Commitment to a Vision

Fifty years ago, when the vision of building the Center was born, and to make the dream a reality, the Center had to undergo the largest fundraising campaign in the history of the community.

In 1980, the estimated cost to build the Center was approximately 3 million dollars. To give you an idea of what a monumental task that was, it would be roughly 11 million dollars in today’s dollars. The Vision 80’s and Capital Ownership Campaign Drives to build and own the Center lasted 16 long years. It was an endearing community fundraising effort that took dedication, tremendous work and a commitment to a vision.

Raising capital donations can be daunting when so much money is needed to construct a building. And asking someone for a substantial donation is one of the most difficult things in Japanese American culture. It ranks right up there next to expressing emotions and affection or running for political office.

When construction began in 1985, the Center still needed to raise over a million dollars to complete the capital campaign, so we needed to take out a construction loan and mortgage. Being a new nonprofit organization with no collateral or guarantee to repay it, none of the Japanese banks could take on the debt or wanted to be faced with a possible foreclosure of the community center.

Several Nisei and some churches secured the construction loan with their own assets.

By the time we finished paying off the mortgage in 1996, with the increase in construction costs between 1980–1990 when the Nisei Hall/Gymnasium was finally completed, the total building cost was over 4 million dollars.

Only a few people know the personal risk some dedicated Nisei took to build the Center. I only found out when I went to the bank to finalize the paperwork to pay off the mortgage, and the individual contracts to secure the loan were given to me. I don’t think their Sansei children knew what they did.

I wonder if today’s community would undertake such a colossal fundraising campaign with the same commitment and dedication as the Nisei generation. I want to think so.

The commitment to the vision to build the Center was a dream of the Nisei. There were some very dedicated Sansei and others from the community, but this Center would not exist without the unwavering support and large donations from the Nisei. They envisioned what we enjoy and benefit from today. Unfortunately, many are not around to celebrate our golden anniversary, but many didn’t expect to be. They didn’t build the Center for themselves; instead, their dream was to build it for all of us and pass their vision to the next generations of our community. In honor of their devotion, the theme for our 50th Anniversary is “Celebrating Generations.” Their commitment to a vision is now for us to carry on.

Paul Osaki
Executive Director
Save the dates for two very special shows celebrating the heart and soul of the Japanese American community: the Nisei. As part of the Center’s 50th Anniversary events, we are proud to partner with the Grateful Crane Ensemble to pay tribute to and thank the Nisei across Northern California who gave and continue to give generous and significant support to the Center. This Bay Area and Central Coast tour includes Berkeley, San Francisco, San Jose and Watsonville.

The Center would not be celebrating its 50th anniversary without the support of the Nisei generation from throughout the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond. The Nisei tribute tour is an opportunity for the Center, with the Grateful Crane Ensemble, to thank our greatest generation ever! Over 80% of the Center’s capital campaign donations came from the Nisei, especially Henri and Tomoye Takahashi. The Nisei’s annual support of the Center has allowed us to continue to fulfill our mission,” said Paul Osaki, Executive Director.

“Sentimental Journey” will feature hit songs from the ’40s and ’50s that defined the Nisei experience. “Nihonmachi: The Place to Be” is the acclaimed and nostalgic musical journey of a family-owned manju shop through the generations. Thank you to Soji Kashiwagi and the Grateful Crane Ensemble for bringing these stories and history to life! Save the date for a special gathering and a sentimental journey back in time.

Support provided by The Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation and the San Francisco Japantown Foundation.
Fifty Years in the Life of the Center

Relive the milestones that made the JCCNC an invaluable part of the Japanese American community and Nikkei experience. From pivotal meetings to major community events to a long-standing friendship with Japan, these are the moments that have shaped the last 50 years of the Center. We thank you for being a part of so many of these special, historical moments.

Clockwise from the top: The Center’s 1984 groundbreaking; Former Mayor Dianne Feinstein, Vision 80’s Campaign Chair, with Board Member Yo Hironaka; Norman Mineta delivers a speech at “Sharing Gifts, Sharing Lives; Early construction of the Center

1960s

As developed by the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, the Nihonmachi Master Plan mandates providing land for a community center. The plan, administered by the Nihonmachi Community Development Corporation (NCDC), comprised of Japantown property owners, business owners and residents. Geary Street is eventually demolished.

1971

Mandated by the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency’s Nihonmachi Master Plan, construction of a community center in Japantown was approved at community meetings. The Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California was the chosen name of the future facility.
The first town hall meeting convened on March 21 at the Bank of Tokyo (presently Union Bank of California), hospitality room to discuss the planned community center. Attended by 60 community representatives and individuals, Ms. Michi Onuma moves that “we build the community center.” It was unanimously carried.

Mr. Takeo Okamoto elected as first Board President. Proposed annual membership dues: $10. Seniors and students: $5

1972
The first newsletter printed.

1973
The JCCNC is incorporated as a 501c3 nonprofit organization, with a diverse representative 51-member Board of Directors made up of community leaders across all facets of Japantown. The first Board’s focus was to create a structure of governance, securing a site and planning fundraising activities.

1974
1840 Sutter Street was secured by the Nihonmachi Community Development Corporation as the future site of the JCCNC.

1979
JCCNC membership grows to 1200 members.

1980
Over $1 million raised to date through grassroots fundraising, public and private contributions and individual giving. First fundraising dinner “Sharing Gifts...Sharing Lives” was held at the Miyako Hotel and attended by 299 community supporters including guest speaker, Norman Mineta.

1981
Wayne Osaki was selected as project architect for the Center, Wes Nihei was hired as the first JCCNC staff and Edith Tanaka elected Board President.

1982
The $3 million capital campaign, the “Vision 80s,” was kicked off and led by then-Mayor Dianne Feinstein and Yori Wada.

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1984
The JCCCNC’s groundbreaking ceremony was held on October 5.

1986
Construction on the first phase of the building is completed. The Center officially opened its doors to the community in May, with Charlie Morimoto as the first Executive Director. Tenants of the building include Kimochi Inc., Japanese Community Youth Council, Nihonmachi Legal Outreach, Nobiru-kai Newcomer Services, Japantown Arts and Media and Theater of Yugen. The building was already bringing together many different Japanese American community organizations under one roof.

1988
The Ownership Fund Campaign and Phase II construction of the gymnasium/Nisei Community Hall began. Paul Osaki is hired as the first Program Director. The Center began offering classes in ballroom dance, children’s dance, shiatsu, Japanese doll making and karate. The space became much more than just office space when the first programs were offered, serving the broader community.

1990
Paul Osaki is hired as Executive Director. The second phase of the Center was completed and an open house was held to showcase the Nisei Community Hall.

