



*Japanese American Citizens League  
San Jose Chapter*

*Volume 41, Issue 4*

*Winter 2010 Issue*

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# OUTLOOK

**Issei Memorial Building Successfully Celebrates 100 Years**

*by Tom Oshidari*



Norman Mineta speaking at the Centennial Celebration.

Photo courtesy of Tom Nishikawa

On Saturday, October 23, 2010, the Japanese American Citizens League, San Jose Chapter (San Jose JACL), held a Centennial Celebration Luncheon fundraiser for the historic, 100 years old Issei Memorial Building (IMB) for which the San Jose JACL is caretaker for the community. Festivities were held at the Holiday Inn, 1740 North First Street, San Jose, starting at 11:00 am and concluding at around 3:00 pm.

Greeting arriving guests were displays set up by prior and present tenants: **Asian Law Alliance, Yu-Ai Kai** (formerly Japanese American

Community Senior Service), **The Japanese American Museum of San Jose, Contemporary Asian Theater Scene, and San Jose Taiko**. Also, presented by the **Nishiura family**, were tools originally used by **Gentaro and Shinzaburo Nishiura**, the brothers who built the IMB in 1910. Additionally, a silent auction fund raiser provided guests more opportunities to browse and mix.

The program kick off was accomplished with the traditional *kagami wari* ceremony (sake cask breaking and toast—**Ozeki Sake** graciously provided the sake, cask, mallets, and happi coats with which to perform the ceremony. Participants included the Honorable **Norman Mineta; Sam Liccardo**, San Jose City Council Member; **William Kanemoto**, son of the late Judge Wayne Kanemoto; **Michio Harada**, Japan Deputy Consul General; and **Leon Kimura**, San Jose JACL President.

After brief welcoming remarks and introductions from San Jose JACL President **Leon Kimura** and the afternoon's Master of Ceremonies, NBC 11 Traffic Reporter **Mike Inouye**, the guests enjoyed a lunch of spinach salad, chicken roulade, and tuxedo truffle mousse cake while occasionally checking their silent auction bids.

*(Continued on page 3)*



### Happy New Year everyone!

This is my last message as your President. After two years of service, I will be joined by **Tom Maruyama** as Co-President in 2011! Tom has been serving in the State of California Emergency Management Agency as the Director, Office of Statewide Operations-Law, Fire & Rescue, and Recovery Divisions. Tom has extensive experience in handling (and preventing) major disasters and we can all count ourselves as fortunate to have the high caliber of support from Tom.

During the past two-years, I feel gratified that our chapter has respected our heritage in supporting American Democracy and in pursuing Civil and Human Rights. We continue to strengthen the JACL mission and our ability to address the needs of serious community concerns through an ever growing network of leaders, individuals and organizations. We have earned respect through an established track record of engagement and advocacy. And besides the JACL core pursuit of justice and advocacy, we also offered a full program including leadership development, youth, education, and both community and cultural support.

So, what's in store for us this coming year? The preservation of the historic Issei Memorial Building will continue to be a Chapter and community priority. And critical to the JACL organization, increased membership will be key to its future survival. Membership is our support base and all our efforts are made more effective with more members. The National JACL also depends upon and sorely needs membership revenue. With a strengthened base, then we can all enjoy increased resources and vigilance to combat discrimination ranging from intellectual bias up through instances of mean-spirited and/or violent acts of discrimination.

We see the Muslim and LGBT communities' under-fire the most in this day and age and therefore, partnerships here are especially critical. But ignorance constantly rears its ugly head, impacting us all and there is an on-going need to fight discrimination in all its forms and not allow America to become complacent by tolerating injustice. We will all lose if this happens... Let's all choose to be winners!

I would like to close by thanking you for your support including your generous donations to both maintain the historic Issei Memorial Building and to continue the Chapter's activities! Please let us know how you think we are doing. We cannot do it without you!

Leon Kimura

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

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San Jose, CA 95112  
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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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Tom Nishisaka	Aron Shimada
Tamon Norimoto	Kellie Takagi

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	U.S. House of Representatives
Honorable Norman Y. Mineta	Fmr U.S. Secretary of Transportation
Honorable Richard Tanaka, Retired	

#### Advisory Council

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*(Issei Memorial Building, continued from page 1)*

The afternoon's program began with presentations of three certificates of commendation: from State Assemblymember **Paul Fong's** office; from County Supervisor **Dave Cortese's** office; and from San Jose City Councilperson **Sam Liccardo**.

