

# KOKORO

THE HEART AND SOUL OF OUR COMMUNITY  
SAN MATEO CHAPTER JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE JUNE 2004  
[WWW.SANMATEOJACL.ORG](http://WWW.SANMATEOJACL.ORG)  
INQUIRIES: KATE MOTOYAMA 650.574.6676

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 by the fourth Wednesday of each month in electronic format [Microsoft WORD] to [katemotoyama@sanbrunocable.com](mailto:katemotoyama@sanbrunocable.com). Thank you!

ART IN THE PARK FUNDRAISER: OUR ANNUAL BURGER BOOTH



*After getting those JACL burgers, sit in the shade and enjoy the free music!*

The City of Burlingame is hosting its 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Art in the Park Festival on the weekend of June 12 & 13. The festival will be held at Washington Park, Burlingame (next to Burlingame High School). There will be over 100 arts & crafts and food booths, as well as live entertainment throughout the weekend. There's plenty of fun and excitement for the whole family.

Every year, the San Mateo JACL runs a hamburger booth to raise funds for our chapter. We hope you will come visit us and say hello. Introduce yourself to us and that way we can thank you *personally* for your valued support of our work.

## TSURE ZURE GUSA OR ESSAYS IN IDLENESS, PART 2

--Kate Motoyama

Around the time I started teaching at College of San Mateo, I told my ESL [English as a Second Language] students about Sadako Sasaki. Sadako was two years old when the atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan on August 6, 1945. In 1955, while practicing for a track event, a wave of dizziness swept over her. It turned out she had leukemia—a disease that had resulted from exposure to the bomb. When her friend told her about the old Japanese legend --anyone who folds a thousand paper cranes [*senbazuru*] would be granted a wish—Sadako began folding paper cranes so she could get well and run again. She died a few months later at the age of twelve, after folding 644 paper cranes. Today, in Sadako's memory, people around the world fold one thousand cranes and bring them to Hiroshima Peace Park with a wish for peace.

The ESL courses at the college are diverse but there were few Japanese students in my class. So why did I tell them the story? Partly it is because folding cranes is a Hawai'i tradition for weddings, anniversaries, and retirements. The lore is part of my local consciousness. One thousand cranes and is a wish for happiness or long life. Partly it is because the students yearned for peace. Luis, from Guatemala, a teacher like me, had cradled his colleague's head as he bled to death after a sniper attack. Kumiko had organized an indigenous peoples' conference that sought recognition for the rights of the Ainu. Marco's grandmother spoke only Quechua, a language and culture that had been preserved when her ancestors fled and found refuge from the Incas during their march of conquest. Each understood the importance of working towards peace and learned to fold the paper cranes, practicing their English as they taught others to fold them. The SPCH 844 class ended up with rainbow strands of nearly 1300 paper cranes. I flew to Hiroshima with my mother and those paper cranes, which weighed next to nothing, filling up my suitcase. The weight of obligation was enormous and lifted only after we had attended the Peace Day Ceremonies and made an offering of our cranes beneath Sadako's statue.

On my return to Hiroshima, nearly ten years later, my mother is tired. Only my father and I manage the walk through Peace Park. It is early morning in the late spring and a strong wind scatters the last cherry blossoms that cling to the branch. I tell him that, when mom and I attended the Peace Day Ceremony, we had lit a candle in a paper lantern and placed it onto the Motoyasu River, in memory of those lost and with prayers for peace. In a reflection on its role during World War II, Japan is characterizes itself this way: "[W]e must never forget that nuclear weapons are the fruits of war. Japan, too, with colonization policies and wars of aggression inflicted incalculable, irreversible harm on the peoples of many countries. We must reflect on war and the causes of war, not just nuclear weapons. We must learn the lessons of history, that we may learn and avoid the paths that led to war."

When will we achieve peace in the world? When do wishes become intention? When does hope become mere denial? These are Pope John Paul's words:

*War is the work of man.  
War is destruction of human life.  
War is death.  
To remember the past is to  
Commit oneself to the future.  
To remember Hiroshima is to  
abhor nuclear war,  
To remember Hiroshima is to  
commit oneself to peace*



*People from around the world bring paper cranes to wish for peace.*

Next: A museum honoring Japanese immigrants to Hawai'i.

#### THE IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE: SAN MATEO COUNTY HISTORY MUSEUM

The San Mateo County History Museum is producing a permanent exhibit on the immigrant experience in San Mateo County. Sheila Braufman, Associate Curator, is asking for help in identifying people to talk to and locating objects that tell the story of the peoples in our county. She asks that you follow these procedures if you feel there is an object that you think might be important: Call her at 650.299-0104, extension 31. If she is not there, please leave a message and she will return the call as soon as possible. She will make an appointment to go to the place where the objects are located to determine whether they will fit into the exhibition. She will photograph the objects for consideration for the exhibition.

