



*Japanese American Citizens League
San Jose Chapter*

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OUTLOOK

9th Annual Community Recognition Dinner *by Sharon Uyeda*

With the theme, “100 Years and Beyond: Honoring Community Service”, the 9th Annual Community Recognition Dinner was held on Saturday, October 15, 2011 at the San Jose Airport Garden Hotel. Approximately 200 people were in attendance to honor the following individuals and groups: **Roy and PJ Hirabayashi** (co-founders of San Jose Taiko), **Jim McClure** (chair of SJ Betsuin Obon for 12 years), **Wes Mukoyama** (former director of Yu-Ai Kai), **San Jose Zebras** (youth basketball teams) and **Wesley Jazz Ensemble** (instrumental musical group).



Pre-Dinner music was provided by the Wesley Jazz Ensemble as attendees browsed and placed bids for various silent auction items, mingled and chatted. After a no-host cocktail hour, **Tom Oshidari**, dinner co-chair, called everyone to be seated and the evening event began. **Tom Maruyama, Jr.**, co-president of the Chapter, welcomed everyone and also spoke about the Chapters preservation campaign for the 100 year old Issei Memorial Building and encouraged financial support of the Building.

Jana Katsuyama, staff reporter for KTVU’s Channel 2 News, served as mistress of ceremonies. She called upon Consul General of Japan **Hiroshi Inomata** to speak about the earthquake and tsunami that affected Japan earlier in the year and the relief efforts that have been made. He thanked the JACL for its ongoing disaster relief and added that much still remains to be done. A special \$5,000 donation was made by the **South Bay Islamic Center** to the Chapter for the Japan Earthquake/Tsunami Relief, which reinforced the wide-spread efforts of so many to assist in the disaster relief.

Attendees enjoyed a combination dinner of filet mignon and salmon with tuxedo truffle mousse cake for dessert. Following dinner, each honoree was introduced by an individual of their choice then was presented with an engraved picture frame with the kanji, “Kansha”, meaning gratitude and a certificate of recognition from the office of **Congressman Michael Honda**.

[continued on page 8.]

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



On behalf of the San Jose Chapter of the JACL, Happy New Year and wishing you a Prosperous 2012.

As 2012 begins we welcome new and returning board members and officers that are facing the task of increasing our membership as well

as undertaking a Preservation Campaign that we started last year for the Issei Memorial Building Preservation and Restoration. While we have received a few appreciated donations, we are in need of much more as it has recently been discovered that we have the following repair needs. After a termite inspection of the IMB it was discovered that we are in immediate need of repair and treatment at an approximate cost of \$6,000. Another repair uncovered was the roof and gutters. They will need immediate attention and could cost up to \$20,000. The large Cypress tree in front of the parking lot has dropped branches and the most recent large branch cleanup was an additional \$400 with more trimming required which will cost approximately \$2,000.

With a 100 + year old building, repairs are to be expected but we were hoping to have completed a Preservation Campaign for the IMB before we under took some of these repairs, but the repairs have now become critical.

Now that we have conducted the inspections and identified immediate repairs, we will have to address them soon before they become larger problems and cost even more.

So If you, family, friends, business or corporations would like to help preserve this historic legacy to our community, please contribute to these repairs. We are a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit organization.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and continued support of the San Jose JACL.

OUTLOOK is published on a quarterly basis by the San Jose 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.

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San Jose CYS 50th Anniversary Dinner *by Tom Oshidari*

On October 29th nearly 800 guests helped the San Jose Community Youth Service (CYS) celebrate its 50th anniversary at a dinner program at the Fairmont Summit Center.

Ed Shikada acted as Master of Ceremonies to preside over the program which included a performance by **San Jose Taiko** and remembrances by three individuals who represented three different eras: **Ernie Inouye** – the early years, **Dale Sasaki** – the middle years, and **Kari Dobashi-Barton** – the recent years. Further, there was special recognition bestowed upon **George and Shiz Hanada** for their longstanding contributions to the community. CYS President, **Alan Takeda**, gave an accounting of his extensive personal history with the Hanadas.



SJ JACL's efforts to support the event had its obstacles. **Joyce and Margie Oyama**, who were scheduled to attend, had another commitment arise and did not make it. Other scheduled attendees, **Carrie Kimura and Neil Kozuma**, fell ill that day. So, the final crew ended up consisting of **Leon Kimura, Tom Maruyama, Jr., Aki Matsu-moto, Berdi Oshidari, and Tom and Terry Oshidari** (see the accompanying photo).