Next, to further set the mood for the day a DVD of historical photos recounting some of the memories of people and events in the IMB's history was shown. Among the photos were the "IMB Babies," that the Celebration Committee was able to locate, people who were born at the IMB during its Kuwabara Hospital or pre-WWII midwives' clinic eras. Immediately following the dvd presentation the following "IMB Babies" were called to the stage to be recognized: **Nozomu Iwasaki**, **Joyce Kurotori** (Mine), **May Matsuzaki** (Watanabe), **Sachi Urata** (Hosono), and **Grace Kawakami** representing her late husband, **Dr. Wright Kawakami**.

MC **Mike Inouye** then recognized others with historical ties to the IMB who were supporting the event with their presence:

- a. **The Kumamoto Kenjin Kai** - the association that originally financed the building of the Kuwabara Hospital (original name of the Issei Memorial Building).
- b. **The Nishiura family** - the descendants of Gentaro and Shinzaburo Nishiura, the brothers who built the Kuwabara Hospital (and also the San Jose Buddhist Church).
- c. **The "Lunch Bunch"** - who collaborated to produce the book of Judge Wayne Kanemoto's writings and who have allowed the book to be used as an incentive for centennial year donations for the Issei Memorial Building.

It was then the Honorable **Norman Mineta's** turn to recall his poignant childhood memories from his home next to the IMB surrounding the events that led to the forced removal of persons of Japanese ancestry after Executive Order 9066. He recalled how those memories later influenced his decisions as Secretary of Transportation that there would be no racial profiling following the 9/11 terrorist attacks. He drew the parallel of the importance of preserving history/legacy such as the IMB because we learn from history.

Following some personal reflections by **Mike Inouye**, **San Jose Taiko** livened the mood with a rousing performance. Those who won benefit drawing prizes or silent auction bids left especially happy. But it looked to be an enjoyable afternoon for all.



Photos courtesy of Tom Nishikawa

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## 31<sup>st</sup> Annual San Jose Day of Remembrance – Fighting Against Fear *by Neil Kozuma*

San Jose will remember the February 19, 1942 Presidential Executive Order 9066 which authorized the Secretary of War to prescribe certain areas as military zones and cleared the way for the relocation of 120,000 Japanese Americans to internment (concentration) camps.

In December 1982, the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians issued its findings in *Personal Justice Denied*, concluding that the incarceration of Japanese Americans had not been justified by military necessity. The report determined that the decision to incarcerate was based on “race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership.”

The Day of Remembrance is held each year to remind us all that injustice can happen again. Today, Muslim Americans are fighting against fear and prejudice.

Please come to the San Jose Nihonmachi Outreach Committee’s 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Day of Remembrance on February 20, 2011 at the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, located at 640 North Fifth Street, San Jose, California, beginning at 5:30 pm and concluding 7:30 pm.

For more information on the Day of Remembrance, you may visit the Nihonmachi Outreach Committee’s website at [www.sinoc.org](http://www.sinoc.org) or call (408) 374-2722.

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## CAIR - SFBA Fundraising Banquet and the Bridging Communities Program *by Leon Kimura*

The Council on American-Islamic Relations-San Francisco Bay Area Chapter’s (CAIR –SFBA) 16th Annual Fundraising Banquet on November 7<sup>th</sup> was a great success thanks to the attendance of more than 750 community members.

**Ambassador Attallah Shabazz**, eldest daughter of Malcolm X; **Ms. Linda Moreno**, defense attorney; and Imam **Siraj Wahhaj** from the At-Taqwa Mosque in New York gave powerful addresses on facing Islamophobic attacks with confidence and assertiveness, and supporting civil rights advocacy work.

A moving perspective was also given by Imam **Zaid Shakir**, ranked as one of America’s most influential scholars, who described the magnitude of the unjust incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans and the lessons to be learned from this history. He has worked closely with the JAACL both to understand and to help educate, lest the lessons in correlating the battling of ethnic discrimination be lost.

Four awards were given to individuals and organizations who stood up for American Muslims’ First Amendment rights, and individuals who refused to give up their basic civil liberties in the face of adversity. The 2010 awards were given to:

- **Hani Khan**: a young Muslim woman fighting discrimination by the Hollister Co.
- **Javed Khan**: local Muslim community leader
- **People Acting in Community Together (PACT)**: interfaith collective working on social justice issues including Islamophobia
- **Yasir Afifi**: a young Muslim man who had a GPS tracking device placed on his car by the FBI

*(Continued on page 5)*

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(CAIR—SFBA, continued from page 4)

CAIR will use the over \$200,000 raised at the banquet, to continue protecting American civil rights, as the JACL has done since 1929, and to promote the understanding of Islam for the benefit of future generations. Much work is still needed to ensure that diversity is embraced by all.

