

KOKORO

THE HEART AND SOUL OF OUR COMMUNITY
SAN MATEO CHAPTER JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE AUG 2008
WWW.SANMATEOJACL.ORG
INQUIRIES: MARY JO KUBOTA-ARCAESE, 650.593.7358

SAN MATEO JACL IS DEDICATED TO PROMOTING THE HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE JAPANESE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE AND TO PROTECTING AND ADVANCING THE HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS OF OUR MULTI-ETHNIC SOCIETY THROUGH EDUCATIONAL AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS.

Articles must be submitted before the first Friday (one month prior to publication) and in electronic format [Microsoft WORD, New York font] to katemotoyama@sanbrunocable.com

SAN FRANCISCO/BAY AREA NIKKEI SINGLES OF JCCNC OFFER SCHOLARSHIP

One \$2000 scholarship is being offered by the San Francisco/Bay Area Nikkei Singles of the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCNC).

An applicant must be a member of a single-parent household and a graduating high school senior or post-secondary student planning to attend or currently attending an institution of higher learning or vocational college in the 2008-2009 academic year. The scholarship will be awarded based on academic talent, social and community affiliation, and economic need. Deadline for applications is October 31, 2008.

Application forms may be requested by writing to the San Francisco/Bay Area Nikkei Singles of JCCNC Scholarship Committee, c/o Bill Sakai, Chair, 316 Creekside Drive, Palo Alto, CA 94306 or by calling 650.493.2406.

THE 100/44 IS ALIVE AND WELL

The 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry is the only remaining infantry unit in the Army Reserve. Its headquarters is at Fort Shafter, Hawai'i. The 100th/442nd's wartime mission was to be one of the maneuver battalions of the 29th Separate Infantry Brigade, Hawai'i Army National Guard. You may not have known that the famous "Go For Broke" unit was reborn in 1947.

Americans of Japanese ancestry volunteered to fight in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in Italy and France. The Hawai'i volunteers were known as "Buddhaheads" and the Mainland volunteers were known as "katonks."

Buddhahead likely came from the shaved heads of Japanese priests in Hawai'i; katonk was derogatory and referred to the empty sound Hawai' AJAs claimed they heard when they hit Mainland AJAs' heads in their frequent fights in training camp.

Although there was little aloha between the island and mainland members at Camp Shelby in Mississippi because each thought the other acted and talked funny, this was soon to change to one of the great stories in America's history.

In an article for *Midweek*, March 26, 2008, Bob Jones reported that the most recently fallen-in-combat soldier of the 65-year-old unit was Staff Sgt. Wilgene Lieto, 28, killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq on October 31, 2005.

AMERICAN—AND ASIAN. AND PROUD OF IT—excerpt from Jeff Yang

To a generation growing up on "Ni Hao Kai-Lan" and "Jackie Chan Adventures" and "American Dragon: Jake Long," Chinese is cool. Just like Naruto and Nintendo have made Japanese cool. And K-pop and Korean dramas, bhangra and Bollywood have extended this sense of cool to Korea and India, too.

The generation sees its connection with Asia as an opportunity, not a handicap. They're planning summers, semesters abroad, even career paths that bring them across the Pacific. And they're choosing to learn Chinese and Korean and

Japanese and Hindi, not because of parental harassment but because the only way to experience the stuff they're interested in firsthand is to own the language.

For them, Asian isn't just normal—it's inspirational.

IMMIGRANTS' LANGUAGE SKILLS CRUCIAL IN ERA OF GLOBAL ECONOMY

An editorial by Rep. Mike Honda, who represents California's 15th Congressional District, which includes parts of Santa Clara County, argued for multilingualism. He begins with the statement that, as a teenager, he once told his mother "to speak only English to me." In his reckoning, being Japanese was not "cool" enough when he was in high school. And, even more: "Even more haunting was the stigma of World War II and the struggles my family suffered through during those years in an internment camp on account of our ancestry."

Honda went on to serve in the Peace Corps and learned Spanish while in El Salvador. He said that learning a new language opened his mind to a new world view. He also realized that by shunning Japanese, he "lost a window" to his culture.

Because of this, Honda supports multilingualism against those who believe in an "English only" policy. While he believes that immigrants should learn English, they should not have to lose their ancestral languages. He introduced the "One America, Many Voices" Act (H.R. 3727) that would give commensurate pay to federal employees whose official job descriptions require another language. He is also concerned that federal agencies are not complying with a 7-year-old executive order that directs federal agencies to provide proper access to speakers of other languages. This has hurt our population when, after Hurricane Katrina, FEMA did not provide vital information in languages immigrant communities could understand.

PACIFIC ISLANDER AND ASIAN YOUTH HIT WITH DIABETES

In an article by this title authored by Helen Altonn in the July 12, 2008 issue of the *Honolulu Star Bulletin*, it was reported that diabetes continues to increase among young Asians and Pacific Islanders under 20, putting them at risk for kidney and heart disease.

