Journey To Tanforan

75th Anniversary of Executive Order 9066
Commemorative Edition
To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the signing of Presidential Executive Order 9066 and the 7,000 persons of Japanese ancestry that were sent to the Tanforan Assembly Center in San Bruno, CA, during World War II, the JCCCNC remembers and reflects on that historic experience.

In 2007, on the occasion of remembering the 65th anniversary of the Tanforan Assembly Center, the JCCCNC organized an event at the Shops at Tanforan Shopping Center. Over a thousand people attended the event and former internees came from as far away as New York and Canada. The event was called Journey to Tanforan. Below is an excerpt from my opening remarks that morning:

Some say they never knew that this place ever existed, same say it wasn’t that bad, others wish the memories would just go away.

Today, we are gathered at the place called Tanforan to commemorate, educate, remember and pay tribute to the lives that were impacted 65 years ago at the Tanforan Assembly Center. Although this place looks very different than it did back then, the sky remains the same, the mountains still rise in the background and, if we really listen, the wind still echoes with the voices of those who were interned here sixty-five years ago.

We cannot erase the past, but we can learn from it. We cannot let history repeat itself, but we can make sure that it never happens again.

If we listen to the wind that morning:

To commemorate Journey to Tanforan, I wrote a letter and read this poem reflecting on the sometimes cold, foggy, windy weather of the former Assembly Center site.

It just happened to be freezing that day…

If we listen to the wind…

We can hear the voices of those who were interned here sixty-five years ago.

If we listen to the wind…

Their voices are not still...

If we listen to the wind…

Their voices are not still...

Don’t forget what happened here…

From one generation to the next, let us never forget what happened here.

Sincerely,

Paul Osaki
Executive Director

Mission

The JCCCNC is a non-profit organization which strives to meet the evolving needs of the Japanese American community by offering programs, affordable services and administrative support and facilities for other local organizations. The JCCCNC also provides educational, cultural and recreational programs that meet and address the interests and concerns of the community. Our goals remain rooted in preserving the Japanese American cultural and historical heritage as well as fostering the foundation for future generations of Japanese Americans.
In 1941, Fred Nicholas was drafted into the U.S. Army; he was assigned as an armed guard at the Tanforan Assembly Center and later rose to the rank of Captain, earning a Bronze Star and Purple Heart. He would go on to become a lawyer and founded Public Counsel, the largest pro-bono law organization in the world helping the poor and needy. He later started a real estate business building shopping centers throughout America including the Eastridge Shopping Center in San Jose, the Supermall of the Great Northwest. He also developed the Ronald Regan Building in Washington D.C., and the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles. One of the first shopping malls he built started with tearing down the former Tanforan Assembly Center.

(The following is an interview excerpt with Fred Nicholas in 2001)

"I was assigned to military police up in the San Francisco area, and the first assignment I had, I was a private, and I remember being part of the squad that went from house to house in the Japanese community and delivered orders for them to vacate their houses. Later, I was part of a detail which helped them leave, helped them get their stuff out and guided them and drove a guard truck to the ... relocation depot. He spent three or four months at Tanforan — the camp only operated for a little over five months. During that time he "walked perimeter" in uniform and helmet — "an assigned post, with a rifle which was loaded" four hours on, four hours off. "I had two tours a day, and then was reassigned to other duties and then back. "With the other soldiers he camped in tents at the racetrack.

"I remember I was up on one of the guard towers with the lights, and it looked like a prison... I was 21 years old. I had just come from senior year at USC in journalism, and I was very, very upset about it."

"I became friendly with various of the Japanese who were interned there. They used to give me notes or they used to sit by the fence where I was guarding. He said he ran errands, bought clothing and food for people that they couldn't get in the camp. 'It was a very traumatic experience for me. It was very difficult for the people behind the fence and it was very difficult for some of the guards. I'm not saying all of them, but some of them, like me... '

"Most of the people that I talked to were young, mostly young men and girls who had come out of Berkeley, taken out of school, or other schools in the neighborhood, and so we used to talk. I became friendly with one of the girls behind the fence, and corresponded with her for many years during the time I was in the Army. I met her after I got out of the Army and became a lawyer, and so I had this correspondence relationship with this young girl who was from Berkeley, who was about my age, and I learned all about her plight, her difficulties and her family. It was a sad duty for me. But it was also interesting and rewarding, because I did make friends, not of the soldiers but of the people being guarded."

..."I mean, I would be on duty at three or four o'clock in the morning and there would be people out there talking to me... We'd talk about everything – politics, religion, the state of the world. I asked, what about changing the situation? Was it possible to change the situation? No, it was not possible."

In 1975, a few years after the Tanforan Shopping Center opened Fred put up a plaque, which mentioned the Tanforan Assembly Center. This was unusually early for an internment commemoration. Most of the internment signage and plaques didn't go up until the redress movement in the 1980's. But Nicholas never forgot. He knew the Tanforan story from personal experience. He was there in 1942 as a reluctant Army draftee assigned to military police guard duty at the camp. He took the time to get to know and befriend the enemy when most would not.

A former internee once said, "Fred was chastised for talking to me. He didn't tell you that, but he was chastised for talking to the inmates."
Remembrances and Recollections

Hope—Odyssey of a Teenager

Fumi Hope Hanyu McIrvin
Hometown: San Francisco

(The following story was extracted from Brian Doyle’s book, The Wet Engine, dedicated to Fumi’s son, Dr. David McIrvin, pediatric cardiologist who saved the life of the author’s son)

Born in San Francisco’s Japantown, her mother was a nurse. Her father grew flowers.

