

KOKORO

the heart and soul of our community
san mateo chapter Japanese American citizens league jan 2009
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, Calibri font] to katemotoyama@sanbrunocable.com

PLEASE HELP US CONTINUE YOUR WORK BY PAYING YOUR ASSOCIATE MEMBER DUES

Those who are Associate Members of San Mateo JACL (affiliated with the chapter to show support for our work but not affiliated with national JACL) have *greatly* assisted us by the timely payment of dues. We request dues payment of \$45 to support our chapter each new year. We had a productive 2008 thanks to support such as yours, and encourage you to consider being more actively involved with our board or chapter for 2009. Please send your check made out to San Mateo JACL to the San Mateo Japanese American Community Center. You may address your envelope to: Steve Katayama, San Mateo JACL, 415 S. Claremont, San Mateo, CA 94401.

PICTURES FROM SAN MATEO JACL HOLIDAY PARTY; MORE ON PAGE 2



Our indefatigable Mary Jo enchants with her kamishibai stories of the O-Jizo-sama

HATE CRIMES DROP, DATA SHOW

According to the FBI, the number of reported hate crimes decreased on a national level; however, there was a surge in attacks targeting gays and lesbians. According to an article in the *Honolulu Advertiser* [October 28, 2008],

The FBI reported more than 7,600 hate crime incidents in 2007, down about 1 percent from the previous year. The decline was driven by decreases in the two largest categories of hate crimes: crimes against race and religion. But incidents linked to prejudice against sexual orientation, the third-largest category, increased about 6 percent . . .

The most frequent victims of attacks are “Blacks, Jews and gays,” according to the FBI report and the article. Almost one third of all hate crimes were categorized as vandalism and property destruction; intimidation was the second most common hate crime, with assault being third.

HELP SAVE A PIECE OF CALIFORNIA HISTORY!

“A symbol of human hope and moral courage.” --Kevin Starr, California State Librarian Emeritus

Once in a great while, true opportunity presents itself. You can help save a valuable piece of California history by supporting the Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Colony Project, the first Japanese settlement in North America. Driven from Japan during the Civil War of the mid 1800s, the Wakamatsu colonists made an epic journey by schooner, steamship, and wagon train to the Mother Lode of California, to seek a better life. They settled in the Gold Country, just a mile from where James Marshall discovered the precious metal. The group included Okei Ito. Homesick and lonely in a foreign land, she often walked to the top of the hill as the sun set and looked to her native Japan. Her courage and the dramatic story of the Wakamatsu Colony should be preserved for generations.

Honorable Doris Matsui, Congresswoman, has said, “To many Japanese Americans, the Wakamatsu Colony is as symbolic as Plymouth Rock was for the first American colonists.” Now, the American River Conservancy and the Gold Hill Wakamatsu Colony Foundation are seeking to acquire this historic site and transform it into an historic park for all to enjoy. Additional funds are needed to acquire the Wakamatsu Colony site, build a public park facility, and preserve the Wakamatsu Colony story for future generations. Your action will help make this important dream a reality.

If you are interested, please log on to www.arconservancy.org and click on “Gold Hill—Wakamatsu Project” or call 530-621-1224. While gifts of any amount are accepted, donors of \$500 will receive a signed one of a kind Brian Hayes tea bowl. Those donating \$1000 or more will receive permanent engraved recognition within a designated Wall of Honor at the park entrance, and a signed tea bowl from the artist. The bowls include the Japanese symbol for “onna” or woman in honor of Okei Ito.

MORE HOLIDAY PICTURES



*Board member Steve Katayama, Leann, and Kristen!
We will publish more photos so you can get to know our board members in later issues!*

Budget 2009

INCOME:

Dues:		
Associate	250.00	
Full	7000.00	
Fund Raising:		
Art in the Park	3000.00	
Golf	4000.00	
Golf Raffle	500.00	
Interest	30.00	
Miscellaneous		
Donations	2000.00	
PC Ads	400.00	
Total	17,180.00	

EXPENSES:

Accountant	600.00
Community Center	1600.00
District Dues	700.00
Fund Raising	
Art in the Park	2000.00
Golf	2700.00
Programs:	
Education	400.00
College Youth	400.00
Scholarship	2000.00
Installation	300.00
Meetings:	
District Council	300.00
Scholarship lunch	500.00
Newsletter	3700.00
Office Supplies	300.00
Postage	1000.00
Website	200.00
Insurance	480.00
Total	17,180.00

JACL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR 2009

The San Mateo Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) is pleased to announce their scholarship program for the 2008-2009 school year. Eligible high school seniors are invited to submit applications to our chapter's Scholarship Chairperson (for San Mateo chapter, it's our Education Chair, Mary Jo Kubota-Arcarese) by March 1, 2009. Winning applicants will be announced in early April 2009. This year's recipients will be awarded their scholarships and honored at a special event hosted by our chapter.

Eligibility Requirements:

Applicants must be seniors enrolled in a San Mateo County public or private high school.
Applicants must be an active National JACL member at either an Individual or Student/Youth Level. (Parent membership will not meet this requirement.)

Applicants will be partially judged on their involvement in the JA/Asian American community.
Applicants must be planning to attend a college, university, trade school, business school or any other institution of higher learning within the United States.

Applications for JACL membership can be downloaded at <http://www.jacl.org/edu/scholar.htm>

[continued on page 4]

Japanese American Citizens League
415 Claremont San Mateo CA 94401

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #440
San Mateo, CA

Application Requirements:

Eligible students must submit a fully completed application.

One letter of recommendation.

An official high school transcript.

A verification of SAT/ACT scores.

A personal statement of no more than two pages on the topic question presented in the application must be included.

An interview with JACL scholarship committee members is part of the application process.

Applications must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2009.

Applications of winning students will be entered in National JACL Scholarship Program for 2009.

Completed applications must be sent to:

Mary Jo Kubota-Arcarese, Scholarship Chair
c/o Japanese American Community Center
415 South Claremont Street
San Mateo, CA 94401

For more information contact JACL National headquarters (415) 921 5225 or email at: jacl@jacl.org.



JACL
HealthBenefitsTrust

1-800-400-6633