Two researchers are studying subjects in the SEARCH for Diabetes in Youth and could be contacted for more information at 808-441-5352 or at searchfordiabetes.org. It is much harder for a teenager to be diagnosed with diabetes, especially if it is preventable, as opposed to someone being diagnosed in their 70s. Drs. Beatriz Rodriguez, principal investigator, and J. David Curb, co-investigator, said that "in 20 years [diabetes] is a time bomb." Both are professors at the University of Hawai'i John A Burns School of Medicine as well as investigators in the Pacific Health Research Institute.

The study included 150 Asians, 34 Pacific Islanders, and 61 mixed Asian-Pacific Islanders. More than half were Hawai'i residents. The researchers have concluded that "there is no doubt" that Type 2 diabetes or adult onset diabetes is "increasing dramatically" and "especially in Hawai'i." The increase in Type 1, formerly known as juvenile diabetes, is also "more than expected."

NESPAPER ROLLERS IN S.J.'s JAPANTOWN CARRY ON TRADITION

An article by this name in the *San Jose Mercury News* [May 7, 2008] authored by Joe Mangaliman talked about the newspaper rollers of San Jose's Japantown. The seniors, mostly Japanese Americans in their 70s and 80s, are celebrating their 27th year of recycling and rolling discarded newspapers for use as packing material by flower growers and shippers in the region.

The seniors do this on Friday mornings at Yu-Ai Kai Senior Center. Three dozen seniors and young volunteers roll the stacks of unfolded newspapers into 25-pound logs. These are sold to flower growers in Watsonville and Salinas and to shippers in Mountain View.

The article reports that this 27-year-old project began as an effort of Boy Scouts affiliated with a neighborhood church. The project nets \$15,000 each year, to pay for brown-bag lunches and art class materials.

COMMUNITY CENTER CALENDAR

Mark your calendars:

- August 30, Saturday Potluck & Raffle
4:00 PM to 8:00 PM at SMJACC Gardeners Hall
The drawing at 7:00 PM
- September 10, Wednesday SF Opera Dress Rehearsal “Bonesetter’s Daughter”
6:00 PM at SF Opera House
- September 19, Friday Volunteers Appreciation Luncheon
11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at SMJACC Gardeners Hall
- September 27, Saturday City of San Mateo Health Fair
SMJACC to assist
10 AM to 2:00 PM at Alameda de las Pulgas Senior Center
- October 11, Saturday SMJACC Fall Clean Up
8:00 AM to Noon
- November 8, Saturday Holiday Fair
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at SMJACC Gardeners Hall
- December 2, Tuesday Holiday Luncheon (Potluck)
11:00 AM to 3:00 PM at SMJACC Gardeners Hall

UPDATE: A JACL PRESS RELEASE

Washington, DC – The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) is disappointed over the recent decision by the Terrebonne Parish school board in New Orleans, Louisiana, to consider a policy that would require commencement speakers to speak solely in English.

The proposed policy arose after two Vietnamese American co-valedictorians at Ellender High School each incorporated a few sentences of Vietnamese into their commencement speeches at graduation. The students thanked their first-generation immigrant parents for their hard work and translated the words for fellow students to hear.

“It is deeply concerning that a school would think to censor students for their bilingual abilities,” said Floyd Mori, JACL National Director. “Their multicultural roots should be celebrated, not punished, and moreover we believe the school should embrace the values of these students who publicly stated a profound respect for their parents in a way that they could clearly understand.”

The JACL urges the Terrebonne Parish to strike down such a discriminatory policy and encourage tolerance of diversity and multiculturalism.

INFORMATION ON JAPANESE CANADIAN REDRESS ANNIVERSARY

On September 22, 1988, the Japanese Canadian Redress Agreement was signed by the President of the National Association of Japanese Canadians (NAJC) and the Prime Minister of Canada. This document acknowledged the injustice committed by the Canadian Government against Japanese Canadians during and after World War II, and pledged that such events will not happen again.

This was a major historic event not only for Japanese Canadians, but for all minority groups as well, in that it set precedence for other redress settlements in Canada. September 22, 2008 marks the 20th anniversary of the Japanese Canadian Redress Settlement.

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UPDATE ON HATE CRIMES, AN ANNUAL REPORT

An article by Thomas Watkins titled, "Hate crimes hit 5-year high, panel says," in the *San Francisco Chronicle* [July 25, 2008] reported that hate crimes in Los Angeles County soared to their highest marks in five years. This is against the context of a *drop* in overall crime in this region.

An annual report by the county's Human Relations Commission shows 763 hate crimes were reported in 2007, a 28 percent increase from 2006. Most of the hate crimes were motivated by race [310 committed against black people and 125 against Latinos]. Crimes in which anti-immigrant slurs were used dropped slightly.

A comment made by civil rights attorney Connie Rice stated that, "When economic times gets tighter, hate crime violence goes up." She added that child abuse and domestic violence often increase for the same reason.

The article by Watkins goes on to say: "According to the U.S. Justice Department, for every hate crime that is reported to the police, as many as 28 are not reported, often for fear of retaliation or concerns about talking to authorities."



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