A Place That Was Made From Hopes and Dreams

This past year we celebrated the 35th Anniversary of Opening our Doors. Although the JCCCNC was officially incorporated as a California nonprofit organization in 1973, it’s a special occasion for us to celebrate and recognize the actual opening of the community center’s doors. It took the community over 13 years to raise the capital funds to build and construct the first phase of the JCCCNC, including the Issei Memorial Hall, the conference rooms and the nonprofit offices. It took another four years of fundraising to complete the second phase of the JCCCNC, which included the Nisei community hall gymnasium, exhibit hall, ceramic room and community art space which was completed in April of 1990, with the mortgage finally being retired in 1996.

It was May of 1986, when the JCCCNC first opened its doors, that it truly became a turning point in our community’s history, a place built from the hopes and dreams of an entire community. The dream of the community actually owning the JCCCNC is rooted deep in the history of our Japanese American community. Before the JCCCNC, the Issei generation raised funds and built three other community facilities which served as our gathering and focal points. But due to racial prejudice and discrimination our community was unable to own titles to those properties.

The vision of the JCCCNC was to own and operate a community facility that could meet the most pressing issues and needs of our community and one that could never be taken away.

Thirty-five years ago, the hopes and dreams of a community were finally realized. I remember attending the opening celebration, which took place in the back of the facility in what used to be a parking lot. Now that parking lot is our gymnasium! At the time I never imagined that I would be working here one day. I remember the words of our Capital Campaign Chairperson, Yori Wada, and the then President of the JCCCNC, Edith Tanaka, that the long-awaited dream of our community center had finally arrived. We hope that the JCCCNC, now called the Center, will always serve as a focal point of our community, open seven days a week, and a place that all generations will be able to come and gather, day or night. The Center is where our culture and traditions can continue to live and be passed from one generation to the next.

“If you can dream it, you can do it.” —Walt Disney

The hopes and dreams of 35 years ago have come true, but our story, legacy and mission are ongoing. Hopefully, they will always be...

Paul Osaki
Executive Director
Nisei Outreach

77 Weeks of Caring for Our Nisei

Last year, the COVID-19 pandemic left many of us feeling isolated, concerned and uncertain about our lives. None more so than the seniors in our community. So, within days of the Shelter-in-Place order, the Center staff and board called over two-hundred Nisei and senior members and donors to check in on them. We discovered that many were living alone with no immediate family nearby, many without access to computers, limited groceries in the house, lacked transportation, and had concerns about the latest health information and becoming isolated from friends, family, and the community.

Despite the Center being closed, some staff came to the office out of concern that the Nisei and seniors who visited us weekly would feel a sense of loss to the community and Japantown. The staff developed an outreach plan to stay regularly connected, meet their social and recreational needs and, most of all, to let them know they were not alone and forgotten during these troublesome and challenging times.

For seventy-nine weeks during the Shelter-in-Place and beyond, the Center sent out letters once a week to keep them informed and provide activities to do at home. These included Japanese American crossword and word search puzzles designed by a volunteer, sending origami hearts and interesting articles about Japanese culture and the Japanese American community.

The staff and board also delivered homemade cookies, groceries, handmade face masks and special meals. They also ran errands, took some to doctor appointments, and even went to their homes to connect them to the internet, clean their home or garden or make quick repairs. The Center also made arrangements with the Department of Public Health for those who needed to get vaccinated.

As one staff commented, “Our Nisei donors and members do so much for the Center. It was nice that we could return their kindness.” The Center would like to acknowledge Jennifer Hamamoto and Marjorie Fletcher with a special thanks to Diane Matsuda for volunteering their time above and beyond to care for our Nisei and seniors.
2021 Tabemasho: 35 Years Since Opening our Doors "Celebrating the People of Our Community"

Our annual Tabemasho fundraiser was held virtually on Saturday, October 16, 2021. This year’s event recognized 35 years since opening our doors and celebrated the people of our community. We also honored our longtime and now retired, Executive Assistant Marjorie Fletcher (read more about her farewell on page 10). We hope you had a chance to join us and view our program.

We want to thank our Corporate and Community Sponsors and the many sweepstakes ticket purchasers for supporting the Center and our virtual Tabemasho. Please see our list of sponsors and 2021 sweepstakes winners, along with links to view the entire program or featured segments in case you missed it.

Link to full Tabemasho program bit.ly/Tabemasho2021

Sponsor List

**BENEFACtor**
Recology
The Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation
Union Bank

**PATRON**
Japan Center Garage Corporation
Minami Tamaki
Mutual Express Company

**COMMUNITY**
Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Northern California
Japanese Community Youth Council
Kristi Yamaguchi’s Always Dream Foundation
Mr. Kaz Maniwa and Mrs. Masako Fukunaga
Mr. Ken and Mrs. Yoshiko Ho
Mr. Robert and Dr. Alicia Sakai
Mr. Myron Okada, Ms. Donna Kotake and Ms. Donna Ong-Kimura
San Francisco Associates
T. Okamoto & Co.

Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets and supported our 2021 Sweepstakes

**GRAND PRIZE WINNER**
Kay Onishi
Hawaii Getaway Prize

**SECOND PRIZE WINNER**
Sheryl and Scott Nakamura
Royal Caribbean Cruise

**THIRD PRIZE WINNER**
Gordon Joo
Home Away from Home Vacation through Shell Vacations Club
The COVID–19 pandemic made us realize that many individuals in our community do extraordinary things to benefit others. They may do things that keep us safe, support local businesses or organizations, provide much-needed services, or volunteer their time to various events and activities. As part of our virtual Tabemasho, we created a segment called Community Heroes. Our sponsors nominated Community Heroes by recognizing exceptional individuals who sacrifice and give themselves to benefit the community. Community Heroes could be staff, volunteers, members, or anyone that they felt was deserving. Please view these Community Heroes on the following pages. Congratulations to all of our Community Heroes, and thank you to everyone that has done something heroic for our community. We appreciate all of you. Visit bit.ly/communityherojccnc to view the complete segment.

CAROLE YAMAGUCHI
Nominated by: Kristi Yamaguchi’s Always Dream Foundation
Category: Dedication

DEAN OSAKI
Nominated by: Kristi Yamaguchi’s Always Dream Foundation
Category: Commitment

JENNIFER HAMAMOTO
Nominated by: Robert and Alicia Sakai
Category: Dedication
ERIKA TAMURA
Nominated by: Japanese Community Youth Council
Category: Dedication

VAS KINIRIS
Nominated by: Japan Center Garage Corporation
Category: Leadership & Commitment

GRACE HORIKIRI
Nominated by: Union Bank
Category: Dedication

Marilyn Osiko
Nominated by: San Francisco Associates
Category: Leadership

Rick and Bobby Okamura
Nominated by: T. Okamoto & Co
Category: Community

Claudine Cheng
Nominated by: Japan Center Garage Corporation
Category: Dedication

Shana Kanzaki
Nominated by: Japanese Community Youth Council
Category: Courage

Marjorie Fletcher
Nominated by: Ken and Yoshiko Ho
Category: Leadership

Masako Takahashi
Nominated by: The Center and Minami Tamaki
Category: Philanthropy

Steven G. Teraoka
Nominated by: Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Northern California
DIANE MATSUDA  
**Nominated by:** Recology, Minami Tamaki LLP and Union Bank  
**Category:** Compassion and Commitment

CARLOS BRAVO  
**Nominated by:** The Center  
**Category:** Service

PAUL OSAKI  
**Nominated by:** Kaz Maniwa and Masako Fukunaga  
**Category:** Courage

TASHA YOROZU  
**Nominated by:** Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Northern California

KYLE TATSUMOTO  
**Nominated by:** Recology  
**Category:** Selflessness

**Posthumous Awardees**

NOBUSUKE FUKUDA  
**Nominated by:** Myron Okada, Donna Kimura and Donna Kotake  
**Category:** Leadership

KAZ NAKAMOTO  
**Nominated by:** Mutual Express Company  
**Category:** Commitment

EDITH TANAKA  
**Nominated by:** Ken an Yoshiko Ho  
**Category:** Leadership
Then and Now was a fun segment of our Tabemasho program created to look back at familiar faces from the Center and the Japantown community. We asked participants to send in a current photo of themselves and a photo taken as a child or teenager. Below are featured throwback photos that were submitted. Can you guess who they are? Take your best guess and check your answers on page 39. To view the complete photo slideshow of current and past community members and the Center staff, visit bit.ly/thenandnowjcccnc.
Best Wishes to Great Friends

The Center would like to thank two individuals who have been special supporters. Their collective contributions have allowed us to raise funds to not only sustain our own programs and activities, but to be able to provide direct support to others in need.

MASARU KAGAMI, KOTOBUKI TRADING

Kotobuki Trading has been our “go-to” company for Japanese imported items, such as cast-iron teapots, unique ceramic ware and cool kitchen gadgets. The Center’s auctions and events have featured Kotobuki products through the generosity of its President, Masaru Kagami.

Masaru has never hesitated to donate beautiful, one-of-a-kind items for our fundraising events, and has never asked anything in return. When he announced that he was retiring we were very happy for him, as he is now able to travel and check things off his bucket list, but sad for us and the thousands of Kotobuki fans. Masaru imported items that taught generations of people in this country how to appreciate the culinary culture and traditions of Japan in their own home.

“The legacy of Kotobuki Trading embodies how the Kagami family shared the beauty of Japanese cookware and ceramics throughout America. Many of their products will be passed on through generations,” mentions Paul Osaki.” We will treasure the items from Kotobuki and want to extend our appreciation to Masaru and the Kagami Family for their decades of support, guidance and sincere kindness.

LANCE LEW, NBC BAY AREA

The Center was fortunate to meet Lance in 1997 when he participated in the 40th Anniversary Program to celebrate the Sister City Relationship between San Francisco and Osaka, Japan. At the time, Lance was working for KPIX in San Francisco and offered to cover and publicize Center events as part of newscasts and special promotional events. Lance did not forget us when he moved to NBC Bay Area. In fact, the Center was able to receive even further news coverage through a weekly program that Lance helped create and produce called “Asian Pacific America.” He scheduled us to be on-air to talk about our annual Tabemasho Fundraiser, Children’s Day and other Center projects, to attract a wider audience and recognition for the cultural events we promote.

In 2011 Lance did the extraordinary: Within days after the Great East Japan Earthquake, Tsunami and Nuclear Disaster that occurred on March 11, he made it possible for the Center to sponsor a telethon to raise funds and awareness to help the people in Tohoku. Within a day, over $417,000 was raised. By the time we concluded our fundraising campaign, over $4 million was raised, with all of the funds going directly to non-governmental organizations in Tohoku that were providing needed services. Even ten years after the disaster, the funds continue to be of assistance.

A few months ago, Lance involved the Center in an event to promote and celebrate the Tokyo Summer Olympics. Center staff, volunteers and interns created and participated in activities to sponsor this event at the Peace Plaza that was livestreamed throughout the country and world!

