Remembering the Issei

May 12, 1918
Remembering the Issei 一世の思い出

ack in 1998, I was giving a speech at a conference in Los Angeles Little Tokyo, and I was talking about the tremendous impact the passing of the Nisei generation would have on the Japanese American community in terms of philanthropy, volunteerism and most of all history. After my speech, a Nisei man approached me and said that I was wrong, that the generation, which would have the most significant impact on the community when they are gone, is the Sansei generation. His statement stunned me. I didn’t agree with him at all. In fact, I think I nervously laughed. Let’s be honest, the Sansei, really? He said the reason was that the Sansei would be the last generation to have known the Issei generation. He proudly stated that the Nisei were not the “Greatest Generation,” it was the Issei. They were the true pioneers of the Japanese American community.

Perhaps no other person dedicated himself more to ensuring that the Issei generation would not be forgotten than Seizo Oka or Mr. Oka, as he was known as in the community. Mr. Seizo Oka was the founder, historian and curator of the Japanese American History Archives (JAHA). He began collecting historical documents on the Issei generation as far back as 1952, a year after the signing of the Peace Treaty between the United States and Japan following World War II. This was not an easy task given that most Issei had thrown away much of their possessions, personal documents and archives following the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Academics and universities would not start collecting these historical documents for at least another decade. Originally formed in 1977, as the Japanese American History Room (History Room), it was a project of California 1st Bank, formerly Bank of Tokyo, where Mr. Oka worked as Vice President. Under the sponsorship of the bank and Mr. Oka’s direction, the History Room started to amass an extensive collection of primary source material on the Issei generation.

In 1986, when the Center first opened its doors, California 1st Bank donated the entire collection of the History Room to the community center. Mr. Oka renamed the History Room, the Japanese American History Archives (JAHA) and continued to act as the Executive Director and curator of the archives. Under his leadership, the collection continued to grow in both material and prestige. The archives became recognized as a comprehensive research facility for scholars, students, businesses, government agencies and universities both in the United States and Japan. JAHA’s primary source material on the Issei became a resource for other higher education institutions, including U.C. Berkeley, UCLA and Stanford University. Over the years the archival collection became a resource for books, research material, educational textbooks, documentaries and even feature films.

The Oka Collection includes over 10,000 historical items, including personal diaries, newspapers, journals, manuscripts, memoirs, one-of-a-kind books, photographs and original paintings. Many of the documents illuminate similar experiences of political fear, anti-immigration, suspicion, mistrust, hostility, civil rights and racist laws faced by immigrant and new communities today.

In 2004, Seizo Oka passed away and Japantown lost its most knowledgeable and recognized community historian. He spent half a century chronicling, archiving, preserving and sharing his knowledge about the Japanese American community and the Issei generation. JAHA is his legacy and the collection of historical archives a lasting treasure for our community.

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MISSION
The Center 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 Center 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.
Japanese American History Archives Renamed the Seizo Oka Collection

On November 7, a small gathering of individuals including Deputy Consul General of Japan Kazuhiro Iryu and family members of the late Seizo Oka gathered in the exhibit hall on the first floor of the Center to celebrate the renaming of the Japanese American Historical Archives to the Seizo Oka Collection.

Seizo Oka was a Bank of Tokyo employee working in the bank’s San Francisco Office. In 1997 the bank asked him to create an archive of materials consisting of substantial and important primary documents. As word spread of Mr. Oka’s talent to categorize subjects into clear and concise files and topics, individuals and families started to donate their own materials as they knew that Oka’s archive would serve as a safe and credible repository that valued and honored the documents they entrusted. Also, because of Mr. Oka’s fluent bi-lingual ability to read even the most difficult Japanese documents, he was often asked to help retrieve family registry information for Japanese Americans who had relatives in Japan and wanted to know more about their own family heritage.

Mr. Oka’s contributions did not stop with preservation and collections. He also translated a multi volume book into English so that the English reading only community could learn about the everyday life of the Issei prior to World War II. The book, Zaibei Nihonjin Shi (History of Japanese in America) allowed English readers the ability to learn about the first hand voices of Issei, their challenges, struggles and transition of living in the US. Currently, Mr. Oka’s translation is being edited by the Japanese Diaspora Collection of the Hoover Institution Library and Archives at Stanford University.

The newly re-named Seizo Oka Collection is currently closed and will be undergoing an assessment and preservation evaluation. The Center is committed to honoring the care and pride Mr. Oka took to create such an invaluable piece of Japanese American Issei history and we all will be forever grateful.
Issei Immigration to the U.S.

When the Japanese government allowed its citizens to leave the country to explore other parts of the world during the Meiji Era (1868-1912), there were several prefectures in Japan that took a very active role in promoting its residents to go abroad.

There were many reasons for leaving Japan including the economic incentive to follow the “American Dream” — to make enough money in the US and then return back to one’s homeland to live comfortably. However, for many Issei, they were never able or were no longer interested in returning back to Japan. Many Issei joined associations based on their native prefecture. These associations, commonly called Kenjinkai, held annual picnics so that the Issei could reminisce about their life in Japan and to speak freely in their regional dialect. Some Kenjinkai also provided opportunities for employment, housing, loans and the arrangement of marriages.

Today, very few Kenjinkai remain active in the U.S. as the affinity to one’s homeland does not hold as strong of a connection as it once did, with the Nisei and Sansei generations.

Here is a chart from the Japanese Overseas Migration Museum in Yokohama that includes the number of Japanese citizens who left Japan from 1885-1912. This chart only includes the largest emigration of individuals from the Prefectures listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefecture</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hiroshima</td>
<td>109,893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Okinawa</td>
<td>89,424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kumamoto</td>
<td>76,802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yamaguchi</td>
<td>57,837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fukuoka</td>
<td>57,684</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wakayama</td>
<td>32,852</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The memories of the Issei generation lives on today in their Nisei, Sansei, Yonsei and

Sharon’s paternal grandparents, Bunichi and Hanako Tondo, were cooks for families in San Francisco.

Diane Matsuda states, "My maternal grandfather, Yutaka Yoshifuji (above) moved to the U.S. from Hiroshima at age 16. Before WWII he harvested fava beans and other crops in Pescadero and then became a gardener in San Mateo until he retired at age 80. Since my mother was the youngest of nine children, Ojichan and Obachan spent their final years living with us. This photo shows us enjoying a nice day in the sun. I was very fortunate that Ojichan took me for many walks. Maybe that is why I always prefer to walk over riding in a car."

Courtesy of Susan Kobayashi

Diane Matsuda states, "My maternal grandfather, Yutaka Yoshifuji (above) moved to the U.S. from Hiroshima at age 16. Before WWII he harvested fava beans and other crops in Pescadero and then became a gardener in San Mateo until he retired at age 80. Since my mother was the youngest of nine children, Ojichan and Obachan spent their final years living with us. This photo shows us enjoying a nice day in the sun. I was very fortunate that Ojichan took me for many walks. Maybe that is why I always prefer to walk over riding in a car."