1992
During U.S.-Japan trade tensions, hate crimes against Japanese Americans increased 400%. The Center brought a community delegation to Japan to meet with Japanese leaders. Jesse Jackson visited the Center to speak on the issue and ease anxieties. The first annual Kodomo no Hi: Children’s Day Festival was held.

1994
The Emperor and Empress of Japan’s historic tour of the U.S. included a visit to the Center.
1995
The Great Hanshin Earthquake struck Osaka-Kobe. The Center raised over $600,000 in direct relief funds for victims of the tragedy.

1996
The Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation’s gift of $500,000 to the Ownership Fund Campaign retired the Center’s mortgage.

1997
In celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Sister City relationship between San Francisco and Osaka, the Center led over 300 business, civic, community leaders and youth to Japan as ambassadors, further strengthening ties between the two countries. The Shinzen Nikkei Youth Goodwill Program begins, a cross-cultural exchange program promoting the values of fair play and competition while fostering ties between the Japanese and Japanese American communities.

1998
Community development activities led to greater involvement in neighborhood issues, which included preserving the YWCA building and Japantown Bowl for community use and providing affordable programs for residents of the Golden Gate Apartments.

The first statewide organization of Japanese American nonprofit groups was formed: California Japanese American Community Leadership Council.

The Center celebrates its 25th anniversary with a banquet at the Fairmont Hotel. Approximately 650 attendees honor the key founders of the organization.

1999

2000
The Center hosted the Nikkei 2000 Conference, the first national gathering of Japanese Americans, with the goal of discussing the community’s future. More than 500 attendees came to the Conference, including participants from Japan and Latin America.

Continued on page 8
The Center Timeline  continued from page 8

2001
Generations: A Japanese American Community Portrait is published

From Our Side of the Fence: Growing Up in America’s Concentration Camps is produced by the Center and published by Kearny Street Workshop.

Soko Arts Festival, a multi-disciplinary arts performance, is initiated in response to the need for artist and community collaborations in Japantown.

2002
The first Japanese American Cultural Centers Summit convened.

2003
The Center celebrated its 30th year in the community and hosted a free open house for the general public.

2005
“Notice to All: The California Civil Liberties Public Education Program Conference on the Internment of Japanese Americans” brought together 500 attendees and was organized by the Center, which also coordinated the California Nisei Diploma Project, culminating with a commencement ceremony for 20 Nisei.

2006
The Center was the lead organization for the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of San Francisco’s Japantown. The Center hosted cultural workshops and presented the world premiere of the Grateful Crane’s “Nihonmachi: The Place to Be.”

The Center celebrated the 10th Anniversary of the Shinzen USA Nikkei Youth Goodwill Program.

The Japantown History Walk, a permanent educational public display featuring historical and culturally significant landmarks in the community spearheaded by the Center, is unveiled. The 16 interpretive signs along the approximately 10-block route share in detail the struggles and successes of the Japanese Issei who established a community and the Japanese American Nisei and Sansei who uphold the Issei vision. The permanent displays help educate and share the rich history of San Francisco’s Japantown for future generations to carry on the vision.

top to bottom: Save Japantown Bowl rally at SF City Hall; Cultural Tour to Hokkaido; Installation of a Preserve America sign in Japantown
2007
The Center led 300+ ambassadors to Japan to celebrate the S.F.-Osaka 50th anniversary and included youth, families, culinary experts, city officials and community members; hosted a delegation from Osaka to discuss future collaborations; and spearheaded the “Go Green” campaign to install solar paneling on the roof along with PG&E, making it the first non-profit with solar panels in San Francisco.

Programs grew to over 80 ongoing classes, workshops and special events and a record high 185,000 are served through their participation in Center programs and facility usage annually.

2008
The Center celebrated its 35th Anniversary and honored its Executive Director, Paul Osaki, for his 20 years of vision and leadership. The Center coordinated the youth-initiated and led Nikkei Family Legacy Project, "Reel Nikkei," to document family histories using digital media.

In November, the White House officially recognized San Francisco’s Japantown as a Preserve America neighborhood, the first neighborhood in San Francisco to be awarded such a designation. Eight Preserve America signs were placed by the City of San Francisco around Japantown to designate and promote Japantown as a cultural heritage tourism site.

2009
"Mottainai" campaign kicks off, encouraging the reduction of printed waste.

The Center coordinated the Nisei College Diploma Project which assisted schools in honoring Nisei who were unable to receive their college diploma during WWII due to E.O. 9066 and hosted more than 600 guests at its Tabemasho event, which celebrated the 140th anniversary of Japanese food in America and local family-owned businesses.

2010
The Center hosted enka star, Jero, in his first West Coast concert.

The CA Nisei “Dreams Finally Realized” project was implemented by interns who interviewed Nisei graduates and documented their stories.

“Tabemasho: From Generation to Generation” honored California rice pioneer George Okamoto, Sr. and Nomura and Co. for their longtime contributions to the community.

The Center hosted a Cultural Tour to the Hokkaido Snow Festival.

Continued on page 10
The Northern Japan Earthquake Relief Fund was established on March 11 to aid the victims and survivors of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. The relief fund brought in more than $4 million dollars, making it the largest Japanese American community-based relief fund in the United States.

The Center launched the Takahashi Youth Ambassador Fellowship Program, a high school U.S.-Japan leadership program funded by The Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation to foster global responsibility and civic involvement.

After a year of researching, organizing and documenting family histories, nearly 30 participants completed the Nikkei Family Legacy Project with an exhibition and book presentation of their family stories.

Funded by G. Kase, the Kase Nikkei Community Scholarship Program was developed and launched in 2013, providing financial support for students who are pursuing their college education and an opportunity to obtain experience supporting the work of various Japanese American community nonprofit organizations. Their participation in an eight-week community internship program and a nine-month part-time career internship is intended to increase their understanding of contemporary social, cultural, civic and preservation issues affecting the community.

The Center celebrates its 40th Anniversary honoring Paul Osaki and Marjorie Fletcher for their years of service and dedication.

250 volunteers and 20 different groups helped honor relatives and ancestors of the community at the Annual Colma Cemetery Clean-up.
The Center hosted its 22nd Annual Children’s Day Festival with more than 1,000 attendees.

2015
The Center hosts Hanjiro Sawafuji, a master Hariko (paper-mache) artist from Iwate Prefecture. Proceeds from the workshop were donated to support local artists in the Tohoku Region.

Sake Day Celebrates ten years since the first Sake Day.

2016
The Center celebrates 30 years of opening its doors for the first time to the community. The year coincides with the 110th Anniversary of San Francisco Japantown.

In honor of the Greatest Generation, the Center hosted a Nisei Appreciation Luncheon and performance and Grateful Crane ensemble performance called “Nihonmachi: The Place To Be.”