Through one individual, the Center’s work and activities entered the homes of millions of viewers who watch NBC Bay Area. We cannot thank Lance enough for making that happen. And although Lance has since announced his retirement from the media world, we hope that we can work with him to continue to promote and create other Center events in the years to come.

Again, our heartfelt thanks and sincere gratitude to both Masaru and Lance!
Thank You Marj!

At the beginning of this year, Marjorie Fletcher, our loyal and committed Executive Assistant to Paul Osaki, announced that she would be packing up and moving to Utah.

Utah? Why Utah? If you’ve ever had a chat with Marj, you might know that her family moved to Utah during World War II, and that her son, grandson, great-grandson and their families all reside there.

We all tried to convince her to live in Utah only part of the year, but once Marj makes up her mind, that is it. So when that did not work, we tried to delay her departure. Because she is a big Giants fan, Lori invited her to as many games as possible, which allowed us a little more time with her. But the day finally arrived when the movers in a big moving van pulled up in front of Marj’s place and took away the 260+ boxes she had waiting for them.

There is no way to adequately thank Marj for her 31 years of dedication to the Center. She is simply irreplaceable. Many people would drop by the Center just to see her and share their stories of joy, sorrow, friendship and life with her. She was the “link” to our Nisei and would let us know if someone was sick, moving, having difficulties or had passed on. Without her we will miss that connection. But more importantly, we miss Marj.

In July, we had a surprise farewell party for Marj and over 100 people attended. Some of the attendees were individuals who had not left their homes since the Shelter-in-Place restrictions were implemented, but felt it was so important to see Marj and offer their personal thanks and hugs.

Thank you Marj. You have taught us so much, and we will miss the many things that you are most famous for: the pineapple cake for which you won’t share your recipe, the weekly banana muffins, your spaghetti, repairing our clothes when hemming or patching is needed, the obi runners you created for our silent auctions, your willingness to stick around and answer the phones way past office hours, sitting on the envelopes of our hundreds of mailings to make sure that we were not charged additional postage, your regular casino bus trips – and there are many more...

We look forward to seeing you again soon!
Remembering Nob Fukuda

BY PAUL OSAKI

We would like to dedicate this newsletter, Celebrating the 35th Anniversary of Opening Our Doors, in honor of Nobusuke “Nob” Fukuda. Nob was one of the visionary leaders who helped make the Center the most important community gathering place in Japantown.

Nob became the JCCCNAC President during a very transformative period. Under his leadership the JCCCNAC would take on a two-million-dollar loan to embark on the 2nd phase of its construction, which included the community hall/gymnasium, exhibit hall and community arts space. There was still a mortgage on the first phase of the street-facing building which includes the community service offices, conferences rooms and the Issei Memorial Hall on the first floor. So this bold and challenging undertaking became the most significant community fundraising campaign in the history of Japantown.

I believe Nob's leadership and the Board’s trust in him gave the community the confidence to undertake such an enormous task. Nob did not intend to end his Presidency after a single one-year term. He continued his commitment as the President of the Board for a total of six years from 1987-1993. His steadfast commitment inspired the Board and community to stay focused on the capital fundraising while guiding us through the construction of the community hall/gymnasium. As a direct result of his leadership and dedication, the JCCCNAC would pay off its 30-year mortgage in just six years.

My employment at the JCCCNAC coincided with his Presidency. Nob was part of the personnel committee that hired me as the first Program Director in 1988. In 1990 he appointed me as the acting Executive Director by default since I was the only full-time paid staff at the time. A few months later, as I was preparing to leave to go to grad school, I fondly remember him coming...
I hope that a few generations from now that Yonsei and their children will still be coming here because of their sense of culture and the importance to maintain the identity that their parents and grandparents have had.

into the office and looking me straight in the eyes. With his half-smile and quiet laughter, and in his low, raspy voice he said, “Paul, let’s go for a walk outside.” That look used to scare me! Nob was a no-nonsense guy, and I felt like he was taking me out to the woodshed. As we walked along the sidewalk in front of the building he asked how things were going. I only remember the next part of our conversation, with his analogy of a basketball team needing a coach to lead them. The rest is a blur... except by the end of our walk, he asked if I would consider staying on as the permanent Executive Director.

I would not have become the Executive Director without his belief in me. I was still in my twenties, had no experience running an organization and had no fundraising experience. I’m not sure if he had complete faith in me (I certainly didn’t), but he had enough to give me an opportunity. I found out later that some Nisei and Sansei board members felt I was too young and inexperienced for the job. They were right!

Celebrating 35 years since opening our doors is also about the legacy and commitment of Nob Fukuda and his belief in the need for a community center. Although many people who come to the Center may not have known Nob, I will always remember that it was under his leadership that our community, and generations to come, will have this place to gather and feel at home.
Janice Mirikitani, Renowned Poet Laureate of San Francisco

The Center was deeply saddened by the passing of Janice Mirikitani this past summer. She was a friend of the Center, and we were honored to have her write two original poems for our programs. Janice was able to put the Japanese American experience into words that touched your soul. Her words were so elegant that her voice and message moved even those that weren’t familiar with poetry. Her prose inspired many, and spoke the truth with courage and empathy. Her poems told a story and left an indelible mark that will continue to live through lifetimes.

California Japantown Landmark (2005)
We asked her to write a poem for the California Japantown Landmark that stands in each of the three historic Japantowns located in San Francisco, San Jose and Los Angeles. Her poem weaves around the nine-foot copper monument’s three-sided panels. Each panel represents different periods of our Japantowns, the Beginning, the Exodus and the Promise. The poem she wrote for the Japantown Landmark is the only public display of her poetry in our Japantowns.

Poem Inscribed On Japantown Landmark

I.
Sojourners,
Visionaries open hands to the earth,
harvest hope for a future
in America.

II.
A journey detained,
interned by injustice.
Manzanar, Tule Lake, Poston, Gila River,
Minidoka,
Heart Mountain, Amache, Topaz, Rohwer,
Jerome
What lies before us?

III.
Footsteps lead to destiny.
We dance honoring ancestors
who claim our home,
and freedom to pursue our dreams.
Our voices carve a path for justice:
    Equal rights for all.
We prevail.
Our future harvested from generations.
From my life
opens countless lives.
    The journey continues...
Journey To Tanforan (2007)

Janice dedicated her poem, “Desert Flowers in Memory,” during the “Journey to Tanforan” event, which was organized by the Center and took place at the Shops at Tanforan. Before a crowd of over 1,000 attendees, Janice read her poem in memory of her parents and those that suffered during the incarceration. Many in attendance were former internees and their families.

Desert Flowers In Memory

Dedicated to her family who were incarcerated at Rohwer, Tule Lake, Manzanar, and Amache Gate, and to all of those who continue to remember so we do not repeat this again.

What are you
Where are you really from?
Go back to where you belong
Where do you belong?
What are you?
I am the wind that shaves mountains,
twists barbed wire of Amache Gate, Poston, Heart Mountain, Minidoka, Manzanar,
Rohwer, Jerome, Gila River, Topaz, Tule Lake
I am memory hurling us into history.
I am the fist of dust that pushed my mother against a wall of silence.
I am the mess-hall meal of potatoes and stale crackers, dry as the desert floor.
I am the ten infants buried at Tule Lake, incarcerated for their own good? interned into the dust.
I am
Bamboo, pine, plum
Resilience, endurance, beauty.
I grow despite the freeze of winter, parching drought, scratch land soil.
I am a river whose tributaries diverge,
converge and touch your shores, enter your pores,
The living water that slakes your thirst.

Eucalyptus, burdock, sage
Erupt from the grave.
I am my mother’s song breaking from silence rising in America’s ear... to the roar of a wind that shaves mountains.
I am camellias blooming at your door,
Matsubara baby, Tetsuno infant, Yamamoto, Okada, Nishizaki babies, buried in Tule Lake, Shigemi, Chiyko, Ichiro, Minoru... desert flowers that resurrect in perpetual grace.
I am the dream for justice that reaches to kiss you eyes...
Bamboo, pine, plum
We will not be plucked up again.
Inside our soil, our roots spread like underground rivers, connecting, growing.
Inside our voices, thunder builds its nest,
These camps will not exist again, Not here, not for us, not for anyone again.
So when they ask what I am I tell them, and shake the dust from my hands.

San Francisco — Osaka Sister City Relationship 50th Anniversary (2007)

In 2007, the Center organized two official exchange tours for the City of San Francisco to Osaka, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the San Francisco-Osaka Sister City Relationship. The first tour, representing an exchange of ideas, was coordinated for Mayor Gavin Newsom and a 44-member delegation representing the City and County of San Francisco. The second tour, consisting of a 75-member delegation, featured an exchange of the finest of San Francisco’s culinary arts. The poem was a gift for the San Francisco delegation to bring to the citizens of Osaka.

From San Francisco To Osaka

We are not afraid of joy, spinning it, like threads of steel sweeping arches of our Golden Gate Bridge, burnished like a sunset.
Beneath it, the wind with open palms, push ships through the Pacific.
We are unafraid to reach out to Nations where homelands are part of memory, ancestry, where from we have come the transplanted, escapees, adventurers, Those who came with hands like shovel, sicle and hoe, cleared a new world, hands that delivered us, generations of America.

We rise like waterwells, spreading through this soil, from all communities, built by our hands, amidst tenements and teepees, concentration camps, towers of marble and steel, streets as colorful as our faces, this city of diversity, and multi-ethnic hands reach in friendship’s clasp to Sisters, nested in Japan.

We are unafraid of love, and the light it brings us, language is revealed of all nations, as we begin in our listening to know what we hear.
The gates are opening, our arms are a bridge, spanning. The wind fills our sails toward Osaka’s port.
The light calls out many flowers, and our hands like eternal camellias, will blossom at her door.
Meet the 2021 Kase Interns

The Center hosted four passionate, energetic and inspiring college students this summer for the 2021 Kase Nikkei Community Scholarship Program (Kase Program) funded by the estate of the late Grace Kase. Each intern received a $5,000 educational scholarship and participated in the statewide Nikkei Community Internship Program (NCI Program), which brings together college students from each of the three remaining Japantowns in the United States.

When interviewing applicants in April, we were unsure if we would host the interns virtually again due to the health concerns of the Covid-19 pandemic. Fortunately, the Center reopened its doors in early May, just in time to host the program in person.

Working in their "intern office," Riki, Caroline, Kadi and Laurie brought fresh ideas, a commitment to community building and a strong interest in meeting people, particularly seniors, and learned about their connections to the Center and Japantown. Coming together to collaborate, they presented their marketing project to reach young adults. They highlighted the need for more innovativeness and consistency in our social media marketing and host programs for Gen Z, and to be more conscientious about accessibility and inclusivity, using tools like image alternative text, captions, and cleaner hashtags.