Courtesy of Diane Matsuda

Courtesy of Sharon Kato
Gosei descendants. Yonsei, Sansei, Susan Kobayashi shares, “My great grandfather, Hideo Hayashi, immigrated from Japan in 1897 to work as a teacher of Japanese to a white plantation owner’s son. He was 17, educated at Gakushuin and bilingual. My great grandmother, Saki Kumagai, immigrated when she was an infant and married at 16. They had 11 children together. My mother’s father was the eldest son. Since my great grandmother immigrated when she was an infant and my great grandfather did not want to speak Japanese at home, she didn’t speak Japanese at all. In Hawaii, it was assumed that Issei didn’t speak English so people always spoke to her in Japanese, my mom said great grandma would look over at her and whisper, “I have no idea what they’re saying!” Great grandma was my best friend until she died when I was eight. We would often play checkers and she would let me cheat.” (center left photo of Susan’s great-grandparents)

Nisei, Marj Fletcher fondly remembers her mother, Mito Imaizumi, an Issei from Sasebo Nagasaki Ken immigrated to the US in 1915 at age 19. “She had the patience of a saint—she never complained and never asked for anything and somehow made it through her life here without ever learning English.

I think two of the strongest characteristics about my mother were her patience and good health. I do not have any memory of her ever being sick or even seeing her in bed as she would get up much earlier than all of us. I wish I could be half the person she was.”

Historians believe that had anti-immigration laws not specifically targeted Japanese immigration between 1907 and 1942, the Japanese population in the United States would be on par with the Chinese and Filipino communities, which is over 3 million as of 2010 vs. Japanese at 1.3 million.

1860—A “handful” of Japanese arrived. In 1880s “thousands” arrived by the turn of the century there were 100,000 arrivals

1883—Chinese Exclusion Act (labor shortage)/Increase in Japanese. Peak Immigration from Japan to the U.S. 1900-1909 (~140,000)
Issei Commemorative Garden at Cottage Row

The first Issei in San Francisco arrived in the late 1880s and created a community in the area now known as South Park. In April of 1906, as a result of the Great San Francisco Earthquake, that part of San Francisco was destroyed so the Issei sought a new neighborhood to create a new Japanese community. Within a matter of months, hotels, restaurants, grocery, and other retail stores owned by Issei started to spring up in the Western Addition. As the Issei started to have families, religious institutions, community facilities and schools were built and the Japantown we know today was born.

At one time, San Francisco's Japantown encompassed 30 square blocks where thousands of Issei started their new life in this country.

Cottage Row is the only remaining area that reflects the old Nihonmachi (Japantown) as it did back in the early 1900s when the Issei lived in the community prior to World War II. It is also the only part of Japantown listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

World War II and the signing of Executive Order 9066 forced all Japanese families on Cottage Row and other areas along the western part of the United States to be forcibly removed to desolate areas of the U.S. They lived in America's concentration camps for the remainder of the War.

In the 1960's and 70's the SF Redevelopment Agency not only demolished almost every home and business in Japantown, they also uprooted every tree and plant in the community as well as the Japanese gardens the Issei created in their backyards.

The Cottage Row Mini-Park was the only open green space left in Japantown after two major upheavals, making it the ideal location for a garden to commemorate the Issei who established Japantown 113 years ago.

We therefore wanted to create a permanent garden to remember, thank and appreciate the Issei who worked tirelessly for the generations to come and make a place we call community.

The principal landscaper and designer of the Issei Commemorative Garden is Shigeru Namba, one of the foremost...
Japanese landscape gardeners in the United States. One of his projects includes the private estate of Larry Ellison which is the largest (24 acres) Japanese garden in North America.

Shigeru collaborated with landscape gardener Isao Ogura to create the Tanforan Memorial Garden located at the Tanforan Shopping Center in San Bruno. He also designed the Garden of Remembrance located at San Francisco State University that recognizes the 19 Nisei students forced to abandon their studies at the University during the war.

We owe a great appreciation and thanks to Namba and Isao Ogura who never lost sight of the purpose of the garden. They wanted to donate all of their time and labor in appreciation to the early Issei gardeners who made it possible for them to have successful careers as landscapers in America.

We would like to offer our thanks and appreciation to all the supporters and donors to the garden from the neighborhood and community who believed in the project.

**Special thanks to:**
The Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation
Shigeru Namba, Principal Landscaper
Isao Ogura, Landscaper
Gerald Kawamoto, Landscape Architect
Andre Weinstein, Landscaper
Saki Namba
Yoshi Kuraishi
S.F. Recreation and Park Department
Abigail Maher
Steve Cismowski
Felix Tong

Saki Namba
Tabemasho 2019 Highlights

The Center’s annual fundraising event, Tabemasho 2019: PASSING IT FORWARD — From One Generation to the Next, was held on Saturday, September 21 and hosted a sellout crowd with over 550 guests and volunteers in the recently renovated Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Community Hall.

This year’s event included new food vendor additions b. patisserie and Diamond Bakery who provided delicious cookies and crackers, hirame no kobujime from Rintaro, shoyu ahi poke from Coast Poke, chicken karaage from Suruki Market, an assortment of musubi from Takahashi Market, and pork tofu from The Lunch Spot in Honolulu. Other dishes included wagyu from Trex Corp Inc., zuke nigiri from Trifecta Cooks, ankake soba and gyoza from YamaSho, cebiche nikkei from La Mar, croquettes from Cafe Mums, burdock and lotus root salad from Delica, katsu curry from JapaCurry food truck, kimchi fried rice from Pai’in, and sunomono from our community chefs.

The program emceed by Mike Inouye and Wendy Tokuda, began with a performance by Shinzen 2019 Team, and the awarding of the Okamoto Community Award to Reverend Ron Kobata.

Executive Director Paul Osaki shared an introduction of the new Issei Commemorative Garden that opened on San Francisco’s Cottage Row this year. The event concluded with a live auction featuring four round trip Japan Airlines (JAL) Economy tickets, Hotel accommodations, and four one week JR Rail Passes (courtesy of Japanese Airlines and Kintetsu International Travel Consultants Company), two round trip Hawaiian Airlines Economy tickets, hotel accommodations at the Ilikai Hotel and Luxury Suites (donated by Aqua-Aston Hospitality), and dinner for two at Alan Wong’s Honolulu, including a signature appetizer, entrée and dessert (donated by Alan Wong’s Honolulu), an Ozumo Prepared Wagyu Dinner Party and a board-curated 15 bottle wine collection. Following the event, guests gathered at the new Cottage Row Garden to hang paper cranes in honor of the garden’s opening and to commemorate the Issei generation.
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Artist Rihaku Inoue from Kobe, Japan, creating personalized calligraphy uchiwa for guests

Master geta maker Ryoichiro Enkawa from Hita allowed guests to choose materials for their custom geta (slippers)

Yunice, Chuteh and Donna Kotake with Lindsey Nakano, enjoying their welcome sake
The ninth trip to Japan for Shinzen USA Nikkei Youth Goodwill Sports Program (Shinzen Program) had nearly 70 participants from the Bay Area. The group included 15 youth basketball players, their families, coaches and staff, who traveled to Japan in late July for a nine-day grassroots exchange trip. This tour to Japan also celebrated the 25 years of friendship forged with the Osaka YMCA (1994-2019) and an early observance for the Kobe YMCA and the Nagata Kodomo Home whose relationships began after the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake (1995).

