



*Japanese American Citizens League
San Jose Chapter*

Volume 40, Issue 4

Winter 2009 Issue

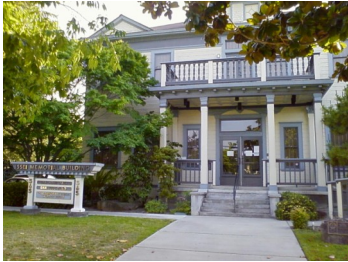
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OUTLOOK

A Century of History *By Leon Kimura*



Imagine being in a new country and getting terribly sick so you seek medical help but cannot find a doctor with whom you can talk to describe your symptoms, let alone feel comfortable in doing so. Such was the need and the motivation for the birth of the Japanese Hospital 100 years ago. This historic Japantown building at 565 North Fifth Street has been serving our community in many ways since its construction in 1910 and celebrates its Centennial birthday this year!



The San Jose JACL is planning a community celebration for the centennial of this venerable old building and we ask for your help in its preparation. We wish to invite everyone who has been touched by this building. And we hope to compile additional historical stories and photos of the building and grounds. Should you have any information you can share, please contact us. Perhaps you know of someone who received treatment or was born there, or sheltered on the grounds upon return from Heart Mountain, or took dance lessons, or received senior services, or got insurance, or... So, please do contact us and allow us to capture these important moments of our past.

Following is a summary of the history that we do know about. We would like to gather your facts and anecdotal stories that will provide more detail to help preserve this history and allow it to come alive for us all...

To begin with, the hospital was built by the Nishiura brothers and financed by the Kumamoto Kenjin-Kai. Dr. Taisuke Kuwabara was brought in from Kumamoto-Ken and because he was not licensed in California, he had to practice under Dr. J. Beattie, a local doctor who acted as Medical Director. Three different doctors succeeded Dr. Kuwabara (Dr. Ochiai, Dr. Tanamura and Dr. Amano) until the last doctor left in 1932. The upstairs patient's rooms were subsequently used as a maternity clinic where midwives (Mrs. Teranishi) delivered babies through the 1930's. However, doctors still gravitated to the building and Dr. Lee Watanabe started his practice there in 1934. And after graduating from Stanford Medical School in 1937, Dr. Tokio Ishikawa opened his medical practice in the building. At one point, a physiotherapist, Tom Mishima, also practiced there.

During its history, many community members worked to keep the property in the hands of the Japanese American community. Mr. Kikuji Hatakeyama, President of the San Jose Nihonjin-Kai (Japanese Association), led a campaign to purchase the building in 1933 to leave it "for future generations of Japanese (Americans)". He along with six other Association contributors (Yoshio Ando, Katsusaburo Kawahara, Toshio Kimura, Kunisaku Mineta, Kichitaro Okagaki, and Shoji Takeda) raised the \$700 down payment towards the asking price (about \$5,000). The property was put in the names of three Nisei's, George Nakao, Tokio Ishikawa and Harry Hashimoto.

When the war broke out, the building was leased as apartments and the Nihonjin-Kai suspended all activity until the war was over in 1945. Afterwards, Dr. Ishikawa worked with Wayne Kanemoto in 1950 to transfer the property to the Nisei Service Center, Inc. whose sole responsibility was to ensure that the building would forever be used in the best interest of the local Japanese (American) community. Then in 1991, Chapter President, Tom Shigemasa facilitated a final decision with the Nisei Service Center to pass the mantle of ownership and stewardship to long time tenant and acting caretaker of the property, the San Jose Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League.

Throughout its history, the building has been called the Japanese Hospital, Kuwabara Hospital, JACL Building, and after

Continued on page 4—Centennial Celebration

President's Message *by Leon Kimura*



I wish to share with all of you some thoughts and year-end holiday wishes from Floyd Mori, the JACL National Executive Director. He eloquently expresses the essence of our collective efforts in the following message from the Washington DC office:

Dear Friend,

This time of the year we often refer to the "Spirit of the Season." Whether Christian, Jew, Muslim, Buddhist, or other, we can all relate to the phrase "Peace on Earth and Good Will Toward Men." It is a time when we seem to turn an ear toward tolerance, kindness and sharing while our actions reflect this humanitarian sense of being. Family and community become a major focus of our attention and actions. The resulting feelings that come within the soul of our existence are happiness and real joy.