Future collaborations between the Japanese American and Muslim American communities will be pursued such as the **JACL's Bridging Communities Program**. Japanese American and Muslim American high-schoolers, will learn with and from one another in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle and Arizona. Included will be interactive workshops on identity, culture, religion and community, as well as field trips to Tule Lake and a mosque.

The San Francisco program kicks off on February 20th at the Day of Remembrance program. Interested students (or parents inquiring for their children) may contact SF Bridging Communities Intern Jessica Kyo at [jkyo@jacl.org](mailto:jkyo@jacl.org) for more information.

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### **NCWNP District Membership Drive** *by Tom Nishikawa*

The district along with National has embarked on a vigorous and active campaign to improve our membership numbers. As most of us are aware, membership count is a vital and key part of our JACL at the chapter level, district level, and national level. The very lifeblood of JACL is its membership. With this in mind, each district has embarked on asking each and every chapter to call upon lapsed members. Just by getting lapsed members to renew we can increase our membership. Our San Jose has joined this effort to ask our lapsed members to renew as soon as possible. Our board members - **Leon Kimura, Elyse Noda, Tom Oshidari, Joyce Oyama, Kathy Pagaduan, and Sharon Uyeda** - participated in a phone bank calling many of our lapsed members.

Please help, if your membership has lapsed, please mail in (SJ JACL office at 565 No. 5th St., San Jose, CA 95112) your dues. Remember why you joined this very important civil rights organization. JACL has been a significant force in the protection of our Nikkei community. Its' long history and efforts in the avocation of all of our civil rights – both within the Nikkei community and the wider community of America. Please continue to be a part of this organization and movement.

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### **Halloween Magic at the Issei Memorial Building** *by Leon Kimura*

This Historic Issei Memorial Building (IMB) was crawling with monsters, superheroes and princesses for Halloween! **Kari Dobashi Barton** and family helped organize a face painting party and kids crafts event with **CYS** and **San Jose JACL** support. The magical evening started with the **San Jose Taiko** Halloween performance across the street at the Wesley First United Methodist Church. After which, the sounds of taiko filled the streets of Japantown as a traveling troupe of taiko drummers danced their way amongst the ghosts and goblins, many of whom floated over to the IMB for tricks and treats!

Face and arm painting was performed by the **State of Grace** artists and tables of crafts projects enticed both young and old to create personal masterpieces! In keeping with the taiko performances, along with the candy and goodies passed out at the front door, over 75 Halloween decorated taiko drums were given away first come, first served by the San Jose JACL..

Thank you to Kari and all the volunteers in making the evening truly special for the kids!

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## Senior Nutrition Program *by Leon Kimura*

“Senior Nutrition Task Force will develop and recommend a viable and financially sustainable congregate meal program for vulnerable and at-risk senior populations”

An admirable Mission Statement for a critical service provided to our senior population. But with the financial woes impacting all levels of social service subsidies, the accommodation of any specialized dietary needs of the ethnic communities are in jeopardy. I was invited to attend a task force meeting last December and heard the discussion of the nutrition program’s future. And it seems that without a public outcry for the need to maintain a level of flexibility in the program menu, the congregate meal program will be blended into a one-menu-fits-all program.

So, if you would like to learn more and provide your input into the programs future, please attend the public hearing scheduled to solicit your thoughts.

Free parking is underneath City Hall with access off 6<sup>th</sup> Street. When you enter, and after you pull your parking stub, drive all the way to the elevators at the rear of the underground garage and you will take the elevator up into the “Wing” area of City Hall. Bring your parking stub for validation with you.



**DATE:** Wednesday, January 26, 2011  
**TIME:** 9:00 am – 11:00 am  
**LOCATION:** San José City Hall, Wing 120  
200 E Santa Clara Street  
San José, CA 95113

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## 2010 SJ JACL Board Election Results *by Tom Oshidari*

At the November 12, 2010, General Meeting and following regular Board Meeting, the following elections resulted.

### Re-elected Board Members:

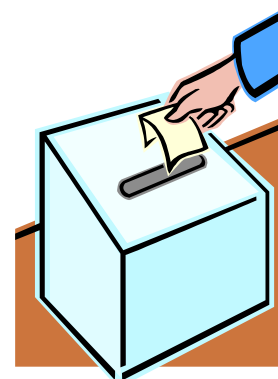
Carl Fujita, Amy Halcrow, Richard Kamimura, Carrie Kimura, Neil Kozuma, Tom Maruyama, Jr., Tom Nishikawa, Tom Nishisaka, Steven Nose, Sue Shigemasa, Tom Shigemasa, Aron Shimada, Sharon Uyeda.