The first stop for the youth was to the Osaka YMCA Kisen Waiwaimura. It is located in a rural area outside of Osaka City and was created for visitors, mainly families and school children, to experience what a rustic farming village was like 70 years ago. The thatched roof houses where the team members stayed had shoji windows/room dividers, raised (from the concrete floor) tatami rooms for sleeping and eating and the only electricity flowing were to single light bulbs in each room. Communal meals were prepared over an open hearth fire consisting of fresh vegetables and fruit harvested from their farm. It was a unique and eye opening experience for these Bay Area teens. They left appreciating their homes and families a little more.

After two nights of farm life, the team traveled to Kobe. Their first stop and a highlight for many was the visit to the Nagata Kodomo Home for crafts, fun, and to celebrate our 25 year relationship (see sidebar). The group then visited...
One of the most meaningful parts of our trip was staying at the Kisen Waiwaimura. I experienced another side of Japan rather than just visiting the big cities. I really enjoyed the countryside and I was able to learn skills like building a fire, cooking and living without any electronics.”

– Kayla Ikuma, Player

“Of relations, many memories were reminisced with many of the Center’s longtime friends and colleagues at the Osaka YMCA, Kobe YMCA and Nagata Kodomo Home. It also became a once in a lifetime opportunity for many of the bay area youth and their families. It was truly a wonderful celebration of friendship and goodwill.

Nagata Kodomo Home
Our Treasured Friendship

One of the lasting memories for the youth/students who traveled to Japan with the Center’s US-Japan Youth Programs (Shinzen, Takahashi Fellowship and Cultural Heritage) is the visit to the Nagata Kodomo Home. So much so, that anytime we visit, we bring a donation from past participants.

On this (almost) 25th anniversary (2020) we collected nearly $5,000. In addition to a sizable donation we provided the opportunity for 10 children and staff members to join Director Mitsuhito Oji to attend the Shinzen Farewell Party at the beautiful Taiko-en reception hall in Osaka.

While in Kobe, the Shinzen players enjoyed making crafts, playing games and sharing lunch with the children at the home. A few days later, they were reunited at the Farewell party in Osaka.
Shinzen Program
continued from page 11

“The bonds that were made with the Shinzen kids from different parts of the Bay Area produced a strong sense of community.”
– Craig Yonemura, parent

“Working together with the Shinzen families from different parts of the Bay Area produced a strong sense of community.”
– Craig Yonemura, parent

“The bonds that were made with the Shinzen kids was very special to see and the awareness that they now have about their culture and heritage is most valuable.”
– Sandra Suzaki, parent (son Aaron Fujimoto)

“My appreciation for my family has grown since traveling to Japan.”
– Maddy Bader, player

Maddy and Aaron cutting their handmade udon at Waiwaimura

Dru Yonemura (center) with his family (right) and Kobe host family (left)
“As a Boy Scout, I have been camping before but the experience at the Kisen Waiwaimura really stuck out for me because it was so different. I was fortunate to cook meals over an open fire and make hashi and udon from scratch. I also enjoyed the peaceful outdoor environment we were surrounded by. It put me at peace and gave me time to self-reflect.”

– Kenshin Nakamura, Player

“The most meaningful parts of our trip were the goodwill games and homestays. I experienced living an everyday life with a Japanese family. Participating in the games, I was able to bond and connect with the Japanese players. Honestly, I will remember this trip for the rest of my life.”

– Julia Hirahara, Player

“The Center believes that creating the opportunity for youth to appreciate friendships with Japanese counterparts will bring hope and inspire them to build a stronger, peaceful and more unified world well into the future.”

– Robert Sakai, Center President
Thank you to everyone who participated in our 25th Annual Nikkei Open Golf Tournament! The Center welcomed 117 golfers on a beautiful Monday (July 15) at the Peninsula Golf and Country Club (PGCC) in San Mateo.

We appreciate the commitment and generosity of the hole sponsors, donors, participants and volunteers. This allows the Center to continue its programs and services. A special thanks to Mr. Joe Kwok, our sponsoring member for hosting us at PGCC!

25th Annual Nikkei Open Highlights

Closest to the Pin Winner: Louie Greenberg (Hole #7, 10'8"")

Winning Foursome: Above L to R: Neal Ho, Ron Hiura, Robert Sakai (Center President), Kiki Kawabata, Robert Mizono

Hole Sponsor Union Bank Foursome: L to R: Rob Wolf, Craig Mayeda, Jerry Ono (Japantown VP and Manager), Clay Tominaga
Thank you!
Nikkei Open Supporters

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Todd Yonemura, DDS

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Cache Creek Casino Resort
Sherilyn Chew and
Peti Arunamata
Craig Y. Yonemura, DDS, MS
Drs. Hiura & Hiura Optometrist
Bernie Lee
Jeff Maruyama
Kaz Maniwa and Marjorie Fletcher
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Top Hits of the Silent Auction

We wish to thank everyone who participated, purchased, donated, supported and volunteered in our Silent Auction event this year at Tabemasho on September 21.

This year, there were a number of outstanding items we were able to feature that made for exciting bidding. Special items included:

- Chance to take home packages of Wagyu beef shipped directly from Japan with a Certificate of Authenticity made possible by Mark Melnick of TREX Corp Inc. Winners: T. Serata, J. Shindo and Lowell Kimura

- Sushi party for 40 courtesy of Alan Hirahara. Winner: Sherman Chan

- Wat Misaka signed jersey courtesy of the Center’s own Haruka Roudebush. Winner: Greg Matoba

- Creatively designed pot holders by Kase Interns. Winners: Kari Nakamura, Marie Kagay, Erika Tamura and Carol Kawasaki-Wong

- Picnic lunch for 10 by The Lunch Spot in Honolulu and a basket of Diamond Bakery goods donated by Chris Manabe. Winner: Ruby Hata

- Marj’s famous pineapple cake loved by all! Winners: Susan Shimamoto, J. Shindo and S. Sakuma