Decisions about which objects will be in the exhibition will be made after all available materials are viewed. Sheila urges that we follow the above procedure because space is limited for exhibition and storage.

## COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS

**REMINDER!** Blood pressure readings are taken at the Community Center on the first Wednesday of the month from 1:00-2:00 p.m. by a staff of registered nurses. Coordinator Louise Ota, R.N. announced that Barbara Kitagawa, R.N. has agreed to join the blood pressure staff. Thank you, Barbara.

**HEALTH FAIR.** Health Fair 2003, the first for the Community Center, appears to be a successful first attempt to sponsor an event of this nature. Great organization, innovative thinking, and wonderful cooperation from the entire committee and community make the planning seem effortless. The committee will meet bi-weekly until the date of the fair, set for Saturday, October 9, 8:30 to 2:00 p.m. The venue will be the San Mateo Senior Center, 2645 Alameda de las Pulgas. Co-chairs Lillian Munekata and Marian Kanaya would like to hear from you if you have any suggestions, 343-2793. Please read coming issues of *Kokoro* for more information.

**HUMAN RACE.** Community Center Chairman Sats Hane actively encouraged a team to support the center, which retains 75% of funds raised in this event sponsored by the Volunteer Center of San Mateo County.

**ASIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH.** San Mateo Senior Center sponsored Asian Heritage Month Lunch on May 10<sup>th</sup>, during which time our seniors led the group in the folk dance, "Tanko Bushi." Tables were decorated with "origami" cups filled with sembei (sweet tea crackers). Our seniors donned colorful "happi" coats as they recruited other seniors to join the dancing.

Community Center leaders appreciate that the San Mateo Senior Center recognizes and celebrates Asian American Heritage Month. There was participation by the Asian Senior Club (Chinese) and seniors from the Filipino community. A Chinese lunch was served.

**RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEERS PROGRAM.** RSVP, a federally funded senior program that encourages people to volunteer their time and talent at nonprofit organizations, honored seniors at a luncheon on May 11<sup>th</sup> at the South San Francisco Conference Center. Many of our center volunteers who are registered with RSVP were feted at this recognition luncheon.

**MINORITY ELDERS.** On June 15, 8-2 p.m., San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and the Minority Elders Committee of San Mateo County Commission on Aging sponsored a conference, "Are You At Risk of Losing Independence?," to be held at the South San Francisco Conference Center at 255 Airport Boulevard, South San Francisco.

**OPERA.** Tickets for seniors are available for the opera "La Traviata," September 24, 2004, at 8:00 p.m. Please check with the Community Center for prices and bus schedule.

SUNDAY MATINEE MOVIE June 27, 2004, 1:30 p.m.: **“CHIKAMATSU MONOGATARI”** (The Crucified Lovers) at JA Community Center, 415 S. Claremont St., San Mateo. Ph. 650 343-2793

In 17<sup>th</sup> century Japan, illicit love between a merchant's wife and her servant leads to tragedy. Director Mizoguchi's intense and concentrated study of social mores is most visually sensuous film. 1954, 110 minutes, in Japanese with English subtitles. Starring Kazuo Hasegawa and Kyoko Kagawa

BASEBALL BASEBALL BASEBALL. The SMJACC annual SF Giants game will be against the LA Dodgers on Thursday, June 24, 2004. Game time 4:00 PM. \$25 per ticket. Seats located View Reserve Section 304. Most of the attendees plan to take Caltrain. Please phone the Center at 650-343-2793 for more details.

The Center has also received 8 pairs of donated tickets for SF Giants games. The remaining available games are: June 17 vs. Toronto, July 7 vs. Colorado, August 17 vs. Montreal and August 31 vs. Colorado. Excellent seat location in LB Section 129. Face value \$29 per ticket. Please call the Center at 650-343-2793 for more details. Prices for these tickets are negotiable.

### San Mateo JACL Regular Meeting April 15, 2004 Unapproved Minutes

Minutes of San Mateo JACL Board Meeting  
Thursday May 20, 2004

Attending: Kitty Hongo, Craig Ichiuji, Mary Jo Kubota-Arcarese, Kate Motoyama, Brent Nakagiri, Jeff Okamoto, Steve Okamoto, Heidi Tanakatsubo, Kevin Wong.

The meeting was brought to order at 7:30 pm by President Kubota-Arcarese.

There were no official minutes to approve.

The Treasurer's report was conditionally accepted, with the following questions: Are the "Other Dues" of \$6898 from National? What is the "Dance" income of \$820?

Education: No report.

Community Center: The Community Center will provide three additional keys to the building by the next meeting. They will go to April, Mary Jo, and Brent.

