Children's Day
Continuing an Important Tradition
My Children’s Day Memories

Children’s Day was always a special day for me when I was growing up. A few days before May 5th, my parents would start to set up our large Boy’s Day display in the house and raise and display our carp on a long bamboo pole on the balcony overlooking the street.

Shortly after I was born, both sets of grandparents gave me a gift to celebrate Boy’s Day. One was a doll of a famous samurai, Minamoto Yoshitsune purchased by my paternal grandparents. The doll was placed in a large glass case purchased at Honnami’s Gift Store in San Francisco’s Japantown.

The other was a replica samurai helmet (kabuto) bought by my maternal Jichan and Bachan who lived in the Central Valley and purchased at Komoto’s Department Store in Fresno’s Japantown. My parents also bought me my own large colorful cloth carp for me to raise and display on Boy’s Day at the Center. The Two dolls were placed in my room.

Another doll, Benkei-a monk, was one of the strongest men in all of Japan killing over one hundred samurai soldiers in a single battle, but Yoshitsune, my doll, was able to defeat him. Soon after, Benkei and Yoshitsune became loyal friends until they passed away. I still remember all the stories that my father told me every time I see the dolls. I was always fascinated how he was able to tell them without a book, just off the top of his head.

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Shikishi Exhibit Highlights the Year of the Boar and Friendship

The 2019 Shikishi Exhibit filled the hallways of the Center and brought much joy and color to start off the new year. This year’s theme was based on the year of the boar and friendship. Artists of all ages submitted their one-of-a-kind shikishi board that were displayed from January 9 through February 9.

Thank you to the many artists that participated in this year’s exhibit. We enjoyed seeing the drawings and illustrations of the boar and symbols of friendship. If you would like to participate in our exhibit next year be sure to stop by our annual Mochitsuki workshops in December or come celebrate the new year with us at the Annual Oshogatsu Festival held here at the Center the first Saturday of January. We hope everyone has a wonderful year.

48th Annual Oshogatsu Festival Celebrates the Year of the Boar

The 48th Annual Oshogatsu Festival was held on Saturday, January 5 in the Center’s Nisei Community Hall and the Issei Memorial Hall. Youth and adults were able to celebrate the New Year by creating Boar themed crafts and getting a t-shirt screen printed with a Year of the Boar design created by former Japantown Arts and Media staff.

Participants also enjoyed a variety of live performances such as kendo, yosakoi dance, ukulele, taiko, hula and a variety of children’s performing groups. Everyone was treated to traditional ozoni soup (mochi in broth) throughout the day and were able to participate in pounding of mochi (sweet rice) using a traditional mallet and usu (stone mortar).

Arisa Hiroi co-chair of Nakayoshi Young Professionals hosted a craft table at this year’s festival. “All our Nakayoshi volunteers love coming out to support this free community event where kids can eat and play together while exploring Japanese culture. It’s a great, feel good way to start the year!” Be sure to join us at next year’s festival that is always held on the first Saturday in January here at the Center.
For me, the Center is a home away from home. Every time I climb those stairs and step through those doors, I know a staffer that I have known for 15+ years will meet me. My parents, and especially my mom, instilled in me the importance of the Japanese American (JA) community and the Center as its pillar. I participated in programs the Center offered including Shinzen, the Nikkei Youth Cultural Heritage Program (NYCHP), twice, and even ukulele classes! Through the Center’s programs, I have traveled to Japan three separate times, actually living in Japan for two summers in a row. Some of my closest friendships have stemmed from both Shinzen and NYCHP and for that, I will always be grateful. The Center’s programs have afforded me countless opportunities and memories within the JA community that I will forever cherish. By joining the Board, I hope that I can encourage other young people to become more involved in the community and take advantage of the opportunities, similar to the programs that I participated in that the Center provides.”

Looking ahead, I would love to see younger generations using the Center as a community hangout for all types of events from weddings and birthday celebrations, to potlucks, get-togethers and community organizing. Above all, the Center provides venue space for any type of community gathering and I want the younger generations to not only realize that, but utilize it.

New Board Member

Hillary Nakano

“F or me, the Center is a home away from home. Every time I climb those stairs and step through those doors, I know a staffer that I have known for 15+ years will meet me. My parents, and especially my mom, instilled in me the importance of the Japanese American (JA) community and the Center as its pillar. I participated in programs the Center offered including Shinzen, the Nikkei Youth Cultural Heritage Program (NYCHP), twice, and even ukulele classes! Through the Center’s programs, I have traveled to Japan three separate times, actually living in Japan for two summers in a row.

