

## Japanese American Citizens League San Jose Chapter

Volume 42, Issue 2

Summer 2011 Issue

Phone (408) 295-1250 Email sanjosejacl@sbcglobal.net Website www.sanjosejacl.org

## OUTLOOK

#### Japan Relief

Japan relief has been a JACL priority since the March 11<sup>th</sup> earthquake and tsunami. As time passes, it remains important to keep support efforts alive in our local community. Therefore, in addition to the JACL Direct Relief International efforts, the San Jose JACL has remained available to partner with organizations fundraising for Japan relief. It is gratifying that so many individuals and community organizations have participated to date and we are glad to have also supported or co-sponsored the following Japan fundraising events: Japantown Community Congress of San Jose Vigil, Morgan Hill Buddhist Community Center E-Waste Recycling Event, International Russian Music Piano Competition, and the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Silicon Valley Wine Tasting Fundraiser.

If you know of other organizations that wish to conduct fundraisers and need a non-profit sponsor, please let us know.

#### Update: Japan Relief and Recovery Efforts - JACL D.C Digest June 6 - 10

The JACL has continued its efforts in assisting with the recovery and relief efforts in Japan. This week, JACL National Executive Director, Floyd Mori flew into Tokyo and then trained to Ishinomaki, Japan to work directly with the NGO groups awarded funds from the JACL and Direct Relief International "Japan Relief and Recovery Fund."

JACL National Executive Director, Floyd Mori, had the following to report about his work with the local NGOs:

The funds raised from the JACL/Direct Relief International "Japan Relief and Recovery Fund" are proving successful results. Ishinomaki, one of the hardest hit areas by the earthquake and tsunami, is seeing shops open in the downtown center because of the work of NGO groups funded by the JACL. I have witnessed people who have moved back into their homes that were initially damaged but now cleaned. People in shelters or without facilities are being fed on a daily basis. In addition, the environment is being cleaned as contaminated mud is being removed from the downtown city areas and, the cleaning of the ocean's shoreline is underway.

Total funds committed to Japan Relief Fund: \$5 million Total funds released to Japan Relief to date: \$1.8 Million

#### President's Message by Tom Maruyama, Jr.



As a Membership Organization it is vital to the health of San Jose JACL and National JACL to get feedback from time to time on how are we meeting or not meeting your expectations. Some of the ways we communicate is through this publication, face to face at the IMB or commu-

nity events. So I would like to hear from you if you have suggestions on ways we can meet your needs by contacting me, Tom Maruyama, Jr. by email at sanjosejacl@sbcglobal.net or tdjm1954@gmail.com.

We have a new staff member, Marge Tsuji, who has worked for many years in various positions with the public schools. As I interviewed her previous supervisors she received rave reviews and we are very fortunate to have her on board.

Many of you have known Kenzo Kimura as a past President of SJ JACL and longtime board member, Kenzo has removed himself from the Board to spend more time his family as his son begins kindergarten. Kenzo will truly be missed at SJ JACL but will continue his community work through Yu-Ai Kai.

In the next edition of the Outlook there will be a recap from your delegates who attend the National JACL Convention in Los Angeles.

Hope to see and meet many of you at the Annual Recognition Dinner; Sharon Uyeda, Tom Oshidari and their committee are working on a fantastic event.

## Sake San Jose at the Issei Memorial Building by Neil Kozuma

The San Jose JACL opened its doors to help Yu-Ai Kai's Sixth Annual Sake San Jose event on May 26, 2011. Nine-hundred sake tasters walked throughout Japantown to taste special sake from twenty-five pouring stations. The beautifully landscaped IMB backyard hosted three pouring stations and approximately three-hundred people came through the IMB to enjoy sake, appetizers, and smiling conversations. The aging IMB building has participated in Sake San Jose for six straight years and welcomes the opportunity to help sustain the viability of Japantown San Jose and its community based partners.

## OUTLOOK is published on a quarterly basis by the San Jose JACL

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Email: sanjosejacl@sbcglobal.net Website: www.sanjosejacl.org National JACL: www.jacl.org Health Trust: www.jaclhealth.org\* (800) 400-6633

\* Must be member of National JACL

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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**

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#### The Issei Memorial Building Needs Your Help by Neil Kozuma

The Issei Memorial Building (IMB) was built in 1910 as the Kuwabara Hospital, originally named for its first resident physician, Dr. Taisuke Kuwabara. Language and religious differences in the early 1900s made it difficult to establish communication and trust between the Japanese Issei and local San Jose doctors, so this hospital was built to entice Dr. Kuwabara to move his practice to Japantown. However, since Japanese doctors could not be legally licensed in the state of California, Dr. Kuwabara's presence did not fully alleviate this problem. A local doctor, Dr. James Beattie, had to supervise Dr. Kuwabara (and those who later replaced him), perform all surgeries, and even held title to the hospital.