- Japanese Whiskeys–Hibiki 12 and Hibiki 17

Winter 2019
Preserving Culture One Class at a Time

What's Happening at the Center

Join us at one of the fun and enriching cultural and recreational classes that we offer at the Center. 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
$14 M | $16 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 must bring their own vases, scissors and a pin frog. 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 詩吟 is a form of Japanese poetry, which is usually chanted or sung. When sung, singers add their emotions and interpretation of the poem. Singing may be accompanied by traditional instruments such as the koto or shakuhachi. Yoshimura Kokujyou Sensei, who is considered one of the top teachers in Kokuseiryu Shigin Kai will teach students vocal training and singing lessons at the Center’s Shigin Class. 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 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 Sensei
When: Second and fourth Wednesdays, 5-7 p.m.
Cost: $25 M | $20 NM monthly
$10 M | $12 NM drop-in
Materials: Shigin Text Book
English $15 | Japanese $30

**Tougei: Ceramic Art**
Learn various ceramic techniques including hand-building, wheel throwing and surface decoration to create unique sculptures and/or functional wares. During this eight-week class you will also learn glazing techniques to create personalized pieces. Class sessions are ongoing and run eight consecutive weeks. You can register by giving us a call or emailing mokada@jcccnc.org. Class participation is limited and is based on a first come first served basis.
Instructor: Tomoko Nakazato
When: Tuesdays, 6-9 p.m.
Cost: $175 M | $225 NM (eight consecutive weeks)

**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: First and third Saturday every month, 9 a.m.-noon and 12:30-4 p.m.
Cost: $10 M | $15 NM (+$10-$25 materials fee)
First-time participants: $30 M | $40 NM

**Watercolor**
Learn the basics and joy of watercolor painting and bring your art to life with the help of instructor Wendy Yoshimura in this fun and relaxing class. Available to all artists regardless of skill level.
Instructor: Wendy Yoshimura
When: Mondays, 10 a.m.-noon
Cost: $40 M | $48 NM monthly
Drop-in: $21 M | $14 NM
Learning how to kick and punch are what people think of when it comes to a karate class. However, in Craig Hamakawa’s (aka Hanshi) class it goes well beyond just learning how to defend yourself. Craig’s class is a part of the International Karate League and he puts a huge amount of emphasis on building character. “I know from working at the Center that many programs are designed to build leadership skills in youth. Craig’s class does this not only for youth but for adults as well” states Ken Maeshiro, a former staff member of the Center and longtime participant in Craig’s program. Student Joe Domingo stated “The best thing about Hanshi is that he pushes you up to and then a little more beyond what you expect of yourself until you realize that there is more. This applies to everything in life, not just karate and for that, I will be forever grateful.”

The Center would like to thank Craig for his 20 years of service to the Center and the San Francisco Japantown community. Many youth, adults and families have come through his program and have grown well beyond martial artists. Craig is an incredible instructor, strong member of the Center and we are fortunate to work with him. Teaching life values and contributing to building community are reasons we hope to be able to continue for another 20 years. “As a mother who has two children who have been under Hanshi Hamakawa’s care and instruction, I am incredibly grateful. His students truly feel supported by him and therefore are motivated to reach the high bar that he sets for them. Hanshi’s presence extends well beyond the classroom and he creates a separate Ohana (Family) for his students” states former student Monica Kurihara. Joe Domingo went on to say “Craig is the embodiment of a sensei and is a great reflection of the Center and their philosophy toward participants and the community.” The Center appreciates Craig and we are happy to have him as part of the JCCCNc family.
Programs and Events continued from page 17

San Francisco Kendo Dojo at our Annual Children’s Day Festival

recreationally, or learning the group's repertoire to perform in public.
When: Fridays, 7-9 p.m.
Cost: $25 M/$30 NM monthly
$8 M/$9 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: Mondays and Thursdays, 7-9 p.m.
Locations: Mondays at the Buddhist Church of San Francisco; Thursdays: the Center (JCCNC)

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

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

Annual Mochitsuki Workshops with Mr. George Yamada

Sunday, December 15
Multiple workshops between 11 a.m.–6 p.m. (30 min each shift)
Location: the Center | Cost: $15 M | $20 NM

For over 36 years Mr. George Yamada owned and operated the manju (Japanese rice cake) shop Yamada Seika Manju-Ya in San Francisco’s Japantown. Mr. Yamada closed the shop upon his retirement in 1999.

While only a handful of manju shops still exist in the Bay Area today, he carries on the mochi-making legacy by annually sharing with the community his master secrets. In his belief of passing down this important cultural tradition, he generously donated his rice pounding machine to the Center. We are grateful that Mr. Yamada continually revives the spirit of New Year by demonstrating the joy of mochi-making.

Please join us on December 15 and learn about the process of mochi making and leave with two pounds of fresh mochi for the holidays. Spaces fill up fast so don’t miss out on this annual tradition.

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: $12 M $17 NM monthly
$10 M $12 NM drop-in

Ukulele: Advanced
This class is for experienced Ukulele players that focuses primarily on Hawaiian song traditions, as well as chords and rhythmic strumming techniques.
Instructor: Don Sadler
When: Thursdays 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Cost: $60 M $80 NM monthly
$21 M $25 NM drop-in
We are saddened to say goodbye to a longtime instructor at the Center. Hideko Nakajima, our beloved shamisen, hauta and minyo instructor passed away at her residence on July 15, 2019 in Richmond, CA at the age of 85. Nakajima Sensei was loved by her many students from around the Bay Area. We will truly miss her warmth, charisma and sense of humor. Hearing the sounds of the shamisen fill the halls of the Center on Sunday mornings will be missed by all and we can’t thank her enough for her hard work and dedication to her students, the Center and her craft. She has no surviving relatives but will be greatly missed by her many students and friends.

A tribute and memorial service was held on August 17 at the Center.
Upcoming Fall Workshops

Greetings from the Center’s Programs Department! Join us at 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.

Holiday Community Karaoke Night and Potluck
Friday, December 13, 6–9 p.m.
Cost: $3 M | $5 NM, additional song requests $1 each

Come for a great night out in the community singing karaoke and enjoying a potluck dinner. Our last quarterly Community Karaoke and potluck party night for 2019 is the perfect time for you to show off your vocal talents, or at least enjoy your favorite songs and holiday carols to sing in either English or Japanese. Be sure to bring a dish, snacks or beverages to share for the potluck! Participants are encouraged to drink responsibly. Grab your friends for a fun night of singing and camaraderie at the Center.

Winter Kaiseki Cooking Workshop
Saturday, December 14, noon–3 p.m.
Cost: $45 M | $55 NM

Our quarterly kaiseki cooking workshops feature seasonal menus of traditional multi-course dishes that reflect the fresh ingredients, colors and flavors of each season. Enjoy a delightful and elegant ensemble of dishes that are light and healthy too. Taught by husband and wife Larry Sokyo Tiscornia and Kimika Soko Takechi, the workshop is mostly demonstration with participants putting on finishing touches and plating. Please check our website for more information on the Winter Kaiseki Cooking workshop tasting menu as the workshop date approaches.