My most memorable moment was when the Center served as my wedding reception venue in 2018! We transformed the gym and it looked amazing!”

We are excited to announce the 15 youth members selected for the 2019 Shinzen Nikkei Youth Goodwill Program (Shinzen Program). Started in 1997, this cross-cultural exchange program promotes the values of fair play and competition, while fostering ties between the U.S. and Japan, and our Japanese and Japanese American communities. Through sports, youth exchanges and homestays, our young ambassadors build stronger relationships with the people of Japan, while learning about their cultural heritage, traditions and identity.

The Shinzen team will be traveling to Japan with family members this July to celebrate the 25 Years of Friendship shared between the Center and the Osaka YMCA (1994-2019) and the Kobe YMCA (1995-2020). If you are interested in supporting these young ambassadors, they will be hosting a Poker Tournament on Saturday, June 8 and will be selling raffle tickets to support their travel costs.
GODZILLA still a Looker at 60!  

The name Gojira, is a hybrid derived from the word gorilla and kujira (whale), and the character is still considered one of Japan’s most popular icons even though the big guy has been around for sixty years.

Local Godzilla expert Jeff Adachi, (better known for his role as our Public Defender and JA community activist), has been following Godzilla through all of its films and by building his own collection.

Started in 1990 when his father bought him his first Godzilla for his birthday, Adachi found an immediate interest in the beast and started collecting them one by one. When he collected his first several dozen, he put them on top of his refrigerator but once they outgrew that space, they were accorded its own special room.

Jeff finds his Godzilla’s at flea markets, science fiction shows and has even traded them. Then when EBay was born, “I was free to shop for Godzilla’s at any time, any place so I did go crazy for a little while” he states. Currently, Jeff’s collection stands at 200 but he has narrowed his focus in recent years to acquiring Godzilla’s with unique characteristics. One of his favorites stands 3 feet tall and has a 4 foot long tail and needed to be assembled and painted before it could make its official appearance amongst the collection.

Although Jeff has many talents, he is not a modeler so he had to pay a modeler to get involved at a pretty big price tag but it is all good because the big guy continues to be loved and admired.

Adachi is happy that he started his collection as Godzilla has been able to survive in pop culture for over 60 years and has a cool roar. In addition to the green monster, Jeff has a collection of films and music as well as a collection of 12” crime figures like Scarface and Jack Nicholson’s character in the Shining as well as trading cards from the ‘60’s.

We thank Jeff for keeping the spirit of Godzilla alive and reminding us that pop culture icons can also be used as important educational tools.

Thank You Jeff.

On February 22, 2019, the community lost an important and irreplaceable friend and supporter. Jeff Adachi, Public Defender for the City and County of San Francisco, also known as a talented film producer, CA Bar Prep Tutor, author and social justice activist passed away at the young age of 59.

Paul Osaki, Executive Director of JCCNC states, “He was always a person I could count on to come down to Japantown to support an important issue or when a strong voice was needed. He just got it. There was never a need to explain the details. Jeff innately knew why we needed to work together to get things done and never wavered on his commitment to the community.”

In 2014, Jeff was interviewed for our newsletter because of his impressive and extensive collection of Godzilla’s. We are re-printing it for this issue in his memory. Thank you Jeff. You will be sorely missed.
JCCCNC’s Fall Cultural Tour to Japan focused on the region of Kyushu, specifically Oita Prefecture. Those of you familiar with this area may think that our trek down there was to go on an onsen meguri, (hot spring excursion), but we were even more fortunate.

You see, about 20+ years ago, there was a man named Kiichiro Sato who served as Consul of Economic Affairs for the Consulate General’s Office of Japan in San Francisco. Consul Sato was then ‘on loan’ from Japan’s Ministry of International Trade and Industry, (now METI), to serve as the country’s economic liaison to our area. It was also at that time that California had established a new program to send and receive high school students with the Prefecture of Osaka. The challenge, however, was that the program did not have any funding to accompany its implementation.

That is when Consul Sato immediately stepped in. Within a record period of time, he was able to convince a number of Japanese companies to donate, and the project was up and running. This successful program is still in existence today.

Consul Sato is now Mayor Sato of Oita City. He has held many prestigious positions in between these posts, including the President of the Japan External Trade Organization, (JETRO), which promotes trade and investment between Japan and the United States, and lucky for us, he never forgot us in SF. So when he made a brief courtesy call here last year and invited us to visit his city, we quickly jumped at the opportunity.

