Tabemasho 2015: Cultural Connections

Saturday, September 19th 4-8pm
1840 Sutter Street, San Francisco

Welcome New Staffer
Susie Kagami

A Daruma with a Special Cause
By Diane Matsuda

Meet our Summer Interns!
Joey, Patty, and Sophie
MISSION STATEMENT

The JCCNC is a non-profit organization which strives to meet the evolving needs of the Japanese American community by offering programs, affordable services, and administrative support and facilities for other local organizations. The JCCNC also provides educational, cultural, and recreational programs that meet and address the interests and concerns of the community. Our goals remain rooted in preserving the Japanese American cultural and historical heritage as well as fostering the foundation for future generations of Japanese Americans.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TABEMASHO “LET’S EAT”

Some of our fondest memories about our Japanese American community focuses around food. Whether it was a community potluck, a family gathering, a celebration, a picnic or a community festival, our memories of food are full of stories – personally, collectively and affectionately. It is food that reminds us, like an old song, it brings back moments in our lives, it comforts us, speaks to us and because those experiences are so engrained in our memories, food takes us back and we remember the people, the places and events all over again.

Throughout our history, our Nikkei food has been a bridge. It has opened doors, created friendships and has served as one of the most important cultural ambassadors between the United States and Japan.

In celebration of our community’s history through food, we are once again having our very special annual event, Tabemasho, “Let’s Eat” on Saturday, September 19th. Our annual fundraising dinner does not take place in a hotel, with the food cooked and served to you by a group of strangers. Tabemasho takes place right at the Community Center, with the food prepared by members of our community right in our very own kitchen and served to you by over 200 community volunteers.

Tabemasho recognizes the important role that food has played in our community; it celebrates our history through food and recalls some of our favorite memories and stories about food. Most of all it brings people together to enjoy each other’s company, eat incredible food and support an incredible community organization.

Please join us on September 19th and “Let’s eat”.

Paul Osaki
Executive Director

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I am so excited to join the JCCCNC team and all the great work they do for our San Francisco Japantown community.

In 2010, we began our daily trips to Japantown as our son joined NLF preschool and attended the many cultural enrichment opportunities this community offered.

It was then we became members of the JCCCN and have appreciated the many programs since. My son has taken Taiko classes and Kirakiraboshi song classes, and all three generation of our family, have all participated in the Colma Cemetery Clean-up together, proudly alongside our friends and my son’s elementary classmates.

I am now a parent and previous board-chair of the Japanese Bilingual Bicultural Program at Rosa Parks Elementary School, a forty-year old program of which my husband is an alumni.

As I served for two-years as the JBBP Board of Directors Co-chair, I learned the importance of honoring our past while creating new opportunities for our next generation.

The support, dedication and ongoing commitment of the people in this community is why we are so thankful to call Japantown our second home.

With a great foundation, and the knowledge of his Japanese, Hawaiian-Chinese heritage, my husband and I hope our son benefits from the strength of this community to someday make a difference, on his own.

Family Movie Night

**Saturday, August 22**

5:00pm-8:00pm @ JCCNC

The JCCNC would like to celebrate the end of the summer and bring the community together for a movie night.

Bring your family or a group of friends and enjoy a movie and refreshments with others from around the community. JCCNC members will receive 50% off admission and a free bag of popcorn.

Members: $3 General Public: $6.

Register over the phone by calling 415-567-5505 or online @ http://bit.ly/jccncmovienight

On July 27, Japantown Community leaders hosted a lunch for Consul General Jun Yamada at the JCCNC.
Takahashi Youth Fellows to Visit Japan

Ten high school student members of the Takahashi Youth Ambassador Fellowship Program (Takahashi Program) organized by the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC) and sponsored by The Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation embarked on a 12-day trip to Japan on July 17.

The Takahashi Youth Ambassador Fellowship Program, in its fifth year, is a follow-up, after 13 successful years, to the Shinzen Nikkei Youth Goodwill Sports Program (Shinzen Program). The structure of the Takahashi Program is based on the best practices, experiences, opportunities and activities of the Shinzen Program, but focuses more on the leadership and civic development of youth to build a strong background and foundation for their future endeavors. This program is invaluable in not only helping the youth in our Japanese American community develop and define their identity, but also helps to create future leaders for the community.