In commemoration of the 5th Anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami the Center hosts artists from Tohoku and visits its six prefectures on its annual Cultural Tour to Japan.

2017
The Shinzen Nikkei Youth Goodwill Basketball Program was relaunched after an eight-year break, sending a delegation of 90 participants on a nine-day trip to Japan.

“The Center” rebranding campaign was unveiled, incorporating updated and culturally inspired logo, themes and colors.

2018
After 27 years since its opening, the Center unveiled its first renovation of the Nisei Community Hall/Gymnasium, featuring the Center’s new brand identity and high-tech gym.

2019
The Center hosted guests from Oita and Tokyo to the 2019 annual Tabemasho, including Momotaro Nori, calligraphy artist Rihaku Inoue and Hita Geta.

The community saw the completion of the Issei Commemorative Garden at Cottage Row, marking a permanent remembrance of the Issei who first lived in Japantown. Cottage Row was the only remaining area that reflects the original Japantown from the 1900s.

The Japanese American History Archives are renamed to the Seizo Oka Collection.

2020
In March of 2020, the Center closed due to COVID-19. During this forced closure, programs were developed to prioritize the safety and support of our Nisei constituents. A robust communications campaign through social media was implemented, allowing the Center to stay engaged with our members and program participants.

2021
After an unprovoked attack on the Center’s cherry blossom trees left ruined branches and exposed trunks, donations poured in from across the world. Donors from 35 states and five countries contributed to the GoFundMe “Blossoms of Hope” campaign, raising $30,000 to help in future replacement.

The Center reopens on May 3rd after a 417 day closure due to the pandemic.

2022
The Center hosts a community farewell and retirement send off for Ricky and Bobby Okamura of the beloved manju shop, Benkyodo, which closed in March after 116 years in business.

The first in-person Tabemasho since the pandemic is hosted in the Nisei Community Hall, with 400 people in attendance.

2023
The Center celebrates its Golden Anniversary of 50 years with a theme to honor those who came before and all who will come after: Celebrating Generations.
Why Japantown Matters

“It’s important that the JCCCN continues. I want to see it continue. People need a place to go. The Japanese American community needs their place in Japantown,” said Mary (Wada) Shin, a 93-year-old Nisei and longtime donor to the Center. With her family’s Issei roots planted firmly in Japantown, Mary was born in the third story of 1788 Post Street in 1929, above where her parents owned and operated Kimigaye restaurant on the ground level. Since then, Mary has witnessed the countless head spinning changes to her childhood home, first in 1942, when her family’s lives were completely upended with the outbreak of WWII.

Leaving 22 crates of possessions and restaurant equipment behind in the basement of what is now the Hokka Nichi Bei Kai, the Wada family would be imprisoned in the incarceration camps of Tanforan, Topaz and Crystal City. Mary’s parents would never return to San Francisco to rebuild their lives in America, as they left together for Japan at the end of the war. Her parents were deeply disappointed with the treatment they faced in their neighborhood, as Mary recalls their restaurant window being broken after Pearl Harbor and her father shutting down the restaurant immediately after. Leaving the city permanently, for the Wada family, was the option that made sense.

Mary would return to California but would never live again in her once sprawling Japantown neighborhood. Today she is nearby, at an assisted living facility on the outskirts of the city, but her fondest memories are sprinkled throughout San Francisco, from her kindergarten days at the Morning Star School to her wedding at the Buddhist temple.

Mary’s family’s story and her concerns today are one that many Nisei, and now Sansei and Yonsei, share: The survival of the Japantown they know and love. A truly intergenerational matter, the forced displacements of an entire community rich in heritage and history, first in 1942 and next in the 1970s, has made the issue of permanence and place imperative for the future of Japanese Americans.

The story of our first displacement by war hysteria and racial prejudice is a wound that families are still healing from. With the orders of forced evacuation and the establishment of Military Areas 1 and 2 originating out of the Western Defense Command in the Presidio, the target on Japanese Americans was loud and clear.
As San Francisco became the landing spot for the earliest Issei in the late 1880s, the forced evacuation, designed to push Japanese Americans off the Pacific Coast, was an especially cruel punishment sanctioned by racial prejudice, economic competition and deep xenophobia.

After the war ended and people began rebuilding their lives in Japantown, the Issei and Nisei had a daunting task on their hands to rebuild the community center of Nihonmachi. Stores were built. But another upheaval was underway, no more than 30 years after a difficult resettlement. The Redevelopment Agency of San Francisco planned to reconstruct all of Nihonmachi and the Western Addition, a blow to the strides made by Japanese Americans in making a home in Nihonmachi.

The generational concern about the need for a permanent place in Japantown, owned and operated by the community itself, was a need born out of displacement and the fear of “what could happen to us next?” Japanese Americans have seen the sharpest decline in their population in San Francisco from 2000 to 2020 of 35%. While the future is not all bleak, it is perhaps a wake up call for the preservation of a community that has contributed deeply to the city for more than 100 years. What is a community and neighborhood if its people are not present in it?

As we celebrate generations, we also remember how tenuous, at times, our presence as residents, community members and active participants has been in the Japantown that the Issei and Nisei worked hard to build. The Center is an example of a place that was meant to outlast one or two generations, its presence as a physical community center is a symbol of permanence and roots growing ever more deeply in the place we know and love: Nihonmachi.
The Joy of Making Mochi
Saving a piece of Japantown history
BY PAUL OSAKI

One day back in 1999, I was walking along Sutter Street, passing by the Yamada Seika Confectionery Shop when I noticed George and Mieko Yamada cleaning out their store. I didn’t know they decided to retire after 36 years and close their business. Yamada Seika was a staple in Japantown, known for making beautiful manju like those found in Japan.

I peeked in the door and George took me into the back of his shop. I saw this beautiful pre-war, cast iron mochi pounding machine that was about ten feet tall. He mentioned that he was getting rid of it because there was no use for it anymore. When I heard this I asked him if the Center could have it. He said, “Okay, but what are you going to do with it?” I said confidently, “We can make mochi for New Years and have mochi making workshops!” To be honest, I had no idea what to do with it but I knew I wanted to save it from being discarded. The machine was definitely old and worn, but I saw it as something beautiful, representing our culture and community, and I wanted to preserve it somehow.

He said I could have it if I could move it out. So that same day, I ran up to the Center to get help. It happened that a youth basketball game was happening in the gym and I recruited about a dozen of the Sansei fathers to come to help me. They had no clue why I had recruited them, just that something needed to be brought to the Center. When they saw the machine, they thought I was as crazy as Mr. Yamada thought I was.

