Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California

Celebrating 110 Years: San Francisco’s Japantown in the Western Addition

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110 Years of Japantown’s History, Not Significant Enough?

Last year, as the community began planning activities to celebrate the 110th Anniversary of Japantown, I was told by a potential community sponsor that because the anniversary was not a significant milestone, e.g., 100 or 150, etc., “we regret to inform you that the board of directors declines your request for support.”

I was taken aback by the response; after all, they were a Japantown community group. The issue was not a lack of funds; it was because they didn’t think that 110 years of Japantown’s history wasn’t a milestone to support.

Not supporting the 110th Anniversary of Japantown because it is not “significant” seems shortsighted at best. By the 150th anniversary, almost three generations of our community will have passed away and much of what we call and think of Japantown will be drastically different, or gone. The Japan Center itself might not be around. By then the property will be over 100 years old. It’s already the oldest indoor retail shopping mall in the city and its prime for demolition and development. Developers are already drooling over the prospect of being able to acquire the mall and, more importantly, acquiring almost two blocks to tear down and build condominiums.

Even by the 125th anniversary, if it were to be considered a “significant milestone,” most of the Sansei who are now in their 50-70’s will be well into their retirement years or have passed away. Who’s to say what Japantown will look like in 15 years? It already seems like property is being bought and sold like a monopoly game. Certainly by the 125th anniversary our entire Nisei generation may have passed away and with them their firsthand experiences and stories of our community will be gone.

Perhaps Japantown will strive for the next 15 and even 40 years for the 150th anniversary, but in part because we took advantage of every opportunity to celebrate, promote and market our community. If we don’t believe that 110 years is “significant,” then why should other people care about our Japantown. Every opportunity is “significant” especially knowing that this is probably one of the last anniversaries that will be celebrated by the Nisei generation, who helped rebuild our community after the war. Every day it seems like an entire generation is passing away right before our eyes and with them the history of our community. We must honor and celebrate the Nisei generation for giving us Japantown, and that’s really what this anniversary is all about.

While the 110th anniversary may not seem “significant” enough for some, it certainly would be for those who first established Japantown 110 years ago. For those who left their homes and families to travel across an ocean to a strange land to build a new life, a new community and establish a new ethnic population called Japanese Americans in the United States. It’s especially significant for the Nisei who were forced to evacuate Japantown during WWII never knowing if they would ever be able to return and see it again, and for those who were forced to sell their property and saw their homes and businesses torn down by the redevelopment agency.

Hopefully, it will be significant too, for the Sansei and younger generations who have inherited this incredible gift we call Japantown.

We could have even lost our Japantown for many reasons over the years, due to the war and redevelopment. Maybe the numbers don’t add up for some, but to say that 110 years of Japantown’s history is not “significant” is really an insult for those who sacrificed and gave their lives for us to be here today.

Our community and its history should be celebrated every year and every day. All too often we take our community for granted until one day we wake up only to realize that something or someone is no longer around. Let’s hope there is a 150th anniversary of Japantown and that it’s still here for us to celebrate and that it’s not just a memory.

Gratefully Yours,

Paul Osaki
Executive Director
Tomoye Takahashi

August 16, 1915 - June 4, 2016

This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Tomoye Tami Takahashi.

Tomoye and her husband Henri Takahashi along with her sister Martha Suzuki were the first donors to support the building of the JCCCNC, even before we were officially incorporated in 1973.

We are dedicated to their belief in the vision of the Center, which made it possible for generations of our community to benefit from our facility and programs forever.

Community Luncheon Honors Nisei Generation

On Saturday, March 5, 2016, fittingly in the Nisei Community Hall, a crowd of 300 came together to honor the Nisei generation and to celebrate the 110th Anniversary of Japantown.

The day included a special Nisei Appreciation Luncheon tribute program, followed by the return of “Nihonmachi: The Place to Be,” a musical play by the Los Angeles-based Grateful Crane Ensemble. The luncheon program titled “Nisei Stories: A Salute to the Greatest Generation Ever” was emceed by Wendy Tokuda. The program included stories from Sansei and Yonsei community members and songs by members of the Los Angeles-based Grateful Crane Ensemble.