Mayor Sato’s office was very helpful in developing our itinerary. Upon our arrival into Oita, we were greeted by his staff who whisked us off to the Oita City Museum for a delicious lunch featuring local products, and to see art created by local residents. Despite his extremely busy schedule, the Mayor took the time to meet and talk with each of the participants and expressed a sincere desire to continue relations between the Center and Oita. This is something we will be happily pursuing!

This great introduction to Oita City was even further highlighted when we visited other sites in the area. We were fortunate to see over 20,000 lit bamboo stalks placed throughout the town of Taketa at the Bungo Taketa Chikuraku Festival; visit a town famous for the production of cool getas; enjoy a couple of soaks in several onsen and a foot bath, and create our own lunch featuring steamed seafood and vegetables using onsen water – a dish known as jigokumushi. Yums. Needless to say, a trip to Oita is highly recommended.

This year, Oita is one of the venues selected for the World Rugby World Cup. They are also the home to the Oita International Wheelchair Marathon. This is in addition to their staple attractions such as their famous nearby onsen (hot springs); the abundance of delicious seafood, and special chicken called toriten. Not to forget, fantastic Mayor Sato! ☺️
An Attempt to Spring Cleaning — the KonMari Way

A few years ago, someone gave me Marie Kondo’s first book, The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up. I am assuming it was a hint to get rid of some of the precious flea market finds I have accumulated over the years.

The Kon Mari method, (aka Marie Kondo’s rule for tidying up), requires you to gather all things of one category; spread them out over a wide open area, and then hold up each piece to decide if it sparks joy. If it does, you put it away neatly in your drawer or bookcase or shelf. If it does not, you thank it for being in your life and it goes away. Sounds simple but I have to admit that when I attempted to follow her rule, I cheated and created a maybe pile before deciding which side of the floor it would eventually land.

Initially, following this method wasn’t too painful but the decisions were not as firm when I held up something received from friends and family members no longer here. Removing them from my life would cause sadness, BUT keeping EVERYTHING would continue the chaos of clutter; cause further frustration of disorganization, and definitely not bring joy.

So I put Marie on hold for a while and decided I would continue the job one day. But as the buzz about “Kondo-ing” started to circulate more and more in conversations, I knew that it was a sign to get back to work.

In addition to creating the yes and no piles, the Kon Mari method requires you to declutter in a certain order. You start with items holding the least amount of emotional attachment before graduating to those hard to part items sparking a lot of feeling, (you are instructed to start with clothing; then books; then papers; then miscellaneous items and then finally sentimental items).

I had sentimental items from all of these categories so even the “easiest” ones made it hard to proceed. I had a pair of pajamas my aunt in Hiroshima bought me 35+ years ago; my auntie’s hand written recipes she created just for me so that I would stop pestering her on how to make baked goods, and my dad’s books that he carefully covered with old brown grocery bag paper and had placed post its throughout the various pages.


So I had to create my own priority amongst the sentimental stuff and titled it the “irreplaceable” pile. Definition: if it is an item made just for me, it will stay with me until I leave this world.

In real terms, that meant that the pj’s went away because I will never wear them again. After all, I do have other auntie items AND I am keeping all the recipes and some of the books from dad that I will actually use.

Also, if an item was well loved, and then given to me to continue a tradition or custom, it is a keeper. The rest of the stuff can start to transition over to the no-spark pile.

I hear that the donation venues are now inundated with items once owned by KonMari participants so that it can be re-sold to bring joy into someone else’s life. I think I need to stay clear of those places for a while until I can discipline myself to use her rules outside of the house.

Kondo now has a Netflix series for those who are ready to take on the adventure. I do admit that it is a cleansing feeling to know that I can immediately find things without digging around in drawers and boxes, and I think it is worth a try to consider a new way of viewing spring cleaning, or at least consider buying one of her books and watching a few of her Netflix programs.

CULTURAL TRAIL MIX
Have Any Hidden Treasures?

For those readers interested in finding new homes for items you have in your house such as gently used or brand new dishes, platters, owan bowls or other Japanese folk art, the Center is considering a Hidden Treasures Sale in the near future.

Depending on inventory and interest, the Center is exploring the possibility of organizing a sale where items that have a Japanese or Japanese American origin can be featured, appreciated and purchased by someone who wishes to take your hidden treasures into their home.