While we miss the interns, we realize that the in-person experience is priceless. Being able to see people enjoy a class, hear stories from the Nisei, go to businesses to eat, meet and support them, and most of all come together as a larger group with staff to discuss issues facing our community, makes it much more real and relevant than talking about it via zoom! We look forward to keeping in touch with Riki, Caroline, Kadi and Laurie, and send them our best wishes this semester!

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RIKI HISAYO SUZUKI EIJIMA
San Francisco
Master of Public Health, ’23
Columbia University
Kinesiology and Public Health, ’20
Occidental College
Administration Department: Japantown History Walk Mobile Application update and pre-launch marketing

Riki was born and raised in San Francisco and spent most of her life connected to SF Japantown, attending Nihonmachi Little Friends Preschool, playing basketball for the Ardenettes and volunteering with her family in the community. She was also a 2013 Fellow of the Takahashi Youth Ambassador Fellowship Program, traveling to Japan to represent the Japanese American (JA) community. She graduated from Occidental College in 2020. This fall, she will begin graduate studies at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health for her Master’s of Public Health in Sociomedical Sciences.

Riki was "honored to be an intern this summer and enjoyed connecting with other Nikkei young adults representing all of the California Japantowns and strengthening ties and solidarity between SF Japantown and the Fillmore District." She worked tirelessly to gather personal interviews of community members and business owners to help bring the Japantown History Walk Mobile Tour Application to life. Riki will return this winter to launch the completed project to the public.
CAROLINE MIEKO KIM  
Valley Village, CA  
Molecular Biology/Japanese (minor), '23  
Colgate University

Development Department: Social media promotion and marketing, fundraising marketing and support

Caroline, a fourth-generation JA, grew up in a small town in Yakima, Washington, with very little exposure to her Korean and Japanese heritage. She had a "cultural awakening" when she moved to a Los Angeles suburb right before middle school. She shared, "Before moving to California, I had only been exposed to snippets from my grandparents about their immigration and integration experiences, which inspired me to learn more and become involved in the community. I am particularly interested in geriatric care and what challenges that sphere faces today."

This summer, Caroline was placed in the Development Department, where she learned about nonprofit operations and immersed herself in the JA community in Japantown. She spearheaded weekly social media posts, which resulted in increased community engagement with Trivia Tuesday and Fun Fact Friday week after week. In her free time, she explored the City’s diverse neighborhoods with fellow interns and family.

KADI NANASE MIURA  
San Francisco  
Bioengineering/Biochemistry Emphasis, '24, UC Merced

Administration Department: Tokyo Olympic Kick-off and Kimo-NO Waste Project

Kadi was born in Shimokitazawa, Tokyo, Japan, moved to SF Japantown at age 11, and currently lives in the Richmond district. She participated in the JCYC’s Japantown Youth Leaders Program in high school, allowing for a deeper connection to the community. She shared her insights early in the internship, "I want to help reunify our community in Japantown. I want people to say tadaima (I’m home) when they see our pagoda or enter their favorite ramen restaurant. By allowing the community and visitors to enjoy Japantown as a cultural hub, we will promote a want to understand, value, and care for Japanese culture. In turn, we can further unify by sharing and collaborating with the other cultural hubs and communities rooted in San Francisco."

Kadi worked in the Administration Department by helping to coordinate activities for the NBC Bay Area Tokyo Olympic’s kick-off and closing programs. She creatively developed and implemented the KimoNO-waste project, highlighting Japan’s use of recycled materials for their medals and the concept of mottainai (no waste) in an interactive and engaging art project, which is currently displayed in the Center’s lobby. Kadi was hoping this work would reignite the excitement of Japantown — and it has!

LAURIE YUKIKO TAKEDA  
Hayward  
Digital Media Art, '21  
San Jose State University

Programs Department, Marketing Videos and Workshop Development

Laurie grew up in Hayward, CA. She has a passion for the arts, more specifically photography, videography and digital artwork, because of the intentionality of how artists can express themselves in their own way. But also, "I want to be able to use my art to spread awareness of the rising events that have been happening in society." Laurie wanted to participate in the Kase Program to learn more about JA history within the Bay Area and become more integrated within the JA community. She shared, "I felt a disconnect with my Japanese heritage as a Yonsei who grew up mainly speaking English and not knowing very much about my family history."

During the summer, Laurie was able to experience Japantown and reconnect with her cultural roots while working at the Center. She also enjoyed working alongside others with similar interests and views on the JA community and its future.

Laurie’s main project for the Programs Department was to create videos to promote the variety of programs and the use of the facility for rentals. She also wanted to learn how to produce a program from start to finish. Thanks to her hard work, she successfully hosted a virtual author talk on exploring Japan’s undiscovered treasures for the book Cultural Kaiseki. Laurie will soon be graduating, and we look forward to her continued engagement with the community!
Past, Present, Future:
A Place to Call Home

This year we celebrate the 35th Anniversary of Opening the Doors of the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC). The dream was to create an everlasting home for the community, a foundation from which our culture, traditions and heritage could be passed down to others. A place for the community to call its own, to be proud of, that would be self-supporting, and one that would never be taken away. A place where we own the responsibility to nurture and cherish, as we secure its future for subsequent generations.

Those who gathered to build this dream were pioneers and visionaries, working together with determination, commitment and pride. They shared the dream of a world filled with more hope and joy so that their children’s grandchildren would have a place to learn about their Japanese culture and heritage. The stories to share and customs to pass down would be told in a safe and nurturing second home with their extended families.

Over the past thirty-five years, the Center has become that home in the community – a place to bring family, see friends, explore culture and share experiences. This is abundantly clear as you look at the thousands of smiling faces that have either passed through our doors or, more recently, participated online through our virtual programs, classes, workshops and events. Especially with the hardships created by the COVID-19 pandemic, this accomplishment is truly a tribute to every donor, member, volunteer, board member, staff member, program participant and organization, all of whom have devoted their time towards serving and bringing new life to our community center.

Our 35th Anniversary of opening our doors is a beautiful celebration of our resilience, how far we have come, and what we have to look forward to. The dream of the JCCCNC was built upon the foundation of generations, past, present and future. And it is these generations, each with its own struggles, adversity, determination, commitment and dreams that are destined to write new chapters for our Center.
As we reflect on 35 years since we first opened our doors, we thought we’d revisit some of the memorable and inspirational stories that we’ve published in the past. These are stories that the Nisei may never have imagined as they dreamed of what the Center could be nearly 50 years ago. Since 1986, when we first opened our doors, the programs, people and activities have made the Center come alive, but these events and what happens here every day continue to become part of our ongoing history. Over the years, the Center has become more than just a local cultural and community center. We have spearheaded new initiatives, like preserving the environment, with our Go Green campaign. We have also been at the forefront of Japantown, San Francisco, Bay Area, statewide and national Japanese American and Asian American issues, and directly connect with our culture and the people of Japan.

As we look back, we wish to thank the Nisei and our founding supporters for their vision and inspiration and all of you, who have contributed to the Center as members, donors, instructors, program participants, event attendees and visitors just walking through our doors. You are the heartbeat of the Center and allow us to continue sharing, teaching, remembering and honoring our rich history and culture.

We are excited for all that lies ahead for us at the Center and welcome you to join us as we continue to imagine the future of the place that we call home.

In this anniversary “Looking Back on 35 Years” section, you can reminisce or learn about The Center Going Green, The Nisei Road to Cooperstown, the Nisei High School Diploma Project, the Journey to Tanforan event and our Annual Cultural Tours to Japan on the following pages.

Can you MATCH these events at the Center with the year they happened?

1. Groundbreaking Ceremony 2005
2. Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko visit the Center 1990
3. First Cultural Tour to Japan 1984
4. Completion of the Nisei Community Hall (gymnasium) 2009
5. First Tabemasho Fundraiser Event 1994
6. Nisei Graduation Ceremony held in the gym 1998

Answers on page 41
The JCCCNC has always been about preserving history, culture, heritage and community. But in 2007, we looked at the bigger picture and began efforts to help preserve our planet.

During that summer, Pro Solar and Fidelity Roofing were hard at work repairing the roof and installing new solar panels. From the time the panels and wiring had been installed, numerous tests were run before they were finally ready for the final inspection and the JCCCNC’s transition to using solar power.

Then on February 13, 2008, Executive Director, Paul Osaki, along with Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi, City Assessor Phil Ting, Deputy Consul General Kazuyoshi Yamaguchi, Travis Kiyota, Manager, Government Relations at PG&E, Kimia Mizany, Director of Business Development at Solar Depot, Arnold Shaver of Pro Solar and supporters of the JCCCNC’s “Go Green” Annual Support Drive, celebrated the official kick-off and dedication. The ceremony included remarks from dignitaries and representatives, an official solar “switch over” and a visit to Hotel Tomo (now the Buchanan Hotel) for a bird’s-eye view of the solar panels.

As part of the ceremony, Mr. Kiyota of PG&E presented a check to the JCCCNC in the amount of $78,905.00, which represented the incentives and rebates made for taking the initiative to be the first organization in the Japanese American community to look at their long term sustainable resources.

At the time, the JCCCNC had already raised $141,672.00 through support from many generous donors and with the rebate from PG&E almost paid in full the installation of the solar panels. The cost for the installation was a little more than expected totaling $298,958.00, which meant that the JCCCNC still needed to raise an additional $78,381.00.

Soon after, the JCCCNC was so appreciative to receive a generous donation of $50,000 from Grace Kase, a Nisei woman who frequently visited the Center for classes and learned about our Go Green Campaign. “This was her first major contribution to the Center, and we are glad that she believed in what we are doing and how it will benefit everyone for decades to come. We were all deeply touched by her donation,” stated Paul Osaki.

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In February 1998, the JCCCNC had the wonderful privilege of helping make an improbable childhood dream come true for 15 Nisei baseball players. They were honored with an exhibit at the National Baseball Hall of Fame at Cooperstown, New York.

In an emotionally charged dedication ceremony, these 15 represented hundreds of others that played in Nisei baseball leagues across the western states during the pre-war era. In California, virtually every town and city from Sacramento to Salinas, Alameda to Fresno, and San Francisco to Lodi had their local heroes on the baseball field. The game of baseball has such a unique and historical meaning for the Japanese American community.

“It was just a dream come true,” said 74-year-old San Jose resident and Cleveland Indians draftee Henry Honda of the Hall of Fame trip. “Never in my life did I think I would be there. Maybe to visit, but nothing like what happened there.”

Produced by the Nisei Baseball Research Project, the “Diamonds in the Rough” exhibit documents how Japanese American greats played with baseball icons, including Babe Ruth, Joe DiMaggio, Lou Gehrig, Jackie Robinson, Ted Williams and Whitey Ford. Given baseball’s current international popularity, the Nisei were early pioneers in helping cultivate the sport across other cultures. “I am so proud that this hidden legacy and missing chapter in American baseball history has surfaced... for the global audiences to acknowledge and appreciate,” said Kerry Yo Nakagawa, Nisei Baseball Research Project Director and curator of the exhibit.