She wasn’t enough food in Japan and he would let them out. Hope was seven when she was sent to the barn and fill them with hay. Her life was soon turned topsy turvy when she and her family were sent to the displaced San Francisco Bay Area persons of Japanese descent. The ship’s captain announced that Japan was losing the war and there wasn’t enough food in Japan and he would let them off the ship before they got to Japan if they wanted to disembark. The young people on the ship had a meeting and decided to get off the ship in Singapore. All the ones who got off in Manila died. When the war ended in 1945, all Hope had were the clothes on her back.

Hope finally reached Japan after the end of the war. She eventually left Hiroshi and later found a job with the United States Eighth Army. That is where she met her future husband, Art McIrvin.

Remembrances and Recollections

Brother Koichi Fukuda
Born in Tanforan

Nob Fukuda
Hometown: San Francisco

Mrs. Fukuda gave birth to her seventh child, Koichi Fukuda, two months later while incarcerated at Tanforan. In the meantime, her husband and father of all the children, Rev. Yoshiki Fukuda of the Korko Church of San Francisco, had been arrested and detained by the FBI on December 7, 1941, immediately after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. He was classified and imprisoned as a “dangerous enemy alien,” as were many of the Issei religious and community leaders of the various West Coast cities.

Mrs. Fukuda was only 36 years old and she struggled to take care of her seven children without the assistance of her husband.

The Fukuda family would stay separated until reunited permanently at the end of the war, at which time they returned to San Francisco.

Remembrance

Masako Hanyu Iwase
Hometown: San Francisco

People who lived in the barracks claimed our clothes smelled like the horse stalls.

We boarded a bus in front of the Kinemon Hall on Bush Street in San Francisco for the Tanforan Assembly Center which was the former Tanforan Race Track in San Bruno. Our family was one of the early arrivals. Our ID number was 23, making us the 23rd family to register. We were assigned to a horse stall: B-8-C, which was next to the manure pile. My mother planted seeds nearby and raised healthy lettuce, radishes, green onions, etc. The first night, mice were running between the walls. In fact, one jumped on our bed. To get rid of the smell of hay and the manure which stuck to the walls, my mother gathered up some eucalyptus leaves and nailed them to the walls. My mother, sister and I slept in the back of our stable stall and my brother slept in the front – four of us in a stable that once housed one horse. People who lived in the barracks claimed our clothes smelled like the horse stalls.

For privacy we hung a towel in front of the communal shower stalls and stood in a tub to conserve on water. I saw a lady brushing her false teeth with Dutch cleanser. The barracks frequently lost electricity because of the low power.

Relocation—Living in Seabiscuit’s Stall

Kaya Kitagawa Sugiyama
Hometown: San Francisco

University of San Francisco’s Fromm Institute

Using the spring of 1942, the stall for Seabiscuit (legendary race horse and winner of the Kentucky Derby) at the Tanforan Race Track in San Bruno became the temporary home for our family.

Two days after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, on December 8, 1941, the entire student body at the old San Francisco State College on Buchanan Street was requested to attend an emergency convocation where the magnetic voice of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt came over the radio, declaring “the United States of America is now at war with Japan…” Curfew was immediately enforced, movements restricted, and notices issued that everyone of Japanese descent was to be evacuated from the West Coast to an undisclosed inland destination for the duration of the war.

With those actions taking place, Father, affiliated at that time with the Stanford-Lane Hospital in San Francisco, was appointed as the chief administrator of both the hospital and medical units at the Tanforan Race Track. Tanforan was the temporary assembly center for most of the displaced San Francisco Bay Area persons of Japanese descent. Seabiscuit’s stall was assigned to our family for it was the highest in the hierarchy of stall assignments, and perhaps an honor bestowed on Father for accepting the position along with the $19 a month salary...

Tanforan

The Fukuda family would stay separated until reunited permanently in the spring of 1942, the stall for Seabiscuit (legendary race horse and winner of the Kentucky Derby) at the Tanforan Race Track in San Bruno became the temporary home for our family.

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The barracks frequently lost electricity because of the low power.
The Journey to Tanforan

As the Journey to Tanforan program began, the crowd heard the haunting low tone of the shakuhachi as an old gray army bus entered the Tanforan parking lot and drove to the front of the stage.

Many in the audience were moved to tears as the bus rolled up carrying people depicting Issei and Nisei exiting the bus wearing period clothing from the 1940’s holding suitcases, a young boy with a baseball mitt and a woman carrying her baby. A soldier with a rifle escorted them onto the stage. The crowd, had tears in their eyes as it brought back old memories for them. The eyes of the Sansei were also filled as they saw for the first time what seemed like an actual scene of their parents’ and grandparents’ long journey into internment.

