

**PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT  
For Immediate Release**

Contact:

Lori Matoba, Deputy Director, [imatoba@jcccnc.org](mailto:imatoba@jcccnc.org)  
Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California  
1840 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115  
(415) 567-5505, [www.jcccnc.org](http://www.jcccnc.org)

***HONORING OUR PAST, REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED ON...***

**JAPANESE CEMETERY CLEAN-UP DAY**

May 6, 2011 (San Francisco) – Often times we find ourselves too busy in our daily lives to honor our past and remember those who have passed on. The Japanese Cemetery in Colma is a unique cultural treasure that deserves our attention, our respect, OUR TIME. For many of us, it's the place where our loved ones are laid to rest. For all of us, it represents our history.

The Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC) is organizing a youth, family and community Clean-Up Day at the Japanese Cemetery in Colma.



When: Saturday, May 21st

Time: 10:00am – Noon

Where: 1300 Hillside Blvd., Colma, CA 94014

The JCCCNC will supply garbage bags, tools, cleaning supplies, watering buckets, drinking water, rags, bento lunches and flowers (**please bring your owns gloves**).

Please visit the JCCCNC website at [www.jcccnc.org](http://www.jcccnc.org) or call (415) 567-5505 for more information and to RSVP. Please RSVP, as a light lunch will be provided.

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### **About the Japanese Cemetery in Colma**

The Japanese Cemetery is located in the quiet town of Colma on the San Francisco Peninsula. It takes about 20 minutes from San Francisco by car. The 3-acre cemetery is the final resting place for more than 5,000 people, and the tower commemorating three crewmen from the famous ship Kanrin-Marui is there as well. In 1901, the Japanese Benevolent Society of California was established with a grant from the Meiji Emperor of Japan to provide "for the relief of sick, disabled or destitute persons of the Japanese race" in California and to provide "a suitable burial ground for deceased Japanese."

The Society performed its historic mandate over the years, assisting those in need and acquiring land in Colma, California, for a Japanese cemetery. It also served as a unifying force in the Japanese American community by bringing together the Buddhist, Shinto and Christian religious organizations, and by participating in local historical, cultural, and memorial events that honor the Japanese heritage in the United States.

### **About the JCCCNC**

The Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC) was established as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization in California in 1973. The JCCCNC serves over 185,000 individuals a year and conducts numerous exchange programs between the United States and Japan.