



**PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT**

**For Immediate Release**

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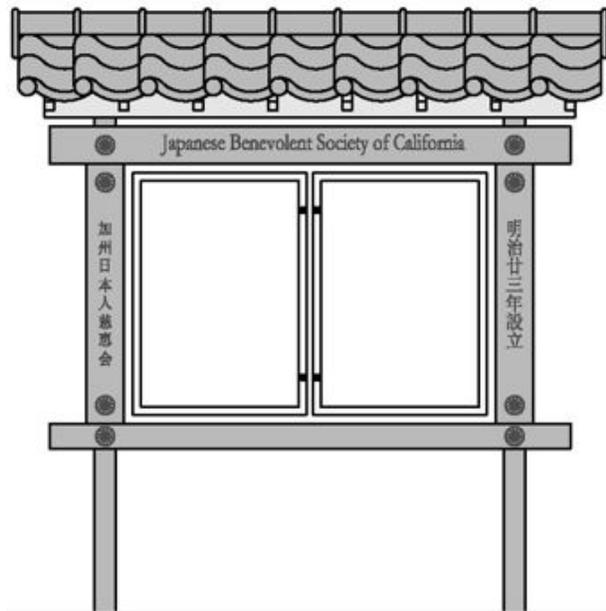
**JCCCNC AND THE JAPANESE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY TO UNVEIL NEW BULLETIN BOARD AT  
JAPANESE CEMETERY CLEAN-UP DAY**

*April 28, 2016 (San Francisco)* – The Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC) in partnership with the Japanese Benevolent Society will unveil a new bulletin board, courtesy of Peter Chuck, at their annual Japanese Cemetery Clean-Up Day. Volunteer registration has also opened and the JCCCNC welcomes youth, family, and community groups to participate in the cleanup on Saturday, May 21, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Colma.

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, and OUR TIME. The place represents our history, our loved ones, friends and family. For many of us, it is where our grandparents, great grandparents, parents, family and friends are laid to rest. For all of us, the loved ones that rest there represent our history.



In celebration of the 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of San Francisco's Japantown this year, the JCCCNC and the Japanese Benevolent Society will unveil a new bulletin board to help tell the story of the Japanese Cemetery in Colma.



WEST ELEVATION

Peter Chuck has generously donated his time to design and construct the new bulletin board, and also provide the structural engineering services for the project pro-bono. For the past 14 years, Chuck and his family frequently visited the Japanese cemetery noticing that the contents of the board were fading and the structure needed to be replaced. "This project originally started strictly as a replacement bulletin board, but evolved into something much more. The bulletin board not only will allow the Japanese

Benevolent Society to post notices, but will also incorporate a cemetery map, the history of the cemetery, and highlight some of the notable monuments. The Japanese cemetery is arguably one of the most important Japanese American cultural sites in Northern America."

Suggested donations of \$15 or more are accepted to help cover the cost of the construction and maintenance of the new bulletin board. Please visit <http://bit.ly/colmadonations> (select Colma Cemetery Clean-up under designation) or mail a check payable to:

JCCCNC

Attn: Colma Clean-up

1840 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115

The Japanese Cemetery is located at 1300 Hillside Boulevard, Colma, CA 94014. The JCCCNC will supply garbage bags, tools, cleaning supplies, watering buckets, drinking water, rags, bento and flowers for all participants who RSVP for the Clean-up day. All participants should bring their own pair of gloves.

For additional information about the Japanese Cemetery Clean-Up Day or to register, visit the JCCCNC website at [www.jcccnc.org](http://www.jcccnc.org) or call (415) 567-5505.

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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. The Japanese Benevolent Society of California was established in 1890. The pioneers of the Japanese American community built the cemetery in 1901 and received a grant from the Meiji Emperor of Japan in 1906 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**

Envisioned by the Japanese American community, JCCCNC will be an everlasting foundation of our Japanese American ancestry, cultural heritage, histories and traditions. The JCCCNC strives to meet the evolving needs of the Japanese American community through programs, affordable services and facility usage. The JCCCNC is a non-profit community center based in San Francisco.