JCCCNC Takahashi Program Fellows, Riki Ejima and Junko Taniguchi, who are both Yonsei, spoke about their grandparents and special Nisei in their lives.

“Chanto,” is a word that may not be as familiar to younger Japanese Americans growing up today, but for many Sansei, like Diane Matsuda, it was a way of life. After a few laughs from the audience about things Nisei keep around the house, Diane spoke of her mom and aunts constant reminder to be chanto, respectable, done properly, and maybe for her family, it meant perfect.

The Nisei Luncheon was followed by “Nihonmachi: The Place To Be,” written by San Francisco native Soji Kashiwagi. It told the 100 year story of a manju-ya family and California’s Japantowns featuring Japanese and American songs. “All of the songs trigger fond memories and takes our community back to a special time and place in their lives,” said Kashiwagi. “For the Nisei, the Japanese songs especially bring back memories of their Issei parents.”
The JCCCNC Community: NEWS

The Great Earthquake and Fire devastated San Francisco, which destroyed Japanese enclaves in Chinatown and South of Market. The Japanese community relocated to the present Japantown in the Western Addition with a small concentration in South Park.

Per the U.S. census, 50 Japanese-owned commercial establishments and 4,700 Japanese residents were in San Francisco.

A California law called the Heney-Webb Alien Land Act was enacted. This Act forbade property ownership by "aliens ineligible for citizenship". This restriction applied almost exclusively to Japanese immigrants and remained in effect until 1952.

The Japanese Imperial Navy bombed the U.S. fleet and military base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Congress declared war on Japan.

24th Annual
Children's Day Festival

On Saturday, May 7 the JCCCNC in partnership with JCYC and the Japan Center Malls celebrated Kodomo no Hi at the Children’s Day Festival in Japantown.

While the performances and booths were moved indoors and held at the JCCCNC and Japan Center Malls due to the rain, the festival was still a success, welcoming over 1,500 youth and families and over 30 partnering businesses and organizations. Not only did the Children's Day Festival provide a unique multi-cultural experience for residents and visitors to Japantown through diverse performing arts, crafts activity booths and demonstrations, it also served as a fundraiser for several cultural and arts organizations within Japantown.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Children's Day activities this year!

Event Supporters and Sponsors

- The Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation
- Japan Center Malls
- Japan Airlines
- Union Bank
- Comcast
- San Francisco Arts Commission
- Japanese Community Youth Council
- Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco
- Kristi Yamaguchi’s Always Dream Foundation
- San Francisco Recreation and Park

San Francisco’s Japantown History Timeline

1906
The Great Earthquake and Fire devastated San Francisco, which destroyed Japanese enclaves in Chinatown and South of Market. The Japanese community relocated to the present Japantown in the Western Addition with a small concentration in South Park.

1910
Per the U.S. census, 50 Japanese-owned commercial establishments and 4,700 Japanese residents were in San Francisco.

1913
A California law called the Heney-Webb Alien Land Act was enacted. This Act forbade property ownership by "aliens ineligible for citizenship". This restriction applied almost exclusively to Japanese immigrants and remained in effect until 1952.

1941
The Japanese Imperial Navy bombed the U.S. fleet and military base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Congress declared war on Japan.
The JCCCNC would like to thank the community’s collaborative support in fundraising over $11,000 for our 2016 Nikkei Youth Raffle.

The Nikkei Youth Raffle drawing was held at the JCCCNC’s Children’s Day Festival on Saturday, May 7, 2016. The grand prize of two round trip coach flights to anywhere in the continental United States was awarded to Mr. Fred Shinoda of San Leandro.

Funds from the Nikkei Youth Scholarship Raffle has provided invaluable opportunities for youth of our community to build, engage, collaborate and learn through cultural exchange and leadership development programs. Proceeds from this year’s raffle will provide support toward not only the Children’s Day festivities, but toward the development and coordination of U.S.-Japan youth exchange programs such as the Shinzen Nikkei Youth Good-will Program in commemoration of the 110th Anniversary of San Francisco’s Japantown.