The ten chosen youth participants have been preparing diligently over the course of 12 intensive workshops that spanned two summers to prepare for their trip. These young ambassadors have participated in workshops to learn about the history of Japanese Americans, as well as research and create their own family history books; participated in team-building activities, including a day at the Fort Miley Ropes Course; planned and successfully coordinated an udon fundraiser to raise money for their activities during their trip; and began to understand the planning process and importance of setting goals, objectives, and understanding how each step in planning aids in the success of their goal. This summer, they participated in Japanese language workshops; organized a bake sale fundraiser to support an orphanage they will visit in Kobe, and started to take command of their own activities, planning elements of their own workshops which have helped to build their leadership skills. With this planning process background they have planned several intercultural activities in Kobe and special activities in Sendai and Kesennuma for Tohoku earthquake and tsunami survivors. They will also have the chance to visit the Nagata Kodomo (orphanage) Home, and go to the Kisen Wai Wai Mura, where they will have the opportunity to experience traditional Japanese village life farming, cooking, and making their own chopsticks.

About the Fellows

Pierce Cavanaugh, 17, Senior at St. Ignatius College Preparatory in San Francisco.
Caelynn Hwang, 16, Junior at Hillsdale High School in San Mateo.
Catherine Kamita, 15, Junior at Mission High School in San Francisco.
Toshio Kanazawa, 16, Senior at Monte Vista High School in Danville.
Courtney Koyama, 17, Senior at the Oakland Technical High School in Oakland.

Continued on page 5
Meet our Nikkei Community Interns

Hello! My name is Sophie DeSantis. I am part of the Nikkei Community Internship (NCI) program at the Japanese Cultural Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC) in the Programs department. I will be going into my second year at the University of San Francisco where I study Politics and Japanese. Towards the end of my second semester, my Japanese professor encouraged me to apply for the NCI program, mentioning how it would be an excellent opportunity for me to get involved with the local bay area Japanese and Japanese-American community. Embracing who I am has always been important for me and the best outlet to do so is by contributing and making connections in the Nikkei community, which until now, I had never gotten the chance to be surrounded with. I am looking forward to learning what makes this San Francisco Japantown special and unique and how I can help continue to make it grow.

Hello! My name is Patty Yamazaki and I am an incoming senior at the University of San Francisco majoring in biology. I first heard of the Nikkei Community Internship (NCI) program at the JCCCNC through my Japanese teacher and I applied with her encouragement. I felt that this was the perfect chance to become more involved with the Japanese-American community and learn about my identity as a Japanese American. The summer before I started high school I went to Japan to visit my relatives and felt an urge to learn more about Japan, its culture, language, and people in relation to my Japanese American identity. I was able to build a stronger connection with my relatives through the culture. With the opportunity to be an intern at the Japanese Cultural Community Center of Northern California, I want to be active in the community by volunteering to help with events, fairs, and workshops, to build long-lasting connections, to learn from Japanese American leaders, and to promote Japantown and share its warmth, spirit, and camaraderie with others. I look forward to this new chapter of my life and the challenges ahead. Through the Nikkei Community Internship, I hope to become a well-rounded strong individual who can be both a leader and team player.

Hello, my name is Joey Yu Yasuhiro, and I am part of the Nikkei Community Internship (NCI) program at the JCCCNC this year. I will be entering my third year at UCLA this fall, and am studying psychology. As a Shin-nisei, I was born and raised here in San Francisco speaking little Japanese and knowing little about the land my parents came from. My interests grew around US-Japan relations and the Nikkei experience with my involvement in the Japanese-American community and studying Japanese in high school. I look forward to this internship and better understanding what the values of our community are, how it is driven, and where I belong culturally. In my time here, I hope to do my part in fulfilling the vision of those that founded and continue to run JCCCNC and the greater Japanese-American community.

Marissa Otonari, 16, Junior at Hillsdale High School in San Mateo.
Cullen Reilly, 17, Senior at St. Ignatius Preparatory in San Francisco.
Adam Schulze, 18, who will attend Harvey Mudd College in Claremont.
Alison Shikada, 17, Senior at Presentation High School in San Jose.
Junko Taniguchi, 16, Junior at Lowell High School in San Francisco.

This trip would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the ambassadors’ families in supporting their children these past 13 months and with the generous support from The Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation, Japan Airlines and Kintetsu International Travel.