I mention this because it is within this context that I have the privilege of working day to day with others who are working for the same end. In a real sense, this is what the JACL is all about. Our work towards tolerance and justice recognizes that all people should have access to all of the bounties and blessings that this good nation has to offer. We contend that there should be no place for hate, and fairness should be part of every institution and community. So we find it cause for celebration when people treat each other with respect and good will.

This year has been a year full of victories from expanding health coverage to children, preventing hate crimes, preserving our Japanese American history, and a wider recognition that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are a part of this great nation. We have much to celebrate and many blessings for which to be grateful. We have helped other institutions recognize the value in the character of the Asian American culture by working to remove damaging stereotypes from advertising and other media.

This good has come from a small band of Asian Americans who are committed to doing good works year around. May I express my thanks to our JACL membership and our coalition friends who work hard to make the attitudes of this season a year long spirit of goodness. Thank you also to our dedicated JACL staff and all leaders.

Happy Holidays,
Floyd Mori, National Executive Director

Volunteers Needed!

Happy New Year everyone! Hope you are all ready for a brand new year filled with promise and progress! Speaking of which, the Chapter could use your help making progress this year. If you have a few hours of extra time and would like to volunteer, please give us a call. **Volunteerism** can be defined as contributing one's time or talents for charitable, educational, social, political, or other **worthwhile** purposes, usually in one's community, freely and without regard for compensation. Here are some initial areas where we can particularly use your talents but we would certainly welcome any assistance you can offer!

Landscaping: Trimming of trees and shrubbery, landscape design

Building: Repairs to railings, door jambs, window frames, paint, architectural and interior design

Grounds: Repairs to fence, gates, concrete sidewalk/curb & gutter

Communications/Technology: Website design/maintenance, Facebook site development, computer upgrades

Operations: Property management, mail-out assistance, data input, financial planning advice, book keeping, grant writing, membership development, photography

If you think that you would like to get involved to support our community and are looking for a short-term or continuing opportunity, please give us a call at 295-1250!

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Website: www.sanjosejacl.org

National: www.jacl.org

Health Trust: www.jaclhealth.org*

* Must be member of National JACL to be eligible

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The San Jose JACL Board meets on the second Friday of each month at 7:00 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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8th Annual San Jose JACL Community Recognition Dinner *by Tom Oshidari*

The 8th Annual San Jose JACL Community Recognition Dinner – *Continuing Commitment to Community* was held on Saturday, October 17, 2009 at the Holiday Inn –Mediterranean Center in San Jose. Cocktail hour, the ever popular silent auction, and ukulele virtuoso, Rodney Takahashi of Ukulele Jams, got the crowd in the mood for an enjoyable evening.

San Jose JACL President, Leon Kimura, formally opened the evening with welcoming remarks. He acknowledged and thanked Rodney and also thanked the many organizations who had supported the event by filling tables. Leon then introduced the evening's Mistress of Ceremonies, KTVU Reporter Jana Katsuyama.

After giving some personal history, Jana introduced the dignitaries present. From the Japan Consul General's Office—Deputy Consul General Hideyoshi Mitsuoka and wife, Michiko; Vice Consul Takemichi Nagaoka; and Advisor for Community Affairs Yoshiro Tasaka. From Congressman Mike Honda's office—Danielle Duong. From the National JACL—President Larry Oda and wife, Anne. San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed and wife, Paula, stopped by and greeted attendees during cocktail hour but had another commitment later in the evening and could not stay for the dinner.