For more information about the Nikkei Youth Raffle, JCCCNC’s youth programs, or other giving opportunities, contact Susie Kagami, Development Coordinator at (415) 567-5505 or skagami@jcccnc.org.
Programs and Events

Greetings from the JCCCNCC Programs Department! We welcome you to peruse the list below of all the fun and enriching cultural and recreational classes that we offer. The first class session is free for any first-time participants (materials costs for select classes still apply). We encourage you to try something new! For more information or to register for a class, please visit our website jcccnc.org or call (415) 567-5505.

Key

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Arts and Culture

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

Instructor: Rich Tokeshi
When: Saturdays, 10 a.m.-noon
Cost: $70 M/$90 NM (8 consecutive weeks)
$11 M/$14 NM drop-in

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

Instructor: Chizuko Nakamura
When: Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m.
Cost: $70 M/$90 NM/monthly
$198 M/$252 NM/stamp card (10 classes)
$99 M/$126 NM/stamp card (5 classes)
$22 M/$28 NM/drop-in

Asian American Senior Writing
Preserve the written stories and memories of Asian Americans of our community and preserve Asian American history. This class is open to both new and experienced writers.

Instructor: Genny Lim
When: Mondays, 10 a.m.-noon
Cost: $110 M/$125 NM/stamp card (10 classes)
$55 M/$62.50 NM/stamp card (5 classes)
$14 M/$16 NM/drop-in

Asian American Senior Writing

Tougei: Ceramic Art
Learn various ceramics techniques including hand-building, wheel throwing and surface decoration.

Instructor: Cindy Lewis-Freid
More dates to come
Cost: Varies by class session taken; see website for prices

Tougei: Ceramic Art

Washi Ningyo
Discover the art of Japanese paper doll making and create your own beautiful Japanese washi paper dolls. Learn the basics or perfect your skills in this class of all skill levels. First time participants must register for class by the first Saturday of the month. Class fees include all materials. For ages 18+

Instructor: Rochelle Lum
When: 3rd Saturday each month, 9 a.m.-noon and 12:30-4 p.m.
Cost: $10 M/$15 NM (+$10-$25 materials fee)

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

Instructor: Wendy Yoshimura
When: Mondays, 10 a.m.-noon
Cost: $100 M/$120 NM/stamp card (10 classes)
$50 M/$60 NM/stamp card (5 classes)
$11 M/$14 NM/drop-in
Dance

**NEW CLASS**

**Ballroom Dance**
*(starts June 28)*

Shall we dance? During this ten-week course, our Beginning Class will learn 3 to 4 basic dance steps in 6 to 8 different styles of dance. Our Intermediate class will focus on three advanced styles of dance. No dance partner required! Get your dancing shoes on!

**Instructor:** Liz Wong  
**When:** Starting on June 28  
**Beginner:** Tuesdays, 6-8 p.m.  
**Intermediate:** Tuesdays, 8-10 p.m.  
**Cost:** $85 M/$105 NM for 10 weeks

**Hula: Beginning**

Learn both Auwana (modern) and Kahiko (ancient hula). You will experience anaerobic exercise while learning to dance. No dance experience required. (Class participants also must join the Halau, Hālau Ka Liko Pua O Kalaniākea for an additional fee.) Open enrollment for new students begins August 13, 2016.

**Instructors:** Denise Teraoka and Joyce Chen  
**When:** Wednesdays, 6-7:30 p.m.  
**Cost:** $32 M/$48 NM/monthly  
$70 M/$100 NM/stamp card (10 classes)  
$35 M/$50 NM/stamp card (5 classes)  
$10 M/$15 NM/drop-in

**Hula: Gracious Ladies (Adults)**

Learn both Auwana (modern) and Kahiko (ancient hula). You will experience anaerobic exercise while learning to dance. (Class participants also must join the Halau, Hālau Ka Liko Pua O Kalaniākea for an additional fee.) Open enrollment for new students begins August 13, 2016.