“As I reflect back, one of the best experiences about organizing the Journey to Tanforan event was the opportunity to work with so many Nisei who were actually interned there. Every meeting was a history lesson as they recalled their experiences, but just as meaningful was really getting the sense of how important their friendships were and how that’s really the thing that got them through it all. We could have never done this event without them. The entire event was the idea of Paul Osaki, one of the event organizers. The buses brought hundreds of Nisei to the event but were not able to drive, we rented buses that they could have never done this event without them. The entire event was the idea of Daisy Saotome who reminded all of us how significant commemorating the 65th anniversary was going to be because many of the Nisei were not going to be around for the 75th anniversary. She was right, probably 80% of them have since passed away” – Paul Osaki

The Epilogue

The Journey to Tanforan event consisted of a public ceremony, dedication of a memorial garden and a historical exhibit inside the Shops at Tanforan. The final leg of the journey was a former internee luncheon held at the JCCCNC. Over 400 former internees crammed into the gymnasium at the Center. The program consisted of former internees Tomoye Takahashi and Fred Hoshiyama reminiscing about their experiences from the evacuation, to their first impressions on their arrival at Tanforan and throughout their stay at the assembly center before being shipped off to Topaz, Utah.

“Taking into account the age of many of the Nisei who wanted to attend the event but were not able to drive, we rented buses that they could have never done this event without them. The entire event was the idea of Daisy Saotome who reminded all of us how significant commemorating the 65th anniversary was going to be because many of the Nisei were not going to be around for the 75th anniversary. She was right, probably 80% of them have since passed away” – Paul Osaki

Tanforan Assembly Center Memorial Garden

The Tanforan Assembly Center Memorial Garden located at the Shops of Tanforan Shopping Center in San Bruno was dedicated in 2007 to the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the opening of the Assembly Center in 1942.

The 20,000-square-foot garden was created to remember and reflect upon a time when individuals of Japanese ancestry residing in the San Francisco Bay Area were forcibly removed from their homes and brought to the Tanforan Race Track to live in hastily created barracks and freshly painted horse stalls. Originally, it was constructed to hold 8,033 inmates, and it held 7,816 persons of Japanese ancestry from April 28 to October 13, 1942. The memorial garden was created by the landscaping team led by Shigeru Namba and Isao Ogura.

Mr. Shigeru Namba was a master landscape gardener in Japan before making his home in Berkeley, CA. He is widely considered the foremost Japanese rock landscape gardener in the United States. One of his projects included the placement of over 3,500 tons of rocks and 600 trees in the private garden of Larry Ellison, the former CEO of Oracle, which is the largest Japanese garden in North America (almost twice the size of the Japanese Tea Garden).

Mr. Isao Ogura has been in the landscape profession for over 44 years in the Palo Alto area. He is the co-author and financial supporter of the book entitled “Plant, Preserve and Protect” to share the story of the Professional Gardeners’ Federation of Northern California, a nonprofit organization composed of Japanese American gardeners. Together they also partnered with Ruth Asawa on the Garden of Remembrance at San Francisco State University that recognizes the 19 Nisei students forced out of the school and also the 120,000 Japanese Americans forced into Concentration Camps during the war. They will also be creating the Issei Commemorative Garden in San Francisco’s Japantown celebrating the 110th anniversary of the opening of the Japantown celebrating the 110th anniversary of the opening of the Assembly Center back to 1906.

The Tanforan Assembly Center Memorial Garden was created to remember and reflect upon a time when individuals of Japanese ancestry residing in the San Francisco Bay Area were forcibly removed from their homes and brought to the Tanforan Race Track to live in hastily created barracks and freshly painted horse stalls. Originally, it was constructed to hold 8,033 inmates, and it held 7,816 persons of Japanese ancestry from April 28 to October 13, 1942. The memorial garden was created by the landscaping team led by Shigeru Namba and Isao Ogura.

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The JCCCNC Community: JOURNEY TO TANFORAN

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JAPANESE CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY CENTER OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA  | SPRING 2017  JCCCNC  | SPRING 2017

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

The first JCCCNC branch was opened on April 28, 1942, in Tanforan. The second branch opened in 1943.

The first JCCCNC branch was located in the old Tanforan Tennis Club. It later moved to the old Tanforan Hotel. The third branch opened in 1945.

The fourth branch opened in 1946.

The fifth branch opened in 1947.

The sixth branch opened in 1948.

The seventh branch opened in 1949.

The eighth branch opened in 1950.

The ninth branch opened in 1951.

The tenth branch opened in 1952.

The eleventh branch opened in 1953.

The twelfth branch opened in 1954.

The thirteenth branch opened in 1955.

The fourteenth branch opened in 1956.

The fifteenth branch opened in 1957.

The sixteenth branch opened in 1958.

The seventeenth branch opened in 1959.

The eighteenth branch opened in 1960.

The nineteenth branch opened in 1961.

The twentieth branch opened in 1962.

The twenty-first branch opened in 1963.

The twenty-second branch opened in 1964.

The twenty-third branch opened in 1965.

The twenty-fourth branch opened in 1966.

The twenty-fifth branch opened in 1967.

The twenty-sixth branch opened in 1968.

The twenty-seventh branch opened in 1969.

The twenty-eighth branch opened in 1970.

The twenty-ninth branch opened in 1971.

The thirtieth branch opened in 1972.

The thirty-first branch opened in 1973.

The thirty-second branch opened in 1974.

The thirty-third branch opened in 1975.

The thirty-fourth branch opened in 1976.

The thirty-fifth branch opened in 1977.

The thirty-sixth branch opened in 1978.

The thirty-seventh branch opened in 1979.

The thirty-eighth branch opened in 1980.

The thirty-ninth branch opened in 1981.