JACL President Larry Oda gave a brief update of JACL status and issues to complete the pre-dinner portion of the program. The guests then enjoyed their filet mignon and salmon dinners while also checking on their silent auction bids and listening to further interlude ukulele music from Rodney Takahashi. For 2009 the San Jose JACL recognized the following deserving community honorees: Kenji (posthumously) and Shizu Sakauye, Sumi Tanabe, Dale Yoshihara, and the Japanese American Museum of San Jose (JAMsj). Each had a presenter of his choosing—Mark Kobayashi for the Sakauyes, Gail Sueki for Sumi Tanabe, Kurt Kurasaki for Dale Yoshihara, and June Honma presenting with Aggie Idemoto accepting for JAMsj. Each spoke eloquently in presenting their honoree. The honorees were given the opportunity to speak and gave quite inspirational, heart-felt remarks. Each honoree was then presented with a certificate of commendation from Mike Honda's office and with a glass frame engraved with the Japanese character, "kansha," from the San Jose JACL.

Event Co-chair, Sharon Uyeda, then was called to the podium to conduct the benefit drawing. The top prize winners were the following:

- 1st: Peter Imahara - 2 Roundtrip Southwest Airlines tickets
- 2nd: Art Tanabe - 2 Night Stay at Montbleu Casino & Resort Spa and \$100 cash
- 3rd: Sakai - 2 Night Stay at Harveys/Harrah's Hotel & Casino in Lake Tahoe and 2 Show Tickets

Congratulations!

Finally, Co-chair, Tom Oshidari, concluded the evening by thanking MC Jana for her gracious hosting of the evening, the honorees for allowing themselves to be presented, the Dinner Committee members and other volunteers who worked so hard to make the event successful, and the Holiday Inn catering staff for having served a delicious dinner. Final instructions were given for picking up Silent Auction items, and then the guests were bid a fond adieu.

Thanks again to all those who supported the event!



Mayor Chuck Reed, Larry Oda



Tom Oshidari



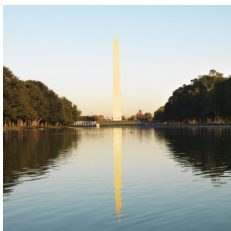
Jana Katsuyama



Sumi Tanabe

Photos Courtesy of Gary Jio

Washington D.C. Visit *by June Honma*



This past August, I took a trip to Washington D.C. and during my visit to our nation's capital I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Floyd Mori, JACL National Executive Director, at his office. When I arrived, I was warmly welcomed by Ms. Shirley Tang, JACL Daniel K. Inouye Fellow, who offered me a quick tour of the impressive National JACL office. I then sat with Mr. Mori and his lovely wife, Irene, and discussed the history and future of JACL. I appreciated that Mr. and Mrs. Mori graciously made time to talk with me about the organization during my morning visit despite their busy preparations for the Gala Awards Dinner in Washington.

In addition to getting the inside scoop on getting around Washington, I enjoyed talking with Mr. Mori about a wide range of topics including JACL's community leaders, the evolution of the organization's purpose, the need to increase membership, and specifically the San Jose Chapter of JACL.

In JACL's early years, the organization had many young leaders committed to the cause – to protect the civil rights of Japanese Americans. Most of these individuals were in their early 20s, and many continue to be the most visible leaders of the organization. Changes to the social fabric of our nation and the redress for Japanese-American Internment have altered our focus as a community. With the aging of JACL leaders and its members, as well as an increase in intermarriages among Japanese Americans, it is all the more important that JACL strengthens our support for the larger AAPI community. Additionally, the JACL membership base is shrinking. As such, more effort must be made to grow the organization so that we can continue to have an effective voice in our society.

The San Jose Chapter of JACL is ideally positioned to be one of the strongest chapters in the country because it is entrusted with and operates within the historic Issei Memorial Building, located in the heart of San Jose Japantown. Additionally, Mr. Mori suggested that a stronger collaboration between the many JACL chapters in the Bay Area has the potential to create a more effective Northern California base.

This opportunity to meet with Mr. Mori has given me perspective and confidence that we have a national representative who is knowledgeable of the San Jose Chapter's strengths and history, and is a valuable resource ready to support our cause. I hope that more members from the San Jose Chapter of JACL will take the same opportunity that I did to visit with Mr. Mori personally, whether in D.C. or during one of his regular trips to California and the National JACL headquarters in San Francisco.