Spirit of Japantown *by Leon Kimura*



Once upon a time, there was a beautiful princess who thought that it would be a wonderful idea to have a gala festival in one of this nation's three remaining Japantowns. It should promote this historic community and help keep its spirit alive, she thought. And she worked diligently to develop a festival proposal that she presented to the Japantown Community Congress of San Jose who endorsed it and became the festival's sponsor.

Since its inception by **Jeanne Katsuro**, the Spirit of Japantown festival in San Jose has become a major attraction that is supported collectively by the Japantown community. The intent of appealing to new patrons and visitors drawing them into

Japantown has been accomplished by the variety of activities such as live performances at multiple stages, arts, crafts and food booths, community awards, cultural exhibits and even a street filled with decked-out cars!

During the festivities, the historic Issei Memorial Building is open for refuge for the young and old offering iced tea and a place to relax for a spell while touring the IMB facility. Folks are shown the difference between the historic and modern staircases, **Norm Mineta's** old insurance office, the kitchen addition and the enclosed back-yard gardens. Visitors include those who have lived in the neighborhood their entire lives, passing by the IMB daily and curious to now see the insides of this historic Kuwabara hospital building. Or newbies stop in so their kids can use the bathroom and end up learning a bit about our local history.

So, the spirit in Japantown and the historic IMB are still with us. I would suspect that the spirit of **Dr. Kuwabara** would thank the princess for caring for our community! Please enjoy and support Japantown!

1st Annual Youth Broomball by Carrie Kimura



San Jose Chapter's youth hosted their first annual game of broomball on December 16th, 2011 at Sharks Ice in San Jose. Participants came out for a late night game starting at 11:30pm! As you can see from the photos, there were plenty of falls and laughs over the course of the night. I think it's safe to say everybody thoroughly exhausted and enjoyed themselves during our hour on the ice!

Thank you to our Chapter presidents **Leon Kimura** and **Tom Maruyama, Jr**, and board members **Aki Matsumoto** and **Sharon Uyeda** for volunteering to help out that night! Tom Maruyama, Jr and Sharon Uyeda each donated \$10 for the event, thank you both so much! Last but not least, a huge thank you to the **Matsumoto family** for their help at the game and their donation of the team lanyards!

Thank you to all our participants and we look forward to seeing you next year!



Halloween at the IMB 2011 by Kari Dobashi-Barton

State of Grace Tattoo celebrated HALLOWEEN 2011 at the IMB. **SJ JACL** and **San Jose CYS** co-sponsored the event as a part of **San Jose Taiko's** annual Halloween in Japantown celebration!

Close to 100 kids came out to enjoy games and arts & crafts with **Horitaka** and **Molly Skobba**. Kids also received a bunch of treats and toothbrushes donated by **Japantown Dental** (Thank you **Dr's Hiura** and **Nguyen!**).



Looking forward to another exciting event next year! Boo!



Advancing Justice Conference *by Leon Kimura*

October 27th and 28th marked the third annual national civil rights and social justice conference for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders hosted by the **Asian American Center for Advancing Justice** (Center). They have held conferences in Los Angeles, Alexandria, VA and now in San Francisco and serve to unite AAPI organizations from across the nation and overseas. The Center is comprised of four agencies: **Asian Law Caucus, Asian American Institute, Asian American Justice Center and Asian Pacific American Legal Center.**

This year's conference had 30 workshops organized into four tracks: civil and human rights, immigrant integration and civic participation, youth leadership and community organizing, and capacity building. Seeing

the impressive lineup of workshops and participants, I couldn't help but think that the Center has stepped into an historic role that the JACL has played in the past, essentially performing an umbrella role supporting Asian Americans and indeed all Americans in need. The JACL was mentioned several times during the sessions including the role played supporting the gulf coast Vietnamese fishermen after the oil spill devastation. And knowing the JACL continues to be a leader in the human and civil rights arena is gratifying.

Conference attendees were treated to the hot-off-the-presses release of the Center's report: **A Community of Contrasts, Asian Americans in the United States:2011.** The 2010 Census information was dissected and many interesting results were presented about the Asian American ethnic groups. Some of these being:

- The nation's 17,320,856 Asian Americans (AAs) comprise 6% of the population
- California has the highest number of AAs at 5,556,592
- Japanese Americans (JAs) are ranked 6th in population (1,304,286) amongst AAs
- JAs are most likely to be mixed-race at 35% of all AA ethnic groups
- JAs have the lowest percentage (28%) of foreign born population
- JAs have the highest Median Age (38) of all AA ethnic groups
- 36% of JAs continue to speak a language other than English at home
- JAs have the lowest percentage (18%) of Limited English Proficient population
- JAs have the lowest percentage (8%) Uninsured population
- JAs had a 14% growth rate from 2000 to 2010

See the full report at: http://www.apalc.org/pdffiles/Community_of_Contrast.pdf



Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony in Japantown by Leon Kimura

The San Jose JACL is proud to participate in the efforts to honor the veterans of the **100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service** who served our country with distinction during WWII. The Congressional Gold Medal (CGM) was bestowed collectively to these veterans at the November 2nd Washington DC ceremony.

