included the congratulatory video by **President Obama** and comments from the three local members of Congress who expressed the thanks of a grateful nation to the veterans for their selfless service to their country. Congressional Members **Zoe Lofgren** (CD 16), **Anna Eshoo** (CD 14) and **Michael Honda** (CD 15) then dispersed throughout the line-up of honorees to personally present the CGM replicas in a simultaneous 3-member round-robin sequence. This allowed the volume of medals to be distributed quickly while allowing the time for each veteran to receive their award along with special personal interaction with their distinguished presenter.



*[continued on page 3, and for additional coverage on this event, check out: [www.JAMsj.org](http://www.JAMsj.org)]*

## President's Message by Leon Kimura



Board installations, Congressional Gold Medal ceremonies, Day of Remembrance events, retreats, festival planning, Japan Relief, fundraising, civil and human rights vigilance, Issei Memorial Building repairs, leadership and policy development, scholarship evaluations, newsletter production, etcetera. Yikes! So much happening and we are barely finishing the first quarter of 2012... At least you don't get bored around the JACL! So, what is of interest to you? There is something for everyone so please consider lending a hand.

Speaking of which, we could really use someone with the expertise to redo our website and other electronic social media like Facebook. It seems that the old print media is increasingly becoming a dinosaur lumbering towards extinction. Even E-mail is becoming outdated for the younger generations (and those young at heart) who cannot seem to wait for someone to open, read and maybe answer an E-mail message. Instant response through social media like Twitter is available for those who desire the ability to share your life through tweets 24/7. The JACL may not need that level of communication but to survive into the future, we must reach out beyond those members who still remember newspaper ink on their fingers...

So, if you are still reading this, additional upcoming events this year you may wish to help us pursue include: broomball (if you have to ask, you are too old to play, but not to watch!), children's day, BBQ, fishing trip, IMB clean-up, Halloween, mentoring, civil rights issues, dinners, City Council discussions, National Convention, newsletter and fundraiser mailers, or other ideas you may have that we can help implement!

Volunteerism is truly awesome with immeasurable returns to both the volunteer and to the activity and organization being supported. Every activity listed above is volunteer driven and it takes a team of supporters to achieve success. Come join us for an hour, a day, or whatever time you can spare. Give us a call or drop us a line. Tweet us. ;) We would love to meet you! Together, we can build a stronger and more vital community!

P.S. - Congratulations on surviving tax season! If you think that we have been doing a good job, please consider making a donation to our "Building Preservation Fund" so you can cut down on taxes you pay to our "Uncle" next year!

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The San Jose JACL Board meets on the second Friday of each month at 6:30 p.m., at the Issei Memorial Building. Meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome. Come and help shape San Jose JACL's future.

### Honorary Advisory Board

Honorable Mike Honda  
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[continued from page 1.]



Mike Honda and mother Fusako Honda

The moments captured in the hearts and memories during each and every medal presentation were priceless. But I would like to take special note that Congressman **Mike Honda** was able to award his own mother, **Fusako**, with his late father's Congressional Gold Medal for the services **Giichi Byron Honda** rendered our country as a member of the MIS. Powerful moments that reflect a quantum leap of acceptance by the American public. Our honorees were instrumental in winning that hard fought acceptance for us all.

Congresswoman Eshoo commented the following day saying essentially that during all

her years of participating in awards ceremonies, the San Jose CGM event was - the most meaningful - and truly an honor for her to be able to shake the hands of the veterans, look into their eyes, give them a hug and otherwise interact with the honorees in such a personal way.

The 65 veterans, 44 widows, and 50 family representative honorees were able to receive their CGM replica without cost due to generous donations from sponsors and individual donors. And each honoree received a Congressional certificate signed by the three Congress Members and a special handmade wooden stand created by **Jimi Yamaichi** (who was himself bestowed the following evening with the Order of the Rising Sun - Gold and Silver Rays from the Government of Japan!).

It was a privilege to participate in the CGM ceremony planning. It was a labor of love for all the committee members and volunteers. And on a personal note; I wish to offer my own thank you on behalf of my late father who served in the Army's 90<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. I believe that the distinction in which the honorees served had a role in dispelling any last possible shred of doubt regarding all Japanese American servicemen's loyalties to our country. Thank you!



Veterans Moffett Ishikawa and Frank Inami w/ Lloyd LaCuesta



L to R: Mike Honda, Anna Eshoo, Zoe Lofgren, Joe Yasutake, Wendy Hanamura, and Mike Inouye.