**Instructor:** Mary Leong  
**When:** 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 5:30-7 p.m.  
**Cost:** $23 M/$28 NM/monthly (Thursdays)  
$45 M/$55 NM/monthly (Saturdays)  
$60 M/$75 NM/monthly (Thursdays and Saturdays)  
$126 M/$153 NM/stamp card (10 classes)  
$14 M/$17 NM/drop-in

**Hula: Keiki (Kids)**

Give the gift of hula to your child. S/he will learn coordination, grace, and teamwork through both modern and traditional hula. For children ages 5+. Classes are for both boys and girls. (Class participants also must join the Halau, Hālau Ka Liko Pua O Kalaniākea for an additional fee.) Open enrollment for new students begins August 13, 2016.

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

**Hula: Kupuna (Seniors)**

Learn ancient and modern hula while keeping your coordination and memory sharp. (Class participants also must join the Halau, Hālau Ka Liko Pua O Kalaniākea for an additional fee.) Open enrollment for new students begins August 13, 2016.

**Instructor:** Mary Leong  
**When:** Saturdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.  
**Cost:** $45 M/$55 NM/monthly  
$126 M/$153 NM/stamp card (10 classes)  
$14 M/$17 NM/drop-in

**Line Dancing**

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

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

**Martial Arts and Fitness**

**Karate**

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

**Instructor:** Craig Hamakawa  
**When:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m.  
**Cost:** $30 M/$48 NM/monthly  
$9 M/$14 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. Classes end with a hands-on massage to relieve any lingering stress.

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

**Workout Taiko**

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

**Instructor:** Melody Takata  
**When:** 3 Thursdays every month (please call for exact schedule), 5:30-6:40 p.m.  
**Cost:** $55 M/$65 NM/monthly  
$23 M/$27 NM/drop-in

**Yoga Prema**

Tone your body, heal an injury, lose weight, increase flexibility or relieve stress... whatever your purpose, once you start and continue practicing, you’ll feel more energized as your body condition improves and your mind becomes clearer. This class is open to both the beginner and experienced yogi.

**Instructor:** Ai Tanaka  
**When:** Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.-noon  
**Cost:** $28 M/$40 NM/monthly  
$80 M/$120 NM/stamp card (10 classes)  
$9 M/$12 NM/drop-in

**Music**

**Chorale May**

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

**Instructor:** Ruriko Miura  
**When:** 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m.  
**Cost:** $25 M/$31 NM/monthly  
$15 M/$18 NM/drop-in
Programs & Events CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Ensemble Shiki
Be part of a mixed chorus group and sing a variety of songs, mainly in Japanese with some English.
Instructor: Ruriko Miura
When: 1st, 3rd, and 5th Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m.
Cost: $25 M/$31 NM/monthly
$15 M/$18 NM/drop-in

Minyo/Hauta/Shamisen
Improve your voice, tone, and projection while singing popular contemporary Japanese songs and learn how to play the traditional Japanese stringed Shamisen.
Instructor: Hideko Nakajima
When: 2nd and 4th Sundays, individual lessons between 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Cost: $40 M/$50 NM/monthly

Taiko
Develop rhythm, strength and agility through the matsuri (festival) style of Japanese taiko drumming. A variety of classes are offered for different skill levels and ages (4½ years to adult), give us a call to find out which class fits your needs.
Instructor: Melody Takata
When: Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays (3 times a month), call or email for class times
Cost: $55 M/$65 NM/monthly
$23 M/$27 NM/drop-in

Ukulele: Beginners
This weekly entry level class is for beginning ukulele players. New students who have no prior experience are encouraged to take a Ukulele 101 workshop, to learn ukulele basics, before joining the ongoing beginner class. The next Ukulele 101 workshop will be held starting October 6, 2016.
Instructor: Don Sadler
When: Saturdays, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Cost: $60 M/$80 NM/monthly
$170 M/$220 NM/stamp card (10 classes)
$21 M/$25 NM/drop-in

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

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

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

Upcoming Events

Register Now for the Nikkei Open Golf Tournament

Registration is still open for our 22nd Annual Nikkei Open Golf Tournament, which will be held on Monday, July 18, 2016 at the Peninsula Golf and Country Club (PGCC) at 701 Madera Drive in San Mateo! We have hosted this tournament since 1994 to support the vitality of programs and services of the JCCCNC. This will be our 7th year at PGCC and due to the overwhelming amount of positive responses we received last year, we expect a full field of 144 players who will enjoy a beautiful day of golf and friendly competition.