The original building included a doctor's office, library, and equipment on the first floor with a series of small rooms with patient beds upstairs. An annex in the back of the building provided living quarters for the resident Japanese doctor. The hospital closed its doors in 1934 after the first Japanese doctor received his degree from Stanford, received his license, and began practicing at San Jose Hospital, causing a decline in the demand for Kuwabara's hospital services. Several community members in Japantown purchased the building for "future generations of Japanese Americans," and turned it into the headquarters of the Nihonjinkai (Japanese Association) although the hospital continued to be used by the medical profession for some time.

The hospital has been leased to numerous Japanese American professionals and organizations over the years, and was renamed the Issei Memorial Building after its extensive interior renovation in 1983. It has been designated a San Jose Historic Landmark, and currently houses the San Jose Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, San Jose Taiko offices, and the Contemporary Asian Theatre Scene. In 2005, the first Ikoi no Ba (a restful place to rest, reflect and appreciate) was installed at the Issei Memorial Building. The California Japantown Landmark, a permanent outdoor historic exhibit that unifies and tells the history of Japanese American communities in each of the three remaining historic Japantowns in the State of California (San Francisco, San Jose, and Los Angeles), stands honorably in front of the IMB. The three-sided nine-foot tall California Japantown Landmark captures the hopes and struggles of the Japanese American community, and provides the millions of visitors to these Japantowns with the opportunity to learn about and gain a better understanding of the history and challenges of the Japanese American community in California. [Story from <a href="https://www.californiajapantowns.org">www.californiajapantowns.org</a>].

#### **How You Can Help**

Imagine that your home is 101-years old. The San Jose JACL is asking for your help to preserve the IMB. Recently, with a wonderful donation from the **Ray and Lucy Matsumoto Foundation**, the front railing was rebuilt and painted. There are many other major and minor projects required to keep the IMB alive. You can help by volunteering your time and skills, through donations of cash or materials, or from your care, concerns and contacts. Whether it is cleaning a floor, replacing a window, installing a solar panel or painting the building, any and all contributions are welcomed and truly appreciated. If you want to help, please contact **Tom Maruyama, Jr.** at **650 400-1070**.

#### Issei Memorial Building Clean-up Day by Leon Kimura

The Issei Memorial Building (IMB) front yard handicapped ramp and porch railing was recently rebuilt by the San Jose Conservation Corps coordinated by VP of Civil Liberties **Neil Kozuma**. As a cost savings measure, painting the railing with a matching 3-color scheme was done during the May 28<sup>th</sup> clean-up day. With paint brushes and rollers in hand, JACL volunteers including **Aaron Shimada** were joined by CATS volunteers **La Donna Yumori-Kaku** and **Will Kaku** in laying down the first coat of paint to seal and protect our new wood railing. The weather was threatening and a few drops of rain did fall but not enough to dampen the spirit of the crew and luckily the paint dryed quickly!

And speaking of water, Co-President **Tom Maruyama** was busy with his powerwasher cleaning everything outside including the landscaping! His family's gardening background served us well as mounds of debris such as pine needles and dead leaves were left in the wake of his power nozzle... Fortuitously, VP of Operations, **Tom Oshidari** was installing new weather stripping to the exterior doors before the power wash began.

Also, repair job to address sidewalk trip hazards was completed by installing concrete ramp patches to level the heaving sidewalks caused by the ever growing street trees roots.

Clean-up and repairs are an on-going need for this historic building and the interior clean-up is still to be schedule so you all still have a chance to join in the fun! Give us a call or send an e-mail if you wish to be informed of the next clean-up day. Thanks!

#### 2011 High School Scholars Honored at Luncheon by Sharon Uyeda

On Saturday, April 16, 2011, thirteen high school seniors were awarded scholarships at a luncheon held at the Issei Memorial Building backyard. Preceding the presentation of scholarships, a buffet luncheon was enjoyed by the attendees. Neil Kozuma, VP of Civil Liberties and Recording Secretary of the Chapter, highlighted events of the Chapter and also its involvement within the JA and greater Community. With the earlier possibility of rain, it was wonderful to see the sun come out and shine during the luncheon and awards ceremony. The photo below is of the recipients who were in attendance. The previous *Outlook* issue gave more information on each scholar.