As this project is still in its initial stage, further details will be developed based on the responses received. Please feel free to contact the Center at info@jccnc.org for further information and stay tune in future newsletters and our email blasts! It may be a sale that is worth the wait.

Even though you may be a Kon-Mari advocate, one person’s unwanted or unused item can be another person’s treasure that can spark joy!

Got Treasures?

Here are some examples of hidden treasure items that you may wish to donate or purchase:
Come Celebrate with your kids at the 27th Annual Children’s Day Festival

Come join us for a fun day at San Francisco’s Peace Plaza as we celebrate the Japanese national holiday Children’s Day (Kodomo no Hi). Children’s Day is a day set aside to respect children’s personalities and to appreciate their happiness. Come join the Center and the many community organizations and companies supporting this event as we host carnival games, arts and crafts, live cultural entertainment, bounce house and much more. This event is free and open to the public.

Saturday, May 4
11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
San Francisco Japantown’s Peace Plaza, 1610 Geary Blvd (intersection Post and Buchanan Streets)

Pair of vintage Hina Dolls donated from the Takahashi Family will be premiered at our Center’s Children’s Day exhibit
Each year, the Center organizes an annual community clean-up day at the Japanese Cemetery in Colma to remember and honor those who have passed away.

Volunteers participate for various reasons. Some to visit with family; some to support the Center’s activities and some to clean on behalf of family members and friends who are no longer able to take care of their family graves. Many come who have no direct connection to the cemetery. They volunteer to honor those who are laid to rest at the cemetery and to care for this very special place.

Over the past many years volunteers have asked why there was no information about the cemetery. Last year the Center created a historical interpretive panel for the newly installed bulletin board. The purpose of the interpretive panel is to provide visitors with an educational background and overview of the cemetery. The information and stories documents why the cemetery is considered one of the most important Japanese American cultural heritage sites in the United States.

The 2019 Colma Clean Up Day is scheduled from 9am – 2pm. A bento lunch and dessert will be provided but there is a suggested donation of $7/person to cover expenses. Volunteers are welcomed to join us also for part of the day.

For more information, please contact our Program and Facility Manager Jennifer Hamamoto at jhamamoto@jcccnc.org or call (415) 567-5505.

Colma Leaders Lori Matoba (the Center’s Deputy Director) and Stephanie Doi (the Center’s Development Manager). This was Stephanie’s first Clean Up Day!
What's Happening in 2019

There will be some exciting things happening in and around the Center this year. Be sure to mark your calendar, visit and participate in some of our annual and special events. In addition to the events listed, we have daily classes and weekly workshops in cultural arts, fitness, cooking/food, music and dance, as well as a sports league and social programs for all ages. Stop by or visit jccnc.org!

APRIL

Spring Membership Drive*
Become/renew as a Sustaining Member and get a gift

13-14 and 20-21 Cherry Blossom Festival at the Center
Visit sfcherryblossom.org for the cultural entertainment schedule

23-26 Children’s Day School Visits
By reservation only

MAY

1-4 Children’s Kimono Dressing*

4 27th Annual Children’s Day Festival in Japantown

18 Colma Japanese Cemetery Clean-up

JUNE

8 Shinzen Poker Fundraiser*

12 Kase Nikkei Community Scholarship Program through August 23. Applications due April 7

JULY

15 Nikkei Open Golf Tournament*
Peninsula Golf and Country Club

23-Aug 1 Shinzen Nikkei Youth Goodwill Program
SEPTEMBER
4-15 Fall Online Auction
21 Tabemasho: Let’s Eat* (Annual Fundraising Event)
28 Sake Day* Hosted by True Sake

OCTOBER
25 Halloween Carnival*

NOVEMBER
Winter Online Auction
10-20 Fall Cultural Tour to the Hokuriku Region of Japan

DECEMBER
21 Mochitsuki Workshops*

Most events are FREE (unless noted) *ticket fee or donation required

Pound Pound Pound: The Center Hosts Annual Mochitsuki Workshops

The Center hosted its annual Mochitsuki workshops on Saturday, December 9. Over 140 participants learned about the process of steaming, pounding and making their own mochi. Thanks to a very generous donation of sweet rice from Nomura and Co., participants were able to take home approximately two pounds of their own fresh mochi. Mr. George Yamada, former owner of Yamada Seika Manju-Ya, came to help prepare the rice and teach the participants how to form the steamed sweet rice into komochi.