The fortieth branch opened in 1982.

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The fortieth branch opened in 2028.

The fortieth branch opened in 2029.

The fortieth branch opened in 2030.
The JCCCNC Community: JOURNEY TO TANFORAN

Former Tanforan Guard, Internees Hold Reunion

Former internees recall the pain, salute their survival

'Rafu Shimp'
2016 Mochitsuki Workshop

Thank you to everyone who joined us on Sunday, December 17 for our annual Mochitsuki Workshop. Despite having technical issues with the motor of our mochi machine, we were happy to see the community neighborhood come together, bringing their personal mochi makers from home to help make the mochi rice that was generously donated by Nomura makers from home to help make the mochi. When the motor is up and running again and hope you will come back and join us in December 2017.

Following the concert, Chef Leo Tomita of Da Kitchen Maui brought the best of contemporary Hawaiian local cuisine for the VIP Reception where guests had an opportunity to meet and greet the trio, mingle and purchase their latest CDs and merchandise. Guests enjoyed local favorites such as Slow Braised Kalua Pork, Handi-Grill Cakes, Pan-Seared Funkalicious with Ver Blanc, Hawaiian Fresh Abi Poke and Char-broiled Da Kitchen Maui Kabli.

It was a busy weekend for the JCCCNC, but we were honored to welcome back Na Leo to our community for the holidays and we thank you for making it a memorable night!

Na Leo Returns to the JCCCNC for 2016 Holiday Concert

On Sunday, December 18, 2016 the JCCCNC welcomed over 300 guests to Na Leo’s holiday concert held in our Nisei Community Hall/Gymnasium for their Holiday Tour and our Nisei Community Hall/Gymnasium for their Holiday Tour and our Nisei Community Hall/Gymnasium for their Holiday Tour and our Nisei Community Hall/Gymnasium for their Holiday Tour. Since 2014, Na Leo’s holiday concert held in Kalima Heine and Angela Morales, performed by Kristi Yamaguchi, the trio, N

Artists and Culture

Basic Drawing
This eight-week course will teach you basic drawing skills and techniques. Join instructor Rich Tokeshi, an original instructor of Japan- town Art and Media (JAM) which flourished in the 80’s and 90’s. The class is open to all skill levels. Single date drop-in classes are available.

Cost: $70 M/$90 NM (eight consecutive weeks)
Instructor: Rich Tokeshi
When: Saturdays, 10 a.m.-noon

Watercolor
Learn the basics of watercolor painting and bring your artwork to life with the help of Instructor Wendy Yoshimura. This class is open to all skill levels.

Cost: $10 M/$15 NM ($10-$25 materials fee)
Instructor: Wendy Yoshimura
When: Mondays, 10 a.m.-noon

Ikebana
Learn the traditional art of Ikebana flower arrangement. Create a harmony of linear construction, rhythm and color. You will create your own Ikebana flower arrangement each week. Participants are encouraged to bring a vase but it is not required.

Cost: $70 M/$90 NM (monthly)
Instructor: Chizuko Nakamura
When: Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m.

Asian American Senior Writing
Preserve the stories and memories of our Asian American community by sharing and writing about the experiences of you, your family and others. This class welcomes both new and experienced writers.

Cost: $10 M/$15 NM (drop-in)
Instructor: Genny Lim
When: Mondays, 10 a.m.-noon

Dance
Hula: Beginning
Learn both Auwiana (modern) and Kahiko (ancient) hula. You will experience anaerobic (low impact) exercise while learning to dance hula. Class participants also must join the Hula, Hula Ka Liko Pua O Katanedika for an additional fee. Open enrollment for new students will be on Saturday, March 4, 2017.

Instructor: Wendy Yoshimura
When: Mondays, 10 a.m.-noon
Cost: $100 M/$120 NM (stamp card) (10 classes)
$50 M/$60 NM (stamp card) (five classes)
$11 M/$14 NM drop-in

Hula: Gracious Ladies (Adults)
Learn both Auwiana (modern) and Kahiko (ancient) hula. You will experience aerobic (low impact) exercise while learning to dance hula. No dance experience required. (Class participants also must join the Hula, Hula Ka Liko Pua O Katanedika for an additional fee) Open enrollment for new students will be on Saturday, March 4, 2017.

Instructor: Mary Leong
When: First and third Thursdays, 5:30-7 p.m.
Cost: $23 M/$28 NM (monthly) (Thursdays)
$45 M/$55 NM (monthly) (Thursdays)
$60 M/$75 NM (monthly) (Thursdays and Saturdays)
$126 M/$153 NM (stamp card) (10 classes)
$14 M/$17 NM drop-in

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The JCCCNC Community: PROGRAMS

Programs and Events CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Open Enrollment for all Hula Classes
On Saturday, March 4, The JCCCNC’s hula classes will host open enrollment for anyone interested in learning to dance hula. Current classes are held for youth ages 5+ (Keiki), adults (Gracious Ladies) and seniors (Kupuna) on a weekly basis. This is the perfect opportunity to come and try out the class free of charge and to meet new friends. Classes begin as early as 9:30 a.m. as or late as 11:30 a.m. every Saturday. Class times vary depending on the age of the participant. If interested in attending or to learn more, contact Director of Programs Matt Okada at mokada@jcccnc.org or by calling (415) 567-5505.