For more information on the Takahashi Youth Ambassador Fellowship Program, please contact Lori Matoba at the JCCCNC at (415) 567-5505.

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SPECIAL EVENT

2015 Sweepstakes

Enter for your chance to WIN!

PRIZE A
Two round trip premium economy tickets to Asia plus 3-night hotel accommodations in Japan (fuel and taxes included) courtesy of Japan Airlines and Kintetsu International (restrictions may apply)

PRIZE B
$1,000 CASH

PRIZE C
Apple Watch 42mm in Space Gray (Aluminum Case with Black Sport Band including AppleCare+)

Tickets are $100 for nine tickets, $50 for three tickets, or $20 per ticket. Enter for your chance to win at www.jcccnc.org.

The Grand Prize Winner will have first choice of the three prizes. The second place winner will have the choice between the two remaining prizes and third place winner will win the remaining prize.

Drawing will be held on Saturday, September 19 during the TABEMASHO dinner program. Winners need not be present to win. All pre-event entries must be received by Thursday, September 17. Winners will be notified by Friday, October 2 and all prizes must be claimed by Friday, October 9. Odds of winning vary depending on the number of tickets sold. Additional hotel nights, upgrades, and taxes are the responsibility of the winner. Some restrictions may apply. No cash substitutions will be offered.

For more information about the Sweepstakes drawing, or to purchase tickets, visit www.jcccnc.org or call (415) 567-5505.
Annual Fall Auction

**Online: September 1 – 14**
**Silent/Live: September 19**

Our 2015 Annual Fall Auction will launch online from September 1 to 14 via Bidding For Good and will continue as a silent and live auction on Saturday, September 19 at our annual event, TABEMASHO. We have crowd favorites, such as an all-inclusive trip to Asia, popular restaurant gift certificates, retailers and spas, sports memorabilia, tickets to games and shows, Japanese ceramics, wine and much more!

To place a bid online follow us on Facebook, or visit www.jcccnc.org. Final bids for online items must be made by Monday, September 14, at 11:59 p.m. PST. Some items from the online auction will carry onto the silent and live auctions at TABEMASHO.

The success of this online auction depends on spreading the word to as many people as possible. We need your help! Please refer a friend and encourage them to participate so they don’t miss a single moment!

For more information about the auction, bidding, or donating items or services, visit www.jcccnc.org or contact Susie Kagami at skagami@jcccnc.org.
Two times a month, you can hear the sounds of heartfelt laughter coming from the community room within the Koike Harahata No. 2 temporary housing complex located in Minami-Soma City, Fukushima Prefecture.

There, Sueko Hoshi is gently and patiently teaching a group of women residing at that temporary housing complex how to weave a basket. She is a staff member of AAR, the Association for Aid and Relief, Japan - an organization that has been implementing relief and reconstruction activities in the Fukushima area soon after the Great East Japan Earthquake of 3-11-11, and will continue to run operations there until they feel their services are no longer needed. Hoshi san had been a resident of a temporary housing complex in Soma City since she lost her house in the tsunami caused by the earthquake. She moved to a permanent house a few months ago and has been sharing her craft skills with these women twice a month. For some of these ladies, it is the only time they leave their very small units to socialize with others.

Although there are visible signs of reconstruction and recovery in other parts of the Tohoku region that were greatly affected by the 3-11-11 Great East Japan Earthquake, Tsunami and nuclear disaster, Fukushima Prefecture, including those towns very close to the Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Station, have yet to have their needs and services fully met by the government.

Atsushi Naoe, a fellow staff person with AAR shared that there are still more than 61,000 people living in temporary housing in Fukushima Prefecture and over 14,000 of them live in Shinchi Town, Soma City, and Minami-Soma City where the Koike Harahata facility is located. However, for many people living in these temporary quarters, moving to a more permanent facility is met with mixed feelings. For over four and a half years, these individuals have been living side by side sharing their common challenges, worries and fears. Depending on how close their former residence was to the nuclear power station, their chance of ever returning home may not be a possibility. Others continue to wait and wait to see what the government decides. The level of compensation from the government also varies; those closer to the power station receive a higher amount of compensation even though those residing a few miles away but still unable to return to their homes receive less. This has caused a certain level of tension within the temporary housing community.

But there is no tension within the circle of ladies who meet two times a month. The bond of friendship and commonality of those attending Hoshi san’s class is clearly evident. These ladies have been able to resolve any type of difference that may have initially existed and just enjoy their time together even if it is for a few hours a month. Thus, having to move to a permanent housing unit will cause them to separate.