“Nisei baseball, which gets very little recognition, is an integral part of baseball history,” said Jeff Idelson, Director of Media Relations for the Hall of Fame.

This historic trip was a culmination of many other JCCCNC sponsored activities. In July of 1996, the Center organized Japanese American Day with the San Francisco Giants, where 49 Nisei baseball greats were recognized on the
field of Candlestick Park, their first stop on the “Road to Cooperstown.”

Now in Cooperstown, what great baseball tales were told that day. The enduring image of larger-than-life Babe Ruth frustrated by the base running prowess of the tiny, yet pesky, Kenichi Zenimura. He reportedly boomed, “If you don’t cut it out, I’ll pick you up and use you for a bat!”

Masao “Lefty” Nishijima of Fresno told of his pivotal role in the Jackie Robinson story. Facing him as a minor leaguer, Lefty gave up two home runs to the young prospect. He proudly quipped, “I got him started on his career.”

When Alice Hinaga Taketa of San Jose, the lone female representative and all-star pitcher of her era, was asked what her best pitch was, the question magically transformed her into an old ballplayer. The 83-year-old grandmother caught a tossed ball with one hand and instinctively wrapped her fingers expertly across the seams. “I called it the drop, now I think they call it a sinker,” she humbly replied.

These are just some of our unsung heroes... our legends of Japanese American baseball.
In 2004, the JCCCNC organized the California Nisei High School Diploma Project, which facilitated a statewide honoring of high school diplomas to Japanese American citizens whose high school education was cut short by their incarceration in concentration camps during World War II.

The California Nisei High School Diploma Project implemented Assembly Bill 781 — introduced by Assembly Member Sally Lieber of San Jose and subsequently passed into law — allowing for the issuance of retroactive high school diplomas to Japanese Americans who were unable to complete their high school education due to their incarceration during World War II. Nisei (second-generation, U.S. born children of first generation Japanese immigrants to the U.S.) comprise the largest number of those affected by this law.

With funding support by the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP), the project aimed to ease the process of granting the diplomas, while also educating high schools and surrounding communities about the historical context and consequences of Japanese American imprisonment during the war.

“It is a tremendous privilege to work with the JCCCNC and the CCLPEP on this important project,” said Lieber. “It gives us a unique opportunity not just to repair past injustices, but to educate Californians about their own history. This is especially important during a time when we see frightening parallels in current events.”

Effective January 1, 2004, AB 781 authorized all Japanese-American citizens who were unable to complete their high school education due to World War II to receive a diploma from the school they were attending prior to their incarceration. The project worked in collaboration with the CCSESA (California County Superintendents Educational Services Association), county and district offices, and
“When all 320 high students hugged me, it felt like a dream. Now my life is almost complete.” She reflects, “I finally accomplished through thick and thin — and then through 60 years with patience.”

—Mary Kitahara

numerous community organizations to maximize the scope of community outreach to identify and locate those eligible to benefit from the legislation.

“We recognize and acknowledge that many California high school districts in recent years have voluntarily issued diplomas to Japanese Americans, and they should be commended for their early action and initiative,” said Paul Osaki, Executive Director of the JCCCNC. “Although much time has passed, we hope that all eligible Nisei will apply for their diploma and see it as an important way to educate high school students today of the civil wrongs committed some 60 years ago. When you think of a high school graduation ceremony, you think about beginning your life and the hopes and dreams for your future. For many Nisei this did happen... but behind barbed wire.”

While interned at Heart Mountain with his family, Okumura was drafted into the army and served with the 442nd infantry. He continued to serve in the army with the occupational forces in Germany and the training of new recruits in Texas before he was drafted a second time during the Korean War. He was injured and discharged after serving 9 ½ years.

After her incarceration at Heart Mountain with her family, Mary (Okumura) Kitahara returned to the Bay Area to work for a Palo Alto family in 1943. Although the family was very kind to her, she experienced a great deal of overt racism when she stepped outside their home or traveled into town on her day off.

Upon her return to the Bay Area, Mary had contacted Mountain View High School to see if she could receive her high school diploma. She was told they had no record of her attendance. She inquired several more times over the years, but always received a similar response.

In 2004, when Janet Thelan, Mary’s daughter, heard about the passage of Assembly Bill 781, she contacted Assemblywoman Sally Lieber’s office and Mountain View High School to request a diploma for her mother and uncle. Mary humbly acknowledges, “I owe all my credit to my daughter for making it happen.”

Mark Okumura, Tom’s son, concurrs, “Janet was the driving force. I think my family got caught up in the excitement she was able to generate.” Having left his high school years behind, Tom Okumura didn’t think it was possible to ever receive his diploma until he heard from his niece, “After all those years... what others did to make it possible, I was completely surprised and pleased... I’m glad it happened.”

After 62 years, Mary Kitahara and her brother, Tom Okumura, received their Class of ’42 high school diplomas and were honored at the Mountain View High School commencement in June 2004. Assemblywoman Sally Lieber recounts the event, “There was a hush in the crowd when Principal Pat Hyland solemnly said, ‘Today we humbly apologize for the wrongs committed 60 years ago...’ The graduating students did not know that Mary and Tom were to be honored. They didn’t know their story. Tears welled up... Everyone was affected.”

With eyes twinkling and a soft bright smile, Mary remembers, “When all 320 high students hugged me, it felt like a dream. Now my life is almost complete.” She reflects, “I finally accomplished through thick and thin — and then through 60 years with patience.”
In 2006, a group of Nisei former internees approached the JCCCCNC with the idea of organizing an event to commemorate the experience and to reunite with those who also suffered through it. “For many of the former internees of the Tanforan Assembly Center, this could be their first return to Tanforan since being incarcerated there 65 years ago.

This event could help put closure to a chapter of their lives at the Tanforan Assembly Center — the first stop of what would eventually become years behind barbed wire,” said JCCCCNC Executive Director Paul Osaki at the time. “Tanforan was the place where the community got their first glimpse of what was in store for them. It is the place of stories and the smell of manure, it is the place where some old and sick friends passed away behind barbed wire fences, and it is a place where babies were born in horse stalls.”

Thus, “Journey to Tanforan” was the first time that a formal organized national gathering of past internees would be held there, with buses departing from the former Bay Area communities where the internees had left their homes back in 1942. There were approximately 2,000
former internees alive at the time in 2007, most in their late 80s and early 90s.

The historic event took place on June 2, 2007, in commemoration of the 65th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066 and the opening of the Tanforan Assembly Center. Over 20 community-based organizations and hundreds of former internees reunited and participated. It featured an emotional reenactment of the evacuation and arrival at Tanforan — with actors including members of the Grateful Crane Ensemble dressed in period clothing arriving on an old bus.

At the closing of the event, former internees and their descendants tolled a bell to remember the occasion and pay tribute to the internees that have since passed away. JCCCNC Executive Director Paul Osaki added, “Equally as important will be the opportunity to commemorate the past and heal the wounds of an aging generation — most of whom are now in their late 80s and early 90s — whose memories of the internment still bear much pain, even after so many years.”

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The Center has been conducting annual, and in some years biannual, Cultural Tours to Japan since 1998. We hope to resume our tours once the quarantine in Japan is lifted and foreigners are allowed to travel there without restrictions.

I was asked to reflect upon my “favorite” Cultural Tour for this newsletter, but they have all been special to me. The purpose of our tours is to introduce people to the deep and rich culture, history and traditions of Japan by traveling through the country as a native resident would.

We rely on public transportation rather than chartered buses, we stand in line with other commuters at a local train station to ‘feel’ the rush hour, and we eat at local restaurants specializing in the catch of the day rather than pre-planned meals at hotels. I try to incorporate a festival or special event that is taking place in the prefectures we are visiting so that our participants can experience the ‘flavor’ of the region.

I am very grateful to Tomoye Takahashi, who encouraged me to start the tours. She helped me plan the first one in 1998, and even paid for half of the participants to travel with us to promote the concept. Because of her long and dedicated commitment to supporting local crafts people and pottery villages in Japan, we were treated to see a nobori gama (tiered pottery kiln) in Seto, a folk toy museum in Kurashiki, and a 200-year-old vintage shibori kimono in Arimatsu.

Martha Masako Suzuki, Mrs. Takahashi’s sister, also participated in many of our tours, and enhanced our experience by sharing the history of many of the culinary dishes we were able to eat, as well as suggesting that we visit the lesser known museums such as the Itchiku Kubota Museum in Kawaguchi Ko, Yamanashi Prefecture.

There are so many wonderful moments from each of the tours. Many of the
special reflections come from the people who have traveled with us, particularly the Nisei friends, who would sign up even before they knew where we would be traveling to.

I hesitate to leave any of the tours out, but here are a few highlights that immediately come to mind:

**Furusato Tour: The Journey Home, 2005**

This tour featured the prefectures in Japan where many Issei were born and raised. We were able to learn from local experts and actually trace the steps that the Issei took from their prefectural towns and villages to the port of their departure in Kobe or Yokohama.

**Topaz Class of 1945 Reunion, 2008**

Since 1970, the Topaz Class of 1945 sponsors annual reunions to reinforce their friendship as high school schoolmates. This class is the only class of Japanese Americans that were able to complete their three years of high school together, and it was done behind barbed wire with armed guards at the Topaz Concentration Camp. To celebrate their 63rd reunion, a tour to Japan was organized by the Center. Traveling with “mature” members taught me things I had never thought to consider, such as waiting for people to remove their support hose stockings before we could enjoy a local foot bath in an onsen town, being with people who actually knew famous artists, such as Kiyoshi Saito, and stopping at his museum in a rural part of Fukushima Prefecture.

**Tohoku Tour, 2016**

During this tour we visited the six prefectures of Tohoku, and made specific visits to reconnect with the groups the Center has been working with since the 3/11/11 Great East Japan Earthquake, Tsunami and Nuclear Disaster. While in Yamagata Prefecture, we encountered our first wild animal on our morning hike. None of us had ever seen a bear outside the secure confines of a zoo so we were at a loss as to what to do. It was probably the fastest any of us had ever run! Hopefully we will be able to report back to you in our next newsletter about the resumption of our Cultural Tours for 2022!
Appreciating our Loyal Members: Thanks for Hanging with the Center

We celebrate loyal members who have renewed their membership every year for ten or more years on the following pages. Due to the pandemic’s effect on all our lives, we have included members who have been active every year since 1992, when we began recording membership electronically, through 2019, with sustaining members listed in bold.

As we celebrate 35 years since opening our doors, we appreciate those closest to us, people who have been there for the Center through the best of times and the challenging times. In this newsletter, we wish to show our sincere gratitude to our long-time members. The following members have sustained us through their membership, whether they took advantage of member discounts or just renewed their membership to support the Center and our mission.