Sharon Williams has been a long time annual participant and always brings several generations of her family. “My children and grandchildren wanted to learn more about their Japanese heritage, so we started making the Center’s Mochitsuki workshop a family event. Everyone enjoys the workshop and we can’t wait for the next one each year. I think we have been coming since the first time the Center hosted this workshop. Through the years we’ve added more family and friends and everyone has enjoyed the experience of making mochi and learning about our Japanese traditions. Thank you to everyone at the Center for making the workshop educational and fun!”

Be sure to join us this December for your chance to make your very own mochi.

Thank you Volunteers!

The Center hosted our annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on December 7 and invited over 420 volunteers that supported us throughout the year. Volunteers assisted the Center at multiple events and tasks such as Tabemasho, Colma Cemetery Clean-up, Children’s Day Festival, Children’s Day School Visits, mailings for the Center, workshops, photographers for our events and Girls Summer league. Our volunteers are extremely valuable and we would not be able to offer the many programs and activities without the help we receive from dedicated volunteers like Nathan Segal. “I wanted to volunteer where the pulse of the community is...And I was right. To be able to volunteer at the Center has been a stimulating experience for me. I am most appreciative!”
Preserving Culture One Class at a Time

What's Happening at the Center

Greetings from the Center’s Programs Department! We welcome you to peruse the list below that features all 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! For more information or to register for a class, please visit our website www.jcccnc.org or call (415) 567-5505.

ARTS AND CULTURE

Asian American Senior Writing
A place for both new and experienced writers alike to write and share about themselves, their families and others to preserve the stories and memories of our Asian American community.
Instructor: Genny Lim
When: Mondays, 10 a.m.-noon
Cost: $44 M | $50 NM monthly
$22 M | $28 NM drop-in

Basic Drawing
Join instructor Rich Tokeshi, an original instructor of Japantown Art and Media (JAM), and bring out the artist in you. This eight-week class concentrates on basic drawing concepts and subject matters such as still life, portraits, scenes from everyday life and drawing from photos. All supplies are provided at no additional fee. The class is open to all skill levels.
Instructor: Rich Tokeshi
When: Saturdays, noon-2 p.m.
Cost: $70 M | $90 NM (eight consecutive weeks) $13 M | $16 NM drop-in

Beyond Basic Art Class
This weekly art class is designed for both 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: $35 M | $45 NM monthly
$11 M | $14 NM drop-in

Ikebana
Reflect on the simplistic beauty of nature and create a harmony of linear construction, rhythm and color through the traditional Japanese art of ikebana (floral arrangement). Participants are encouraged to bring their own vases. Please contact the Programs Department at least 48 hours in advance if interested.
Instructor: Chizuko Nakamura
When: Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m.
Cost: $70 M | $90 NM monthly
$22 M | $28 NM drop-in

Shigin
Shigin is a form of Japanese poetry, which is usually chanted or sung. Yoshimura Kokujyou Sensei, who is considered one of the top teachers in Kokuseiryu Shigin Kai will teach students vocal training and singing lessons. Each class will begin with students singing together and then individual lessons will be given to all students. Each student will practice singing the poem they have chosen and can add their emotions and interpretation of the poem when they sing. Class will be conducted in both English and Japanese and is open to all.
Instructor: Yoshimura Kokujyou
When: Second and Fourth Wednesdays, 3–5 p.m.
Cost: $15 M | $20 NM Monthly
$10 M | $12 NM Drop-In
Materials: Shigin Text Book

Washi Ningyo
Engage in the art of Japanese paper doll making and create your own 3D Japanese washi (traditional) 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: Rochelle Lum
When: Third Saturday every month, 9 a.m.-noon and 12:30-4 p.m.
Cost: $10 M | $15 NM (+$10-$25 materials fee) $30 M | $40 NM First-time participants

DANCE

Hula: Beginning
Learn both Auana (modern) and Kahiko (ancient hula). You will experience anaerobic (low impact) exercise while learning to dance. No dance experience required. (Class participants also must join the dance experience required. (Class participants also must join the dance experience required. (Class participants also must join the dance experience required. (Class participants also must join the dance experience required. (Class participants also must join the dance experience required. (Class participants also must join the dance experience required. (Class participants also must join the dance experience required. (Class participants also must join the dance experience required. (Class participants also must join the dance experience required. (Class participants also must join the dance experience required. (Class participants also must join the dance experience required. (Class participants also must join the dance experience required. 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Programs