Centennial Celebration *from page 1*

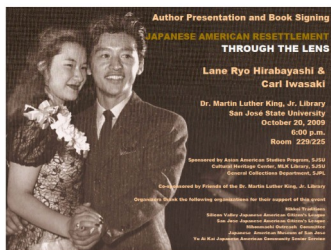
its renovation in 1983, it was named the Issei Memorial Building (IMB). It's been a hospital, a maternity clinic, apartments, sanctuary for returning internees (including the rear yard), office space for many JA businesses and non-profit organizations, and is currently the home of San Jose Taiko, Contemporary Asian Theatre Scene, the Japanese American Museum office, Josh Ishimatsu, and the San Jose JACL. It has a conference room, kitchen, patio and enclosed yard available for private gatherings and community use. Many parties and events have been hosted there with attendance ranging up to 80 - 100 attendees.

The IMB is our community's living monument and was designated a City Landmark in 1980. The San Jose JACL is proud to be entrusted with its future on behalf of generations to come! More on the Centennial Celebration later. Please contact us with your stories and thank you for your help!

2009 Events at the Issei Memorial Building



Japanese American Resettlement Through the Lens *by Steven G. Doi*



On October 20, 2009, the Martin Luther King Library and San Jose State's Asian American Studies Program with the support of the San Jose JACL sponsored an evening with Dr. Lane Hirabayashi and Mr. Hikaru Carl Iwasaki. Dr. Hirabayashi is a professor in Asian American Studies at UCLA and is the nephew of Gordon Hirabayashi, of the Supreme Court Internment Cases from World War II. Dr. Hirabayashi has written several books on the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II and his most recent book is "Japanese American Resettlement Through the Lens". While many of the older books on the camps dealt with what was "done" to the Japanese American, Dr. Hirabayashi has focused on many of the unrecognized Nisei's that were incarcerated and did their various jobs and duties in an exemplary fashion and made a difference.

The evening's program began with a video introduction by Congressman Mike Honda who had planned to attend, but duty called him away to the health care debate. Congressman Honda was familiar with the book and praised those efforts to photographically preserve an important aspect of the camp experience, the resettlement years. The Honorable Norman Mineta wrote the forward to the book and he shares many details related to his personal resettlement experiences.

Dr. Hirabayashi narrated a short slide show presentation of photos from the book, with an emphasis on the Santa Clara Valley resettlement photos. Some of the photos from the book were of the Nakatsu, Ichikawa, Shibuya, Iwagaki and Oka families of Santa Clara County. He told the audience details of the War Relocation Authority program to document and highlight the government's "successful" resettlement efforts by the WRA. The photos did not and were not meant to document the complete history of the camps and the harsh realities that many families encountered. Next came the introduction of Mr. Hikaru Carl Iwasaki, the Nisei photographer who grew up in San Jose and attended San Jose High School where he was a student photographer for their 1942 yearbook. His father was a tailor in San Jose's Japantown. The Iwasaki's were neighbors to the Mineta family. In the spring of 1942, Mr. Iwasaki was interned at Heart Mountain, Wyoming where he worked in the hospital's x-ray department and volunteered to help in the WRA photography project. Mr. Iwasaki was the only Nisei on the WRA resettlement photo project.

During the question and answer period, Mr. Iwasaki told of his experiences traveling with the WRA unit across the country taking over 1,200 photos of Nisei's across the country in their new surroundings. After the program, he stayed to sign books and chatted with many of the members of the audience.

Dr. Hirabayashi and Mr. Iwasaki later spoke at the Japanese American National Museum in November and there are plans for a presentation in Hawaii this summer. Dr. Hirabayashi wanted to have the first West Coast book talk in San Jose to honor Mr. Iwasaki and his work.

After the WRA Resettlement Project was completed, Mr. Iwasaki became a staff photographer for Life Magazine and later for Sports Illustrated. Many of his photos were on the covers and in featured stories of both magazines. Mr. Iwasaki settled in Denver, Colorado, where he still resides. Mr. Iwasaki didn't mention it, but he was the only photographer allowed by the Brown family to photograph Linda Brown and the other plaintiffs for the Life Magazine article on the U.S. Supreme Court case of Brown v. the Board of Education in 1954.

The event was a great success thanks to many community groups and especially the San Jose JACL. The book sold out at the event, but is available at *Nikkei Traditions* in San Jose's Japantown.