The first problem was that it was secured to the ground with four huge 1” wide bolts which were about 6” deep into the cement floor. Once we somehow removed the rusted bolts, we discovered that the machine was stuck

“It’s really an honor to be able to make mochi in the same way that one of our community mentors and leaders did. To be able to learn from Mr. Yamada himself is an experience I will never forget.”

— Matt Okada, Director Special Events and Communications
in the cement, having been pushed into
the floor with every drop of the mochi
pounder for 36 years. With all our might,
we were somehow able to move it off
its foundation. The second problem
was the machine likely weighed over
1000 pounds and the solid granite usu
another 300 pounds. The third problem
was figuring out how to carry the mochi
machine and usu one block from the
store to the Center.

Somehow, with all of us working as a
team, we mustered the strength to lift
and carry the mochi machine out of the
store. We discovered it was too big to
carry on the sidewalk, so we decided to
move it right up the middle of Sutter
St. We had people stop traffic and the
Muni buses going in both directions. Six
guys carrying this mochi machine tilted
sideways must have looked like a giant
iron Japanese medieval battering ram.
I wish there were photos of us – I can
only imagine what it must have looked
like with these men, some in basketball
shorts and Nike sneakers, carrying this
strange looking 1000 pound metal object
up Sutter street.

I know that some, maybe all, of the staff
thought I was crazy for bringing it to the
Center. But saving the machine was part
of the Center’s mission to preserve our
Japanese cultural heritage and traditions.
It was also about honoring the Yamada’s
store and its legacy as a small business as
part of Japantown’s history.

One of the best parts of saving the
mochi machine from Yamada Seikia
Confectionary Shop is that Mr. Yamada
came with it. For the past 23 years since
his retirement, he has helped us make
our mochi for new years and has taught
hundreds of children and others the joy
of making mochi. Last December, Mr.
Yamada’s machine was instrumental
in fulfilling the demand in the Center’s
first mochi fundraiser, intended to fill
the void of Benkyodo’s recent closure
and their typically high demand for New
Years mochi. Using a mix of the historic
machine and modern electric ones, a
group of 13 Center staff and volunteers
worked from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. to make
nearly 2,500 pieces, fulfilling 231 orders
for Center members. This labor of love
was accomplished with old and new
technologies working together, keeping
our cultural traditions alive and well,
honoring those machines, and people,
who came before.
Along with the Center’s own major milestone, 2023 also marks 50 years for a dogged group of Bay Area community advocates who banded together to form CANE: Citizens Against Nihonmachi Eviction, in what would be the last stand for San Francisco Japantown in the 1970s. Spurred on by the city's plan for the redevelopment of the entire neighborhood, this group of activists formed CANE to represent the interests of the small business owners and residents of Nihonmachi, many of whom had already experienced a previous forced removal during WWII.

In commemoration of 50 years since its formation, members of CANE will gather on August 19 to celebrate and reflect on the strides made during the tumultuous decades of the ‘70s and ‘80s, first in the fight against redevelopment and second in the fight for reparations. This late summer event/reunion will center around the theme of “Celebrating Activism and Community” and for this article, we are honored to have two CANE organizers share their reflections on their passion and community work, and what initially inspired their deep involvement in the movement.

Save the date for CANE’s 50th Anniversary reunion on August 19 at 2 p.m. at the Center.

MICKEY IMURA
CANE member and organizer for its 50th Anniversary

“When I came to San Francisco in 1971 the destruction of Nihonmachi had already taken place with the construction of the Japanese Cultural and Trade Center and Miyako Hotel at the hands of the Redevelopment Agency and Kintetsu Corporation. This first phase had already displaced hundreds of long-time residents and shopkeepers. By 1982 these two forces embarked on another assault to get rid of the remaining tenants in our community. What had been a 25 square...
block Jtown had been decimated to four square blocks. I, along with many Sansei, joined CANE to support and stand with the remaining tenants whose only desire was to remain in Nihonmachi. CANE had grown to be a mass organization with more than 300 members and supporters and were able to fight off eviction attempts by RDA for several years.

Since the 70’s and early 80’s organizations like JCCNC, Nihonmachi Little Friends, JCYC and Kimochi emerged to provide social services to the people in the community which has helped to preserve and maintain our community. Moving forward, the biggest issue now is what will happen to the Trade Center? What are the City’s and 3D Corporation plans for this site? 3D has not been transparent about their intentions. For me personally, I’d like to see a united Japanese community demand that the City use eminent domain so that we can determine what will go up on the site. I think our community would like to see more affordable housing instead of expensive condos, space for small shopkeepers to do their business and space for organizations to continue to provide services. This challenging task would ensure that Nihonmachi can be preserved and maintained as our historic community.

‘UNITED TOGETHER WE’LL NEVER BE DEFEATED.’

DONNA KOTAKE
CANE member and organizer of its 50th Anniversary:

“I saw what was going on in Japantown as a continued attack on the community. People resettled in the community after returning from the camps, then redevelopment moved in. Japantown was changing from a community of people which included residents and small businesses to one which served more corporate interests. Many times people were evicted and the lots remained vacant. I felt it was important for people to stand up and fight for the preservation of the community. I wanted to see a community that my children and grandchildren could enjoy and thrive in.

In many ways, the community is still striving to survive. The lack of affordable housing, gentrification, diminishing social services, still plague the community today. It is my hope that young leaders in the community will fight to build a thriving and diverse community in the foreseeable future.”
Center Membership Benefits

In addition to access to members-only events, Center members enjoy discounts to Japantown businesses, discounts on Center programs, and more. Please visit jccnc.org, email membership@jccnc.org or call (415) 567-5505 for more information or join as a Center member today at bit.ly/JCCNCmembership.

**TRAVEL**
Special offers, discounts and rates to the below.

- **JAPAN AIRLINES**
- **HAWAIIAN AIRLINES**
- **PRINCE WAIKIKI**
- **HAMPTON INN & SUITES**
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**DINING**
On the Bridge
Krispy Kreme

- **ON THE BRIDGE FRESH SOUP OR SALAD**
- **Krispy Kreme VOUCHER $12**
- **ONISEI RESTAURANT NISEI 15% OFF**
- **KISSAKO TEA $10 DAILY SPECIAL SET**
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- **ASAKICHI 15% OFF**
- **JAPAN VIDEO AND MEDIA 10% OFF**
- **CHATO 10% OFF**
- **KATAKI 10% OFF**
- **AMIKO 10% OFF**
- **PAPER TREE 10% OFF**

**PURCHASEABLES**
Available for purchase at the Center or by calling us at (415) 567-5505.

- **AMC THEATRES $11.50/TICKET**
- **CINEMARK $10.50/TICKET**
- **LANDMARK THEATRES $10.50/TICKET**
- **SFMTA PARKING CARDS $20 EACH**
- **See’s Candies Gift Cards $22.50**

Membership benefits can be redeemed by showing your membership card at membership benefit partner businesses. If you need a new membership card, please contact us at (415) 567-5505 or membership@jccnc.org.
Get to know Mitsuhiro Nakamura and the family behind the longstanding and beloved Japantown staple, On the Bridge. Along with its yōshoku style menu, Nakamura is also an expert and connoisseur of Japanese sake and beer. Show your Center Member card and get a free soup or salad with your meal!