## Day of Remembrance - 70 Years and Counting *by Neil Kozuma*

On February 19, 2012, the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual San Jose Day of Remembrance was held at the Buddhist Church Betsuin in Japantown and presented by the **Nihonmachi Outreach Committee (NOC)**, over 34 years after the first Day of Remembrance of the World War II imprisonment of Japanese Americans was held at the West Washington Fairgrounds in Puyallup on November 25, 1978. The current program was entitled, “**Civil Liberties Under Siege**”. NOC member **Will Kaku** spoke of the judicial debates on terrorist detentions, the Patriot Act, the National Defense Authorization that allows indefinite detention of American citizens, and how we remind people that our families were unlawfully imprisoned.



Guest speaker **Karen Korematsu** of the Fred T. Korematsu Institute for Civil Rights and Education spoke of her father’s fight along with other Japanese Americans, to the U.S. Supreme Court on the illegal roundup of Japanese Americans to concentration camps. Guest speaker **Zahra Billoo**, Executive Director of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of the Council on American Islamic Relations spoke of the government repression of American Muslims following September 11, 2001 that continues to this day.

San Jose JACL Vice-President of Civil Liberties, **Aki Matsumoto** along with NOC Chair **Reiko Nakayama**, began the poignant candle lighting ceremony with the remembrance reading of ten Japanese American Concentration Camps with its population numbers. **Fusako Honda, Congressman Mike Honda, Yuri Yamamoto, Kiyomi Yamamoto, and Miharuru Yamamoto** representing three generations of Americans lit the candles honoring the families incarcerated in the camps for three years. Attendees held lighted candles and walked silently along Japantown to remember Executive Order 9066, the families who suffered in camps, and wondering if imprisonment without due process can happen again.

Many of the attendees come regularly each year. They come to work as volunteers, to honor families and friends imprisoned in faraway places 70-years ago, and some come to observe why the Day of Remembrance is held. Each year, the attendance numbers have been increasing as can be seen by the row of chairs extending farther out each year. I believe they come for all the reasons stated and because they are aware that left unguarded, those in power will again take away our freedoms and liberties.





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## 35th Anniversary Nikkei Matsuri Festival - Sunday, April 29th



Festival season is upon us and what better and fun way to support our community by dropping by the Nikkei Matsuri for the camaraderie, entertainment, arts, crafts, culture and FOOD! See festival chair **Warren Hayashi** raise the Koi for the official start at 9:30 in the morning then meet the **2012 Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival Court**. Then stay for a day full of performances on two stages, free health screenings by the **Japantown Lions Club**, arts and craft booths, browse the cultural exhibits, and did we mention FOOD!

This year, the **San Jose JACL** will again reprise what has become a staple for the festival and that is the renowned fried IKA (battered calamari strips wok fried to a golden brown)! Yummm! Try the secret sauce too! And bring the kids to see **Ika Man** and **Ika Man Junior!** Of course you can get the companion Iced Tea to wash it all down. Come find us in the Food Court at the rear left side and help us in this year's friendly Food Court competi-

tion to be the first to sell out before the 4:00 pm Festival close! ;)

For you regulars, there are two special events happening this year. The first is a special book signing by **Kristi Yamaguchi** of her newest children's book **'It's a Big World Little Pig'**. A limited number of books will be sold at 10:00 and you will be issued an express time slot between Noon and 1:30 to get her signature. No long lines = more time to eat Ika!

The second special event for this 35<sup>th</sup> Nikkei Matsuri and one-year anniversary of the Japan earthquake is a concert - **'Music From the Heart'**. On **Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>**, renowned jazz vocalist **Ayako Hosokawa** will perform a variety of popular and contemporary American music accompanied by **Shota Osabe** (keyboard), **Bob Kenmotsu** (saxophone), **Ken Okada** (bass), and **Rick Alegria** (drums).

Ayako has performed at the Monterey, Singapore International, the Breda (in Holland), and the Kobe Jazz Festivals. She is one of the best-known pop and jazz vocalists in Japan with many music awards and releases on both Japanese and American labels. So, you have a chance to catch a great performance brought to you locally in Japantown at the Buddhist Church Betsuin Annex (570 North Fifth Street, San Jose) from 7:00-9:00pm. Doors open at 6:30pm. Make it a J-town evening out!