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Hālau, Hālau Ka Liko Pua O Kalaniākea, for an additional fee.
Instructors: Denise Teraoka and Alice Jeong
When: Wednesdays, 6-7:30 p.m.
Cost: $32 M | $48 NM drop-in
$10 M | $15 NM drop-in

Hula: Gracious Ladies and Wahine (Adults)
Learn both Auana (modern) and Kahiko (ancient) hula. You will experience anaerobic (low impact) exercise while learning to dance hula. (Class participants also must join the Hālau, Hālau Ka Liko Pua O Kalaniākea, for an additional fee.)
Instructor: Mary Leong
When: First and third Thursdays, 5:30-7 p.m.; Saturdays, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Cost: $45 M | $55 NM monthly (Saturdays) $60 M | $75 NM monthly (Thursdays and Saturdays)
$14 M | $17 NM drop-in

Hula: Keiki (Youth)
Give the gift of hula to your child through this class, where they will learn coordination, grace and teamwork through both Auwana (modern) and Kahiko (ancient) hula while experiencing anaerobic exercise. Classes are open for all children ages 5+.
Instructor: Mary Leong
When: Saturdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Cost: $30 M | $40 NM monthly
$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 Hālau, Hālau Ka Liko Pua O Kalaniākea, for an additional fee.)
Instructor: Mary Leong
When: Saturdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Cost: $45 M | $55 NM monthly
$14 M | $17 NM drop-in

Line Dancing
Practice your smooth moves to R&B and pop music while keeping in shape and making new friends. This fun, low-impact class is open to all, no dance experience required.
Instructor: Alan Kitashima

When: Tuesdays and Fridays, 12:45-2:15 p.m.
Cost: $4 M | $5 NM drop-in

MARTIAL ARTS AND FITNESS

Karate—Monday and Wednesday Class
Karate is an Okinawan martial art meaning "empty hand." Develop self-defense skills and strengthen yourself mentally and physically. Our class is part of the International Karate League (IKL) which instructs a modified Shorin-Ryu style of karate. This class is open to all skill levels age 6+.  
Instructor: Craig Hamakawa
When: Mondays and Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m.
Cost: $30 M | $48 NM monthly
$9 M | $14 NM drop-in

Karate—Sunday Class
Instructor: Craig Hamakawa
When: Sundays, 10 a.m.-noon
Cost: $15 M | $24 NM monthly
$9 M | $14 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
When: Sundays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Cost: $22 M | $31 NM monthly
$10 M | $12 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 improves and your mind becomes clearer. This class is open to both the beginner and experienced yogi.
Instructor: Ai Tanaka
When: Saturdays, 10:30a.m.-noon
Cost: $28 M | $40 NM monthly
$9 M | $12 NM drop-in

Zumba Gold
Participate in a fun and energetic workout while dancing to upbeat music. Join instructor Janet Cordova as she hosts Zumba Gold classes every Sunday. Whether you are looking for an energizing workout or to make new friends, come and enjoy this fun ongoing class. This class is open for all skill levels.
Instructor: Janet Cordova
When: Sundays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Cost: $22 M | $31 NM monthly
$10 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-Raffa
When: Second and fourth Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m.
Cost: $25 M | $31 NM monthly
$15 M | $18 NM drop-in

“I enjoy participating in karate because it gives me a connection to my mind and body.”
— Benita Sanvely

“I like shamisen because it’s different than other string instruments. I like the sound and melody. It’s more traditional and cultural.”
— Ryuma Yamaguchi
**Ensemble Shiki**
Be part of a mixed chorus group and sing a variety of songs, mainly in Japanese with some English.
**Instructor: Ruriko Miura-Raffa**
**When:** First, third and fifth Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m.
**Cost:** $25 M | $31 NM drop-in

**GenRyu Arts 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 (4 ½ years to adult).
**Instructor: GenRyu Arts Taiko**
**Contact GenRyu Arts at info@genryuarts.org for days, times and rates**

**Minyo/Hauta/Shamisen**
Learn to improve your voice, tone and projection through Minyo (traditional folk singing) and Hauta (singing with elements of popular and light music) or learn to play the traditional Japanese Shamisen (three-stringed traditional instrument). Participants can engage with singing, playing or participate in both. Contact the Programs Department at programsevents@jccnc.org to schedule a lesson.
**Instructor: Hideko Nakajima**
**When:** Second and fourth Sundays, individual lessons between 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
**Cost:** $40 M | $50 NM monthly