Where did your love of cooking come from? Have restaurants been in your family?

My father started cooking when he was a kid. His mother had a restaurant in Tokyo. After WWII, she moved to Ise city in Mie Prefecture and opened a restaurant and inn there. He grew up learning how to cook from his mother and fell in love with the art.

Can you share a brief background of On the Bridge? When did you first open in Japantown, and what makes your restaurant a special place to eat?

On The Bridge Restaurant opened in September 1992. We specialize in Japanese style Curry, which is a recipe from a famous restaurant in Shinjuku in Tokyo. Along with Japanese style curry, we specialize in Yoshoku cuisine. In Japanese cuisine, yōshoku (洋食, western food) refers to a style of Western-European influenced cooking which originated during the Meiji Restoration.

What do you hope for the future of Japantown?

I hope that Japantown will continue to flourish for another century. Although the majority of the businesses are no longer Japanese owned, it is still comforting to see how inspired many people are in keeping Japantown active. For Japanese folks, Japantown is the soul of our culture.

Why did you want to become a Center Membership Business partner?

To support and celebrate Japanese heritage, culture, and spirit. As we were the first Japanese restaurant serving Japanese style curry in San Francisco,
Upcoming Winter Workshops

**SUSHI ROLLING 101**
**COOKING WORKSHOP WITH CHEF MARK GYOTOKU**
Saturday, May 13
11 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
the Center’s Issei Memorial Hall
$50 Members | $65 General

We’re excited to bring back Chef Mark Gyotoku for our upcoming cooking workshop, Sushi Rolling 101 to get you started making your own sushi! In this workshop, you will learn how to prepare sushi rice and roll three different types of makizushi sushi rolls from scratch! Starting with how to prepare sushi rice to picking & prepping ingredients for your own sushi creations, Chef Gyotoku will get you rolling in no time! MAKOU! In other words, "Let’s roll!"

**2023 COLMA CEMETERY CLEAN-UP**
Sunday May 20
10 a.m.–2 p.m.
1300 Hillside Blvd., Colma, CA
Sign up to volunteer or donate at bit.ly/2023colmacemetery

Often times we find ourselves too busy in our daily lives to honor our past and remember those who have passed on. The Japanese Cemetery in Colma is a unique cultural treasure that deserves our attention, our respect, OUR TIME. The place represents our history, our loved ones, friends and family. For many of us, it's the place where our grandparents, great-grandparents, parents, family and friends are laid to rest. For all of us, the loved ones that rest there represent our history.

Join us for our annual Community Clean-Up Day at the historic Japanese Cemetery in Colma where we take time to honor our Issei, Nisei, friends and loved ones laid to rest. All cleaning tools and supplies provided along with a light lunch. Please RSVP by May 15.

**TEZUKURI HANDCRAFTS WORKSHOPS—INTRODUCTION TO SEWING WORKSHOP WITH KATIE FURUKAWA OF OLD RIVER DESIGN COMPANY**
Sunday, May 7 and Sunday, May 21
(2-part workshop)
1–4 p.m.
The Center
$75 Members | $115 General
Register: bit.ly/tezukuriapr2023

The Center is excited to announce our new series of Tezukuri Handcrafts workshops, beginning with our 2-part Introduction to Sewing Workshops with instructor Katie Furukawa of Old River Design Company! Our introductory series will teach you the basics of how to use a sewing machine and all of its features, including: winding a bobbin, button holes, and zippers. We will also go over how to choose fabric and thread, cutting fabric and sewing terminology. Participants will complete a decorative zip pouch at the end of the second session. Sewing machines provided for the first 6 registrants; additional space available for those bringing their own sewing machine. Check out our calendar of Tezukuri Handcraft workshops for the rest of the year on our website.
Workshop Recaps

JANUARY 7, 2023
OSHOGATSU FESTIVAL
We rang in the Year of the Rabbit with JCYC, API Legal Outreach and the rest of the community at our annual Oshogatsu New Year’s Festival.

JANUARY 27, 2023
YOUR FAMILY, YOUR HISTORY GENEALOGY WORKSHOP SERIES
Members attended an offsite field trip to the Oakland Family Search Center with instructor Linda Harms-Okazaki (far left).

MARCH 5, 2023
MIZUHIKI GREETING CARD WORKSHOP
Kathy Yoshida of Hanko Designs taught us how to make beautiful handcrafted greeting cards using decorative traditional mizuhiki knots and washi paper.

It’s back! We’re excited to bring back in person to Japantown Peace Plaza our annual Children’s Day Festival on Saturday, May 6, from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.! Bring out the kids and friends to enjoy our annual festival offering many fun games and prizes, craft activities, face painting, bounce houses, and cultural and live stage performances for the community to enjoy. Admission is free and open to the public, and children are encouraged to wear kimono, yukata or other Japanese clothing.

Attendees to this year’s festival can look forward to stage entertainment including cultural performances! Festival performances in past years have included stage performances by Japanese taiko group Genryu Arts, the Center’s Ito Yosakoi dance group, acapella singing from MEaN Nikkei Acapella group, kendo (traditional Japanese sword fencing) demonstration by SF Kendo Dojo and more! The festival stage schedule will also include the 2023 Cherry Blossom Queen Court announcing the winners of the festival’s Sakura Art Contest.

photo credit: Mark Shigenaga
Ongoing Classes at The Center

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

**IN PERSON CLASSES**

**ARTS AND CULTURE**

**ASIAN AMERICAN WRITING**
A place for both new and experienced writers to write and share about themselves, their families and others to preserve the stories and memories of our Asian American community.
Instructor: Genny Lim
First Wednesdays of the month, 10-11:30 a.m.
Cost: $14 M | $16 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). Please contact the Programs Department at least 48 hours in advance if interested.
Instructor: Chizuko Nakamura
Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m.
Cost: $70 M | $90 NM monthly
$22 M | $28 NM drop-in

**WATERCOLOR**
Learn the basics of watercolor painting and bring your artwork to life with the help of instructor Wendy Yoshimura. This class is open to all skill levels.
Instructor: Wendy Yoshimura
Mondays, 10 a.m.–noon
Cost: $40 M | $48 NM monthly
$11 M | $14 NM drop-in

**DANCE**

**LINE DANCING**
Learn the dance steps to smooth R&B and pop music and keep in shape while making new friends. This fun anaerobic (low impact) dance class is open to all skill levels. No dance experience required.
Instructor: Darlene Masamori
When: Fridays, 12:30–2 p.m.
Cost: $4 M | $5 NM drop-in

**MARTIAL ARTS AND FITNESS**

**KARATE**
Karate is an Okinawan martial art meaning “empty hand.” Develop self-defense skills and strengthen yourself mentally and physically. Our class is part of the International Karate League (IKL) which instructs a modified Shorin-Ryu style of karate. This class is open to all skill levels age 6+.
Instructor: Craig Hamakawa
Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:30-8 p.m.
Cost: $30 M | $48 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 sanfranciscokendo.org or contact them at anfranciscokendo.org.
Instructor: Koji Lau-Ozawa
Thursdays, 7-9 p.m.