However, not everyone could attend the Washington DC ceremony. Therefore, on February 23, 2012, the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin Annex (gymnasium) will be packed to capacity with the local veterans, their widows or next of kin from the honored military units who could not participate in the November ceremony. Due to the overwhelming local response, attendance is limited to the approximately 200 families who have already made reservations.

The organizing committee's primary focus has been to make the event special for the veterans who attend. Three Congressional members are planning to personally distribute the CGM replicas. One free medal will be presented to each honored veteran or their representative and fundraising is continuing to ensure that we have adequate funds to purchase the medals from the mint.

For more details or if you wish to contribute to this event, please contact the Japanese American Museum of San Jose (JAMsj) who along with the following are helping to make this event possible: Congressional Representatives **Zoe Lofgren, Mike Honda and Anna Eshoo, the San Jose Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), the Friends and Families of Nisei Veterans (FFNV), local VFW Post 9970 and the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin.**



JAMsj Docent Program

The Japanese American Museum of San Jose (JAMsj) shares the same goal with the JACL in telling a story about American identity through the experiences of Japanese Americans. JAMsj is actively looking for volunteer docents to help communicate this important American story to the public.

What is a docent?

Docents are volunteers who interpret and communicate our educational message to the public during museum tours. There are no prerequisites to be a JAMsj docent. All we want are dependable and enthusiastic people who are willing to learn.

Why become a docent?

In addition to the satisfaction of providing a valuable community service, you'll receive continuing education with expert instruction, a broad assortment of instructional materials, access to our research library, and special invitations to docent events.

Besides the need for more docents, we also have many other volunteering opportunities. If you are interested in volunteering, please visit our volunteer page on our website, www.jamsj.org, email us at

volunteeradmin@jamsj.org, or call the JAMsj office at [408-294-3138](tel:408-294-3138).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gordon Hirabayashi: A Civil Rights Legacy

The JACL is saddened by the passing of civil rights pioneer, Gordon Hirabayashi. For the Japanese American community and Asian American communities in general, Gordon Hirabayashi always comes to mind during discussions of civil rights. Hirabayashi is a hero in the national civil rights arena, and his fight for justice is chronicled in college text books and law classes throughout the nation. The current issues before national legislative bodies, such as Constitutional due process, racial profiling, and hate crimes have their roots in the battles fought decades ago by Hirabayashi.

Japantown Lions Club Student Speaker Contest

Deadline: January 27th

“What Could the America of Yesterday Teach the America of Tomorrow?”

Each year, since 1938, the Lions Clubs of California have held a Student Speaker Contest, sponsored by the Student Speakers Foundation and it is open to all students in California in grades 9-12 including charter school, private school and home-schooled students.

Yu-Ai Kai's own **Executive Director Sophie Horiuchi-Forrester** is a past winner of this contest!

This year a total of \$103,500 in scholarships will be awarded to contest winners throughout California. Scholarship awards will be made to the winner and finalists at each of the 6 levels of the contest, and the winner of the Final contest will receive a \$10,000 scholarship in addition to the awards received from the levels leading up to the Final contest.

This year, your Japantown Lions Club is happy to sponsor the local contest which will be held at the Akiyama Wellness Center on the evening of February 9th, 2012.

For information about entry deadlines and rules, please contact **Japantown Lions Club President Doug Ray** at doug.ray47@gmail.com.

2012 Scholarship Applications are Now Available

Attention High School Seniors... Scholarships are now available through the San Jose JACL. If you are graduating this June from high school or know of someone who is, please go to the San Jose JACL website: 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 of the San Jose JACL Chapter increases your chance of being awarded a scholarship, so if you're not a member already, sign up and become a student member now! Student membership is \$30.00. A membership application can be downloaded from the Chapter website (see above) or one can be requested by emailing Sharon Uyeda, Scholarship Chairperson, at SUyeda9356@aol.com. Questions related to the San Jose JACL Scholarship Program can be directed to Sharon Uyeda at the above email address. Please keep in mind that all applications must be submitted by Thursday, March 1, 2012 (postmarked) to be considered.