### Newly Elected Board Members:

Aimee Brizuela; Kathy Pagaduan, Ken Sakamoto.

### 2011 Officers:

Co-Presidents: Leon Kimura and Tom Maruyama, Jr.  
VP Civil Liberties: Neil Kozuma  
VP Operations: Tom Oshidari  
Treasurer: Tom Oshidari  
Secretary: Neil Kozuma  
District Delegates: Neil Kozuma and Tom Nishikawa



**Congratulations All!**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## NORMAN Y. MINETA, HONORED BY HOUSE RESOLUTION

**Norman Y. Mineta**, was honored December 17, 2010 by the House of Representatives when it unanimously passed House Resolution 1377 to honor and recognize his contributions to the nation. Sponsored by his close friend and colleague Representative **Mike Honda** (CA-15), chairman of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), it was the first time in recent history that the House has honored a living former member of Congress with a resolution.

**Norman Y. Mineta** represented San Jose, California for almost thirty years. First, as the first Asian American City Council member in San Jose, then as the first Asian American Mayor, and then from 1975 to 1995 as a Member of Congress. Secretary Mineta was appointed the U.S. Secretary of Commerce by **President William J. Clinton** in 2000, becoming the first Asian American Cabinet Secretary, and was later appointed the U.S. Secretary of Transportation by **President George W. Bush** in 2001.

Norman is currently Vice Chairman of Hill & Knowlton, an international communications consulting firm based in its Washington, D.C. and Chair of his leadership Political Action Committee, America's Opportunity Fund.

**From all your homies here in San Jose, CONGRATULATIONS NORM!**

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## 43rd Annual Tokutomi Math Contest Registration is Open

The 43rd San Jose JACL-Tokutomi Mathematics Contest is scheduled for **Saturday, February 19th**. All schools in the Santa Clara County that have Algebra 1 students in grades 9 to 12 are invited to participate.

Please submit your registration form by **Monday, February 10th**.

Contact Chris Tsuji at: [ctsuji@cheerful.com](mailto:ctsuji@cheerful.com) for more information.

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## 2011 Scholarship Applications are Now Available

**ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS:** It's time to apply for a scholarship. If you are graduating this June or know of someone who is, please go to the San Jose JACL website: [www.sanjosejacl.org](http://www.sanjosejacl.org) and download an application. The San Jose JACL offers and administers a number of scholarships to high school seniors, so take some time, complete the application, and apply. Being a student member increases your chance of receiving a scholarship, so if you're not a member already, sign-up and become a student member now! Student membership is \$30.00. Please contact Sharon Uyeda, Scholarship Chairperson, at [SUyeda9356@aol.com](mailto: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 at the above numbers. Postmark deadline for submittal is Tuesday, March 1, 2011.

# 2010 With The San Jose JACL



Ambassador Fujisaki's Visit



Issei Memorial Building Open House



Angel Island Excursion



Issei Memorial Building Clean-up Day



Washington D.C. Leadership Conference



Nisei Diploma Project Reception



Children's Day Backyard Party



Scholarship Awards Luncheon



API Justice Coalition Summer Mixer



Nikkei Matsuri Ika Fry



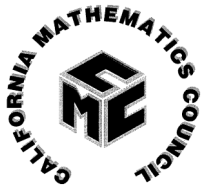
Halloween Face Painting Party



Centennial Celebration Luncheon

Photos courtesy of Gary Jio, Will Kaku, and Tom Nishikawa





QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

**Japanese American Citizens League, San Jose Chapter  
California Mathematics Council, Student Activity Trust  
Santa Clara Valley Mathematics Association**

Announce the  
**Forty-Third Annual  
San Jose JACL – Tokutomi Mathematics Contest**

*Saturday, February 19, 2011*

*Registration Deadline February 10, 2011*

All schools in the Santa Clara County that have Algebra 1 students in grades 9 to 12 are invited to participate. The San Jose Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), the California Mathematics Council Student Activity Trust, the Santa Clara Valley Mathematics Association, and the Santa Teresa High School Mathematics Department sponsors this mathematics contest.