Tickets are \$15 and \$20 at the door the day of the event. Tickets may be purchased at: **Nikkei Traditions in San Jose Japantown, Wesley United Methodist Church, Yu-Ai Kai Senior Services**, and from **Nikkei Matsuri Board members or food committee**. A portion of the concert proceeds will be donated to Japan relief.

Please come and support all the community organizations at Nikkei Matsuri! And bring your appetite!

To see more details about the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary festival, go to: [www.nikkeimatsuri.org](http://www.nikkeimatsuri.org).

## Prestigious “Order of the Rising Sun” Bestowed Upon Jimi Yamaichi by Tom Oshidari



On the evening of February 24 at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose friends, relatives, and other supporters turned out 350-plus strong to celebrate the Japanese government’s conferment of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays, to local treasure, **Jimi Yamaichi**. The award is given in recognition of contributions to enhancing relations between Japan and other nations. That the conferment was in San Jose at Jimi’s request was a rare accommodation, since the honor is usually conferred on Japanese Embassy grounds.

Community-minded NBC-11 Traffic Reporter **Mike Inouye**, fresh from the previous day’s Master of Ceremonies role at the San Jose

Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony, again performed MC duties. The Consul General of Japan in San Francisco, **Hiroshi Inomata**, presented Jimi with a framed certificate and the actual Order of the Rising Sun medal. Among many speakers to sing the praises of Jimi were Congressman **Mike Honda**, **Brenda Taussig** representing State Senators **Elaine Alquist** and **Joe Simitian**, San Jose City Councilman **Sam Liccardo**, Assistant City Manager-City of San Jose **Ed Shikada**, **Warren Hayashi**, **Mitchell Beutler** (Boy Scouts), **Aggie Idemoto**, plus **Jimi’s children, granddaughters**, and a rare sharing of the microphone on stage with Jimi by wife **Eiko**.

**San Jose JACL** had one table organized consisting of **Leon Kimura**, **Tom and Terry Oshidari**, **Neil Kozuma**, **Sharon Uyeda**, **Harry Okazaki**, **Judy Niizawa**, **Betty Nishi**, and **Joyce and Margie Oyama**. Moreover, when Mike Inouye played cheerleader and called for a shout out from the various organizations, SJ JACL seemed to be well represented throughout the room.

A Fairmont-worthy dinner and a spirited performance by **San Jose Taiko** (with a cameo appearance on the drums by Jimi and Consul General Inomata) rounded out a very enjoyable celebration. Congratulations, Jimi!



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## One Year After Benefit Concert *by Leon Kimura*



“**March 10, 2012** marked the one-year anniversary of the devastating earthquake and tsunami that destroyed tens of thousands of lives in the worst natural disaster in the history of Japan. It is estimated that it will take over ten years and billions of dollars to rebuild the areas affected in the Tohoku region of Northern Japan. In addition to over 200 children orphaned in the disaster, thousands of children were affected due to loss of their homes, schools, and other belongings.” -Concert Flyer

The benefit concert’s co-producers **Steve Yamaguma** (Design2Market) and **Aileen Chanco** (Music at the Mission) created a magical evening on the day of the one-year anniversary and an opportunity to support the relief efforts in the Tohoku area, *especially for the children*. Concert attendees were even encouraged to fold paper cranes to be sent to the children in Tohoku as part of the 1000 Cranes Project.

For the main event, the **Somei Yoshino Taiko Ensemble** collaborated with the **Music at the Mission Chamber Players** to fill the space within the thick walls of the Mission with a range of performances from taiko’s thunderous to subtle melodies, theatre and dance to the chamber music’s uplifting and expressive instrumentals. And throughout the gallery space in the Mission Museum were the colorful and moving artwork pieces of **Kathy Fujii-Oka**. The event was indeed a wondrous blend of enjoyable sights and sounds! We were all treated to a short history of the Mission by **Andy Galvan** and discovered such facts as the Mission building itself was fairly modern being rebuilt and detailed to simply look old. Master of Ceremonies **Mike Inouye** was again incredible in balancing this event’s full program with humor and alacrity introducing dignitaries such as Consul

General of Japan **Hiroshi Inomata**, to directing attendees to the post concert silent auction at Mission Coffee.

The **San Jose JACL** was proud to participate as a sponsor of this special fundraising event. The proceeds were distributed to Smiles & Dreams: Tohoku Kids' Support Project, a collaboration of Living Dreams and Smile Kids Japan. A truly worthy cause in an expansive sea of need.