Steven G. Doi
Asian American Studies Program
San Jose State University

Roth IRA 2010 *by Aron Shimada*

With the lure of tax-free distributions, Roth IRAs have become popular retirement savings vehicles since their introduction in 1998. But if you're a high-income taxpayer, chances are you haven't been able to participate in the Roth revolution. Well, that has changed.

In 2006, President Bush signed the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act (TIPRA) into law. TIPRA repeals the \$100,000 income limit for conversions, and also allows conversions by taxpayers who are married filing separately. What this means is that, regardless of your filing status or how much you earn, you'll be able to convert a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA.

Why concern yourself with this now? Well, high-income earners with an adjusted gross income over \$100,000, or married individuals filing a separate tax return, have not been able to convert traditional IRAs to Roth IRAs previously. TIPRA provides a window of opportunity that will allow these taxpayers who fall into the two above categories to convert their IRAs and benefit from the long-term advantages that come with the Roth IRA. Most notably, the tax-free nature of the withdrawals.

There are some important points to take into account. If you haven't done so already, you can simply start making the maximum annual contribution to a traditional IRA, and then convert that traditional IRA to a Roth in 2010. You can even make contributions for tax year 2009 until April 15th, 2010. Your ability to make deductible contributions to a traditional IRA may be limited if you (or your spouse) is covered by an

Continued on page 8—Roth IRA

Tokutomi Math Contest *by June Honma*

The San Jose Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League is proudly hosting the 43rd Annual Tokutomi Invitational Mathematics Contest on Saturday, February 6, 2010 from 8:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Santa Teresa High School. All students in grades 9th through 12th in the East Side Union High School District (ESUHSD) who are currently enrolled in Algebra I have been invited to participate.

The San Jose Chapter of JACL continues to host this annual math contest in an effort to stimulate a stronger interest in mathematics. The Tokutomi Mathematics Contest was originally started in 1966 by the late Kiyoshi Tokutomi as a friendship contest with San Jose's sister city in Okayama Prefecture, Japan. This mathematics contest has evolved in format over the last four decades, but its underlying premise to foster love of math has always remained true.

The contest will consist of approximately 15 problems which are to be solved within 45 minutes. There will be an interactive activity following the contest. All students will receive a certificate of participation, and prizes will be awarded to the students earning the top three scores.

The JACL's ability to continue hosting the annual Tokutomi Math Contest is made possible through the continued support and generous sponsorship of the California Mathematics Council, Student Activity Trust; Santa Clara Valley Mathematics Association; Santa Teresa High School Mathematics Department; and Union Bank.

2010 Scholarship Applications are Available *by Sharon Uyeda*

It's scholarship time! If you are a graduating high school senior or know of someone who is graduating this June from high school, please go to the San Jose JACL website: www.sanjosejacl.org and download an application. Numerous scholarships are available, so high school seniors are encouraged to apply. Being a student member increases the chance of being awarded a scholarship, so sign-up for \$30 and become a student member now! Please contact Sharon Uyeda, Scholarship Chairperson, at SUYeda9356@aol.com or 408-259-3656 for a membership application. Any questions related to the San Jose JACL Scholarship Program can be directed to Sharon Uyeda or Dr. Mitsu Kumagai at [mkumagai@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mikumagai@sbcglobal.net) or 408-978-8771. Postmark deadline for submittal is Monday, March 1, 2010.

Japantown Community Congress of San Jose's First Bonenkai *by Tamon Norimoto*

On December 29th, the Japantown Community Congress of San Jose (JCCsj) and Yoshihiro Uchida hosted their first Japantown Bonenkai. Mr. Uchida warmly welcomed all the friends of Japantown and shared the story of his past Soba parties and the transition to the JCCsj Bonenkai celebration. The event was held at Miraido Village and was attended by over 60 community members and representatives.

A toast to the New Year included representatives from the Japantown Business Association (JBA), Japantown Neighborhood Association (JNA), Yu-Ai Kai, Midori Kai, Contemporary Asian Theater Scene (CATS), Chinese Historical Cultural Project (CHCP), Japanese American Museum of San Jose (JAMsj), Japanese American Chamber of Commerce, San Jose Taiko, The Prayer Garden, San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, San Jose State Judo Team, and San Jose JACL.