Martial Arts and Fitness
Karate—Monday and Wednesday Class
Karate is an Okinawan martial art meaning “empty hand.” Develop self-defense skills and strengthen yourself mentally and physically. Our class is part of the International Karate League (IKL) which instructs a modified Shorin-Ryu style of karate. This class is open to all skill levels age 6+.

Instructor: Craig Hamakawa
When: Mondays and Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m.
Cost: $30 M/$40 NM/monthly
$23 M/$27 NM/drop-in

Karate—Sunday Class
Karate is an Okinawan martial art meaning “empty hand.” Develop self-defense skills and strengthen yourself mentally and physically. Our class is part of the International Karate League (IKL) which instructs a modified Shorin-Ryu style of karate. This class is open to all skill levels age 6+.

Instructor: Craig Hamakawa
When: Sundays, 1:30-2:45 p.m.
Cost: $4 M/$5 NM/drop-in

Taiko
An exhilarating recreational class to those new to Taiko drumming, young, old, or just interested in Taiko. This is an aeroobics exercise class in which students will learn commonly used Taiko techniques and drum patterns in the course of a cardio workout with low to high impact movements.

Instructor: Melody Takata
When: Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays (three times a month), call or email for class times
Cost: $23 M/$27 NM/drop-in

Music
Chorele May
(a) Be part of a male chorus group and sing a variety of songs, mainly in Japanese with some English.
(b) Be part of an energizing workout or to make new friends, come and enjoy this fun ongoing class. This class is open for all skill levels. (see sidebar)

Instructor: Rueiko Miura
When: Second and fourth Fridays, 7-9 p.m.
Cost: $25 M/$31 NM/monthly
$15 M/$18 NM/drop-in

Miyohu/Hauta/Shamisen
Improving your tone, tuning, and projection while singing popular contemporary Japanese songs and learn how to play the traditional Japanese stringed Sharmen.

Instructor: Hideko Nakajima
When: Second and fourth Sundays, individual lessons between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.
Cost: $40 M/$50 NM/monthly

Line Dancing
Instructor: Kaeko Inori
When: Mondays, 12-3:30 p.m.
Cost: $4 M/$5 NM/drop-in

Basketball
Sign up and participate in games filled with fun, food and volleyball! Each team is 5 persons and consists of 3 men and 2 women. New players and seniors are welcome to join.

Instructor: Bobby Hirano
When: Saturdays, 10 a.m.-noon
Cost: $2 M/$3 NM/drop-in

Social
Bambi
Meet with Japanese speaking parents and their children for a morning of play.
When: Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.-noon
Cost: Free

Bridge
Improve your mind sharp while playing bridge in a fun, social environment.
Coordinator: Alice Moroguchi
When: Fridays, 1-4 p.m.
Cost: $2 M/$3 NM/drop-in

Basketball
Sign up and participate in games that are competitive, but friendly.

Ukelele/Beginners
This weekly entry level class is for beginner ukulele players. New students who have no prior experience are encouraged to take a Uku- lele 101 workshop which will be held on the first Thursday of each month (upon request, please contact programsevents@jcccnc.org), to learn ukulele basics, before joining the ongoing beginners’ class.

Instructor: Don Sadler
When: Saturdays, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Cost: $60 M/$80 NM/monthly
$170 M/$220 NM/stamp card (10 classes)
$21 M/$25 NM/drop-in

Ukelele: Advanced
Emphasis of this class will be primarily on Hawaiian song traditions. This class is for those who already have experience playing the ukulele.

Instructor: Don Sadler
When: Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Cost: $60 M/$80 NM/monthly
$170 M/$220 NM/stamp card (10 classes)
$21 M/$25 NM/drop-in

Hula: Keiki (Kids)
Get the gift of hula for your child. S/he’ll learn coordination, grace and teamwork through both modern and traditional hula. For children ages 5+ - Open enrollment for new students will be on Saturday, March 4, 2017. Classes are for both boys and girls.

Instructor: Mary Leong
When: Saturdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Cost: $30 M/$40 NM/monthly
$90 M/$108 NM/stamp card (10 classes)
$10 M/$12 NM/drop-in

Hula: Kupuna (Seniors)
Learn ancient and modern hula while helping your coordination and memory sharp. Class participants also must join the Hālau, Hālau Ka Liko Pua O Kalānakē for an additional fee. Open enrollment for new students will be on Saturday, March 4, 2017.

Instructor: Mary Leong
When: Saturdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Cost: $45 M/$55 NM/monthly
$120 M/$153 NM/stamp card (10 classes)
$14 M/$17 NM/drop-in

Line Dancing
Learn dance steps to smooth R&B and pop music and keep in shape while making new friends. This fun anaerobic (low impact) dance class is open to all skill levels. No dance experience required.

Instructor: Alan Kitachima
When: Tuesdays and Fridays, 1:15-2:45 p.m.
Cost: $4 M/$5 NM/drop-in

Zumba Gold is back
We are happy to announce that Zumba Gold classes have returned to the JCCCNC. Be sure to join instructor Janet Cordova as she hosts Zumba Gold classes every Sunday mornings from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Janet began participating in Zumba in June of 2010. After taking her first class, she became a die-hard Zumba enthusiast. During the summer of 2014, she decided to take her Zumba journey a bit further by becoming a certified instructor, and to meet new friends. Classes are for all skill levels.