I felt very honored and privileged to have been invited to participate in this special gathering. Since I lack any type of craft skills, each member came over to help, and spoke in their native Fukushima dialect which made me feel welcome and included. What touched me most was that one lady who grew eggplants and cucumbers in front of her unit made tsukemono for me. It will forever be the best tsukemono I will ever have.

Special thanks to AAR members Atsushi Naoe, Takumi Takagi, Shinichiro Ohara and Sueko Hoshi for allowing all of us the opportunity to understand and appreciate that there is still work and support to be done.
A Daruma with a Special Cause

BY DIANE MATSUDA

Daruma dolls were created in the 5th Century by the Zen Sect of Buddhism to symbolize Buddha’s persistence in meditation. It is said that Buddha meditated for nine straight years without moving which caused his arms and legs to melt away.

In more recent times, about 400 years ago in 1697, the Daruma-ji Temple was built in Takasaki City, Gunma Prefecture where an annual Daruma Festival is held. It is at this time that people from around the country purchase the temple’s famous paper mache daruma and make a wish after painting the left eye. When their wish comes true, the right eye is painted. Thus, the image of a daruma has taken on a wider role in modern Japanese culture.

Currently, the central government has plans to erect a cement wall between the beach and the houses to protect residents from a future tsunami. However, this plan would create a physical barrier between humans to the sea. Almost all of the residents living in the area have a deep affiliation with the ocean as they have continuously carried on the fishing profession started by their ancestors, and take great pride in their work to provide the people of Japan with the best quality fish and other ocean related products.

At the Jifuku-ji Temple in Kessenuma City in Miyagi Prefecture, Priest Katayama regularly picks up rocks he finds on the beach in front of his temple to hand paint the face of a daruma on each stone. Almost all of Jifuku-ji’s members who perished in the March 11, 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, Tsunami and nuclear disaster. Even though the temple itself is located just several hundred feet away from the sea, it miraculously escaped major damage.

So when Priest Katayama heard about the construction of the cement wall, he decided to propose an alternative line of protection. He has initiated a campaign to purchase and obtain plants and other saplings from around the country and create a ‘green forest wall’ so that the residents would still be able to enjoy the feel and breeze of the ocean, but at the same time, be protected from a future natural disaster.

“In Almost all of the residents living in the area have a deep affiliation with the ocean...”

In order to support his plan, Priest Katayama makes frequent trips around the country to inform other temples and citizens of his goal. He has been painting the daruma dolls since his campaign started to raise awareness and funds needed to create the green forest wall. Priest Katayama’s daruma made its way to San Francisco this year in March when JCCNCN remembered the 4th anniversary of the Great Japan Earthquake, Tsunami and nuclear disaster and sold them as silent auction items. They will be featured again at the Center’s Annual Event in September. Recently, JCCNCN’s Takahashi Youth Ambassador Program students visited Jifukuji and learned about the effects of the tsunami first hand from Priest Katayama. They also brought with them a donation from a former Takahashi Youth participant, Wesley Yee, who has not forgotten his experience in Tohoku and continues to have an interest to support recovery efforts.

We wish Priest Katayama much success in his ‘green forest wall’ campaign and for showing us that a daruma can also bring happiness and hope to those who have been through many years of extreme challenges and transitions.

Special thanks to Sayaka Azuma of the Shanti Volunteer Association for introducing us to Priest Katayama and teaching us about the daruma with a special cause.
Money Matters

A regular day at the JCCNC can include mailing out letters to donors and members, setting up classrooms, workshops and events and hundreds of administrative tasks. The JCCNC also provides resources in the form of space, funds and services for community organizations, individuals and corporations. Included among those resources is low-cost office space for tenants such as Japanese Community Youth Council, Kimochi, Inc. and Nobiru Kai.

None of this would be possible without the financial support of the JCCNC’s many donors, members and corporate sponsors. Also appreciated is the leadership of the Board of Directors, enthusiastic volunteers and hard-working staff. Their unwavering dedication, commitment and generosity to preserving the culture and community push the JCCNC towards building a Center of greater service for this community.