Ikoi no Tomo would like to donate their happi coats to the chapter. They were accepted with thanks.

The Community Center members will be attending the GIants game against

the Dodgers on 6/24. Tickets are still available.

Membership: No report.

Newsletter: We need articles.

Technology: PDFs of the chapter's newsletter will be placed on the chapter website as soon as they are received.

District Council: On 5/31, there will be a Memorial Day Service that honors the Golden Gate Nisei Memorial Post #9879 and the MIS Association of Northern California. It will be held at 10 am at Section R of the Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno. Lunch will be served afterwards at National Headquarters.

It was M/S/P to donate \$50 to this event.

As part of a national membership drive, one gift membership will be provided to each chapter for every three new members recruited (minimum of two gift memberships). This offer expires 8/31.

On Sunday 6/6, "Camp Dance: Japanese Internment Camp Experience" will be held at the San Jose Buddhist Church Annex (640 No. 5th St.) at 2:00 pm. There will be musical performances of period pieces. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors 75 and over and for children 12 and under.

National Convention: The following is the current slate of candidates for national office:

President:	Ken Inouye (PSW)
VP of General Operations:	Larry Oda (NCWNP)
VP of Planning and Development:	Carol Kawamoto (PSW)
VP of Membership:	Edwin Endow (NCWNP)
	Jason Jackson (PSW)
VP of Public Affairs:	Heidi Tanakatsubo (NCWNP)
Secretary/Treasurer:	Mark Kobayashi (NCWNP)
Youth Representative:	Josh Spry (MDC)

It was agreed to place Heidi's campaign materials on the chapter website.

The chapter's resolution on same-sex marriage was passed [MSU].

There will be a convention orientation on 7/17 from 10-3 at National Headquarters. All delegates plus all candidates should attend.

The delegates for the chapter will be Kate Motoyama and Kevin Wong.

The alternates will be Heidi Tanakatsubo and Brent Nakagiri. It is hoped that Julian Antram will attend as an intern.

New Business:

The San Mateo County Historical Museum is looking for artifacts for its Immigrant Experience exhibit. Matching funds for donations are available. It was considered to use some of the amount donated by Ernie Takahashi (approximate value of \$5,000).

The chapter will be running a burger booth for Art in the Park (6/12 and 6/13, Washington Park, Burlingame). Brent Nakagiri is the chairman for the chapter, Heidi Tanakatsubo is handling the volunteer schedule.

The event to celebrate and thank the Ikoi no Tomo group is scheduled for Sunday 7/25 at the Recreation Hall in San Mateo's Central Park.

The picnic with OCA is scheduled for 8/15 at San Mateo's Central Park.

The Community Center will be holding its Health Fair on 10/9. It was M/S/P to support it with a \$100 donation.

The annual Golf Tournament is scheduled for 10/31.

The next meeting (6/17) will be held at Ted Yamagishi's house.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jeff Okamoto.

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If you support our work, join the San Mateo chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League by filling out the application below. You may also visit our website [www.sanmateojacl.org](http://www.sanmateojacl.org) and print out membership forms. The website has more information on pertinent and timely topics of interest.

First name ----- Last name -----

Complete address -----

Home phone number ----- Work phone number -----

Email address -----

Age ----- Occupation -----

Are you a registered voter? Y/N Are you a new member? Y/N

What are your interests? -----

What attracts you to JACL? -----

How can JACL better serve you? -----

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Would you be willing to receive an electronic newsletter? Y/N

Circle the category of membership you are interested in:

**Individual - \$67** For members of the national and San Mateo organization

**Couple/Family - \$120** For a person, spouse and children less than 25 years

**Youth/Student - \$21** For a person 25 years or younger or currently enrolled in a college, trade school, or university

**Thousand Club - \$100** For a person who makes an annual contribution to the chapter and national programs of the organization

**Thousand Club Life - \$1000** A lump sum to establish lifetime membership

**Associate – \$45** Associate members affiliate with the local chapter only

To complete the application process, please mail the completed application, along with a check made out to "JACL" to:

Membership, San Mateo JACL 415 S. Claremont St. San Mateo, CA 94401

All members, except for Associate Members, will receive National JACL's bimonthly newspaper, *The Pacific Citizen* as well as our newsletter, *Kokoro*. If you do not receive *The Pacific Citizen* within six weeks, contact National JACL [415.921.5225]. If you do not receive *Kokoro* within six weeks, contact Kate Motoyama [650.574.6676].

You matter to us! If there are issues or concerns with our chapter, or things you wish to bring to the attention of the board, please speak with Kate. Thank you for your input.

**Japanese American Citizens League**  
415 Claremont San Mateo CA 94401

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