Discovering Your Nikkei Roots
My Ancestors Hiding In The Garage

With my parents’ passing, it was time to sell the house that had been the family home for 53 years. Last year, my three brothers and I had the final and emotional task of clearing everything out of the house. Deciding what to throw away and keep turned out to be a much more challenging task than I thought. Everything had a memory associated with it, and like most homes, the garage proved to be the most daunting and the place that held the most memories.

My brothers and I decided to create a pile of stuff to be thrown away and to put aside whatever personal items we wanted to keep. However, when it came to going through the dozens of boxes containing family photos, books, files and our parent’s personal items, my brothers were not interested in anything or didn’t want to take the time to sift through them. So, it was left for me to go through it, or they would get dumped with the other junk in the garage.

For the next several weeks, I spent several days going through every box and cabinet drawer in the garage. I discovered one box that contained items from my father’s Tule Lake experience, including letters, photographs, original government documents, items from camp reunions, short autobiographies he had written, a harmonica he brought to camp, and an autograph book he had his friends sign as he left camp.

I also came across a box labeled “Osaki Grandparents.” Going through the contents was like a journey through time: Old photos of my Issei grandparents when they were in their 20s, family photos and other items from their lives before the war, including their passports, immigration documents, and personal items.

The most fascinating items were of my ancestors. There were photos of my great-aunts and uncles as children and my great-great-grandfathers born during the Edo or Tokugawa period when Japan was still a closed country. I also found several handwritten documents in Japanese. So, out of curiosity, I hired a professional to translate two of them. One document was a list of family death records that my grandfather brought back from his final trip to Japan in 1965. The other was a handwritten ancestral tree I had seen before but it was never translated.

The family death records turned out to be a treasure trove of discovering ancestors, including their posthumous and, in some cases, given names, the date of death, some containing birth dates, or their age at the time of death. Some indicated their titles and locations where they passed away. Also included were siblings, their family relationships, and wife’s names as far back as the late 1600s.

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Cover Photos: Center Family Ancestors
From top to bottom and left to right: Takeo and Tameyo Tsujisaka, Wakayama (Jennifer Hamamoto’s maternal grandfather); Hana and Kunitaro Matsuda, Sua Oshima, Yamaguchi (Diane Matsuda’s paternal grandparents); Eimatsu Tsuchiya, Ogawa, Kumamoto (Diane Tsuchida’s paternal great grandfather); Isso and Tomi Osaki, Hamada City, Shimane (Paul Osaki’s paternal grandparents); Katsuzo and Yuka Matoba, Fukuoka (Lori Matoba’s paternal grandparents); Yutaka and Seki Hamada, Hiroshima (Ruby Hata’s maternal grandparents)
The Center’s Workshop Teacher Feature

Discovering Your Family Roots

The Center has been fortunate to work with local Bay Area genealogist Linda Harms Okazaki since 2020, and has relied on her deep knowledge and research experience to help our members and participants search for their Nikkei roots for years. With highly-valued skills for the Japanese American community, Linda has found a specialty in helping Nikkei trace their family’s past and bring clarity to many questions that had often been left unanswered and open-ended. Learn about Linda’s background in this specialized field and join her in the next round of the Center’s upcoming “Your Family, Your History” year-long monthly genealogy workshop series beginning in October 2024.

The series will be held virtually and recorded over Zoom with specific workshops on areas of family history research including how to find and analyze government documents and camp records, immigration records, as well as how to contact Japanese municipal offices to access koseki family registries. Local participants in the Bay Area will also have the opportunity to attend in-person research field trips to the Oakland FamilySearch Center and California Genealogical Society, as well as a possible research trip to the National Archives branch in San Bruno. Participants may register for individual workshops or for the full course at a discounted package price. Full course participants will also have the opportunity to produce a photobook of your findings and writing so that you can preserve your research and share your family’s treasured history with other loved ones and younger generations.

More course information and registration links are available on the Family History and Genealogy Programs page on our website at: bit.ly/jccncgenealogy.

Where did you begin your career in genealogy? What first sparked your passion for this field of study and practice?

My interest in genealogy began long before I started taking clients or speaking on the topic. In 1998, I won a "FamilyTreeMaker" software package by Broderbund. You could say that was the beginning. Documenting my family history and proving (or disproving) longstanding legends was fascinating. Today, as I reflect on my childhood, I think my mom probably had an interest in our ancestors. When my siblings and I were young, she would bring us to random cemeteries. We used to look for the oldest tombstones or the most interesting epitaphs. So, I suppose you could say that my fascination originated with her and took off with the software program.

When I first got excited about genealogy, I hired a researcher from the California Genealogical Society. She gathered probate records for my second great-grandfather who died shortly after the San Francisco earthquake and fire. The results were illuminating. I also learned that I could obtain these records myself, or for other people. During my first trip to the Family Search Center in Salt Lake City, I found a digitized newspaper from 1875 and discovered this second great-grandfather legally changed his name! Each discovery was a clue to more records.

What is interesting about the study of genealogy?

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I might ask the question back, “What’s NOT interesting about genealogy?” Some people think that family history is just about gathering names and dates. To me, it’s about getting to know our families at a particular time and place in history. It’s like piecing together a giant jigsaw puzzle, and you don’t know what the picture will look like until you put all the pieces together.

Why is it important to know your family’s history?