Representing JACL was Leon Kimura, Sharon Uyeda, Henry Uyeda, Steven Nose, Denise Imamura, Aron Shimada, Tom & Terry Oshidari, and Art Honda, Chair of the Advisory Council. Also in attendance was Mayor Chuck Reed and District 3 City Councilman Sam Liccardo.

Guests were treated to a delicious buffet dinner including Toshikoshi Soba (end the old year and enter the new year soba noodles), prepared by Tamon Norimoto, president of the Japantown Community Congress of San Jose.

The mission of the Japantown Community Congress of San Jose is to advocate for the preservation of the historic and cultural heritage of San Jose's Japantown and promote efforts to sustain and enhance the diversity, vibrancy, and viability of this community as a legacy for future generations.



THANK YOU!

'09 Community Recognition Dinner Donors

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Beard Papa's
Bento Xpress
Calaveras Shell
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Children's Musical Theater
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SJ Buddhist Women's Association

Sharon Uyeda
Shizu Sakauye
Sumi Tanabe
Yoshihiro Uchida
Yu-Ai Kai



Photos Courtesy of Gary Jio

Dedication and Day of Remembrance Dinner in Merced, CA

February 20th, 2010, will be a historic day for the Japanese-American community in the Merced area. A dedication ceremony and the unveiling of a monument to commemorate the 4,669 detainees held at the Merced Assembly Center, plus a Day of Remembrance Dinner are all being planned for that day.

The Center was located at the Merced County Fairgrounds and was opened in May and closed in September of 1942. Internees came from the following counties: Merced, Stanislaus, Humbolt, Sacramento, Napa, and Yolo. This covers areas from the Northern California Coast to the West Sacramento Valley to the Northern San Joaquin Valley. We would like to invite all of the Nisei and Sansei who spent time at the Merced Assembly Center to please come to our Dedication and Dinner. We will have interesting speakers, entertainment, but certainly the highlight will be the unveiling of the monument, which consists of a wall of names listing the detainees, 5 storyboards, 5 benches, and a sculpture of 10 suitcases and bags with a small, confused-looking girl sitting on top of the suitcases.

If you wish to come, or need more information, please contact one of the following people: Adrienne Iwata, AKIwata@comcast.net, 512 Phoenix Avenue, Modesto, CA 95354, (209) 526-5696; or Janet Fujimoto, janetf127@gmail.com, 1979 Sierra Court, Merced, CA 95340, (209) 723-8588. A special room rate of \$84 has been arranged at the Courtyard by Marriott, 750 Motel Drive, Merced, for February 19th and/or 20th, 2010. Ask for JACL rates when calling (209) 725-1221.

Merced Assembly Center Monument Dedication

Never to Forget the Injustice...

The Livingston- Merced Chapter and the Cortez Chapter of the JACL invites you to the dedication of the Merced Assembly Center Memorial Monument to commemorate the WWII detention of more than 4,600 Americans of Japanese ancestry at the Merced Assembly Center located at the Merced County Fairgrounds.

Saturday, February 20, 2010

Merced County Fairgrounds, Commerce Building
900 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Merced, CA 95341

Dedication: 3:30pm Social Hour: 4:30 PM Dinner: 6 PM Cost: \$40



Keynote Speaker: John Tateishi, head of the redress movement for Japanese Americans interned in U.S. detention camps during WWII, former National Executive Director of the Japanese American Citizens League, author of the book "And Justice for All" and a trustee at the University of Calif. at Merced

Remarks by Congressman Dennis Cardoza, former internee Congressman Mike Honda, and former internee Congresswoman Doris Matsui.

For tickets contact: Janet Fujimoto 723-8588, Steve Teranishi, 383-6577
Adrienne Iwata (209) 526-5696 or email taniguchi.r@mccd.edu

JACL Members Please Take Note *by Aron Murai*

There is an organization called "Nikkei Singles Club" which meets every third Sunday afternoon downstairs in the conference room of your JACL building on 5 th St. The group would like very much to have more members. By the way the name of the organization is in the process of being changed since there are married members and some members are not Nikkei. Almost all members are retired.