2014 Revenue

The graph above summarizes revenue during the 2014 calendar year. It is the sole responsibility of the Development Department to produce the most significant revenue for most non-profit organizations. For the JCCNC, donations account for 52% of our revenue, with individual donors collectively contributing the majority of the total. The Development Department’s principal charge is to ensure the sustainable growth and financial health of the organization by gathering resources and long-term support through grassroots fundraising, major donor cultivation and foundation and corporate sponsorships.

The Membership Department’s role is to increase visibility of the JCCNC within the surrounding community, instill in our members a sense of belonging and to grow and sustain relationships with people and organizations that believe in our charter. Currently, the JCCNC is highly dependent upon senior and senior couple memberships; our aim is to increase our family and sustaining memberships to mirror our success with these contingencies.

Programs contributed 16% of the revenue for the JCCNC, generated from class or events fees and donations. The JCCNC makes a conscious choice to keep the class fees at a minimum as the JCCNC believes in providing low cost services whereby no attendee is constrained by cost.

Rentals derive 11% of our annual revenue. Similar to our affordable program philosophy, the JCCNC believes in providing highly subsidized facility space for community groups and organizations with special reduced rates for non-profit organizations.

2014 Expenses

The graph above summarizes spending during the 2014 calendar year. Building and operations comprise 65% of the JCCNC’s expenditures. On the building side, this includes expenses incurred from running a public facility visited by over 185,000 individuals annually, which primarily consists of maintenance and upkeep of a 17,500 square foot building. This includes utilities, equipment leases, licensing and permit fees and facility insurance. On the operational side, this includes staff salaries and benefits, staff development and training, office administration, public relations, advertising and marketing and consulting services.

Programs expenses encompass all classes, corporate and community meeting room rentals, sporting events, seasonal fairs, community forums and events and cultural programs. By nature, the JCCNC’s programs are highly resource intensive due to the associated (and often obscure) costs of materials, instructor and insurance fees and other related costs necessary to run successful programs. The JCCNC provides over 100 workshops and classes on an annual basis. These workshops and classes are central to the mission of the Center which is to provide cultural arts, social, recreational and educational classes.

Development expenses include all costs related to direct fundraising, following the Center’s comprehensive development program aimed at generating individual donor, foundation, philanthropic and various foundation and corporate support.
Ways to Give

Connect online!

Visit www.jcccnc.org for information about programs and events. You can also sign up to become a member, donate, volunteer, connect on social media, and sign up for our E-Newsletter to stay up to date with all of the activities you can participate in!

Sign up to be a member!

Join us today! Your membership provides support to the JCCCNCC to create programs that carry out our mission. Be a part of our family where future generations will learn about our community, culture, and traditions. To sign up or to get more information check our website at www.jcccnc.org or fill out our membership form, which can be obtained at the JCCCNCC.

Double your donation through your employer!

Did you know that many corporations offer to match their employee’s donations to non-profit organizations or have a work place giving program? Corporate fund matching programs are a great way to increase your donation and in most cases double your donation. Work place giving programs make it fast and easy to give a gift because you can have your donation automatically deducted from your paycheck. Consult your human resources department to find out more on how you can support the JCCCNCC through work place giving.

Give the gift of time!

Give us your valuable time and assist us with special events, programs, and administrative duties. One way to volunteer is at our upcoming Tabemasho 2015: Cultural Connection. For more information contact the Programs Department at (415) 567-5505 x227 or programsevents@jcccnc.org.

“Like” us!

You can become a fan of the JCCCNCC on Facebook. Just log into your Facebook account, search “Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California” and click “like”. Fans get the latest information on events going on, as well as many fun facts about the history and staff at the Center and Japantown.

If you have any questions about “Ways to Give” please contact Aya Ino at (415) 567-5505 or aino@jcccnc.org
Free Introduction to Karate Workshop with Craig Hamakawa

Date: Wednesday, August 26, 2015  
Time: 6:00pm-8:00pm  
Fee: FREE  
Register by calling 415-567-5505 or online at http://bit.ly/introkarate  
For more information please visit www.jcccnc.org or email programs@jcccnc.org

September Kaiseki Workshop with Larry Sokyo Tiscornia and Kimika Soko Takechi

Our cooking workshop will be a demonstration with some hands-on arranging and an exciting menu!  

Upcoming Events

2015 JCCNC Halloween Carnival
SAVE THE DATE  
Friday, October 30, 2015  
Time: 6:00pm-8:30pm @ JCCNC

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