*“Kodomo no tame ni.” For the sake of the children.*

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## USC to Honor Former Nisei Students

The **Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)**, the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization, is extremely pleased that the **University of Southern California (USC)** will confer Honorary Baccalaureate and Honorary Master's degrees to Nisei who were forced to interrupt their studies due to Executive Order 9066. The honorary degrees will be presented by **President C. L. Max Nikias** at USC's 129th Annual Commencement on May 11, 2012.

Any Nisei who were enrolled at the university prior to February 1942 but were denied the opportunity to complete their degree because of forced evacuation to incarceration camps are eligible for the Honorary Baccalaureate or Master's degrees. Families of deceased Nisei will be honored with an "Honorary Alumni" certificate.

For more information on the ceremony, please visit the USC Nisei Commencement website at:  
<http://www.usc.edu/dept/pubrel/specialevents/commencement/Nisei.php>

The point of contact for the USC Nisei Commencement Ceremony is **Ms. Grace Shiba**, Senior Director at the **USC Alumni Association**.

Email: [nisei@usc.edu](mailto:nisei@usc.edu)

Phone: (213) 740-4937



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## Civil Rights Breach: The NDAA by James Akira Matsumoto

President Barack Obama and the United States Congress have passed a new bill called the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). This act has been passed on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011. There is a controversial part of the bill which is titled “counter-terrorism”, which has been highly protested by groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union and the JACL. The bill takes rights away indefinitely from anyone who is considered to be the “minority.” According to the *Pacific Citizen*, JACL National Director **Floyd Mori** stated: “Shame on Congress for passing this new law.”



Obama has promised to use good judgment when applying the bill. “I have signed this bill despite having serious reservations with certain provisions that regulate the detention, interrogation, and prosecution of suspected terrorists,” Obama said in a *Washington Post* article. “I want to clarify that my Administration will not authorize the indefinite military detention without trial of American citizens. Indeed, I believe that doing so would break with our most important traditions and values as a Nation.”

We will have to use our good judgment, and decide to trust what Obama is telling us or to fight for our civil rights. This bill can be compared to what the government did to the Japanese Americans during World War II; they did not give them the due process of law. The same happened yet again in Guantanamo Bay, over 50 years later. And the same breach of civil liberties happened again today with the NDAA. What will happen tomorrow? It depends on our resolve to fight for our civil liberties and our ability to perceive ourselves not only as United States citizens, but also as people with a right to be treated humanely.

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## Seven Scholarship Recipients Named for 2012

The following recipients were selected for scholarships sponsored by individuals and organizations and administered by the San Jose JACL.

- SARA KUSUMOTO** – Westmont H. S. - \$10,000 Kenji & Shizu Sakauye Scholarship (renewable in the amount of \$2,500 for 3 additional years) and \$1,000 San Jose JACL Chapter Award – parents: Bill & Margie Kusumoto  
**NATHAN YANAGA** – Mt. View H. S. - \$3,000 Kenji Sakauye Memorial Scholarship and \$1,000 Ninja Youth Foundation Scholarship - parents: David & Tami Yanaga  
**ERIC AMEMIYA** – Leland H. S. - \$2,500 George Masunaga Endowment Scholarship – parents: Edward & Deborah Amemiya  
**CORINNA FUKUSHIMA** – Los Gatos H. S. - \$1,000 Masuo B. Nakamura Memorial Scholarship and \$1,000 Ninja Youth Foundation Scholarship – parents: Craig & Stefani Fukushima  
**JAMES WATANABE** – Mt. View H. S. - \$750 Ray & Lucy Matsumoto Business Scholarship – parents: Rick & Sheila Watanabe  
**KELSEY KAWAGUCHI** – Leland H. S. - \$500 Karl Kinaga Memorial Scholarship – parents: Robert & Alice Kawaguchi  
**JENNY MATSUSHITA** – Cupertino H. S. - \$500 William K. Yamamoto Memorial Scholarship – parents: Ted & Laurie Matsushita

Members of the Scholarship Committee were **Gary Jio, Dr. Mitsu Kumagai, Joyce Oyama,** and **Sharon Uyeda,** Chair.

The above scholarships are sponsored through the generosity of the following: **Rose Kinaga, George Masunaga Family, Ray and Lucy Matsumoto, Jackie Nakamura, Ninja Youth Foundation, Shizu Sakauye,** and the **San Jose JACL.**



In honor of the recipients, a scholarship luncheon was held on Saturday, April 21, in the back patio of the Issei Memorial Building.