**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**
**When:** Thursdays 6:30-7:30 p.m.
**Cost:** $60 M | $80 NM monthly
$21 M | $25 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**
**When:** Saturdays, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
**Cost:** $60 M | $80 NM monthly
$21 M | $25 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 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!
**Coordinator: Yone Higashigawa and Nancy Nakai**
**When:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30-4 p.m.
**Cost:** $2 M | $3 NM drop-in

**Nickei Youth Raffle 2019**
Our Nikkei Youth Raffle is back to support our year-round youth programming efforts! Help us empower our community youth through a raffle ticket purchase. Tickets are $100 for 18, $70 for 12, $35 for 6 or $7 each. Tickets may be purchased over the phone or at the Center. Tickets can also be reserved online at bit.ly/ youthraffle2019. All raffle proceeds support the presentation of traditional and modern Japanese cultural activities and opportunities for youth to participate in and be a part of our community. Youth power our community. They are the key to a future with cultural and historical preservation, and providing access to the skills and educational and recreational opportunities to learn and grow to support our community for decades to come. The Nikkei Youth Raffle drawing will be held at our 27th Annual Kodomo no Hi (Children’s Day) Festival, a free, fun and cultural celebration open to the public in Japantown Peace Plaza on May 4, 2019. The grand prize for this year’s raffle is two roundtrip Hawaiian Airlines tickets from the Bay Area to Hawaii donated by Hawaiian Airlines. Restrictions apply. Winner need not be present to win. Please help us empower over 3,500 community youth!

**Sports**

**Community Volleyball**
Create a team for your non-profit/service/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 within your organization. Please contact the Programs Department at programsevents@jccnc.org if interested in forming a team.
**When:** Tuesdays, 7-10 p.m.
**Cost:** $45 M | $55 NM per season

**Sponsored by**

**30 and Over Basketball**
Get your friends and join the mature, wise and friendly competition in our Wednesday Night (draft) League. See our website for league information.
**When:** Wednesdays, 6-10 p.m. (up to 15 weeks per season)
**Cost:** $105 M | $130 NM per season

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**NIGHTS AND TIMES FOR GAMES, CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES**

**Mondays, 6-10 p.m. (up to 15 weeks per season)**
**Cost:** $110 M | $135 NM per season

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**Social**

**Bambi**
Find a social network for you and your young one through a morning of play with other Japanese speaking families.
**When:** Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.-noon
**Cost:** Free

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

**Monthly Kabuki Theatre Class**
Join us for a free monthly class where we enjoy recorded stage performances of Kabuki and other forms of Japanese theater. Kabuki is a classical Japanese dance-drama theater form known for the stylization of its drama, live music and sound effects, and for the elaborate make-up worn by the performers.
**Coordinator: Mark Frey, Sponsored by the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program Alumni Association of Northern California (JETAANC)**
**Kabuki Club**
**When:** Second Tuesday of each month, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
**Cost:** Free. Donations encouraged!

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**Sports**

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Create a team for your non-profit/service/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 within your organization. Please contact the Programs Department at programsevents@jccnc.org if interested in forming a team.
**When:** Tuesdays, 7-10 p.m.
**Cost:** $45 M | $55 NM per season

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Get your friends and join the mature, wise and friendly competition in our Wednesday Night (draft) League. See our website for league information.
**When:** Wednesdays, 6-10 p.m. (up to 15 weeks per season)
**Cost:** $105 M | $130 NM per season
Upcoming Fall Workshops

Below are some of our exciting upcoming workshops. For more information about our workshops or ongoing classes, please contact the Center’s Programs Department at programsevents@jccnc.org or call us at (415) 567-5505.

April Nabe Night supporting the 2019 COPANI XX Conference

Enjoy a fun and delicious nabe (Japanese hotpot) dinner while supporting the Center and our community partner for April, the 2019 COPANI XX Conference! The COPANI Conference is an international conference of the international Japanese community that happens every two years, drawing attendees from Japanese American and Japanese Latin American communities from countries including Canada, Mexico, Peru, Brazil, and more! This year’s conference will be held in San Francisco from September 20-22. For more information on the COPANI conference, visit www.copani.org

If you have a community group, class or team for which you’d like to set up a Nabe Night fundraiser, please contact Programs Manager Haruka Roudebush at hroudebush@jccnc.org. We’d love to work with you!