Instructor: Janet Cordova
When: Sundays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Cost: $33 M/$37 NM/monthly
$10 M/$12 NM/drop-in

Ensemble Shiki
Be part of a mixed chorus group and sing a variety of songs, mainly in Japanese with some English.

Instructor: Rueiko Miura
When: First and third Saturdays, 7-9 p.m.
Cost: $25 M/$31 NM/monthly
$15 M/$18 NM/drop-in

Zumba Gold
Instructor: Kaeko Inori
When: Mondays, 12:30-1:30 p.m.
Cost: $4 M/$5 NM/drop-in

Social
Bambi
Meet with Japanese speaking parents and their children for a morning of play.
When: Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.-noon
Cost: Free

Bridge
Improve your mind sharp while playing bridge in a fun, social environment.
Coordinator: Alice Moroguchi
When: Fridays, 1-4 p.m.
Cost: $2 M/$3 NM/drop-in

Hanafuada
learn Hanafuada, flower card, a traditional Japanese game dating back over 350 years, with varying styles similar to Gin Rummy.
Coordinator: Yone Higashigawa
When: Wednesdays, 12:30-4 p.m.
Cost: $2 M/$3 NM/drop-in

Mah Jongg
Engage in social activity and develop creative strategy skills by playing this popular Chinese tile game.
Coordinator: Yone Higashigawa
When: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30-4 p.m.
Cost: $2 M/$3 NM/drop-in

Sports
Community Volleyball
Create a team for your non-profit/service/interest organization and join us for a league filled with fun, food and volleyball! Each team is 5 persons and consists of 3 men and 2 women. New players and seniors are welcome to join.

Instructor: Don Sadler
When: Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Cost: $60 M/$80 NM/monthly
$170 M/$220 NM/stamp card (10 classes)
$21 M/$25 NM/drop-in

tained on page 18
Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

Over 80 guests gathered for the JCCCNC’s 2016 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on Sunday, December 4 for exciting rounds of bingo, dim sum and a special program honoring longtime volunteers. We honored Line Dance Instructor Alan Kitahima for bringing together hundreds of individuals through his love for music and dance and recognized our hardworking mail volunteers who helped us send over 20,000 pieces of mail last year.

“When someone praises the work of the Center, makes a donation because they believe in what we do or comes to a class with a smile, we are reminded of our volunteers. It doesn’t matter how many hours or times, just that you do because it takes all of us doing things big and small to make us a COMMUNITY center.” - Elaine Low, JCCCNC volunteer

Notice: Class Payment System Changes

Beginning April 1, 2017, the sale of our five or ten-class stamp cards will be discontinued. Only drop-in and monthly options will be available. Current participants who own a stamp card will be able to use their stamp card for remaining classes and those cards will not expire. Meritly cards will be piloted if there are classes cancelled by the JCCCNC or if there is a class change, contact Matt Okada, Director of Programs, at (415) 567-5505 or by email at molaka@jcccnc.org.

Do you need a space to host your family gathering, birthday party, meeting, lecture, film screening, conference, workshop or other function? The JCCCNC is here to meet your needs. For more information, please visit our website at jcccnc.org/about/facility-rental/rentals or email facility@jcccnc.org.
Save The Dates

8th Annual Colma Japanese Cemetery Clean-Up Day
Don’t forget to save the date for the JCCCNC’s 8th Annual Colma Japanese Cemetery Clean-up Day.
Saturday, May 20
10 a.m.–2 p.m.

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 and respect. The place represents our history, our loved ones, friends and family. For many of us, it’s the place where our grandparents, great-grandparents, parents, family and friends are laid to rest. For all of us, the loved ones, friends and family. For many of us, it’s the place where our grandparents, great-grandparents, parents, family and friends are laid to rest. For all of us, the loved ones that have passed on. The Japanese Cemetery in Colma is a unique cultural treasure that deserves our attention and respect. The place represents our history, our loved ones, friends and family. For many of us, it’s the place where our grandparents, great-grandparents, parents, family and friends are laid to rest. For all of us, the loved ones, friends and family. For many of us, it’s the place where our grandparents, great-grandparents, parents, family and friends are laid to rest. For all of us, the loved ones, friends and family. For many of us, it’s the place where our grandparents, great-grandparents, parents, family and friends are laid to rest. For all of us, the loved ones, friends and family. For many of us, it’s the place where our grandparents, great-grandparents, parents, family and friends are laid to rest. For all of us, the loved ones, friends and family. For many of us, it’s the place where our grandparents, great-grandparents, parents, family and friends are laid to rest. For all of us, the loved ones, friends and family. For many of us, it’s the place where our grandparents, great-grandparents, parents, family and friends are laid to rest. For all of us, the loved ones, friends and family. For many of us, it’s the place where our grandparents, great-grandparents, parents, family and friends are laid to rest. For all of us, the loved ones, friends and family.

Help us support the JCCCNC’s 8th Annual Colma Japanese Cemetery Clean-Up Day by volunteering or donating to our event.

Support our community’s cemetery by signing up to be a volunteer or donating. Get involved in cleaning and maintaining the cemetery grounds at our annual volunteer event.

Nikkei Youth Raffle

Grand Prize: Two Roundtrip Economy Airline Tickets (Good for travel in the continental United States)

Tickets available on March 1
$6 each  |  $30 for six

Support our youth programs for 2017 and help us provide invaluable opportunities for them to build, engage and collaborate with our community.