Recipes From Bachan’s Kitchen with Bachan’s Japanese BBQ Sauce
Saturday, January 25 noon–3 p.m.
Price: TBD
Register Online: Check the Center’s website as the date approaches or e-mail programsevents@jccnc.org

We’re excited to bring you a multi-generational cooking workshop with Sebastopol-based entrepreneur Justin Gill and his bachan, Judy Yokoyama, featuring his new product, Bachan’s Japanese BBQ Sauce. The teriyaki sauce was developed directly from his bachan’s recipe, and Justin will share with us the stories behind the teriyaki sauce, from the family meals lovingly prepared by his bachan, to the process of developing and releasing the product using non-GMO certified and authentic Japanese ingredients. Participants will then enjoy a lunch menu of three dishes that use Bachan’s sauce. Registration will include one bottle of sauce to take home and enjoy. To find out more about Bachan’s Japanese BBQ Sauce, visit their website at: www.bachans.com.

Cooking with Umeboshi Workshop with Nakata Foods
Friday, January 17 (tentative), 6–9 p.m.
Cost: TBD
Register: Check the Center’s website as the date approaches or e-mail programsevents@jccnc.org

Ume, Japanese sour plums, is a classic flavor and has been part of Japanese culture for over 1,300 years. We will be joined by Nakata Foods, Japan’s number one producer of ume and related products, to learn about how ume is produced as well as a few innovative ways you can use ume flavoring in your cooking beyond an accent flavor to go with your bowl of gohan or your onigiri. Founded in 1897 in Tanabe, Wakayama Prefecture, Nakata Foods is based in one of Japan’s top ume-producing areas. Workshop menu: Chicken breast and umeboshi bruschetta, ume jako pasta, ume simmered saba (mackerel).
Na Leo: Holiday Concert
Saturday, December 21 | 4 p.m.

With over 20 #1 hits, two national top 25 songs, over 24 CDs and worldwide distribution, Na Leo continues to write, record, and perform for its fans, including several recent tours in Japan, California, and throughout Hawaii. Na Leo is the most recognized music group from the islands with styles ranging from Hawaiian contemporary to pop ballads.

Over the course of their career, the Hawaii Academy of Recording Arts has recognized Na Leo with 23 Na Hoku Hanohano Awards (Hawaii’s equivalent to the Grammy), including Song of the Year four times, with their hits: “Saving Forever,” “Flying With Angels,” “Rest Of Your Life,” and their international hit, “I Miss You Hawaii” as well as Album of the Year and Group of the Year. Earlier this year, Na Leo won Contemporary Album of the Year for “Beautiful Day.”

Spend this holiday season with Na Leo and invite your friends and family to share the warm sounds of aloha.

$110 VIP PACKAGE/$95 Members (includes preferred seating and post-concert VIP reception hosted by Chef Les Tomita of Da Kitchen)
$65 General Admission/$50 Members (concert only)

Call (415) 567-5505 or visit bit.ly/naleo2016 for tickets.

Welcome back Chef Les!

Owned by Les Tomita, Da Kitchen of Maui is well known for its creative diverse cuisine with an emphasis on traditional Hawaiian food. The menu incorporates both traditional classic Local and Hawaiian favorites, which is inspired by the different ethnic groups established in the islands of Hawaii. Da Kitchen was honored to cook at the Inaugural Luau in Washington D.C. during the Election of President Obama and has been featured on The Food Network Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives, and the Travel Channel Bizarre Food Show and Man v. Food. Da Kitchen was also acknowledged as Restaurant Award Winner of the prestigious Ilima Award, Hale Aina Award and Aipono Award.
The Center's First Hidden Treasures Sale — A Great Success!

We want to thank all of the Center’s Members and other shoppers who visited and shopped at the Center’s first Hidden Treasures Sale on October 20.

Since this is a brand new event, we really didn’t know if we would have enough donated items to sell and whether there would be an interest in attending, but as word spread closer to the event, generous donors called to ask us to pick up items or simply dropped them off to us wishing for success.

Before the doors opened there was a crowd of eager shoppers looking for great bargains.

As we spent the previous day pricing and displaying the items, we could feel the history and tradition of Japan unveiling itself in every plate or bowl we unwrapped. Thank you, donors, for entrusting us to find new homes for your treasures.

One of our volunteers, Marcia Kawabata, said it best: “While I was wrapping up the items people were buying, I noticed that each one of the customers had a smile on their face. They were going home with something that probably reminded them of their own childhood and will be deeply treasured.”

Thank you everyone for making this a successful event.

Special thank you to our donors and volunteers:

**Donors**
- Fumi Fukuda, Liane Yanase,
- Wendy Tokuda, Judy Hamaguchi,
- Donna Kotake, Vi Yuen, Tondo Family,
- Kato Family, Osaki Family,
- Matsuda Family, Omori Family,
- Jaye Ann Ito, Jennifer Hamamoto,
- Rick Matsuno, and
- Trust of Jerome Fisherman

**Volunteers**
- Judy Hamaguchi, Nancy Satoda,
- Marcia Kawabata, Sharon Umene,
- Jack Wong, Donna Kotake, Steve Omori
- and Kelly Yuka Walton
A New Era for Japan 令和

On May 1, 2019, Japan entered a new era when Prince Naruhito ascended to the throne to become the country’s 126th Emperor of Japan.

This new era is called REIWA, and is written with two kanji characters symbolizing auspiciousness and harmony. Because kanji characters can be read in many different ways, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has officially translated this era to mean “Beautiful Harmony” in English.

REIWA is based on a poem from the Manyoshu, Japan’s oldest collection of ancient poems dating back to the 7th century.

On October 22, 2019, an enthronement ceremony called Sokuirei Seiden no Gi took place in Tokyo where Emperor Naruhito proclaimed his enthronement in a ceremony attended by dignitaries from over 200 countries. To further promote the celebration, the Emperor rode with Empress Masako in an open top car through central Tokyo on November 11 where thousands of people waited many hours to cheer on the new era.

Japan is the only country in the world that utilizes both the Seiriki (Gregorian calendar) and the Gengo — a method used to count years by the Emperor’s imperial reign. Many people use both calendars interchangeably, and unique personality traits can be attributed to a person based on the Gengo Era in which they were raised.

Many Japanese Americans can trace their Issei ancestors’ immigration to the US during the Meiji Era (1868-1912). Meiji people, particularly Meiji (Issei) women, are often remembered for their resilience in the face of hardship, their ability to persevere any challenge for the good of their family and community, and their adaptability to the new environment they faced despite physical, economic and social discrimination.