**PICKLEBALL**
Join the new craze of pickleball that combines elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong. Learn the game, meet new people, and get some exercise! All skill levels welcome!
Mondays, noon-4 p.m.
Cost: $4 M | $6/NM
Wednesday and Saturdays, 10 a.m-noon
Thursdays, noon-3 p.m.
Cost: $3 M | $5/NM

**SWORD CLUB**
The Northern California Japanese Sword Club is the oldest such organization in the U.S., dedicated to the study and preservation of Japanese swords, armor, art, and history. For more information, please visitncjsc.org or email ncjsc.secretary@gmail.com
Third Sundays, 12:30-4 p.m.
Free for Center members

**SOCIAL**

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

**MAH JONGG**
Engage in social activity and develop creative strategy skills by playing this popular Chinese tile game. If you would like to learn how to play Mandarin style Mah Jongg, classes will begin when we have four new players. Sign up at the Center’s front office and indicate if you would like to attend either a Tuesday, Thursday or both classes. You will be

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contacted by the Mah Jongg coordinator when we have at least four new students enrolled. Invite your friends!

Coordinators: Yone Higashigawa and Nancy Nakai
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30-4 p.m.
Cost: $2 M | $3 NM drop-in

SPORTS

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

30 AND OVER BASKETBALL
Sign up for the Center’s Monday Night (draft) Basketball League. Participate in games that are competitive, but friendly! See our website for league information.
Mondays, 6-10 p.m. (up to 15 weeks per season)
Cost: $120 M | $155 NM per season

40 AND OVER BASKETBALL
Get your friends and join the friendly competition in our Wednesday Night (draft) League. See our website for league information.
Wednesdays, 6-10 p.m. (up to 15 weeks per season)
Cost: $105 M | $130 NM per season

HYBRID CLASSES
Students may choose to attend in-person or online

ARTS AND CULTURE

BEYOND BASICS ART CLASS
This weekly art class is designed for intermediate and advanced students and will allow participants the opportunity to explore new media, subject matter and ways of thinking. This class will use basic drawing, painting concepts and subject matter, but will also look to expand participant’s artistic horizons. The atmosphere of the class is very informal for creating art.
Instructor: Rich Tokeshi
When: Saturdays, 10 a.m.-noon
Cost: $30 M | $40 NM monthly
$11 M | $14 NM drop-in

MUSIC

CHORALE MAY
Be part of a male chorus group and sing a variety of songs, mainly in Japanese with some English.
Instructor: Ruriko Miura
When: Second and Fourth Tuesdays
Cost: $25 M | $31 NM monthly
$15 M | $18 NM drop-in

WASHI NINGYO
Engage in the art of Japanese paper doll making and create your own 3D Japanese washi (traditional Japanese paper) dolls. In this class made for all skill levels, participants will learn the basics, or perfect their skills in doll making. First-time participants must register by phone by the first Saturday of the month. Class fees include all materials.
Class is for ages 18+.
Instructor: Yurie Nakamura/Rochelle Lum
Second Saturday, 10 a.m.-noon
Cost: $30 M | $40 NM monthly
$11 M | $14 NM drop-in

DANCE

YOSAKOI DANCING WITH ITO YOSAKOI DANCE GROUP
Join the Ito Yosakoi Dance Group’s weekly class to learn the lively, energetic dance style of Yosakoi dancing! Yosakoi dancing features choreographed group dances with traditional movements mixed with modern, up-tempo music to make for a captivating dance style that is growing in popularity in Japan and abroad! No dance experience is necessary. Class members have the option of dancing with the class recreationally, or learning the group’s repertoire to perform in public.
Fridays, 7-9 p.m.
In-person: $25 M | $30 NM monthly
Cost: $8 M | $9 NM drop-in
Virtual: $12 M | $17 NM monthly
$3 M | $5 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
Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Cost: $50 M | $70 NM monthly
$17 M | $22 NM drop-in

UKULELE: INTERMEDIATE
Designed for ukulele players who have prior experience. This class will focus on learning and reviewing chords, as well as songs and strumming patterns. (New students with no prior experience should participate in the Ukulele 101 workshop held twice a year to cover basics such as tuning, basic chords and techniques.)
Instructor: Don Sadler
Saturdays, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Cost: $50 M | $70 NM monthly
$12 M | $17 NM drop-in

KEY
M = Members | NM = Non-Members
The trendiest sport across America has hit the Center, and our members are loving it. Pickleball has become one of the Center's fastest growing sports for baby boomers and young people alike, and it's easy to see why. With its low-impact movements, dynamic team play and need for strategy, it's a truly intergenerational sport. Plus, an indoor open gym with friendly faces? You can't beat pickleball at the Center.

Thinking about picking up a paddle yourself but not sure? Hear from one of our most active players and what got them hooked to the game:

“Pickleball is great because it’s so easy to play and it’s super social. It’s usually open play, you don’t need a lot of people and it’s a way to get exercise without a lot of effort. It’s super easy to learn and be decent. What I think is fun about playing at the Center is I met a lot of community people and reconnected with people I hadn’t seen since high school. It’s very familiar and more people are coming to the Center who hadn’t come before.”

—Nancy Satoda

Visit the Center during open gym and find future teammates and friends!

THE CENTER HOLDS REGULAR PICKLEBALL OPEN GYMS FOUR DAYS A WEEK:

- Mondays  noon–4 p.m.
- Wednesdays 10 a.m.–noon
- Thursdays noon–3 p.m.
- Saturdays 10 a.m.–noon
The Center to Host Japanese Heritage Night Honoring the Fuji Athletic Club

On Tuesday, May 16, the Center, along with the Nisei Baseball Research Project and the San Francisco Giants, will partner to celebrate a unique Japanese Heritage Night, honoring the 120th Anniversary of the 1903 San Francisco Fuji Athletic Club, a pioneering immigrant team that represented Issei (first generation Japanese Americans) ballplayers to San Francisco and beyond. The Giants will be playing against the Philadelphia Phillies.