## IMB Cedar Tree Trimming by Tom Oshidari



In the past few years several large branches of the large cedar tree in front of the Issei Memorial Building have randomly broken and fallen. Fortunately, no cars or people have been present when the branches have fallen. To minimize the hazard of further branches falling, a tree service was hired on February 22 to trim the “fat” off the venerable giant.

A series of pictures show the “before” and “after”, in process, and a very interested group of Lotus preschoolers watching the event.



***You're Invited!***

*San Jose JACL invites you to attend*

*The 10th Annual Community Recognition Dinner  
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**Honoring *Issei* and *Nisei* American soldiers  
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- World War II
- Korean War
- Vietnam War



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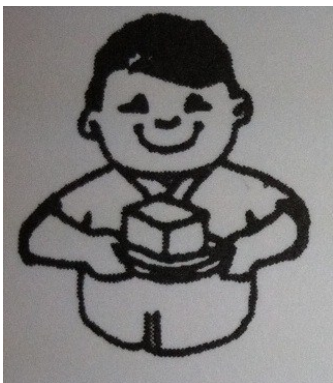
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## Volunteers:

Leon Kimura	A,C,D,O
Neil Kozuma	A,D
Tom Maruyama, Jr.	I,R
Aki Matsumoto	D
Judge Daniel Nishigaya	I
Tamon Norimoto	A
Tom Oshidari	Y
Joyce Oyama	D,R
Sue Shigemasa	R
Mina Uehara	D
Sharon Uyeda	C
Steve Yamaguma	C,O

### Volunteer Legend:

A	-	APIIC Retreat
C	-	Congressional Gold Medal
D	-	Day of Remembrance
I	-	Board of Directors Installation
O	-	One Year After Benefit Concert
R	-	Chapter Retreat

### Donors:

#### Scholarship Fund

Mark & Diane Morimune
Shizu Sakauye
Victoria Taketa



### \* Office Wish List \*

- A label printer for individual labels
- A small fan for summertime

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MOTHERS AND CHILDREN OF POSTON CONCENTRATION CAMP ARE SOUGHT FOR DOCUMENTARY FILM

The Poston Community Alliance is searching for former internees who were mothers during their time of incarceration at Poston and also their children to participate in a new documentary film. The Alliance has received funding from the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grants Program of the National Park Service to produce a short documentary film on "Poston's Mothers and Babies."

This film will be looking at life in Poston through the perspective of women who gave birth and raised children in camp.

According to the directors of the film Joe Fox and James Nubile: "We believe this documentary will break new ground by shining a light on the heart and soul of the camp experience—the mothers."

Please contact **Marlene Shigekawa**, producer, at: [marshige@comcast.net](mailto:marshige@comcast.net) if you know of anyone who may qualify.

### NOW ACCEPTING MIKE MASAOKA FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS

The Mike M. Masaoka Congressional Fellow serves for six to eight months in the Washington, D.C. office of a member of Congress in either the U.S. House of Representatives or the U.S. Senate. The Member of Congress and the award recipient will select the term during which the Fellowship will take place. For more information and the application, visit: <http://jacl.org/leadership/masaoka.htm>

### SAVE THE DATES: 43rd ANNUAL NATIONAL JACL CONVENTION & 2012 NATIONAL JACL GALA

The 43rd Annual JACL National Convention will be held **July 5-8, 2012** at the Hyatt Regency in Bellevue, Washington. The 2012 National JACL Gala and Awards Dinner will take place **September 27, 2012** at the JW Marriott in Washington, D.C.



**Japanese American Citizens League  
San Jose Chapter**

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## Calendar of Events

- April**
- 1 National JACL Scholarship Deadline
  - 13 Board Meeting
  - 22 District Council Meeting
  - 28 Japantown Beerwalk
  - 29 JAMsj: Children's Day
  - 29 Nikkei Matsuri
- May**
- 11 Board Meeting
  - 20 JAMsj: Gila River & Mama Screening
  - 24 Sake San Jose
- June**
- 8 Board Meeting
  - 16 Santa Cruz Japanese Cultural Fair
- July**
- 13 Board Meeting
  - 14-15 Obon Festival

2012

January							February							March						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30	31	30							
October							November							December						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	1	2	3									
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
													30	31						