After the meeting most members play a card game called "hand and foot" which is an easily learned game based on canasta until about 5 PM. There is a splinter group that plays golf at Blackberry Farm golf course every Wed aft.

The group goes on several outings every year. For more information please contact:

Aron Murai 650-947-1213 e-mail amurai@sbcglobal.net

Joan Furusho 408-253-1180

Gilda Wunderman 650-964-1502

Roth IRA (continued from page 5) employer retirement plan and your income exceeds certain limits. But any taxpayer, regardless of income level or retirement plan participation, can make nondeductible contributions to a traditional IRA until age 70½. And because nondeductible contributions aren't subject to income tax when you convert your traditional IRA to a Roth IRA, they make sense for taxpayers contemplating a 2010 conversion even if they're eligible to make deductible contributions.

Roth IRA conversions are considered a taxable event, but they are not subject to a 10% early withdrawal penalty. If you've made only nondeductible contributions to your traditional IRA, then only the earnings, and not your own contributions, will be subject to tax at the time you convert the IRA to a Roth. But if you've made both deductible and nondeductible IRA contributions to your traditional IRA, and you don't plan on converting the entire amount, things can get complicated. That's because under IRS rules, you can't just convert the nondeductible contributions to a Roth and avoid paying tax at conversion. Instead, the amount you convert is deemed to consist of a pro-rata portion of the taxable and non-taxable dollars in the IRA.

Is a Roth conversion right for you?

The answer to this question depends on many factors, including your income tax rate, the length of time you can leave the funds in the Roth IRA without taking withdrawals, your state's tax laws, and how you'll pay the income taxes due at the time of the conversion.

A financial professional can help you decide whether a Roth conversion is right for you, and help you plan for this exciting new retirement savings opportunity.

Successful Anne Namba Trunk Show *by Sharon Uyeda*



L to R: David Cassidy, Anne Namba, Leon Kimura

There was a steady flow of women and a few men on Sunday, November 22 to view and purchase Anne Namba designer fashions. The Chapter held a mini-fund raiser at the Issei Memorial Building and a percentage of the sales was donated to the Chapter by Anne. In these pictures, you can see President Leon Kimura wearing a newly purchased Anne Namba designed shirt. Can you tell which one? Sharon Uyeda added to her collection of Anne's designs and will be taking some of the pieces on her next cruise. Thank you to others for their support, too.



Sharon Uyeda, Leon Kimura, Anne Namba

U.S. Census Safety

The U.S. Census process is beginning and we need to be cooperative, but cautious, so as not to become a victim of fraud or identity theft. Eventually, more than 140,000 U.S. Census workers will count every person in the United States and will gather information about every person living at each address including name, age, gender, race, and other relevant data.

The big question is - how do you tell the difference between a Census worker and a con-artist? The Better Business Bureau offers the following advice:

If a U.S. Census worker knocks on your door, they will have a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag, and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions. However, you should never invite anyone you don't know into your home.

Do not give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the U.S. Census. If anyone asks for that information or if they solicit donations, they are NOT with the Census Bureau.

Eventually, Census workers may contact you by telephone, mail, or in person at home. However, the Census Bureau will not contact you by E-mail, so be on the lookout for E-mail scams impersonating the Census.

For more advice on avoiding identity theft and fraud, visit www.bbb.org

Honoring Our Founders—NCWNP District Fund Raiser *by Sharon Uyeda*

The Northern California Western Nevada Pacific (NCWNP) District held a fund raising luncheon to honor chapter founders and to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of JACL on Saturday, October 24th at the Doubletree Hotel in Sacramento. Two family members of our Chapter honorees (Eric Masunaga and his wife Shirley and Shirley Matsumura Ota and her husband Terry) were present to accept certificates of recognition in behalf of their fathers. Other Chapter members who attended were Carrie Kimura, Neil Kozuma, Henry Uyeda and Sharon Uyeda.