General Registration (closes July 1)
$250 Individual/$1,000 Foursome
Registration includes one round of scramble play, cart, tee prize, Hole-in-One and Closest-to-the-Pin prizes on all par 3, lunch and dinner. Prizes will be awarded for the top foursome. Special prizes will also be awarded to winners of the 19th hole, Hole-in-One and Closest-to-the-Pin contests. Last year’s CTP winner took home a $600 cash prize.

Registration begins: 9 a.m.
Shotgun start: 11 a.m.
Cocktails: 4 p.m.
Awards dinner: 5 p.m.

There will also be a raffle drawing at the end of the night. Raffle tickets may be purchased by non-Nikkei Open participants and winners need not be present during the tournament or dinner. Dinner-only tickets ($50) will also be available for those who wish to attend the evening program only.

Visit www.jcccnc.org to register, or contact Aya Ino, Director of Development and Communications at development@jcccnc.org for sponsorship opportunities.

Intro to Ballroom Dance Workshop
Tuesday, June 14, 2016 7-9 p.m.
Members $4
General $5

Shall we dance? Join us at our Intro to Ballroom Dance Workshop with Instructor Liz Wong. The JCCCNC will be starting a new ongoing weekly ballroom dance class following the workshop. No partner required, so get your dancing shoes on and give it a try!

1968
The Japanese Cultural and Trade Center was completed and located between Laguna and Fillmore and Geary and Post. It displaced 60 businesses and 1,500 residents as part of the 27-block redevelopment phase.
In the Western Addition, the A-2 phase destroyed 11,000 units of low-cost housing and replaced only 7,132 units of affordable housing.

1976
Buchanan Mall was constructed between Post and Sutter Streets.

1979
February 19: The first Bay Area “Day of Remembrance” was held.

1988
The Civil Liberties Act of 1988 was signed by President Ronald Reagan, which extended a formal apology for the unjust incarceration of the 60,000 survivors that were impacted by Executive Order 9066.
7th Annual Colma Japanese Cemetery Clean-Up Day

In celebration of the 110th Anniversary of San Francisco’s Japantown, at our Annual Colma Japanese Cemetery Clean-up Day held on Saturday, May 21, the JCCCNC in partnership with the Japanese Benevolent Society unveiled a new bulletin board, courtesy of Peter Chuck, to help tell the story of the Japanese Cemetery in Colma.

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 the history of our community.

The JCCCNC would like to thank the over 300 volunteers and coordinators, the most we’ve ever had who made it possible for us to host the clean-up every year. We would not be able to help carry on this important tradition without everyone’s support and dedication to the history of our community.

The JCCCNC still needs to raise $15,000 to pay for the construction of the bulletin board. Donor names will be recognized inside the case until Memorial Day 2017. To donate, visit tiny.cc/colmaboard or contact (415) 567-5505.

About the New Bulletin Board

Peter Chuck 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.”
Honoring the Significant People in our Lives

We all know of individuals who have made a lasting impact in our lives and the lives of others. Every newsletter will have a special tribute section for our supporters to honor these people.

In this edition, we would like to recognize the tribute gifts made in honor or in memory of someone special during the period January 1 to December 31, 2015. We hope you will continue to share with us and others these extraordinary people in your life.

Please note tribute gifts made in honor of people during our Spring Support Drive will be recognized in the fall edition of our newsletter and Fall Support Drive donations will be recognized in the spring edition.

We thank you for honoring and remembering those who have helped to make our community exceptional.