We have always come together from gathering at countless Tabemasho Fundraisers, enjoying the Children’s Day Festival at the Peace Plaza, raising over four million dollars for the Northern Japan Earthquake Relief Fund and through the passing and births of beloved community members. Our dedicated members remind us how fortunate we are and why the Center has become a second home to many. We couldn’t have done it all without you.

We thank all of our members, past and present, for their dedicated support of our community center. Together, we have accomplished so much, and together we will continue to persevere on behalf of our Japanese American community.

25+ Year Members

Mrs. Sumiko Akashi
Ms. Kathryn Aoki
Ms. Eiko Aoki
Ms. Mutsuko Arima
Mr. Tetsuo and Mrs. Keiko Asano
Ms. Florence Dobashi
Mr. Warren Doo and Ms. Marcia H. Kawabata
Mr. Dean Osaki and Ms. Diane Endo
Ms. Lisa C. Eng-Beeman
Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Sharon Fujimura
Dr. Glenn and Mrs. Robin Fujinaka
Ms. Sachiko Fukami
Mr. Koichi Fukuda
Mrs. Yasuko Fukuda
Mr. Nobusuke* Mrs. Fumi Fukuda
Mr. William and Mrs. Rita Hanamoto
Mr. Masao and Mrs. Setsuko Handa
Mr. Richard Hashimoto
Mr. Donald and Mrs. Deborah Hayashi
Dr. James and Mrs. Cynthia Hayashi
Mr. Kyle Tatsumoto and Ms. Carole Hayashino
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Mr. Wayne and Mrs. Christine Hiroshima
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Mrs. Kazue Ibara
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Ms. Laurie Ito
Ms. Dawn Iwamoto
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Ms. Hope Kamimoto
Ms. Emery Kato
Mr. Shigeo Katsuyama
Mr. Tom Kawakami
Mr. Gary Kitahata and Ms. Arlene Kimata
Mrs. Betty Kitazumi
Ms. Kikuko Koba
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Mr. Keith and Mrs. Priscilla Kojimoto
Mrs. Sharon Kotabe
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Mr. Robert and Mrs. Gail Mametsuka
Mr. Kaz Maniwa and Ms. Masako Fukunaga
Ms. Alice Matsumoto
Mr. Cary Matsumura
Mr. Rick Matsuno
Mr. Jeffery Matsuoka and Ms. Akemi Takagi
Mrs. Sachiko Mizuhara
Ms. Kay Mizuire
Mr. Pierre and Mrs. Gail Morin
Ms. Tsutaye Murakami
Mr. Kei and Mrs. Yukiko Nagai
Ms. Barbara Nagareda
Mrs. Nanami Naito
Ms. Ella Toshiko Nakabe
Mr. Hiroshi and Mrs. Joyce Nakai
Ms. Nancy K. Nakai and Mr. Dale Spink
Ms. Haruko Nakamoto
Mr. William and Mrs. Louise Nakamura
Mr. Scott and Mrs. Sandra Nakamura
Dr. Yoshih and Mrs. Jean Nakashima
Mr. Gerald and Mrs. Gail Nanbu
Mr. Isamu Nao*
Mr. David Nishimoto
Mr. Kenneth and Mrs. Grace Nitta
Mrs. Nell Noguchi
Ms. Kay Nomura
Mr. Daniel and Mrs. Anita Nunotani
Mr. Lawrence Kern and
Ms. Karen Nunotani-Kern
Mr. Somao Ochi
Ms. Harua Oda
Dr. Thomas and Mrs. Susan Ogawa
Mr. Yoshihiro Oka
Mr. Allen and
Mrs. Patricia Okamoto
Mrs. Nancy A. Okano
Mr. Roy S. Okuno
Ms. Teresa Ono

Mrs. Harumi Serata
Mr. Hiko and Mrs. Susan Shimamoto
Mr. George Shimizu
Mr. Hideki and Mrs. Marie Shiohira
Mr. Takeo Shirasawa
Mr. Ronald and Mrs. Shirley Shiromoto
Mr. Robert Song
Mr. Gower Suen
Mr. Al Suen and
Ms. Caroline Satoda-Suen
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Mrs. Yoko Sumida
Ms. Marumi Suyeyasu
Ms. Mae Takeda
Mr. Ko and Mrs. Hisako Takemoto
Ms. Atsuko Takeshita
Mrs. Hideko Takeshita
Ms. Susan H. Tanaka
Mr. Neal Taniguchi and
Dr. Emily M. Murase
Mr. Bernard and Mrs. Emi Tom
Mr. Kenji and Mrs. Mary Tomita
Mrs. Miyoko Tomura
Dr. Jamie Totsubo and
Mr. Tim Hamano
Mr. Yoshimitsu and
Mrs. Takeko Toya
Dr. Reiko True
Dr. Himeo Tsumori
Mr. Richard Tsutakawa
Ms. Sharon Umene
Mrs. Marion N. Wake
Mr. Mike Webb
Mr. Tim and Mrs. Jo Ann Ono Wong
Mr. Wayne and
Mrs. Anna Yamaguchi
Mr. Takeshi and
Mrs. Patricia Yamamoto
Mr. Dick and Mrs. Elaine Yamamoto
Mr. Jiro B. Yamamoto
Mrs. Tamiko Yasuhara
Ms. Kay Yatabe
Mr. Benjamin and Mrs. Candace Yee
Mr. James Yonemoto
Mr. Shigeru and Mrs. Paulynn Yoshida

15 Year Members

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Mrs. Mutsumi Angevine
API Legal Outreach
Mr. Thomas and
Mrs. Akiko Arikawa
Ms. Cathy Y. Arima and Mr. Mike Lem
Ms. Joyce Ashizawa-Yee and
Mr. Bradley Yee
Mr. Thomas and Mrs. BJ Baba
Mr. Duane Bell
Ms. Karen Boyden
Ms. Sandra Campbell
Mr. Sherman and Mrs. Dori Chan
Mr. Robert Chan
Mr. Damon Chang
Mr. Freeman and Mrs. Akiko Chee
Ms. Sherilyn Chew and
Mr. Peti Arunamata
Mr. Conant and Mrs. Demetria Chi
The Coxon Family
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Dr. Kay Dilena
Mr. and Mrs. Darren Driskill
Mr. Gary and Mrs. Denise Ebisuzaki
Ms. Kelly Eshima
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Dr. John and Mrs. Sue Fong
Mr. Raymond Fong
Mr. Vernon Fong
Ms. Arly N. Fong
Ms. Dianne Fukami and
Mr. Gerry Nakano
Mr. Saburo and Mrs. Lucille Fukuda
Mr. David and Mrs. Hiromi Fukuda
Ms. Louise Y. Fung
Mr. Shig Furuta
Mr. Mike and Mrs. Kay Furutani
Ms. Gail H. Gee
Ms. Patricia Golumb
Mr. Simon and
Mrs. Kristen Goodfellow
Ms. Elayne Hada-Souza and
Mr. Thomas J. Souza

* deceased
Continued on page 32

To commit to being a member of the Center is to commit to supporting San Francisco Japantown.
Thank you to all of our Center member family, especially those who have remained loyal for ten or more years.
We see and appreciate you all!
—Elena Nielsen, Membership Coordinator
Fifteen Years + Members
continued from page 31

Mr. Craig and Mrs. Lyn Hamakawa
Ms. Dolly S. Hamamoto
Ms. Jennifer Hamamoto and
Mr. Phil Owyoung

Mme. Michiya Hanayagi
Dr. Walter W. Hashimoto

Ms. Sato Hashizume
Ms. Stacey A. Hata
Mrs. Joyce and Mr. Bernard Hata
Mr. Francis Wong and
Ms. Julie Hatta-Wong
Ms. Susan Hayashi
Dr. Eddie K. Hayashida

Mrs. Kaye Higashi
Mr. Daryl Higashi
Mr. Christopher Hong

Mrs. Gaylene and
Mr. Tom Hoshiyama
Mr. Henry and
Mrs. Stephanie Ichinose
Ms. Mary H. Ikenaga
Ms. Shirley Imamoto
Ms. Kim Ina
Mr. Richard Inokuchi

Mr. Jeff and Mrs. Leslie Inokuchi
Mr. David Inouye
Mr. Edward and
Mrs. Cynthia Ishizaki

Mr. Greg Ishizaki
Ms. Lily Ishizu

Ms. Patricia Ito
Ms. Janis Ito
Mr. Paul Iwamasa and
Ms. Shelly Onishi-Iwamasa
Mrs. Nadine Iwamoto

Ms. Christine R. Iwanaga
Japanese Sword Club of Northern California
Mr. Tedman Jung
Ms. Dana Kato

Mr. Lewis Kawahara and
Ms. Akiko Takeshita

Mr. Eric and Mrs. Vera Kawamura
Ms. Jessica Kawamura

Mrs. Mitsuko Kawashiri
Mr. Todd Kimoto
Ms. Hisayo Kinjo
Mr. Eiji Kinoshita
Mrs. Reiko Kitagawa

Mr. Stephen and Mrs. Ella Kitagawa
Mr. Gregory Kitamura and
Ms. Margaret Kitamura
Ms. Yoshiko Kitawaki
Mrs. Kikue Kiyasu
Mr. George Kobayashi

Ms. Susan M. Kobayashi and
Mr. Charles S. Han

Ms. Kuniye Koga
Mr. Jose Nisino and
Ms. Jean Kon-Nisino

Mr. Eddie Wong and
Ms. Donna L. Kotake
Mr. John Kozik
Mr. Eric and Mrs. Karen Kubota

Mrs. Joyce Kuwatani
Mr. Mitchell Lam and Ms. Joan Tanaka
Mr. Palmer Lam
Mr. Marcus Lam
Mr. Dereck J. Lau and
Ms. Remi Nakamoto

Mr. Daniel and Mrs. Roxanne Lee
Ms. Ibuki Lee
Mr. John and Mrs. Mary Lee
Mr. Jonathan Lee

Mr. Bernie and Mrs. Ginger Lee
Mr. Richard and Mrs. Noriko Lew
Mr. Dii Lewis and Ms. Joyce H. Oishi
Mr. John and Mrs. Shirley Lui
Ms. Rochelle Lum
Mr. Bernie Malihan
Mr. Scott and Mrs. Kimberly Mamiya
Mr. Kazuo Maruoka

Mr. Jim and Mrs. Darlene Masamori
Mr. Jeffrey and Mrs. Melanie Masuda

Ms. Sandi Matoba

Mr. Greg Matoba and
Ms. May Tsang-Matoba
Ms. Lori Matoba and Mr. Jeff Wun
Ms. Diane Matsuda

Ms. Susan Matsumura
Ms. Ria McIntosh

Mr. Dale Minami and Ms. Ai Mori
Ms. Diane Misumi
Mr. Tosh Mitsuda

Mr. Patrick and Mrs. Edith Miyaki
Mr. Wayne and Mrs. Patricia Mizuiri
Ms. Christine Monet
Mr. Bert Mori

Mr. Bruce and Mrs. Joy Morimoto
Dr. Leroy M. Morishita and
Ms. Barbara Hedani-Morishita
Mr. Fred S. Yung and

"Thank you to our long-time members who have taken the time to build a beloved community together. The Center is such a special place because of all of you.