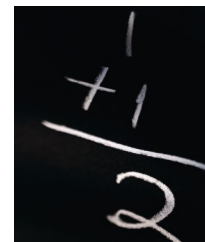
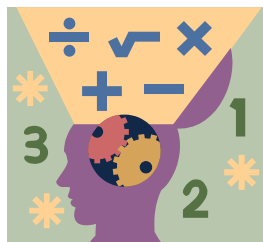
The purpose of the contest is to stimulate interest in mathematics among students in Algebra One and to encourage them to raise their mathematical abilities. The late Mr. Kiyoshi Tokutomi started the formerly named Hokubei Mainichi Mathematics Contest in 1966. He was the Hokubei Mainichi San Jose Branch Assistant Manager. His wife, Kiyoko continued with the contest when he passed away. Mrs. Tokutomi passed away in December, 2002. In honor of the founders of the contest, the contest has been renamed in their honor, Tokutomi.

This contest is open to only Algebra One students in grades 9th through 12th graders that attend one of the schools in Santa Clara County.

There will be approximately 15 problems to be solved within 45 minutes, then approximately 10 problems with pairs are solved. Calculators are allowed.

Trophies will be awarded to the top 3 scores with a participation gift for every student that participates.

For further information, please contact **Chris Tsuji** at [ctsuji@cheerful.com](mailto:ctsuji@cheerful.com).



Honoring *Issei* and *Nisei* American soldiers who proudly served in the United States Armed Forces in the following wars:

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World War II  
Korean War  
Vietnam War

Judy Niizawa, President  
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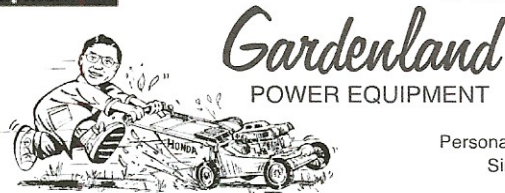
LUNCH: Monday-Friday 11:30 am - 2:00 pm  
DINNER: Monday-Friday 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm

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Adele Iwasaki	Ray & Lucy Matsumoto	Tom & Terry Oshidari	Taketsugu Takei	



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 Karen Fugita  
 Ken Furukawa  
 Amy Halcrow  
 Gary Jio  
 Jemma Jio  
 Carrie Kimura  
 Leon Kimura  
 Neil Kozuma  
 Noriko Kumoi-Ray  
 Caroline Kurimoto  
 Van Lam  
 Ken Matsumoto  
 Greer Nishikawa  
 Tom Nishikawa  
 Tom Nishisaka  
 Tamon Norimoto  
 Kay Ono  
 Tom Oshidari  
 Joyce Oyama  
 Margie Oyama

Kellie Takagi  
 Sharon Uyeda  
 Joyce Yamamoto

## Halloween

Kari Dobashi Barton  
 Larry & Chizuko Dobashi  
 Colin Kenji  
 Leon Kimura  
 Takahiro Kitamura  
 Joyce Oyama  
 Darren Sera  
 Heidi Shigematsu  
 Silver Creek High School Interact  
 Alan Takeda & CYS

## Year-end Donation Mailer

Shuhei Fukawa  
 Leon Kimura  
 Tom Nishisaka  
 Hiroaki Okuna  
 Joyce Oyama  
 Margie Oyama

Takuya Takahashi  
 Henry Uyeda  
 Sharon Uyeda

## Yu-Ai Kai Mochi Tsuki

Aimee Brizuela  
 Leon Kimura  
 Tom Oshidari  
 Sharon Uyeda

## Membership Drive

Leon Kimura  
 Elyse Noda  
 Tom Shidari  
 Joyce Oyama  
 Kathy Pagaduan  
 Sharon Uyeda

## Outlook Mailer

Ken Furukawa  
 Amy Halcrow  
 Gaile Itami  
 Leon Kimura

Tamon Norimoto  
 Tom Oshidari  
 Joyce Oyama  
 Carie Shigemasa-Diaz  
 Cristina Diaz  
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**Japanese American Citizens League**

**San Jose Chapter**

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### January

- 14 SJ JACL Officer and Board Installation  
Issei Memorial Building, 6:30 pm
- 14 SJ JACL Board Meeting  
Issei Memorial Building, 7 pm
- 22 SJ JACL Board Retreat  
Issei Memorial Building, 10 am
- 26 Senior Nutrition Program Public Hearing  
San Jose City Hall, 9 am

### February

- 10 Tokutomi Math Contest application deadline
- 11 SJ JACL Board Meeting  
Issei Memorial Building, 7 pm
- 19 Tokutomi Math Contest  
Santa Teresa High School
- 20 Day of Remembrance Programs

### March

- 1 2011 Scholarship application deadline
- 11 SJ JACL Board Meeting  
Issei Memorial Building, 7 pm
- 11-21 Asian American Film Festival