IN MEMORY OF

In Memory of STANLEY AOYAGI
Dr. Himeo Tsumori, $25

In Memory of MOREY EGUSA
Mrs. Sally Osaki, $50

In Memory of KIRK FUKUMITSU
Mrs. Marjorie Fletcher, $25
Mr. Bill and Mrs. Rose Fukumitsu, $1,000
Mr. and Mrs. Greg Fukumitsu, $100
Mr. Kenneth and Mrs. Yoshiko Ho, $100
Ms. Brenda Jow, $100
Mrs. Sally Osaki, $30
Mrs. Nancy and Mr. Giichi Sakurai, $50

In Memory of YAS FURUYA
Mr. Milton K. Wong and
Ms. Dianne K. Furuya-Wong, $100

In Memory of DERRELL GEE
Mr. Yoshihiro Oka, $100

In Memory of MUTSUMI M. HADA
Mrs. Sumiko Akashi, $20
Mr. Nosuke and Mrs. Judy Akiyama, $25
Ms. Amy Chung, $100
Mr. Nobusuke and Mrs. Fumi Fukuda, $50
Mr. Bill and Mrs. Rose Fukumitsu, $50
Ms. Jennifer Hamamoto and
Mr. Phil Owyoung, $50
Mrs. Ruby and Mr. Richard Hata, $25
Mrs. Mari Hayama, $20
Ms. Ella Toshiko Nakabe, $20
Mr. Kaz and Mrs. Cindy Nakamoto, $35
Ms. Irene Nakamura, $100
Ms. Miki Nakamura and
Ms. Jennifer Lee, $100
Mr. Allen and Mrs. Patricia Okamoto, $100
Ms. Thelma Ong, $25
Mrs. Kay K. Onishi, $50
Ms. Teresa Ono, $50
Mr. Paul Osaki, $50
Mrs. Sally Osaki, $100
Mr. Don and Mrs. Ada Sadler, $200
Mrs. Nancy and Mr. Giichi Sakurai, $50
Mr. Henry and Mrs. Adelina Serata, $100
Ms. Mika Shimizu, $25
Mrs. Annie and Mr. Shiro Suenaga, $25
Mrs. Misako Sumida, $30
Mrs. Edith K. Tanaka, $50
Mrs. Violet Tanaka, $100
Mr. John and Mrs. Marge Tsukamoto, $100
Ms. Sharon Umene, $25
Mr. Keith and Mrs. Pam Uyeda, $30
Mrs. Kazuko Walker, $20
Mr. Milton K. Wong and
Ms. Dianne K. Furuya-Wong, $50
Mr. Kahn Yamada, $50
Mr. Minoru and Mrs. Suzanne Yamada, $25
Ms. Rachael Y. Yamashiro, $50
Ms. Agnes Yoshimura, $30

In Memory of MS. RUBY HIRASHIMA
Dr. Himeo Tsumori, $25

In Memory of KENT HORI
Mr. Thomas Kawakami, $50

In Memory of DAVID IKEDA
Mr. Michael Arnett, $25
Ms. Kay Ikeda, $100
Mr. Teruo Kakahira, $200
Mr. Matt Kubo, $50
Mrs. Janice and Mr. Gary Matsumoto, $50
Mr. Jim Neal, $50
Mr. Paul Osaki, $100
Mrs. Sally Osaki, $50
Ms. Reiko Saito, $50
Dr. Maria Walton, $100
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<td>Mrs. Grace Kaplan, $50</td>
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<td>Mrs. Elenor Shimosaka, $30</td>
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<td>Ms. Fatima Parsa, $20</td>
<td>Sokoji, Soto Mission of San Francisco, $1,000</td>
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<td>Mrs. Meng Spicer, $50</td>
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<td>Mrs. Eva Wertheimer, $50</td>
<td>Mr. Kyle Tatsumoto and</td>
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<td>Ms. Carole Hayashino, $100</td>
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<td>Ms. Janis Ito, $100</td>
<td>Ms. Patricia K. Wada, $50</td>
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<td>Dr. Himeo Tsumori, $50</td>
<td>Ms. Linda Yip, $50</td>
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Kinmon Gakuen was the child care center for many of us who had working parents and only a sliver of us remember anything except for Osaki Sensei—the very stern Principal (and grandmother to Paul-JCCCNC’s Executive Director).