L to R:

Joseph Hala'ufia (\$1,000 Ninja Youth Foundation Scholarship), Katie Kobashigawa (\$1,000 Ninja Youth Foundation Scholarship), Kyle Tsukamoto (\$500 San Jose CYS Scholarship), Ken Matsumoto (\$750 San Jose JACL Award and \$500 Lanette Yoneko Hayakawa Memorial Scholarship), Richard Shinagawa (\$750 San Jose JACL Award), Amanda Drennan (\$2,000 Phil Matsumura Community Scholarship), Stephanie Fong (\$2,500 George Masunaga Endowment Scholarship), Stephanie Nakamae (\$500 San Jose CYS Scholarship), and Erin Takeda (\$750 Ray and Lucy Matsumoto Business Scholarship).

Photo courtesy of Gary Jio

#### Children's Day 2011 by Leon Kimura



The San Jose JACL hosted Children's Day on Friday, June 24th and introduced more community members to the historic Issei Memorial Building (IMB) and gardens. Throughout the event organized by **Kari Dobashi Barton**, the secure rear yard was filled with children, students, teachers and parents from **Lotus Preschool** and **Suzume no Gakko**. The preschoolers came for food and fun in the morning and enjoyed crafts after eating hot dogs, nachos, fruit, carrots, salad and lemonade. After smiling faces and curious explorers had their fill of the landscaped gardens, warm weather and cooling popsicles, the preschoolers left in an orderly fashion on their traveling rope to allow the Suzume kids to have their turn.

The second wave of children then enjoyed the food and drink before lining up to receive "tattoos" by **State of Grace** artists: **Horiken, Horisou** and **Horitaka** who drew a range of pictures from Hello Kitty and Ninja Turtles to dragons and other mythical beasts. Bean bags were tossed and the farthest corners of the gardens explored before the day was over as the laughter faded allowing the yard to settle down and ready itself for its next adventure...

Thanks to Lynne Yamaichi and her staff from Lotus Preschool and to Suzume no Gakko, including parents, for supervising the children. And a big Arigato to Kari and her volunteers Ron & Tilly Mayeda, Cyndi Petersen, Tom Oshidari, and Sharon Uyeda for all the help preparing the food and supporting this special day for the children!

## Asian Pacific Islander Justice Coalition – 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Mixer by Nick Kuwada

Around 75 people came to the Issei Memorial Building on June 9<sup>th</sup> to enjoy food, friends and music at the Asian Pacific Islander Justice Coalition's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Mixer. The theme for this year's event was "past and future." To honor the past, the event kicked off with emcee, Anne Im, Director of Community Programs and Advocacy at Asian Americans for Community Involvement who spoke about the origins of the Coalition. According to Anne, the founding members created the Coalition to cement the ties that local Asian Pacific Islander-based organizations had with one another so we could work together to better serve the community.

To reflect the future of the coalition, Anthony Lin, a member of the Bay Area Asian Pacific American Legislative Staffers, one of the newest organizations to join, spoke about what they envision the Coalition will do. Also, in an effort to bring Japantown art and local Bay Area artists together with non-profit work, Kero One generously deejayed the event, providing jazzy beats and a mellow atmosphere.

One of the numerous supporters, Gilead Pharmaceuticals, had an information table available for participants who wanted to learn more about AIDS prevention. Another supporter, Southwest Airlines, donated two, travel-anywhere tickets to the event. Food was provided by Satura Cakes, The Summit, SFNY, Hela Gelato, Sushi Infinity and Dakao Sandwiches.

Additional thanks go to co-founding member San Jose JACL for generously providing the venue for the mixer. APIJC looks forward to continued partnerships to further empower the API Community.





## Remembering Etsu Mineta Masaoka

Etsu Mineta Masaoka's life has been well chronicled in the following article from the DC Digest of the JACL. What is not mentioned is that she grew up next door to the Issei Memorial Building in San Jose's Japantown where she began her life of civic engagement. In fact, she was an officer of the San Jose JACL and her local legacy is documented in historic records including having served in such capacities as Chapter Secretary back in the late 30's. The impact of her life has been considerable and we in the San Jose JACL are humbled to share in a small part of her legacy. The API community has suffered a tremendous loss and we all are deeply saddened.

(continued on page 9.)