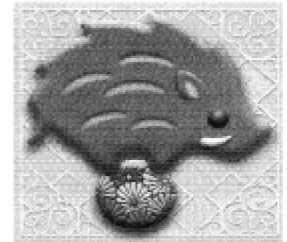
Pictured L to R: Eric Masunaga, Sharon Uyeda, Shirley Ota, Larry Oda (National JACL President)

Michael Yoshihara, CFS

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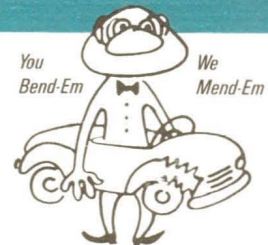
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Thank you for your Support! *Apologies to anyone left off the list*

Year-End Donations:

7 Bamboo Cocktail Lounge	T Ishigaki	Betsy Oka	S. M. Sorakubo
Allen Ando	Ken Iwagaki	Teiji Okuda	Torao Sorakubo
George & Yoshiko Antoku	Grace Kawakami	Kay Ono	Janet Tabata
Janice Aochi	Leon Kimura	Tom & Terry Oshidari	Sumi Takagi
Perry & Toni Dobashi	Mae Kumagai	George Oyama	Victoria Taketa
Robert Fujii	Mitsuru Kumamoto	Leo Oyama	Dr Ernest & Mrs Yuri Torigoe
Atsuo Fukuda	Marc Kurose	Margaret Oyama	Henry Uyeda
George Hanada	Harry & Tomiko Lee	Mary Sasaki	Sharon Uyeda
Geraldine & John Handa	Ben & Kaye Masatani	R. Seito	George Yamanaka
Lilly & Takashi Hirota	Jack Matsuda	Robert Setoguchi	G. T. Yamaoka
Yoshiko Ikegami	Norman & Danealia Mineta	Arlene & Reid Shigemasa	Noreen Yamaoka
Karen Inouye	J. Morey Company	Thomas & Sue Shigemasa	Saye Yamashita
Suma Inouye	Russell Nakano, DDS	Warren & Rosie Shimonishi	Yoshiko Yamashita
	Tom Nishisaka	Jack & Fujiko Shinkawa	

Volunteers:

Patricia Bryant	R	Leon Kimura	A,B,F,H,O,R	Margie Oyama	R
Steven Doi	B	Neil Kozuma	F,H,R	Melissa Ramos	R
Ken Furukawa	R	Vera Matsumoto	R	Terry Terakawa	R
Amy Halcrow	R,O	Carl Matsushima	K	Aron Shimada	R
Julie Hubbard	K	Jennifer Nishisaka	R	Kellie Takagi	R
Denise Imamura	F,R	Tom Nishisaka	R	Naomi Takenaka	O
Gary Jio	R	Tamon Norimoto	R,M,O	Henry Uyeda	O
Jemma Jio	R	Kay Ono	R, O	Sharon Uyeda	A,F,O,R
Carrie Kimura	C,F	Tom Oshidari	H,R,O	Joyce Yamamoto	R,O

Legend:

A	-	Anne Namba Show
B	-	Book Signing
F	-	Honor Founders
H	-	Halloween
K	-	Keiro Kai
M	-	Mochitsuki
O	-	Outlook Mailer
R	-	Community Recognition Dinner

Calendar of Events

February

- 6 Tokutomi Math Contest
Santa Teresa High School 8:15 am—12 pm
- 12 Board Meeting
Issei Memorial Building, 6 pm
- 14 San Jose Day of Remembrance
San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin
- 20 Merced Assembly Center Dedication
Merced County Fairgrounds

March

- 11-21 Asian American Film Festival
- 12 Board Meeting
Issei Memorial Building, 6 pm

April

- 9 Board Meeting
Issei Memorial Building, 6 pm
- 25 Nikkei Matsuri

Yu-Ai Kai 35th Anniversary Gala



San Jose JACL Board members (L to R, back row: Carrie Kimura, Neil Kozuma, Amy Halcrow, Tamon Norimoto, Kenzo Kimura, Tom Oshidari; middle: Leon Kimura, Denise Imamura; front: Joyce Oyama, Sharon Uyeda)



Japanese American Citizens League

San Jose Chapter

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2009 Community Recognition Dinner

Photos Courtesy of Gary Jio