We took for granted that we could walk down Buchanan Street and buy candy at the American Fish Market or wait in the long line at Uoki Sakai during the New Year to buy the osechi ryori ingredients our grandmothers and mothers would prepare. It was also very common back then to live with grandparents and share one bathroom for an entire three generation family.

My maternal grandfather lived in San Francisco when the 1906 earthquake struck and moved from his bachelor’s quarters in South Park to a tent at Lafayette Park. He used to tell my dad stories of how it was ‘back in those days.’ How I wish I would have tuned in to eavesdrop as they are now both gone.

My mom and aunts would talk about the family driving up to the big city of San Francisco and stay at the Hokubei Hotel owned by the Yoshimura family and how they would stock up the car with goods purchased at Nichi Bei Bussan.

I also remember seeing my cousins going to obon odori practice at the SF Buddhist Church and how nice everyone looked at obon time in their furisode kimonos handed down by other family members or purchased by their Issei grandparents on a recent trip to Japan when the dollar to the yen rate was ¥350.

Back in the day once upon a time like we used to say, there existed a Nihonmachi where everyone knew your name.

Stores like Jim’s Drugs, Goshado, Morino Coffee Shop, Wong’s Bait Shop, Takahashi, Yamada Seika and many others filled the streets of Post, Sutter, Buchanan and even the posh Fillmore.
As I look back at Japantown in my lifetime, I am thankful to all of the generations before me who believed it was important to participate in cultural and community activities and support neighborhood businesses and institutions. I am also grateful to the leaders of my generation who advocated for our community to take one step further in fighting against the injustices faced during redevelopment; lobby for redress; create social service programs to directly improve the lives of all generations of Japanese Americans and empower us to have a voice in the broader mainstream community.

So what does celebrating the 110th Anniversary of Japantown mean to me? It gives me a chance to pause and remember how our community has held together in good and not so good times. We no longer live and work in a concentrated section of San Francisco called Jtown. We now have to make an extra effort to drive into the area to participate in food bazaars, festivals and other activities but we do because it is important for us to retain and remember our cultural and ethnic heritage and pass it down to the next generation.

We no longer have the abundance of sensei’s to teach us traditional dance or how to make customary meals and crafts but that should not cause us to forget how those important aspects of our personal growth have made us who we are today.

Now, we have things called YouTube and websites that plug us into the world so that we can broaden and sustain our cultural identity just by typing in our favorite subject matter and sharing those interests with other like minded friends near and far. Using these new tools also connects us with succeeding generations so that they too will have an opportunity to learn and practice the customs that have been passed down to us through the many centuries, and who knows … we may even see a virtual Japantown pop up in the near future created by individuals from every region of the globe and hopefully someone will take those ideas and make it into a tangible reality for us to see right here in good old Nihonmachi.
Upcoming Events

Save The Date
JCCNC’s Annual Fundraising Dinner
Saturday, September 17, 2016
4-8 p.m.

22nd Annual Nikkei Open Golf Tournament
Monday, July 18, 2016
Peninsula Golf and Country Club
701 Madera Dr, San Mateo
Registration: 9 a.m.  |  Shotgun: 11 a.m.
Cocktails: 4 p.m.  |  Awards Dinner: 5 p.m.
Individual: $250  |  Foursome: $1,000
Sponsorship opportunities available

Journey To Tohoku
October 6-16, 2016
The JCCNC will embark on a 10 day tour entitled JOURNEY TO TOHOKU in remembrance of the 5th anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake.
The tour will explore each of the six prefectures that make up the Tohoku region, with a special emphasis on learning about their local traditions and culinary delights. Participants will also have an opportunity to support the on-going recovery efforts with the local residents. A $250 deposit for the tour will be due in June. Limited space available.

For further information, please contact us (415) 567-5505