#### Issei Memorial Building (IMB) 2011 Preservation Campaign by Tom Maruyama, Jr.



For 2011, the traditional Capital Campaign is being focused on the IMB for deferred repairs, upgrades, ADA compliance, etc.

As many of you are aware the IMB was built 101 years ago and has remained not only a historical building but also a gathering location in San Jose's Japan town. Many community events and meetings are held within the building as well as the beautifully landscaped backyard monthly.

While we collect rent from our tenants, it does not offset the extremely high cost of maintaining a historical 100-year old building.

We are appealing to Board Members, Members, Corporations/Vendors, Contractors, Friends of JACL and others to help us make the needed repairs to the building through a few options. One option, as an example, would be to fund a portion or all of the foundation repair needs in one corner of the building or the replacement of the roof and gutters, painting of the exterior and interior, bringing the restrooms up to current ADA standards, etc.

Other options would be to donate goods and/or services that offset the costs of the mentioned repairs, or specific donation of any amount to the 2011 IMB Preservation Campaign.

If you are interested in being part of the 2011 IMB Preservation Campaign Committee or have any suggestions feel free to contact me directly Tom Maruyama, Jr. Co-President at (650) 400-1070.

I thank you in advance for your consideration and look forward to your assistance helping us preserve this San Jose Japantown Icon.

#### The 1882 Project – Resolution of Regret by Leon Kimura

Introduced on May 26 by U.S. Reps. Judy Chu (D-CA), Judy Biggert (R-IL), and Mike Coffman (R-CO), along with Senators Feinstein (D-CA) and Brown (R-MA), the resolution calls on Congress to formally acknowledge and express regret for the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Laws during the turn of the 20th Century that violated the fundamental civil rights of Chinese American settlers by imposing a ban on Chinese immigration and naturalization. Although the laws were repealed in 1943 as a war measure after China became a World War II ally of the United States, Congress has never formally acknowledged that the laws singling out and ostracizing the Chinese were incompatible with America's founding principles.

The JACL is a strong supporter of the passage of this Resolution of Regret, and National JACL Executive Director Floyd Mori represented the JACL in support of the press conference in which Congresswoman Chu introduced the resolution of regret for the 1882 Project.

Congresswoman Chu conducted a Nationwide teleconference to urge citizens to visit the 1882 Project website (<a href="http://www.1882project.org/">http://www.1882project.org/</a>) in hopes that as more is learned, all will choose to become engaged and contact Congressional representatives and even friends across the Nation to help generate grass-roots support from all representatives of our country.



The Nikkei Community Internship Program is a statewide program, which offers college students an opportunity to obtain experience supporting the work of various community organizations while increasing their understanding of contemporary issues affecting Japanese Americans. Coordinated by the **Japanese Community Youth Council** (JCYC) in Northern California and the **Little Tokyo Ser-**

**vice Center** (LTSC) in Southern California, the goal of the program is to support the development of the next generation of community leaders.

The NCI program supports the leadership development of participants through by:

- 1. Giving young Nikkei greater exposure to opportunities and needs in the Japanese American community,
- 2. Promoting interaction and networking between existing Nikkei organizations and institutions,
- 3. Connecting young Nikkei with mentors in the Japanese American community, who inspire and peak their interest in the work of community organizations, and
- 4. Providing a fun learning experience that creates energy and a desire to participate in the Japanese American community and other communities to which they belong.



The program consists of an eight-week summer internship and each intern earns a \$2,000 scholarship for their participation in the program in addition to receiving training and experience in community service.

The **San Jose JACL** has promoted the NCI program including \$1,000 this year for partial funding of the San Jose interns. For the 2011 program, **Kyle Ichikawa** and **Alex Lim** have been selected to work in San Jose. **Sophie Horiuchi Forester** with **Yu-Ai Kai** is coordinating their daily program as they meet

with various community organization representatives such as the Japanese American Museum of San Jose, Japantown Business and Professional Organization, West Valley Community Services, Asian Law Alliance, Contemporary Asian Theatre Scene and the San Jose JACL.

We hope that Kyle and Alex have a rewarding and valuable experience in our community that will foster future civic engagement wherever they are!

(continued from page 6.)

## <u>Remembering Etsu Mineta Masaoka: An Extraordinary Woman Champion – DC Digest</u> Issue Dates: May 30-June 3

**Washington D.C.-** The JACL mourns the loss of Etsu Mineta Masaoka, an extraordinary woman champion and advocate within the Japanese American community.