Purchase your tickets online, at the JCCCNC, or by calling (415) 567-5505.

Drawing will be held on Saturday, May 6 at the JCCCNC’s Children’s Day Festival in SF Japantown’s Peace Plaza. Winner need not be present to win.

More info: jcccnc.org. Questions? Contact development@jcccnc.org

Japanese Heritage Night with the SF Giants

Giants vs. Washington Nationals

Wednesday, May 31
7:15 p.m.

Seats: Section VR325 & VR326
$18 JCCCNC Members  |  $21 General Public

Join us on May 31 to cheer on the San Francisco Giants as they take on the Washington Nationals. The Giants will be celebrating Japanese Heritage Night with cultural performances to entertain fans at the pre-game festival along with a limited edition Japanese-themed Giants cap. Your special event ticket package includes a seat in one of the Japanese Heritage sections at the game, admission to the pre-game Japanese Heritage Night festival from 5–7 p.m., as well as a limited-edition Japanese-themed Giants cap! Make sure to arrive early, as cultural performers will entertain fans only at the festival and on the field pre-game. Partial proceeds from every special event ticket will benefit local Japanese charities.

Japanese Heritage Night item redemption location: Festival Location TBD from 5–7 p.m.; or View Reserve 334 until end of fifth inning.

Seats are limited. To purchase a ticket, or to view a listing of all SF Giants Special Event games visit jcccnc.org. For more info, call (415) 567-5505 or email development@jcccnc.org.

25th Annual Children’s Day Festival and School Visits
Can you believe it’s been 25 years since we first started hosting our Annual Children’s Day Festival?

Children’s Day Festival
Saturday, May 6
11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Japan Center Peace Plaza
1610 Geary Blvd., San Francisco
Free and open to the public

Children’s Day School Visits
April 24–27 and May 1–3
9 a.m.–noon

JCCCNC

Join us on May 31 to cheer on the San Francisco Giants as they take on the Washington Nationals. The Giants will be celebrating Japanese Heritage Night with cultural performances to entertain fans at the pre-game festival along with a limited edition Japanese-themed Giants cap. Your special event ticket package includes a seat in one of the Japanese Heritage sections at the game, admission to the pre-game Japanese Heritage Night festival from 5–7 p.m., as well as a limited-edition Japanese-themed Giants cap! Make sure to arrive early, as cultural performers will entertain fans only at the festival and on the field pre-game. Partial proceeds from every special event ticket will benefit local Japanese charities.

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Seats are limited. To purchase a ticket, or to view a listing of all SF Giants Special Event games visit jcccnc.org. For more info, call (415) 567-5505 or email development@jcccnc.org.

Community Kitchen

We are excited to reintroduce the JCCCNC’s Baachan’s Kitchen program started last year with a new name, the JCCCNC Community Kitchen!

Sign up for individual workshops that offer unique hands-on and demonstrative cooking lessons that will add a cultural element to your kitchen repertoire. Workshop dates and prices are listed below.

For updated information including workshop menus and registration, be sure to check the JCCCNC website at jcccnc.org or call us at (415) 567-5505.

We’ve opened up our program for members of the community of all generations, not just baachans, to come share Japanese and Japanese American home cooking recipes to be prepared and enjoyed as a communal meal. Our volunteer program coordinators Makiko Kitago, Bret Truchan and Peter Weber will coordinate a dinner menu with easy-to-follow recipes each quarter for participants to come together at the JCCCNC kitchen to share a great meal and cooking experience with the rest of the community. This is a great intergenerational program for the whole family. Our quarterly Community Kitchen schedule for the year is as follows: April 4, July 11, October 10 and November 28. If you’re interested in sharing a recipe for the program, contact programsevents@jcccnc.org or call (415) 567-5505.

JCCCNC Community Kitchen
Tuesday, April 4, 2017 | 6:30–9 p.m.
$16 JCCCNC Members  |  $20 General Public

Register online: http://bit.ly/jcccnckitchenapril2017

Big Break J-Town Golf Tournament
A Golf Tournament Like No Other—A Fundraiser for the Shinzen Nikkei Youth Goodwill Program
Sunday, March 26, noon
Lincoln Park Golf Course
$175.00 per player  |  $50 dinner only
Nine Hole Team Shambling Golf, Big Break Skills Challenges (Break the Glass and Over the Wall), other fun events, awesome prizes, lunch and dinner.

Support our youth programs for 2017 and help us provide invaluable opportunities for them to build, engage and collaborate with our community.

Purchase your tickets online, at the JCCCNC, or by calling (415) 567-5505.

Drawing will be held on Saturday, May 6 at the JCCCNC’s Children’s Day Festival in SF Japantown’s Peace Plaza. Winner need not be present to win.

More info: jcccnc.org. Questions? Contact development@jcccnc.org
What is a Nisei?

BY DIANE MATSUDA

When I looked up the word “Nisei” for this article, hundreds of entries popped up. Many of the websites define a Nisei as a second generation Japanese American—more specifically, a person of Japanese descent born in the U.S. by Issei immigrant parents.

That definition, however, does not really capture the characteristics and values of a Nisei, and the long term positive impact they have had on the lives of their descendants in particular, and the contributions made to the nation as a whole.