If you are someone who is interested or know someone who would be interested in learning about civic engagement, and would like an internship with a government or non-profit office, **Vision New America** might be just for you! VNA is an opportunity to become active in your community, learn about valuable leadership skills, and to work on topics important to you. Participate in the social process while getting experience for your college/professional resumes!

Apply today at www.visionnewamerica.org - **applications are due on February 10, 2012.**



Sharon Uyeda, dinner co-chair, with the assistance of **Jemma Jio**, drew and announced the top three benefit drawing winners. Congratulations to **Joyce Yuri Oyama** for being the first place winner of a Las Vegas package combining a stay at the Paris Hotel and cash.

Tom Oshidari returned to the podium and expressed his appreciation for the work of the committee and volunteers and thanked everyone for their attendance and support of the drawing and silent auction. Then, he gave directions for checking and picking up of silent auction items.

Next year will be the 10th year of the dinner, so we hope that you will watch for information regarding it, save the date and attend. ~

CONGRATULATIONS DINNER WINNERS!

Drawing:

1st Place: Joyce Y. Oyama

2nd Place: Sumi Takagi

3rd Place: Takeo Ichikawa

Others: A. R. Iwanaga, Victoria Taketa, Shirley Ota, T.C. Lin, Tom Maruyama, Coner McClure, Lei Shigemasa, Ken Furukawa, Clarine Sunada

Silent Auction:

Aimee V. Brizuela, Kansan Chu, Amy Furukawa, Ken Furukawa, Amy Halcrow, Jane Hayashi, Barbara Hiura, Dorothy Hiura, Peter Horikoshi, Morris Hosoda, Julie Hubbard, Aggie Idemoto, Lillian Kanzaki, Leon Kimura, Caroline, Kurimoto, Misao Kusuda, Ye Kyaw, Sally Lieber, Gustavo Magana, Vera Matsumoto, Sue Sakai McClure, Judy Niizawa, Lydia Sakai, Lei Shigemasa, Sue Shigemasa, Robin Shinagawa, Marian Suhamu, Doris Tabuchi, Sumi Tanabe, Marge Tsuji, Jill Uda, Bobbie Ueunten, Lee Uyeda, Sharon Uyeda, Yasmin Vanya, Vicki Yoshihara

Dinner Acknowledgments

Dinner Committee:

Aimee Brizuela, Amy Halcrow, Leon Kimura, Caroline Kurimoto, Aki Matsumoto, Tom Oshidari (Co-Chair), Joyce Oyama, Tom Nishisaka, Kellie Takagi, Marge Tsuji, Sharon Uyeda (co-chair).

Dinner Volunteers:

Karen Fugita, Ken Furukawa, Gary Jio, Jemma Jio, Carrie Kimura, Neil Kozuma, Karen Matsumoto, Vera Matsumoto, Jennifer Nishisaka, Tamon Norimoto, Phillip Ozaki, Margie Oyama, Joyce Yamamoto

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Table Sponsors:

JAMsj, JCCsj, McClure/Sakai Families, Wes Mukoyama, San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, San Jose Taiko, San Jose Zebras, Barry Swenson Builder, Wesley Jazz Ensemble, Wesley United Methodist Church, Sharon Uyeda, Yu-Ai Kai

Acknowledgments:

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Judy Niizawa, President
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Karen Matsumoto	B
Ken Matsumoto	B
Tamon Norimoto	B,Y
Tom Oshidari	Y
Sharon Uyeda	B,S

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B - Broomball
 S - Spirit of Japantown
 Y - Year-end Donation Mailer

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 S - In Honor of Sharon Uyeda's Birthday

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Thank you Donors & Volunteers for your generosity! We wish you a very Happy & Prosperous New Year!



**Japanese American Citizens League
San Jose Chapter**

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Calendar of Events

- January**
27 Lions Club Speaker Contest Deadline
- February**
10 Board Meeting
11 Yu-Ai Kai Crab/Spaghetti Dinner
12 NCWNP District Council Mtg - Lodi
18 SJ Betsuin BWA Bota Mochi & Chirashi Fundraiser
19 SJ Day of Remembrance
19 Valor with Honor Screening at JAMsj
23 Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony
- March**
1 SJ JACL Scholarship Postmark Deadline
9 Board Meeting
- April**
1 National JACL Scholarship Deadline
13 Board Meeting
29 Nikkei Matsuri