Etsu participated in nearly every local Washington D.C. JACL event and National JACL Convention over the past sixty years. She devoted her life to the causes that were important to her and her late husband, Mike Masaoka.

Etsu was the second of five children and was the older sister of the Honorable Norman Y. Mineta. Her father, Kunisaku Mineta, had arrived by boat from Kumaiden, Japan, in 1902, at the age of 14. He had originally planned to learn new farming skills and return to his homeland, but he stayed in the United States and later founded the Mineta Insurance Agency in San Jose. Etsu's mother, Kane, arrived 10 years after her husband.

Etsu and her two sisters were all college graduates and had musical training. Etsu had a degree in home economics, and she had studied piano. She had worked as a bread girl in the dining room of San Jose's leading hotel which gave her poise and the ability to talk to strangers.

On December 7, 1941, Japan attacked the Pearl Harbor naval base in Hawaii upon which President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order proclaiming that all people of Japanese ancestry could be moved from the West Coast because of "military necessity." The Mineta family was sent to Heart Mountain, Wyoming.

Etsu was able to leave the camp and rode a bus alone to Salt Lake City to marry Mike Masaoka in 1943. She did not know until she arrived that he had already volunteered for the Army. Eventually, they married and then lived in a rented room until he was inducted.

After the war they moved to Washington, DC, where Mike worked for the JACL for many years. They made their home in Maryland where Etsu resided until her passing. Mike passed away in 1991 after suffering with heart problems. Etsu and Mike were parents to two children, Michael and Midori (deceased). Their grand-daughter, Michelle Amano, and son in law, Richard Amano, helped her continue her daily activities.

Although Etsu has received many awards on behalf of her late husband, she was personally honored in 2004 by the Ambassador of Japan and Mrs. Ryozo Kato. Ambassador Kato said, "We must recognize what Etsu Masaoka has meant not only for her husband and family, but what a vital role that she, like her husband, has played in creating closer ties between the U.S. and Japan. I cannot possibly express in words what she has meant to all of us."

Her husband, the late Mike Masaoka said, "Etsu deserves an equal share of the credit for anything I may have been able to accomplish."

An honoree at the 2010 JACL Awards Gala this past fall, Etsu Mineta Masaoka will forever be remembered for her contributions to the community.



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## **IMB Conference Room & Gardens Usage**

To make or cancel a reservation, please contact: Marge Tsuji: sanjosejacl@sbcglobal.net - (408) 295-1250

Leon Kimura: elskay@aol.com

## San Jose JACL Member and 501 ©(3) non-profit organization rates

(rates are double for others):

Up to 2 hours	\$25.00
2 to 4 hours	\$50.00
4 to 6 hours	\$75.00
6 hours to all day	\$100.00

These rates include exclusive usage of the conference room, patio, and gardens, as well as shared usage of the common areas--kitchen, bathrooms and parking lot. Renter must provide a certificate of insurance of at least \$1,000,000 liability coverage naming San Jose JACL as additional insured for the period of rental (typically available at no charge under your homeowner's policy).

## **THANK YOU DONORS!**

## THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

#### Japan Relief:

Barbara Y. Mulford Leon Kimura Sharon Uyeda Carol Lee Ishikawa Margaret Oyama Joyce Oyama Carl Hirano

#### SJ JACL:

Henry Sasaki Emi Tsutsumi

#### In Memory of Isao Baba:

Hanaye Baba

## In Memory of Fujiko Okamoto:

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#### In Memory of Shizuko Kimura:

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# APPRECIATION BBQ!

Friday, August 5th @ 6pm Issei Memorial Building (IMB)

> 565 N. 5th Street San Jose, CA 95112

Thank you for all your support!

Please join us for great food and great times!

RSVP Appreciated: 408-295-1250 sanjosejacl@sbcglobal.net

Also, see the rear patio and gardens available for private events by members!



## Japanese American Citizens League San Jose Chapter

565 North Fifth Street San Jose, CA 95112

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Please remember San Jose JACL in your charitable giving

## **Calendar of Events**

#### July

11 SJ JACL Board Meeting

7-10 JACL National Convention

28 BAAPALS Summer Interns Mixer

#### August

5 SJ JACL Appreciation BBQ

12 SJ JACL Board Meeting

#### September

3 Fishing Outing

9 SJ JACL Board Meeting



#### January **February** March Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 1 2 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 27 28 27 28 29 30 31 30 31 April May June Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 29 30 31 26 27 28 29 30 Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa August September Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 28 29 30 31 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 October November December Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 4 5 6 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 27 28 29 30 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 30 31