Founded by renowned artist, Chiura Obata, famous for his sketches and paintings of Yosemite, the Fuji Athletic Club would play at Ewing Field, centrally located at Masonic and Golden Gate Avenues (today’s campus at USF). It was the hub of attraction for diverse teams at every level, as they played for the ‘love of the game.’

In 1932, Obata was appointed as an instructor in the Art Department at the University of California, Berkeley, but WWII and the incarceration of Japanese Americans sent Chiura and his family to the Tanforan Race Track assembly center and then Topaz, Utah. Obata created over 100 sketches, paintings and prints while in camp. After the war, Chiura was reinstated as an instructor at UC Berkeley.

Game night entertainment will feature local talent from the Bay Area and Japanese American community. A member of the Obata family will throw out the first pitch at 6:45 PM. The Center’s men’s choir group, Chorale May, will sing the national anthem and dance team Uzumaru Yosakoi will perform during pregame festivities. Fans with a special event ticket will receive a limited-edition Japanese Heritage Night Bucket Hat. Special event tickets are available for purchase through the Center at bit.ly/jhn2023. A special Fuji Athletic Club t-shirt will be available for purchase from the Center as well. For more information contact the JCCCNC at (415) 567-5505.

Support the Center and a unique piece of Nikkei baseball history with these special Fuji Athletic Club replica t-shirts.

100% of the proceeds support the Center’s programming and workshops. The design pays homage to the original Fuji Athletic Club logo, designed by artist and professor, Chiura Obata. Modern and clever in its design, you can see the “F” for Fuji, “C” for Club and if turned sideways, the cross-section of the FC is a rounded top “A”.

Each t-shirt is $12.

Purchase at bit.ly/jccncmerch or call the Center at (415) 567-5505.
The Center is Back in Japan!

After waiting close to three years, the Center has finally been able to launch the long-awaited Cultural Tours to Japan! The latest trip in December of 2022 was a quick adventure to many parts of Japan that are often not explored by a foreign tourist group but it was truly worth the journey! Here are a few photos that captured their unique experience.

Stay tuned for a recap on the Center’s 2023 March Cultural Tour to Japan in the Summer newsletter!

Koji Hamada, the Center’s good friend and a native of Kochi, treated the participants to their own sushi lesson where inaka sushi (all vegetarian sushi) was made and enjoyed.

Climbing the vine bridge in Iya Valley, Tokushima was definitely an adventure in the snow but we all made it across. (And some of us were even smiling!)
Searing katsuo (bonito) in Kochi’s town of Kure was definitely a high point for the group as they were able to actually learn how to sear the fish and be able to eat it in three different ways.

Indigo dying was definitely one of the favorite activities of the group.

SAVE THE DATE

A Salute to the Center’s 50th Anniversary

“Celebrating Generations"

“Nobuko Miyamoto’s 120,000 Stories”

Saturday August 5, 2023 at 2 p.m.
Presidio Theatre, San Francisco

Details & Ticket Pricing to be announced
Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California
SAVE THE DATE! Friday, May 12

Benkyodo: The Last Manju Shop in J-Town

Join us at the Center for the opening weekend of CAAM Fest with the premiere of Benkyodo: The Last Manju Shop in J-Town, a short documentary directed by Akira Boch and Tad Nakamura and produced by Eryn Kimura, co-sponsored by CAAM (the Center for Asian-American Media) and the Center. Join the J-Town community in celebrating the 116-year legacy of Benkyodo Co. with this premiere, followed by a live panel with the filmmakers facilitated by SF Chronicle’s Fifth and Mission, Cecelia Lei. Enjoy beautiful bites, beverages, and beats curated by local artists and creators.

ABOUT THE FILM

Rick and Bobby Okamura, the current owners of Benkyodo mochi shop, established in 1906, make a difficult decision to close their family business. The Japanese confectionary shop, a landmark for Japanese/Asian Americans in the Bay Area, is one of two mochi shops currently open in the San Francisco-Bay Area. Currently 115 years old, the business has endured the anti-Asian laws of the early 20th century, Japanese internment, Redevelopment of the 1960s and continues to weather San Francisco’s notorious high costs of living. The unsurmountable economic pressure, coupled with the two brother’s desire to preserve their Japanese heritage, family business and community space, create an age-old conflict many children of diaspora face–between the laborious preservation of culture or the submission to the economic forces of racial capitalism. Tickets available at caamfest.com/2023.

ABOUT THE DIRECTORS

Akira Boch

Akira Boch is an Emmy-winning filmmaker and Director of the Watase Media Arts Center at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles. He has an MFA in Film Directing from UCLA Film School, and has made dozens of documentaries, short films and music videos. His award-winning feature film, The Crumbles, went on a nationwide tour of theaters, festivals and universities.

Tadashi Nakamura

Emmy-winning filmmaker Tadashi Nakamura was named one of CNN’s “Young People Who Rock” for being the youngest filmmaker at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival and listed as one of the “Top Rising Asian American Directors” on IMDb. The fourth-generation Japanese American recently completed Mele Murals, a documentary on the transformative power of modern graffiti art and ancient Hawaiian culture for a new generation of Native Hawaiians. Mele Murals was broadcasted on PBS and Al Jazeera, and was nominated for an Emmy in 2018. His previous film Jake Shimabukuro: Life on Four Strings was broadcasted nationally on PBS and went on to win the 2013 Gotham Independent Film Audience Award, which was in competition with Twelve Years a Slave and Fruitvale Station.

ABOUT THE PRODUCER

Eryn Kimura

Eryn Kimura (she, they) is a mixed media artist, cultural producer, and professional auntie based on the unceded territory of the Ramaytush-speaking Ohlone people — the sucka free/415/frisco (San Francisco). Using fragments from print media and found ephemera, Eryn composes cacophonous yet fractal visual symphonies — collage — that recontextualize the asian american body and experience in popular culture/memory, questioning narratives of power.
A Salute to the Center 50th Anniversary
"Celebrating Generations"

Event Calendar

Join the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California as we pay tribute and celebrate the generations of our community throughout the year!

31st Annual Children's Day Festival

Date: Saturday, May 6, 2023
Time: 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
Location: San Francisco, Japantown Peace Plaza
Price: Free and Open to the Public

Come out to a day of fun-filled activities and entertainment celebrating the Yonsei and Gosei generations at our 31st Annual Children's Day Festival! Enjoy arts and crafts, games, prizes and a giant bounce house in the plaza.