—Yuka Walton, Board Member

Ms. Jane Muramoto-Yung
Mr. Victor Hojilla and
Mrs. Kimiko Naito

Ms. Kim Nakahara and
Mr. Kenji Treanor

Mrs. Emiko Nakahiro
Mr. Russell and Mrs. Jacki Nakai

Dr. Douglas Nakamoto
Mr. Dennis and
Mrs. Deborah Nakamura
Ms. Irene Nakamura
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Mrs. Lynn and Mr. Wesley Nihei
Ms. Fumi Nihei
Mr. Edward and
Mrs. Ayako Nishimoto
Ms. Marlene K. Nishimura and
Mr. Michael Wahl
Ms. Merry Nishimura
Mr. Hamilton Niwa
Mrs. Yaeko Noda
State of Membership

Active Members by the Year Joined

The pie chart below reflects the distribution of active members by join date as of October 4, 2021. We have separated memberships by the decade they joined, starting from the 1990s to the present. The oldest active membership recorded electronically began in 1992, with the newest membership beginning just a few days ago. At 39%, the majority of our current membership joined in the decade between 2010 and 2019. At 19%, the smallest percentage of our current membership joined between 1990 and 1999, closely followed by 2020-2021 (20%) and then the decade between 2000 and 2009 (22%). Seeing that 20% of our current membership joined within just the past year, we hope to continue on this upwards trajectory, encouraging more community members to join our member family! If you know someone who might be interested in Center membership, please have them contact us at membership@jcccnc.org or call (415) 567-5505.

Mr. John and Mrs. Diane Noguchi
Dr. Harry Nomura
Mr. Robert and Mrs. Delphine Obana
Ms. Susan Obata
Mr. George and Mrs. Lois Ohwa
Mr. Eric Ohwa
Ms. Yukiko Oka
Mr. Ricky and Mrs. Glenda Okamura
Mr. Van Okamura and
Ms. Glynis Nakahara
Mr. Dean Okamura
Ms. Thelma Ong
Mrs. Kay K. Onishi
Mr. Victor K. Ono and Ms. Jennifer Tambara-Ono
Ms. Marilyn C. Oshiro
Mrs. Yaeko Ozaki
Mr. Keith and Mrs. Sallie Palmer
Ms. Jamie L. Pang and Mr. Larry Tuft
Mr. Gordon and Mrs. Kaeko Park-Li
Mr. Mark Pigram and
Mr. Tim Armour
Mr. Dana and Mrs. Misako M. Sack
Mr. Don and Mrs. Ada Sadler
Ms. Francky Sahmel
Mr. Timothy and
Mrs. Hiroko Sakamaki
Mr. Ross S. Sakamoto and
Ms. Angela McKillen
San Francisco Drakes
San Francisco Enchantees
Ms. Shirley Sasaki
Mrs. Daisy Satoda
Ms. Nancy Satoda
Ms. Linda Sawamoto and
Mr. Fred Look
Mr. Sim and Mrs. Tsuyako Seiki
Ms. Marianne Seiki
Mr. Rylan Sekiguchi
Mr. Gerald and Mrs. Joy Sekimura
Mr. Henry and Mrs. Adelina Serata
Mr. Anthony and Mrs. Mary Shek
Mr. Tim Shibata
Mrs. Rosemary Shigematsu
Mr. Randy and Mrs. Linda Shigio

* deceased
Continued on page 34
Fifteen Years + Members
continued from page 33

Mr. Edward and Mrs. Ruth Shikada
Mr. Robert and Mrs. Nanayo Silver
Mr. Ryan Siu
Mr. Thomas Soohoo

Strategic Education Services
Mr. Jeffrey and Mrs. Pamela Suda
Mrs. Linda and Mr. Alan Sugaya
Mr. Koichi Sugiyama and Ms. Moira J. Willis
Mr. Kirk and Mrs. Flora Sujishi
Ms. Yukiko Suzuki
Mr. Rodney and Reverend Grace Suzuki
Mr. John Watkins and Ms. Noriko Tabata
Mr. Hajime Tada
Mr. Guy Takahashi
Mrs. Toshiko Takahashi
Ms. Melody Takata

Mrs. Sumako Takeshita
Ms. Louise Takeuchi
Mr. Jimmie Takeuchi

Mrs. Violet Tanaka
Mr. Wilson Tang and Ms. Sharon Yow
Ms. Michiko Tashiro
Ms. Wendy Tokuda and Mr. John Norheim
Mr. Grant Tomioka
Ms. Mari Tomiyama
Mr. Will and Mrs. Myrna Tsukamoto

Mr. John and Mrs. Marge Tsukamoto
Mr. Curtis and Mrs. Diane Uejo
Mrs. Yoshiko Umekubo
Mrs. Tokiko Ushijima
Ms. Benita Ushikubo-Snavely
Mrs. Shinako N. Wada
Ms. Patricia K. Wada

Dr. David L. Walton and Ms. Machiko Nakatani
Ms. Sharon Williams
Mr. Lance and Mrs. Sandra Wong
Mr. Milton Wong and Ms. Dianne Furuya-Wong

Mr. Jones and Mrs. Michele Wong
Ms. Jeanette Wong and Mr. Sherman Gee
Mr. Raymond Woo and Ms. Adrienne Shiozaki Woo

Mr. Ken and Mrs. Nancy Woo
Mr. William and Mrs. Irene M. Wu
Mr. Minoru and Mrs. Suzanne Yamada
Mr. Ron and Mrs. Emiko Yamada
Mr. Kahn Yamada
Dr. Jim and Mrs. Carole Yamaguchi

“
Our members are the heartbeat of the Center. They support us when we need them most and help make the Center a second home in the community. Thank you, new and long-time members, for your support.
—Matt Okada, Director of Special Events and Communications
”

Mr. Dennis Yamamoto
Mr. Craig and Mrs. Erin Yamamura
Ms. Rachael Y. Yamashiro
Mrs. Dorothy Yanagi
Mr. Stan Yeung
Mr. Jim and Mrs. Lynn Yanashiro

Dr. Craig Yonemura and Ms. Pamela Matsuda-Yonemura

Dr. Todd M. Yonemura
Mrs. Agnes Yoshimura
Mr. Robert and Mrs. Susan Yoshioka
Mr. Dennis Yuen and Ms. Aileen Auyeung

10 Year Members

Mrs. Lynne Adams
Ms. Karen Aizawa
Mr. Terry Akiyama
Mr. Edward and Mrs. Alice Arikawa
Mr. Martin Austria and Ms. Harumi Quinones-Austria
Ms. Lynda Boyer
Buddhist Church of San Francisco Youth Athletic Organization
Mr. William J. Edick and Ms. Pamela Burns
Ms. Lydia Buted
Mr. Roy Chin
Mrs. Mary China
Ms. Marion Dietzen
Mr. Grant Din and Ms. Rosalyn Tonai
Ms. Goldie Dong
Ms. E. Leilani Fox
Ms. Sharon M. Fujii
Ms. Kazuko Fukumoto

Ms. Naomi Funahashi and Mr. Richard Lee
Mrs. Melissa and Mr. Glenn Gee
Mr. Gordon and Mrs. Amy Hamachi

Ms. Amy Hanamoto
Mr. Michael Okagaki and Wendy S. Hanamura
Ms. Rose Hane
Mr. Steve Hayashi and Ms. Judy Winn-Bell
Ms. Naomi Hayashi
Mrs. Jo Anne Hayashida

Mr. Christopher M. Hirano and Ms. Chiyomi Kuroki-Hirano
Mrs. Toshiye Hirose

Ms. Kazuko Hishida
Ms. Catherine Hong
Mr. Dan and Mrs. Jan Honma
Mr. John and Mrs. Wendy Ichijuji
Dr. Aggie Idemoto
Mr. George Imperial

Mr. Roy Imura
Mr. Gaku Ito and Ms. Aya Ino
Ms. Betty Iseri

Mrs. Paula and Mr. Francis Itaya
Mr. Eugene and Mrs. Jane Itogawa  
Mrs. Kazuko Iwahashi  
**Japanese Community Youth Council**  
Mrs. Alice Jeong  
**Mr. Gordon and Mrs. Linda Joo**  
Mr. Robert Rusky and Ms. Karen Kai  
Ms. Kaori Kamita  
Mr. Osamu Kasahara  
Mrs. Jeanie Kashima  
Ms. Alyssa Kato  
Mrs. June Kawaguchi  
**Ms. Kumi Kawashiri**  
Ms. Kyoko Keenon  
Mr. Wayne Kha  
**Mr. Russell and Mrs. Harumi Kishida**  
Mr. Lawrence Kitagawa  
**Mr. Alan and Mrs. Sylvia Kitashima**  
Ms. Kayoko Kitsuwa  
**Mr. John and Mrs. Ruby Kobayashi**  
Ms. Dorothy Koo Boulland  
Mr. Kyle Kurahara  
Ms. Marie Kurihara  
**Ms. May Kuwatani**  
Ms. Yaeko Kuwatani  
Mr. Ken Kwong  
Ms. Erin Lee  
Ms. Leslie Lethridge  
Mr. Kenneth and Mrs. Ann Lew  
Ms. Ann Ley  
Mr. Ross Lim  
Mr. Alvin Lin  
Mr. Stephen and Mrs. Mary Louie  
**Mr. Greg and Ms. Jeanne Low**  
Mr. Jerald and Mrs. Nina Lowe  
Ms. Taka MacDonald  
**Mrs. Yoko Maeda**  
Mrs. Sandra Mar  
**Mrs. Esther Marks**  
Ms. Grace Marselis  
**Mr. Gary Masada**  
Ms. Chiyoko Matsui  
Ms. April May  
**Mr. Don Misumi**  
Mr. Thomas Miyoko  
Ms. JoAnn Momono  
Ms. Colette Ono-Ko and Mr. Peter Ko  
Ms. Dana Oshiro  
Ms. Nancy F. Ozaki  
Ms. Catherine Pantsios  
Mr. William Pung  
Mr. Andy Quach  
Mr. Haruka Roudebush  
**Mr. Robert and Dr. Alicia Sakai**  
Mr. Wilfred Lim and Ms. Susan Sakuma  
Ms. Mariel Sallee  
Ms. Luisa San Martin  
Ms. Marsha Seeley  
Mr. Nathan Segal  
Ms. Sumiko Sheaffer  
**Ms. Lia Shigemura and Ms. Helen Zia**  
Mr. Jeffrey Shioya  
**Mr. Gordon Shiozaki and Ms. Dona Fuchiwaki-Shiozaki**  
Mr. Edward Silva  
Mr. Herman Tachera  
Mr. Kenneth Takahashi  
Mr. Gerry Takano  
Mr. Tony and Mrs. Jennifer Tam  
Mrs. Takeko Tanisawa  
Ms. Chiyio Tashiro  
Ms. Denise Teraoka  
Ms. Fusaye Terazawa  
Mr. Larry J. Tiscornia and Ms. Kimika Takechi  
Mr. Richard Tokeshi  
**Mr. Keith and Mrs. Stacey Tsuchiya**  
Ms. Lisa Tsukamoto  
**Mr. David Turner**  
Mr. Scott Uyeda  
Ms. Gloria Wong Avera  
Mr. Quentin Wu  
**Mr. Ken Wu**  
Mrs. Joyce Yamamoto  
**Mr. Brad Yamauchi and Ms. Diane Gunderson**  
**Mr. Peter and Mrs. Ayako Yee**  
Mr. Toby and Mrs. Tomoko Yeh