Recent Eras of Japan
Meiji 1868-1912
Taisho 1912-1926
Showa 1926-1989
Heisei 1989-2019
Reiwa 2019
2019 Spring
Annual Support Drive Donors

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to our donors for the Spring Annual Support Drive Elevator Campaign. Donations for a new elevator will help to ensure that our facility remains fully accessible to individuals who cannot use the stairs to come visit our offices, attend our events, and participate in programs and activities offered at the Center. Throughout the years, donors like you have helped us touch and change the lives of five generations and ensure we remain a second home for all who walk through our doors. Donations toward our Spring Annual Support Drive received from February 1 – July 31, 2019 are listed below.

Platinum Crane Level  
$5,000+
Mr. Dale Spink and Ms. Nancy K. Nakai
Mrs. Violet Tanaka

Gold Crane Level  
$1,000 – $4,999
Anonymous
Ms. Mutsuko Arima
Mr. Steven and Mrs. Charlotte Doi
Dr. James and Mrs. Cynthia Hayashi
Mr. Keith and Mrs. Priscilla Kojimoto
Mrs. Margaret Kusaba
Mrs. Esther Marks
Mr. Kazuo Maruoka
Mr. Scott and Mrs. Sandra Nakamura
Mr. Bobby Nakata
Ms. Janet Ninomiya
Dr. Quintus Sakai
Mr. Robert and Dr. Alicia Sakai
Ms. Marumi Suyeyesu
Mrs. Hideko Takeshita
Dr. Reiko True
Mr. John and Mrs. Marge Tsukamoto
Dr. Himeo Tsumori
Ms. Marcella Yano

Silver Crane Level  
$500 – $999
Mr. Kazuo Abey
Ms. Keiko Akashi
Mr. Bradley Yee and
Ms. Joyce Ashizawa-Yee
Benkyodo Company
Mr. Leland and Mrs. Eleanor Dong
Ms. Kiki Goforth
Ms. Laurie Hane
Ms. Rose Hane
Mr. Brian and Mrs. Lyn Hirahara
Mr. Christopher Hirano and
Ms. Chiyomi Kuroki-Hirano on behalf of Adobe Systems Incorporated
Japanese Sword Club of Northern California
Mr. Hiroshi and Mrs. Sadako Kashiwagi
Ms. Sachiko Kjerbo
Mr. Gerald and Mrs. Gail Nanbu
Mrs. Mickie Ochi
Ms. Rose Oda
Mr. Myron Okada and Ms. Lynne Ogawa
Mr. Roy S. Okuno
Mr. Gordon and Mrs. Kaeko Park-Li
Mr. Giichi and Mrs. Nancy Sakurai
Mrs. Yone Shintaku
Mrs. Yoko Sumida
Ms. Lorraine Suzuki
Ms. JB Yee
Mr. Toby and Mrs. Tomoko Yeh

Emerald Crane Level  
$250 – $499
Dr. Leslie Chatham
Mr. Steven and Mrs. Mae Gotanda
Mr. Kenneth and Mrs. Yoshiko Ho
Ms. Christine R. Iwanaga
Mr. Thomas Kawakami
Mrs. Kikue Kiyasu
Mr. George Kobayashi
Mr. John and Mrs. Ruby Kobayashi
Mr. John and Mrs. Shannon Mandel
Ms. Cynthia Miyashita
Mr. Roy and Mrs. Karen Okuhara
Mrs. Kay Onishi
Ms. Teresa Ono
Mr. George and Mrs. Doris Sasaki
Mr. Charles Kagay and Ms. Teresa Serata
Ms. Lia Shigemura and Ms. Helen Zia
Mr. George Shimizu
Dr. Dennis and Mrs. Wendy Shinbori
Mr. David and Mrs. Teruko Turner
Ms. Joyce S. Wong
Mr. Nelson Dong and Ms. Diane Y. Wong
Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Hatsby Yasukochi
Dr. Craig Yonemura and
Mrs. Pamela K. Matsuda-Yonemura
Mr. Robert and Mrs. Susan Yoshioka
Mr. Michael Yui

Ruby Crane Level  
$100 – $249
Ms. Karen Aizawa
Mrs. Sumiko Akashi
Dr. Alaric and Mrs. Pauline Akashi
(on behalf of NJAHS)
Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Akiko Arikawa
Mr. Mike Lem and Ms. Cathy Y. Arima
Ms. Atsuko Awaya
Mr. Jim Carmack
Mr. Harold Chan
Mr. Wayne and Mrs. May Chung
Mr. Warren Doo
Ms. Michiko Fu
Ms. Susan Fujiki and Ms. Lynn Tokumine
Mr. Hiroshi and Mrs. Janice Fukuda
Mr. Koichi Fukuda
Ms. Kazuko Fukumoto
Mrs. Alyce Furuya
Mrs. Gail H. Gee
Mr. Craig and Mrs. Lyn Hamakawa
Ms. Amy Hamamoto
Mr. Masao and Mrs. Setsuko Handa
Mr. Roy D. Hardy
Mr. Masaru and Mrs. Marcia Hashimoto
Dr. Eddie K. Hayashida
Mr. Wayne and Mrs. Christine Hiroshima
Mr. Dan and Mrs. Jan Honma
Mrs. Kazue Ihara
Ms. Mary H. Ikenaga
Mr. Masahiko and Mrs. Kazuye Ikuma
Mr. Daro Inouye
Mrs. Naoko Ito
Ms. Miyako Kadogawa
Mrs. Akiko Kagami
Ms. Kathleen Kamei
Mr. Kenneth Kawabata
Reverend Masato and
Mrs. Alice Kawahatsu
Mr. David Kawano and Ms. Diane Tong
Ms. Jinny Kim
Mr. Todd Kimoto
Mr. Russell and Mrs. Harumi Kishida
Ms. Kayoko Kishida
Ms. Kathy Kojimoto
Mr. Thomas and Mrs. June Konno
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Mr. Frank and Mrs. Yoko Lum
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Ms. Sandi Matoba
Ms. Helen Matoi
Mr. Jeffery Matsuoka and
Ms. Akemi Takagi
Mr. Tosh Mitsuda
Ms. Ella Miyamoto
Mrs. Sachiko Mizuhara
Ms. Doris Mizuiri
Ms. Diane Nagura
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Ms. Haruko Nakamoto
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Mr. Larry Martinez and Ms. Vera Poon
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Mr. Don and Mrs. Ada Sadler
Mr. Hiroshi Sakamoto
Mr. David and Mrs. Cindi Sasaki
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Mr. Takeo Shirasawa
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Ms. Matty Taka-Allen
Mr. Ko and Mrs. Hisako Takemoto
Mr. Ben and Mrs. Fumiko Takehita
Ms. Atsuko Takeshita
Mr. Teruo Takeya
Mr. John Norheim and
Ms. Wendy Tokuda
Mr. Kenji and Mrs. Mary Tomita
Mr. Sherman Gee and Ms. Jeanette Wong
Mr. Edmond Wong
Mr. Tim and Mrs. Jo Ann O. Wong
Mrs. Karen Wong-Lee
Mr. Ken and Mrs. Nancy Y. Woo
Ms. Ethel Woong
Mr. William and Mrs. Irene M. Wu
Mr. Kahn Yamada
Mr. Wayne and Mrs. Anna Yamaguchi
Mr. Douglas and Mrs. Betty Yamamoto
Mr. Gary and Mrs. Karen Yamamoto
Mr. Michael Yamashita
Mrs. Chitose Chibi Yasumoto
Mr. Benjamin and Mrs. Candace Yee
Mr. Peter and Mrs. Ayako Yee
Ms. Misako Yoshinaga
Ms. Audrey Yu