Center Fest

Date: Friday, June 9, 2023
Time: 6:00 pm - 11:00 pm
Location: the Center
Price/Registration: TBD

Celebrate the Center's 50th Anniversary with music from the 60's to today. Dance the night away with a live band, DJ and more. Enjoy food trucks in front of the Center.

Sentimental Journey: A Nisei Life In Song

Date: Saturday, June 24, 2023
Time: 2:00 pm
Location: the Center
Price/Registration: TBD

The Center is proud to partner with the Grateful Crane Ensemble to pay tribute to the Nisei generation. "Sentimental Journey: A Nisei Life In Song", will feature hit songs from the '40s and '50s that defined the Nisei experience. Come celebrate and thank our greatest generation!

Nihonmachi The Place To Be (the Concert)

Date: Sunday, June 25, 2023
Time: 2:00 pm
Location: the Center
Price/Registration: TBD

Join us for the concert version of the acclaimed play, "Nihonmachi: The Place to Be," a nostalgic musical journey of a family owned manju shop going back through the generations. Written by Soji Kashiwagi and performed by the Grateful Crane Ensemble.

Nobuko Miyamoto "120,000 Stories"

Date: Saturday, August 5, 2023
Time: 2:00 pm
Location: Presidio Theatre, San Francisco
Price/Registration: TBD

Nobuko Miyamoto is a Sansei icon of Asian American music and activism. "120,000 Stories" showcases powerful new songs, reinterpretations of old ones, and recordings from throughout her career, including the seminal 1973 album "A Grain of Sand" and the band, Warriors of the Rainbow. Her songs chronicle difficult histories, celebrate resilient traditions and most of all, endeavor to connect communities.

Tabemasho: Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Center

Date: Saturday, September 16, 2023
Time: 2:00 pm
Location: the Center
Price/Registration: TBD

Tabemasho is the Center's largest annual fundraiser bringing together the generations of our community together for a matsuri style gala. Tabemasho features restaurants from across the Bay Area and local community chefs serving their specialties and popular matsuri favorites. This year's event features a fourth-generation knife maker from Japan and a special celebrity guest star.

For more information contact the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (415) 567-5505 or visit jccnc.org (Ticket pricing and additional details for each event to be announced soon)
Flipping through the pages of the beloved Nikkei Potluck book and looking at the photos reminded us of how important it is to keep our traditions alive, especially through food and culturally vital recipes. Many of the seniors who contributed recipes for the book have left us, but it does not mean that we will forget them and the famous dishes that they shared.

Here’s a great savory snack to try out for your next party, happy hour or mid-day pick-me-up! The recipe below was baked for 45 minutes instead of 60-70 and still achieved the correct texture.

**JAPANESE PARTY MIX**

**INGREDIENTS**

- ¾ cup sugar
- ¼ cup plus 2 tablespoons shoyu
- ¼ cup water
- 5-6 drops Worcestershire sauce
- 10-12 drops Tabasco or Crystal Hot Sauce
- 1 box Rice Chex Cereal (small box)
- 1 box Corn Chex Cereal (small box)
- ½ jar of Nori Goma Furikake

**DIRECTIONS**

Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper or non-stick aluminum foil. Pre-heat oven to 250 degrees. In a small saucepan, heat sugar, shoyu, water, Worcestershire and hot sauce over low heat until sugar dissolves.

Remove from heat. In a large bowl, combine rice Chex and corn Chex, mix well. Drizzle sauce over Chex mix and mix well until evenly covered. Sprinkle a little bit of furikake and keep mixing. Spread evenly on cookie sheet.

Sprinkle some more furikake on top and bake in oven for 60-70 minutes. Mix every 10-15 minutes to keep Chex from sticking too much. Sprinkle more furikake each time you mix. Great anytime snack!

*Found on page 41 of Nikkei Potluck*
Honoring the Special People in our Lives

Annual Support Drive Tribute Gifts

In this edition, we would like to recognize the tribute gifts made In Memory, In Honor, or In Recognition of someone special through our 2022 Annual Support Drive from November 1, 2022 - January 31, 2023. We thank you for remembering and honoring those extraordinary individuals who helped make your lives and our community exceptional.

In Honor of

4 GENERATIONS OF THE RIICHI AND SUZU ASHIZAWA FAMILY
Ms. Joyce Ashizawa-Yee and Mr. Bradley Yee, $1000

THE CENTER BOARD
Ms. Teresa Ono, $250
Ms. Patricia Ito, $100

THE CENTER STAFF
Ms. Eiko Aoki, $300
Ms. Teresa Ono, $200
Ms. Sherilyn Chew and Peti Arunamata, $166.66
Ms. Patricia Ito, $50
Mr. Kazuo Maruoka, $100

THE CENTER’S 50TH ANNIVERSARY
Mr. Stephen and Mrs. LeAnn Katayama, $250

Mr. Gary and Karen Yamamoto, $100
MARJORIE FLETCHER
Mrs. Betty Tsugawa, $50
TAKAKO HUANG
Mr. Cyrus Stoller, $500
NAOKO A. ITO
Ms. Patricia Ito, $500
DONNA L. KOTAKE
Mr. Kenji Tamaoki and Ms. Linda S. Yeung, $50
LORI MATOBA
Ms. Mikiko Huang and Mr. Marshall Stoller (match from the S.H. Cowell Foundation), $3,000

Diane Matsuda
Ms. Jackie Okamura, $500
Benkyodo Company, $500

JUNE-KO NAKAGAWA
Ms. Carol Kawasaki-Wong and Mr. Gregory Wong, $100

MYRON OKADA
Ms. Donna Yoshida Castro, $500

MYRON OKADA AND LYNNE OGAWA
Ms. Ranko Yamada and Mr. Bob Matsueda, $100

PAUL OSAKI
Ms. Patricia Ito, $100
Mr. Gary and Dr. Akemi Yano, $100

In Memory of

LUCY ADACHI
Mr. Kazuyuki and Mrs. Alice Adachi, $500

DR. RICHARD BREWER
Dr. Emily Brewer, $200

HOWARD CHOY
Mr. Lowell G. Kimura and Ms. Donna Ong-Kimura, $50

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OUR DONORS

Tribute Gifts
continued from page 31

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MR. SHIRO TANAKA
* deceased

Every effort is made to include gifts received during the period of November 1, 2022 to January 31, 2023, but if a name has been inadvertently omitted, please let us know at (415) 567-5505.
Fall Annual Support Drive

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to our donors for supporting our Fall Annual Support Drive. Donations made during this campaign period were critical to the Center in its ability to offer classes, workshops and programs. Donors like you help us continue to touch and change the lives of generations of Japanese Americans and the larger community, ensuring that the Center remains a second home for all who walk through our doors. Donations toward our Fall Annual Support Drive received from November 1, 2022 to January 31, 2023 are listed below.

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