What’s the Center without our dedicated members? Your contributions allow the Center to provide vital services to the community and sustain the Center. **Arigato!**

—Myron Okada, Board President

---

* deceased
Community and Memorial Gifts

We would like to extend a special thank you to those who remember the Center when making unsolicited community gifts. These unsolicited gifts remind us how important the Center is to many in the community who appreciate the work that we do — whether it is a place for them to socialize with friends, share cultural traditions with their children or grandchildren, or a place where they can feel comfortable coming to in the community. We thank you for thinking of us and allowing us to share in remembering or honoring the special people in your life. Gifts received from June 1–September 30, 2021, are listed below.

In Memory of

STEVEN J. DOI
Mr. Tom Kawakami, $1,000
Mr. Paul Osaki, $100

TERRIE TERUKO FURUTA
Mr. Shig Furuta, $200
Ms. Ginger Furuta-Sera and Mr. Michael Sera, $200

DERRELL GEE
Mr. Yoshihiro Oka, $100

BOB HOFFER
Mr. Kenneth Kawabata, $100

WILLIE AND FUMI HOSHIYAMA
Mr. Gerald and Mrs. Gail Nanbu, $2,500

SACHIKO MATSUMURA
Mr. Shig Furuta, $200
Mr. Henry Nakata, Jr., $50
Mrs. Kay K. Onishi, $50
Mr. Paul Osaki, $100
Ms. Joyce Satow, $50

MAS MOCHIDA
Mr. Yoshihiro Oka, $100

EDDIE I. MORIGUCHI
Mr. Tom Kawakami, $1,000

KANJI NAKAMURA
Ms. Lori Matoba and Mr. Jeff Wun, $50

KAZ NAKAMOTO
Nakamoto Family and Friends, $5,000
Mr. Hiko and Mrs. Susan Shimamoto, $500
Mr. Dennis Kanzawa, $200
Mr. Nathan and Mrs. Julie Lau, $200

Mr. Victor and Mrs. Jennifer Ono, $200
Ms. Janice Woo, $125
Ms. Debbie Iwamasu, $100
Mr. Allen and Mrs. Patricia Okamoto, $100
Mr. Paul Osaki, $100
Dr. Jamie Totsubo and Mr. Tim Hamano, $100
Ms. Patty Wada and Mr. Grant Tomioka, $100
Mr. Thomas Yasukochi and Family, $100
Ms. Lori Matoba and Mr. Jeff Wun, $75
Mr. Lowell Kimura and Ms. Donna Ong-Kimura, $50

LYNDA ONO UNGER
Mr. Jerry and Mrs. Carrie Fudenna, $100
Mr. Lowell Kimura and Ms. Donna Ong-Kimura, $100
Mr. Chester Lee and Family, $100
Mr. Bobby and Mrs. Teresita Okamura, $100
Mr. Paul Osaki, $100
Ms. Shirley Wong, $100
Mr. Ted Yamazaki and Mr. Brian Budds, $100

Mr. Thomas Yasukochi and Family, $100
Mr. Donald and Mrs. Joyce Lum Emmons, $75
Mr. Eddie Wong and Ms. Donna Kotake, $75
Mr. Satoru and Mrs. Carolyn Hosoda, $50
Mr. James M. and Mrs. Rose Lee, $50
Mr. Randal and Mrs. Laura Otsuki, $50
Dr. Darryl and Mrs. Diane Inaba, $25

SALLY OSAKI
Mr. Tom Kawakami, $1,000
Mr. Thomas and Mrs. June Sugihara, $100

TOMI OSHIRO
Ms. Marilyn Oshiro (via Wells Fargo), $200

WALTER OWYOUNG
Mrs. Linky Hamolka, $300
Mr. Wally Owyang, $100
Mr. Melvin and Mrs. Melanie Gee, $75
Mr. Michael and Mrs. Lida Tong, $75

JANE H. WONG
Mr. Tom Kawakami, $1,000
### In Honor of

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contribution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Allen and Mrs. Patricia Okamoto</td>
<td>$250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. John Nagano</td>
<td>$100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Nanami Naito</td>
<td>$100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Teresa Ono</td>
<td>$100</td>
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<td>Mr. Robert and Dr. Alicia Sakai</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Violet Tanaka</td>
<td>$100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Eunice Kaneko</td>
<td>$50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Kaz Maniwa and Ms. Masako Fukunaga</td>
<td>$50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Matthew and Mrs. Akemi Wayne</td>
<td>$40</td>
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<td>Ms. Amy Hanamomo</td>
<td>$25</td>
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### In Recognition of

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contribution</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Jerry and Mrs. Eleanor Osumi</td>
<td>$100</td>
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<td>Ms. Louise Takeuchi</td>
<td>$100</td>
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### COVID NISEI MAILINGS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contribution</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Jerry and Mrs. Eleanor Osumi</td>
<td>$100</td>
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### In Kind Gifts

#### CAR DONATION (CARS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contribution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Eisuke Tsuyuzaki</td>
<td>$3,987</td>
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#### SPORTS EQUIPMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contribution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco Drakes</td>
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### Community Donations

**$1,450**

Facebook Donations (April-July)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Gary and Mrs. Karen Yamamoto</td>
<td>$100</td>
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<td>Ms. Diane Honda</td>
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**$51–$100**

<table>
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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Takeko Tanisawa</td>
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<td>Ms. Kazuko Hishida</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Ben and Mrs. Fumiko Takeshita</td>
<td>$50</td>
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**$25–$50**

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<td>Mr. Peeranut Visetsuth</td>
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**$1–$24**

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<tr>
<td>Mr. Xeno</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Lily Chan</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Alice Thomas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Melvin and Mrs. Melanie Gee</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Every effort is made to include gifts received during the period of June 1–September 30, 2021, but if a name has been inadvertently omitted, please let us know at (415) 567-5505 or email development@jcccnc.org.
Hello from the Programs Department

I am Caelynn Hwang, the new Programs Coordinator. I am excited to join the Center staff. I look forward to creating new programs and workshops and support Jen and Haruka. I am a recent graduate of UCLA, and a former Takahashi Fellow and Kase intern. Please stop by to say hello!

Please check out our upcoming workshops and ongoing classes on the following pages. We offer in-person, hybrid and virtual programs. We hope you can join us!

I first stepped foot in the Center as one of the 2014 Takahashi Youth Ambassador Fellowship Program (TYAFP) participants. Being a 15-year-old high school student, I was still very immature, unsure of who I was and where I belonged. As the summer passed, each Saturday with a different educational workshop, cultural lesson, and teamwork-based activity, the group of strangers around me suddenly became mentors and friends with whom I shared defining experiences, a rich cultural foundation, and a mutual Japanese American identity. After being a TYAFP fellow, I returned to the Center in 2019 as one of the Kase Nikkei Community Scholarship Program participants, working under Lori and Jen in the Programs Department. Throughout the internship, I had the opportunity to meet various leaders in all three Japantowns and get to know their roles and passion for the Japanese American community. As a Kase intern, I was on the behind-the-scenes side of classes, workshops, and events at the Center, which allowed me to develop and refine event planning, communication, and time management skills. It also allowed me to interact with and get to know the staff and frequent community members from a different perspective. I felt very at home with and accepted by the staff, who were just as close of a family as the community they serve in Japantown.

After graduating from UCLA in June of this year, I was on the hunt for my first full-time job, constantly searching for openings and sending out resumes. It was also around this time that I found myself in Japantown, catching up over lunch with a couple of my fellow former Kase interns. Of course, while we were in the area, we had to stop by the Center and say hello. While chatting with some of the staff, I remember Lori walking over to us to say hello and, by happy coincidence, quickly adding in, “By the way, we’re hiring!” After sharing a laugh, we went on our way, but the thought of potentially working at the Center again never left my mind. Whether fellow or intern, the Center continuously allowed me to learn about myself and my culture and forge friendships and belong to a community, and I was more than eager for the opportunity to give back to an organization that provided me so much. A couple of days later, I sent Lori an email asking about the opening, and the rest is history...

Joining the Center, I’m looking forward to offering a set of helping hands to Jen and Haruka in the Programs department and connecting with our members as we transition back to in-person programs and events. Since my first day in the office, I’ve been surrounded by nothing but kindness and support from staff and community members. Whether it’s jogging down to Kimochi and bringing back a dozen lunch sets in one trip, registering participants for classes or untangling the volleyball nets with Jen, I have yet to experience a dull day at the Center. I’m genuinely grateful for the opportunity to be a part of such a fulfilling work environment. I am excited to invest myself in serving the community and keeping the spirit of the Center alive.

Caelynn learning Kendo in Kobe, Japan, as a Takahashi Fellow
Upcoming Workshops and Events

**Come to the Center!** We will be resuming our annual cultural tradition of mochi-making in preparation for the Oshogatsu (New Year’s) holiday, the most important holiday in Japanese culture. Bring your friends and family along as we demonstrate how traditional komochi (mochi cakes) are steamed and pounded using the mochi machine (generously donated by retired Japantown mochi shop owner George Yamada of the Yamada Seika manju-ya). Learn about the process of mochi making and leave with two pounds of fresh mochi for the holidays. Spaces fill up fast, so sign up today.

**WINTER Kaiseki Virtual Cooking Workshop**
with Larry Sokyo Tiscornia and Kimika Sokyo Takechi

**Saturday, Dec. 11 | 11 a.m.-1 p.m.**
Fees: $15 M | $20 NM

Close out the year of seasonal kaiseki cooking workshops from the comfort of your own kitchen in our **virtual workshop**! A centuries-old culinary tradition, kaiseki cuisine draws on influences from traditional tea ceremonies and the light cuisine of Zen monasteries, resulting in multi-course meals comprised of aesthetically pleasing and healthy courses made with fresh and colorful seasonal ingredients. Visit our website for details on the workshop menu! Recipes will be provided to participants.