Donors
$1 - $99

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Ms. Chidori Hoy
Ms. Vivian Ikeda
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Ms. Sumika Kawamura
Mr. John Kozik
Mr. Kenneth and Mrs. Ann Lew
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Mrs. Alice Nakahata
Ms. Kim Nakamura
Mr. Samuel Nukazawa
Ms. Jacqueline Octavio
Ms. Harua Oda
Mrs. Misao Otsuki*°
Ms. Nancy F. Ozaki
Mr. Robert and Mrs. Momoe Sasaki
Mr. Kentaro and Mrs. Kiyomi Takeda
Ms. Louise Takeuchi
Ms. Denise Teraoka
Mr. Ken and Mrs. Mary Tsuboi
Mr. Jimmy and Mrs. Caroline Wong
Ms. Wendi Yamanaka
Ms. Liane Yanase
Mrs. Tamiko Yasuhara
Mr. Jim and Mrs. Lynn Yonashiro

° deceased
Honoring the Special People in Our Lives

2019 Spring Annual Support Drive Tribute Gifts

We all know of individuals who have made a lasting impact on our lives and the lives of others. We are honored that the following donors have chosen the Center to recognize them. In this edition, we would like to recognize our Spring Annual Support Drive donors who have made contributions to the Center in memory or in honor of someone special. We thank you for honoring and remembering those who have helped to make our community so special. Donations received toward our Spring Annual Support Drive Elevator Campaign from February 1 – July 31, 2019 are listed below.

IN MEMORY OF

JEAN ABEY
Mr. Kazuo Abey®, $500

JEFF ADACHI
Mr. Daro Inouye, $200
Mr. Paul Osaki, $100

RIICHI AND SUZU ASHIZAWA
Ms. Joyce Ashizawa-Yee and Mr. Bradley Yee, $500

ATSUKO FUKUYAMA
Dr. Leslie Chatham, $250

TERRIE FURUTA — 1 YEAR ANNIVERSARY
Mr. David and Mrs. Cindi Sasaki, $100

YAS FURUYA
Mrs. Alyce Furuya, $100

YO HIRONAKA
Mr. Wayne and Mrs. Christine Hiroshima, $200

MICHIKO HORIO
Ms. Janet Ninomiya, $1,000

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

GEORGE AND TAE IKENAGA
Ms. Mary H. Ikenaga, $100

PETE ITO
Mrs. Naoko Ito, $100

GRACE KASE
Mr. Paul Osaki, $200
Mrs. Sumiko Akashi, $100
Dr. Alaric and Mrs. Pauline Akashi on behalf of NJAHS, $100

AL Y. KIMOTO
Mr. Todd Kimoto, $100

KOJIMOTO AND HARA FAMILIES
Ms. Kathy Kojimoto, $100

SADAME AND MITS KOJIMOTO
Ms. Kathy Kojimoto, $100

HISAKO KUROKI
Mr. Christopher Hirano and Ms. Chiyomi Kuroki-Hirano, $990

GEORGE KUSABA AND SUZANNE KUSABA YAMAMOTO
Mrs. Margaret Kusaba, $1,000

JOHN, PAULINE, AND MICH LUM
Ms. Rochelle Lum, $150

AL AND SHIGE MAMIYA
Mr. Scott and Mrs. Kimberly Mamiya, $100

IWAKO AND SUZUKO MINATO
Ms. Christine R. Iwanaga, $250

HARRY AND FLORENCE NAKAMURA
Mr. Scott and Mrs. Sandra Nakamura, $1,000
Ms. Sharen Langewisch, $100

SATOYO NAKAO
Mr. Henry Nakao, $100

JEAN FUMIKO OGI
Mr. Don and Mrs. Ada Sadler, $200

MARGRET SADA
Mr. Gary Sada, $200

CAROLYN A. SATO
Mr. Hiroshi and Mrs. Janice Fukuda, $100

HARRY K. SHIN
Mrs. Mary Shin, $100

TATSUO C. SUMIDA
Mrs. Yoko Sumida, $500

YASUO TAKESHITA
Mrs. Hideko Takeshita, $1,000
Mr. Toby and Mrs. Tomo Yeh, $500

YAE YOSHIFUJI TONDO
Ms. Susan Fujiki and Ms. Lynn Tokumine, $100
Mr. Tosh Mitsuda, $100
Our Donors

Ms. Sharen Langewisch, $50
Mrs. Misao Otsuki*, $50
Ms. Marcia Kawabata, $25

John Yasumoto
Mrs. Chitose Chibi Yasumoto, $100

Bo Yoshimura
Mrs. Naoko Ito, $100
* deceased

In Honor Of

Eiko Aoki
Ms. Denise Teraoka, $25

Marjorie Fletcher
Mrs. Nanami Naito, $100
Dr. Linda Oda, $100

Jcccnc Board
Ms. Teresa Ono, $125

Jcccnc Staff
Ms. Teresa Ono, $125

Alan Kitashima
Mr. Wayne and Mrs. May Chung, $100
Mrs. Karen Wong-Lee, $100

Paul Osaki
Ms. Diane Y. Wong and Mr. Nelson Dong, $250
Mr. Masaru and Mrs. Marcia Hashimoto, $100

Eleanor and Jerry Osumi
Ms. Denise Teraoka, $25

Henry and Adelina Serata
Mr. Charles Kagay and Ms. Teresa Serata, $250

Himari Takeda
Mr. Kentaro and Mrs. Kiyomi Takeda, $50

Hideko Takeshita
Ms. Atsuko Takeshita, $100

Kyle Tatsumoto
Ms. Wendy Tokuda and Mr. John Norheim, $100

Thanks for the Lift!

A Big Arigato to all the Donors of our New Elevator Campaign!

Since the building first opened in 1986, our current elevator has provided a lift to tens of thousands of Issei, Nisei and young mothers with baby strollers. It also allowed the Center to be fully accessible to individuals who cannot use the stairs to visit our offices, the Nisei Community Hall and Gymnasium and participate in programs, activities and events offered at the Center. However, its useful life cycle has come to an end.

For those of you who use our elevator, you probably have noticed yellow caution tape in front of its door from time to time. Last year alone we paid over $8,300 in repair costs. We had hoped those repairs would extend its use for another few years. Unfortunately, that is not the case.