Many people characterize a Nisei as one who never throws anything away and is a person who stayed with a job for life even though they were amply qualified to take on higher positions and is a person who remained fiercely loyal to the U.S. even though they were incarcerated into concentration camps located in desolate parts of the country, and even sacrificed their lives to fight for this country.

Nisei are not big spenders and never flash money around even if they have a lot of it. They never really worry about having enough to retire because they believe in keeping a stash for a rainy day. They also have remained true and faithful to their community as seen by the institutions they created that we now take for granted.

I have many friends who are Nisei even though there is a slight age gap between us as well as two generations. To me, they are very ‘real.’ They tell me the truth when they think I am out of line, tell me when I am wasteful, tell me to find a stable job that will provide me with good retirement and health benefits but support me without question. I have been taught by way of example what it really means to be a community member, and to keep on pushing forward as life and its challenges really will get better.

So when people tell you that you are starting to act like a Nisei, take it as a compliment and smile. You will actually start to see that saving those plastic tofu containers, rinsing out used Ziploc bags and not being so quick to throw things away is not a bad thing. You will find a purpose for them one day.

This memorial will ensure that this tragic and illegal action in U.S. history will never be forgotten and that the stories of our ancestors’ perseverance (Gaman) will be told for all who see it. This important American story cannot be forgotten and the memorial is planned for completion while the remaining survivors who were young adults or children in Tanforan are still alive to see their story memorialized.

To donate or for more info visit tanforanmemorial.org.

Tanforan Assembly Center Memorial Committee
P.O. Box 5285, Richmond, CA 94805
Honoring the Special People in our Lives

30th Anniversary Tribute Gifts

The year 2016 marked the 30th Anniversary since the JCCCNC opened its doors for the first time, an historic event for our community as it was one full of hope and dreams to be fulfilled. Since then, we see our vision come alive every day and it’s because of our generous donors who have helped make the Center into what it is today. We all know of individuals who have made a lasting impact on our lives and the lives of others and we are honored that the following donors have chosen the JCCCNC’s 30th Anniversary – 2016 Year End Annual Support Drive to recognize them.

In this edition, we would like to recognize our 30th Anniversary donors who have made contributions to the JCCCNC in honor or in memory of someone special through our 2016 Year End Support Drive during the period November 15, 2016–January 31, 2017. We thank you for your generous donations to the JCCCNC in honor or in memory of someone special through our 2016 Year End Support Drive to recognize them.

Every effort is made to include gifts received toward our 2016 Year End Annual Support Drive but if a name has been inadvertently omitted, please let us know at (415) 567-5505 or aino@jcccnc.org. General donations will be recognized in the next newsletter.
30th Anniversary Donors

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to our 30th Anniversary Donors who contributed a gift to the JCCCNC through the 2016 Year End Annual Support Drive during the period November 15, 2016—January 31, 2017.

PLATINUM CRANE $5,000+
Mr. Greg Ishizaki
Mr. Kiyoshi Sakakura
Mr. Eugene Van Dyk
Mr. Yasunari G. Yamada

GOLD CRANE $1,000–$4,999
Mr. Kazuo Abey
Ms. Mutsuko Arima
Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Diane Durst
Mr. James and Mrs. Cynthia Hayashi
Ms. Dina Hirahara-Honda
Mr. Sakae and Mrs. Viola Horita
Mr. Daniel and Mrs. Judy Hruska
Ms. Janis K. Ito
Ms. Naoko Ito
The Honorable Patricia Ito
Dr. Saburo Kami
Mr. Kaz Maniwa and
Ms. Masako Fukunaga

SPRING 2017
Mr. Bobby Nakata
Mrs. Nanami Naito
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Mr. Bruce and Mrs. Joy Morimoto
Mrs. Noriko Matsuda
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Mr. and Mrs. Suzanne Slintak
Ms. Michelle Yee
Mr. Kenneth and Mrs. Viola Higa

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Mrs. Sumako Takeshita
Mr. David and Mrs. Teruko Turner
Ms. Kelly Walton
Ms. Diane Y. Wong and
Mr. Nelson Dong

RUBY CRANE $100–$249
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Ms. Keiko Akashi
Mrs. Sumiko Akashi
Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Akiko Arikawa
Ms. Jean Barsch
Ms. Pamela Burns and
Mr. William J. Edick
Mr. Jim Carmack
Mr. Harold Chan
Ms. Eleanor Dong
Ms. Lynne Fujimoto
Mr. Lucky Fung
Mr. Shig and Mrs. Terrie Furuta
Mr. Roy D. Hardy
Mr. Richard and Mrs. Ruby Hata
Mr. Patrick and Mrs. Sandy Hayashi
Mrs. Mary K. Hidekawa
Mr. Ken and Mrs. Lynn Higa
Mrs. Kaye Higashi
Dr. Jon and Mrs. Ema Hiura
Ms. Setsuko Ichimoto
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Slintak
Ms. Mary S. Shek
Mr. Gordon and Mrs. Kaeko Park-Li
Mr. Ron and Mrs. Karen Yamamoto
Mr. Michael Yamashita
* deceased

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1300 Hillside Blvd., Colma, CA

25th Annual Children's Day Festival
Saturday, May 6 | 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Japan Center Peace Plaza
Free and open to the public
Nikkei Youth Raffle drawing during festival program
Tickets available for purchase starting Wednesday, March 1. $6 each | $30 for six