**MOCHITSUKI WORKSHOPS**

**Saturday, Dec. 18 | 30 min. shifts between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.**
Fees: $15 M | $20 NM

**SAVE THE DATE**

**PAPER CHASE A JAPANESE AMERICAN HISTORY THROUGH THE LENS OF VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS**

**Documentary Film Screening**
Sunday, January 30
1 p.m. and 4 p.m. (two screenings)
The Center
FREE (registration required)

The Center and the Zentoku Foundation of Santa Ana, California, present these FREE screenings of the documentary "Paper Chase," a film representing 150 years of Japanese American History in America through community newspapers.

Japanese and Japanese American newspapers have been faithfully chronicling the history of the Japanese immigrant community since the late 1800s in the United States and Canada. Organizations such as The Rafu Shimpo (founded in Los Angeles in 1903), among many others, have gathered Japanese American stories and used them to create a sense of connection and to celebrate a shared heritage. Paper Chase (2021), a new full-length documentary by the Zentoku Foundation, tells the story of how these vital, local news organizations rose and evolved since the late 1800s and the challenges they face today in the age of digital and social media.

Ellen Endo, the executive producer of Paper Chase and former managing editor of The Rafu Shimpo, was inspired by a need to raise awareness about the vital role that Japanese American news media has played and continues to play in the Nikkei community.

**Then & Now answers from page 8**

1. Allen Okamoto
2. Dale Minami
3. John Nagano and Chris Hirano
4. Moses Hisao Yasukochi
5. Jerry Ono
6. Aya Ino
7. Bobby Okamura
8. Reverend Kahawatsu
9. Dean Ito Taylor
10. Don Tamaki
11. Kiyomi Takeda
12. Judy Hamaguchi
13. John Osaki
14. Richard Hashimoto
15. Donna Ong-Kimura
16. Hiroshi Shimizu
17. Julie Matsueda
18. Kaz Maniwa
19. Rick Okamura
20. Teresa Ono
Ongoing Classes at The Center

We welcome you to peruse the list below that features all of the fun and enriching cultural and recreational classes that we offer. The first class session is free for any first-time participant (materials costs for select classes still apply). We encourage you to try something new! Please be advised that all in-person programs require participants to be fully vaccinated and pre-register. For more information or to register for a class, please visit our website, jcccnc.org, or call (415) 567-5505.

### IN PERSON CLASSES

#### ASIAN AMERICAN WRITING
A place for both new and experienced writers to write and share about themselves, their families and others to preserve the stories and memories of our Asian American community.
Instructor: Genny Lim
Wednesdays, 10-11:30 a.m.
$44 M | $50 NM/monthly
$14 M | $16 NM/drop-in

#### KARATE—MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY CLASS
Karaté 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
Mondays and Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m.
$28 M | $44 NM/monthly
$8 M | $13 NM/drop-in

#### KENDO WITH SAN FRANCISCO KENDO DOJO
Learn the modern Japanese martial art of Kendo. Kendo is an activity that combines martial arts practices and values with strenuous sport-like physical activity. Kendo uses bamboo swords and protective armor to discipline the human character through the application of the principles of the katana. This class is hosted by San Francisco Kendo Dojo. To learn more and to register visit sfkendo.github.io or contact them at info@sfkendo.org.
Instructor: San Francisco Kendo Dojo
Mondays and Thursdays, 7-9 p.m.
Mondays at Buddhist Church of San Francisco; Thursdays at the Center (JCCCNC)

#### BRIDGE
Keep your mind sharp while playing bridge in a fun, social environment.
Coordinator: Alice Moriguchi
Fridays, 12:30-4 p.m.
$2 M | $3 NM/drop-in

#### MAH JONGG
Engage in social activity and develop creative strategy skills by playing this popular Chinese tile game. If you would like to learn how to play Mandarin style Mah Jongg, classes will begin when we have four new players. Sign up at the Center’s front office and indicate if you would like to attend either a Tuesday, Thursday or both classes. You will be contacted by the Mah Jongg coordinator when we have at least four students enrolled. Invite your friends!
Coordinators: Yone Higashigawa and Nancy Nakai
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30-4 p.m.
C$2 M | $3 NM/drop-in

#### COMMUNITY VOLLEYBALL
Create a team for your non profit, service or interest organization and join us for a volleyball league filled with fun, food and friends! Each team must consist of either board, staff members or volunteers in your organization. Please contact the Programs Department at programsevents@jcccnc.org if interested in forming a team.
Tuesdays, 7-10 p.m.
$45 M | $55 NM/per season

#### 30 AND OVER BASKETBALL
Sign up for the Center’s Monday Night (draft) Basketball League. Participate in games that are competitive, but friendly! See our website for league information.
Instructor: San Francisco Kendo Dojo
Mondays and Thursdays, 7-9 p.m.
Mondays at Buddhist Church of San Francisco; Thursdays at the Center (JCCCNC)
30 AND OVER BASKETBALL
Sign up for the Center’s Monday Night (draft) Basketball League. Participate in games that are competitive, but friendly! See our website for league information.
Instructor: San Francisco Kendo Dojo
Mondays and Thursdays, 7-9 p.m.
Mondays at Buddhist Church of San Francisco; Thursdays at the Center (JCCCNC)

#### BEYOND BASIC ART CLASS
This weekly art class is designed for intermediate and advanced students and will allow participants the opportunity to explore new media, subject matter and ways of thinking. This class will use basic drawing, painting concepts and subject matter, but will also look to expand participant’s artistic horizons. The atmosphere of the class is very informal for creating art.
Instructor: Rich Tokeshi
When: Saturdays, 10 a.m.-noon
Cost: $30 M | $40 NM/monthly (virtual)
$9 M | $12 NM/drop-in

#### WASHI NINGYO
Engage in the art of Japanese paper doll making and create your own 3D Japanese washi (traditional Japanese paper) dolls. In this class made for all skill levels, participants will learn the basics, or perfect their skills in doll making. First-time participants must register by phone by the first Saturday of the month. Class fees include all materials. Class is for ages 18+.
Instructor: Yurie Nakamura/Rochelle Lum
Second Saturday, 10 a.m.-noon
$30 M | $40 NM/monthly
$8 M | $13 NM/drop-in

### HYBRID CLASSES

#### BEYOND BASIC ART CLASS
This weekly art class is designed for intermediate and advanced students and will allow participants the opportunity to explore new media, subject matter and ways of thinking. This class will use basic drawing, painting concepts and subject matter, but will also look to expand participant’s artistic horizons. The atmosphere of the class is very informal for creating art.
Instructor: Rich Tokeshi
When: Saturdays, 10 a.m.-noon
Cost: $30 M | $40 NM/monthly (virtual)
$9 M | $12 NM/drop-in

### HYBRID CLASSES

#### WASHI NINGYO
Engage in the art of Japanese paper doll making and create your own 3D Japanese washi (traditional Japanese paper) dolls. In this class made for all skill levels, participants will learn the basics, or perfect their skills in doll making. First-time participants must register by phone by the first Saturday of the month. Class fees include all materials. Class is for ages 18+.
Instructor: Yurie Nakamura/Rochelle Lum
Second Saturday, 10 a.m.-noon
$30 M | $40 NM/monthly
$8 M | $13 NM/drop-in

#### YOSAKOI DANCING WITH ITO YOSAKOI DANCE GROUP
Join the Ito Yosakoi Dance Group’s weekly class to learn the lively, energetic dance style of Yosakoi dancing! Yosakoi dancing features choreographed group dances with traditional movements mixed with modern, uptempo music to make for a captivating dance style that is growing in popularity in Japan and abroad! No dance experience is necessary. Class members have the option

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**KEY**

|M| NM | Members | Non-Members|
HYBRID CLASSES CONT’D

of dancing with the class recreationally, or learning the group’s repertoire to perform in public.

Fridays, 7-9 p.m.
$12 M | $17 NM/monthly
$3 M | $5 NM/drop-in

SENIOR CHAIR AEROBICS

Designed for seniors who want to build basic physical strength in a low-impact class. Students will use a chair to participate in exercises to increase flexibility, muscle coordination and strength.

Instructor: Kaeko Inori
Thursdays, 10-10:45 a.m.
$3 M | $4 NM drop-in

UKULELE: ADVANCED

This class is for experienced ukulele players that focuses primarily on Hawaiian song traditions, as well as chords and rhythmic strumming techniques.

Instructor: Don Sadler
Thursday, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
$40 M | $60 NM/monthly
$12 M | $17 NM/drop-in

UKULELE: INTERMEDIATE

Designed for ukulele players who have prior experience. This class will focus on learning and reviewing chords, as well as songs and strumming patterns. (New students with no prior experience should participate in the Ukulele 101 workshop held twice a year to cover basics such as tuning, basic chords and techniques.)

Instructor: Don Sadler
Saturdays, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
$40 M | $60 NM/monthly
$12 M | $17 NM/drop-in

ONLINE CLASSES

The Center would like to thank Al Kitashima for sharing his passion for line dancing with hundreds of students every Tuesday and Friday for over ten years. Al started teaching at the Center in 2010 and has done so as a volunteer for all these years. His love for line dancing and dedication to the Center has brought many new faces and created excitement, laughter and joy to our gym every week. He also started the Sliding with the Boomers events at the Center, where over 100 people attended each event to learn line dancing steps, dance the night away and raise funds for the Center.

Matt Okada, Director of Special Events and Communications, states, “Al has been the heart and soul of our weekly line dancing class. I truly appreciate his willingness to volunteer his time as an instructor and for also helping to raise much-needed funds through his line dancing parties.”

“Al is such a kind and giving person. His classes have continued to grow year after year and have become one of our most popular and lively classes. We truly appreciate his longtime dedication to the Center, and we will miss him dearly,” mentions Jennifer Hamamoto, the Director of Programs.

We wish him the best and thank him for all that he has done for the Center.

Answers to match game on page 20
1. 1984
2. 1994
3. 1998
4. 1990
5. 2009
6. 2005
DID YOU KNOW? YOU CAN...

Donate your car - Charitable Adult Rides and Services (CARS) makes donating your car easy. They take care of everything from the pick-up, sale, donation receipts and tax documents. CARS is committed to great service and delivering the highest returns. Your car is valuable and CARS takes care of the hassles - we received nearly $4,000 on our first donation. If you have an old car in the garage, consider donating it today.

Access online form at: bit.ly/center_cardonation

Check with your employer to see if they grant funds to nonprofits in your name or match donations you make at 1x, 2x or more. Many government and civic agencies also allow giving through the UNITED WAY, which is available in most regions of the U.S. See what charitable giving options your employer might provide.

other fun ways...

Donate an item, service or tickets to our auction. Give the gift of time - volunteer at an event. Start a Facebook campaign. One member recently created a Birthday Campaign raising over $1,000.
CONGRATULATIONS

Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California

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