The Center is eternally grateful to the many donors of our Spring Annual Support Drive and a generous grant from the KT Foundation established by the late Grace Kase and her husband Harry Tsujimoto in the amount of $129,000. Together we were able to accomplish our fundraising goal!

As we mentioned in our last newsletter Grace was a constant figure at the Center’s mah jong club. In 2013, she also created the Kase Nikkei Community Scholarship Intern Program and donated $50,000 for our solar panels, which supply enough energy for half the facility.

In recognition of the generosity of our donors, gifts of $100 or more will be listed inside the current elevator until the new one is built and installed through the end of 2020.
Community and Memorial Gifts

A special thanks to those who remember the Center when making donations. We would like to recognize unsolicited community gifts, and are especially grateful to the family members who designate the Center as the recipient of their loved one’s koden — the Japanese practice of presenting a monetary gift to the bereaved family on the passing of someone — or give a gift in memory of a loved one. These unsolicited gifts remind us how important the Center is to those in the community and appreciate the work that we do — whether it is a place for them to socialize with friends, share cultural traditions with their children or grandchildren or just be the place where they feel comfortable coming to in the community. We thank you for thinking us and allowing us to share in remembering that special someone. Gifts received from January 1-October 31, 2019 are listed below.

In Memory of **JEAN ABEY**
Mrs. Nanami Naito, $25

In Memory of **KAZ ABEY**
Mrs. Jennifer and Mr. Ted Yamagishi, $100

In Memory of **JEFF ADACHI**
Mrs. Eunice Kaneko, $200
Ms. Marilyn C. Oshiro, $100
Mrs. Joan and Mr. Henry Nishikawa, $100
Mr. Alan and Mrs. Sylvia Kitashima, $100
Mrs. Nanami Naito, $50
Mr. Kaz and Mrs. Cindy Nakamoto, $50
Ms. Renee Renouf-Hall, $25

In Memory of **WARREN EIJIMA**
Mr. Warren Eijima Family, $100
Ms. Lori Matoba and Mr. Jeff Wun, $50
Ms. Teresa Ono, $30
Ms. Jennifer Hamamoto and Mr. Phil Owyoung, $25
Mrs. Arly N. Fong, $25

In Memory of **ADELYN J. FUKUDA**
Mr. Thomas and Mrs. June Sugihara, $150
Ms. Lori Matoba and Mr. Jeff Wun, $30
Ms. Diane Matsuda, $30
Mrs. Nanami Naito, $25

In Memory of **TERRIE TERUKO FURUTA**
Mr. Shig Furuta, $100
Mr. David and Mrs. Cindi Sasaki, $100
Ms. Diane Matsuda, $50
Mrs. Nanami Naito, $25

In Memory of **SUMI HONNAMI**
Ms. Patricia K. Wada, $25

In Memory of **MISAO INABA**
Ms. Teresa Ono, $75
Ms. Lori Matoba and Mr. Jeff Wun, $30

In Memory of **MAS B. ISHIKAWA**
Ms. Yoneko Higashigawa, $25

In Memory of **DAISY KARGANILLA**
Ms. Yoneko Higashigawa, $25

In Memory of **RICARDO “COACH RICK” GUERRERO**
Guerrero Family, $500
Ms. Marilyn C. Oshiro, $50
Mr. Kaz and Mrs. Cindy Nakamoto, $50
Dr. David L. Walton and Ms. Machiko Nakatani, $40

In Memory of **BILL HIROSE**
Mr. Will and Mrs. Myrna Tsukamoto, $50

In Memory of **TSUYU HIURA**
Ms. Lori Matoba and Mr. Jeff Wun, $50
Mrs. Teresa Ono, $50

In Memory of **G. KASE**
Mr. Bruce Iwafuchi, $200
Mr. Lloyd and Mrs. Naomi Hiura, $100
Dr. Jon and Mrs. Ema Hiura, $100
Mrs. Violet Tanaka, $100
Mr. Saburo and Mrs. Lucille Fukuda, $50
Ms. Lori Matoba and Mr. Jeff Wun, $50
Mrs. Marjorie Fletcher, $25
In Memory of **Fusaye Kato**
Mr. Mark and Mrs. Amy Liew, $200
Mr. David Yada, $200
Ms. Millie Hamada, $200
Ms. Cynthia Hamada, $100
Mr. Rick Wada, $100
Mr. Ryan Iwasa, $100
Ms. Marsha Hamamoto, $100
Mr. Jim and Mrs. Darlene Masamori, $100
Mr. Paul Osaki, $100
Mr. Dave and Mrs. Lisa Romano, $51
Mr. Shoji and
Mrs. Kazuko Akutagawa, $50
Mr. Bill and Mrs. Leng Cheung, $50
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Ms. Carrie Lee, $50
Mr. Kaz and Mrs. Cindy Nakamoto, $50
Mr. Steve and Ms. Blossom Smith, $50
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Ms. Teresa Ono, $50
Mr. Eddie Wong and
Ms. Donna L. Kotake, $40
Ms. Millie Yee, $40
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Mr. Wayne Sandlin, $20
Mr. Gene and Mrs. Susan Wong, $20

In Memory of **Noby Matsui**
Mr. Will and Mrs. Myrna Tsukamoto, $250

In Memory of **Tats Nagase**
Ms. Lori Matoba and Mr. Jeff Wun, $30

In Memory of **Hideko Nakajima**
Ms. Lori Matoba and Mr. Jeff Wun, $50

In Memory of **Richard Nishikawa**
Mrs. Violet Tanaka, $100

In Memory of **Jean Ogi**
Ogi Family, $400
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Ms. Tomiko Edmiston, $50
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Mrs. Michelle Nakashima, $50
Mr. York and Mrs. Julie So, $50
Mr. Bernard and Mrs. Emi Tom, $50
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Ms. Sharon Umene, $25

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Mr. Paul Osaki, $100
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Mr. Kenneth and Mrs. Yoshiko Ho, $50

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In Memory of **Misako Sumida**
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Ms. Lucille Owyoung Chin and Family, $500
Mr. Sterling and Mrs. Sharon Sakai, $350
Ms. Karen Boyden and Family, $300

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Community and Memorial Gifts continued from page 29

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Ms. Patricia K. Wada, $100
In Memory of PETER K. YAMAMOTO
Ms. Patricia K. Wada, $25
In Memory of SAM YAMAUCHI
Mr. Will and Mrs. Myrna Tsukamoto, $50
In Memory of URIKO YOKOTA
Mr. Will and Mrs. Myrna Tsukamoto, $50
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Oshogatsu Matsuri
Saturday, January 4, 2020
11:00am-3:00pm
@ the Center

Free to the Public
Cultural arts and crafts
Mochitsuki
Entertainment
Food
Children’s Art Contest

Happy New Year