Friday, April 26 | 6:30–9 p.m.
$25 General | $15 for Children 10 and under

Dessert Mochi Workshop with Kaori Becker

Local chef Kaori Becker of Kaori’s Kitchen returns to the Center for another one of her popular dessert mochi workshops! Learn how to make delightful assortment of mochi treats from scratch, including new menu items peanut butter mochi and strawberry Nutella mochi!

Saturday, April 27 | 1–4 p.m.
$55 M | $65 NM

Cooking with Sonoko Sakai: Japanese Curry from Scratch

In her next cooking workshop at the Center, LA-based food writer Sonoko Sakai will show you how to make curry from scratch, using fresh whole spices and seeds. Participants will make their own spice blends and make a curry brick that is free of artificial preservatives or food coloring. Workshop participants will then make a chicken and vegetable curry over sprouted brown rice and home made Fuku-jinzuke tsukemono relish – pickles of the seven lucky gods. Don’t miss your chance to cook with Sonoko, who has published two cookbooks with a third on the way in Fall 2019!

Friday, May 10 | 6–9 p.m.
Instructor: Sonoko Sakai
$55 M | $65 NM

Creative Tech Workshop: Introduction to Robotics

Our Creative Tech instructor Charles Brandt will get you started on the fascinating world of robotics! The workshop will include a basic kit including an Arduino processor, basic sensors and motors to produce a functional, moving robot. Additional instruction will be provided on programming basic functions your robot. This workshop is suitable for children ages 10 and up, and also for adults who are curious to start tinkering as well. We hope our Introduction to Robotics workshop opens up a whole new world of creativity and ingenuity for you.

Sunday, May 19 | 1–4 p.m.
Instructor: Charles Brandt
$55 M | $65 NM

May Community Kitchen

Join in on the fun and great food at our quarterly Community Kitchen nights, where we prepare and share a communal dinner of Japanese and Japanese American family recipes! Our dinners are a great way of connecting with folks from multiple generations in the community while passing down cultural knowledge through food. Beverages are BYOB, so bring something to share! The menu for May’s event is in the works from our Community Kitchen volunteer committee, and will be posted to the Center’s website as the date approaches.

Tuesday, May 21, 6:30–9 p.m.
$16 M | $20 NM
45th Anniversary Support Drive Donors

We would like to extend a special thank you to our 45th Anniversary Year End Support Drive Donors. Forty-five years ago, the vision for the Center was born and it was a historic new beginning for Japantown, one full of hopes and dreams for the future of our community.

Throughout the years, donors like you have helped us touch and change the lives of five generations. The Center was built with individual donations from our community of both small and large amounts which have allowed us to make a dream come true.

Donations received from August 1, 2018 to January 31, 2019 are listed below.

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△ Paul Osaki (right), Center’s Executive Director receiving a donation to support the Center’s efforts to help citizens during the 1995 Hanshin Earthquake in Kobe Japan

△ Team of non governmental workers from Tohoku Japan who were sponsored by the Center in 2011 to learn about emergency relief and rebuilding efforts.

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Every effort is made to include all 45th Anniversary Donors through January 2019. If a name has been inadvertently omitted, please let us know at (415) 567-5505 or email development@jcccccnc.org
45th Anniversary Tribute Donors

For the past forty-five years, special people have helped to make the vision of the Center become a reality. Our donors, our members, our volunteers and our program participants have made the Center a special place in their own way.

To celebrate our forty-fifth anniversary, we encouraged donors to make a donation in memory or in honor of someone special in their life: a grandparent, parent, spouse, family member or friend. Special people like you helped to make the Center what it is today. We thank you for remembering and honoring those extraordinary individuals who have helped to make your lives and our community exceptional.

Donations received from August 1, 2018 to January 31, 2019 are listed below.

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OUR DONORS

Tribute Donors
continued from page 21

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Mrs. Mineko Takata, $100
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Mr. Nelson Dong and
Ms. Diane Y. Wong, $250
Ms. Janis Ito, $100
Mr. Gary Yano and
Ms. Akemi Kikumura-Yano, $100
Mr. Michael and Mrs. Megumi Nakamura, $50
Ms. Teresa Ono, $50

SALLY OSAKI
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Ms. Jessica Kawamura, $30

SF ARDENETTE’S 50TH ANNIVERSARY
Mr. Randal and Mrs. Laura Otsuki, $200

JARED WONG
Mr. Milton K. Wong and
Ms. Dianne K. Furuya-Wong, $100

TED YAMASAKI
Ms. Janis Ito, $100

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Ms. Teresa Ono, $100

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Save the Date
Tabemasho
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