There have been several studies showing that knowing one’s family history helps with self-esteem and confidence and reduces anxiety. By researching our ancestors and giving them a voice, we understand ourselves better. Additionally, understanding your ancestral family helps heal intergenerational trauma. If you discover why your grandmother was bitter or your great-grandfather died young, it helps you to heal those wounds that pass from one generation to the next. For Japanese Americans, taking a deep dive into the personal incarceration records of WWII is particularly enlightening. Think of the little boy who witnessed the attempted suicide of his mother while in camp; reading the Evacuee Case Files as an elderly man brought him peace. An octogenarian wanted to know what happened to his grandmother as oral history suggested she abandoned her family. After reading the records and learning about her deportation due to a mental illness, he had greater respect for his grandmother, as well as his mother.

Health is another reason why it’s important to know your family’s history. I found one family where five generations of women all died from early stroke. Knowing your health history can help you to be proactive in your health care, be that physical or psychological.

How did you become an expert in Japanese American history? What interests you the most?

There are many scholars much more knowledgeable about Japanese American history than I, but I do love teaching Japanese Americans how to research their families. To understand family history, we need to study history. And the more I studied, the more I wanted to know.

I started small and learned as much as I could about Japanese American history as well as general genealogy. Then I began taking serious genealogy courses, at the National Archives in Washington DC, Salt Lake City, and Pittsburgh. I participated in study groups online and read everything I could. One course I took was an 18-month study group on Professional Genealogy. In the meantime, I kept reading: modern books about incarceration, but also articles and books published at the time of each period I was studying. This provided the groundwork for me to begin taking clients. Of course, learning never ends; we don’t know what we don’t know. While most of my cases involve Japanese Americans, not all do. My own family has roots in England, Germany, and Australia.

My advice to family history enthusiasts is to read current books and articles about Japanese American history, as well as written works published during the historical time frame of their studies.

Eventually, people began to ask me about Japanese genealogy. In the beginning, I knew very little but I wanted my children to know that side of their history. The turning point for me was wanting to know more about why my husband was born in Japan, and how he became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1979, even though his Nisei father was born in Oakland. At the time, I knew nothing about renunciants and repatriates.

To me, it’s (genealogy) about getting to know our families at a particular time and place in history. It’s like piecing together a giant jigsaw puzzle, and you don’t know what the picture will look like until you put all the pieces together.

What are the most common questions or inquiries people have while studying their family history? What seems to stump people during their searches?

Everyone comes to genealogy with a different goal. Most people just getting started don’t realize how time-consuming the research can be. They also don’t always understand that their research question(s) may
never be answered. Companies such as Ancestry, FamilySearch, and MyHeritage have capitalized upon the interest in genealogy, but not everything is online and not everything can be answered.

Nikkei new to genealogy usually want to jump immediately to obtaining their koseki, or family register. That’s great and is an important part of every Japanese family history journey, but one important document is not the whole story. I’m a believer in uncovering the details. What did someone wear? What was their home life like? What were their hobbies? What schools did they attend? What traditions did a family have? Are there any family recipes? Who is that unnamed person in a photo with your grandmother? For many Nikkei whose emigrant ancestors were commoners during the Meiji Restoration, the names and dates of their family members end about 1872. Going back earlier usually requires a study of the social history in Japan, rather than the individuals.

What can people get out of the Center’s genealogy workshops? Are there benefits to studying family history in a group rather than by themselves?

The Center has provided several genealogy workshops, both online and hybrid. The advantage of studying in a group is that everyone can learn from each other. In the genealogy sessions, students come together with the common goal of learning about their families. Each family and each story are completely different. Some have a history of incarceration, some are shin issei (recent immigrants). Some are Japanese Canadian. Some are multi-racial. But each student wants to learn. Instead of competition between the students, there is camaraderie. As an instructor, it’s a joy to watch the students share their knowledge.

The Joy of Genealogy

Creating a family tree can be an exciting discovery, but the real joy is the journey and piecing together the stories of your family’s past. The following participants took the Center’s “Your Family, Your History” genealogy workshops with Linda Harms Okazaki. Learn how their experience of taking this class helped answer many lingering questions about their own families and the benefits of conducting family research with the assistance of a professional genealogist.

JULIE KANAZAWA, DANVILLE, CA

Can you sum up your family’s experience in a few sentences for our readers? How much did you know about your family growing up?

All eight of my great-grandparents were Issei who immigrated to the U.S. between 1892 and 1914. Two of my great-grandfathers went to Hawaii first, but they both ended up farming in California. My other two great-grandfathers settled in California, running businesses in Japanese American communities. My Nisei grandparents were born in Contra Costa, Sacramento and San Joaquin counties. When the war broke out, my family members were living in Isleton, Sacramento and French Camp. They were incarcerated at Tule Lake, Jerome, Rohwer and Gila River. Growing up, I knew small snippets of my family history: my mother was born at Tule Lake, my father was born at the Stockton Assembly Center, and my maternal grandparents relocated to Seabrook, NJ after their release from Gila River. My grandparents spoke very little about their wartime experiences, and our family realized a little too late how important it was to ask them about their lives.

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What questions about your family did you want answered before you went into this course?

Before her passing, my mother had been researching the history of her grandfather’s dry goods store and home in Isleton, so I began this course hoping to continue her work and to learn more about her grandfather. I had so many questions. What year did he start his business? What role did he have in the Japanese American neighborhood in Isleton? When did his wife immigrate and how did she die? What was life in Isleton like for him and his children? Because of the Your Family, Your History course with Linda Harms Okazaki, I have found answers to all of these questions and to some questions I didn’t realize I had. For example, I didn’t think that I’d ever have a photo of my great grandmother who died before the war. Had I not found out how my great grandfather wrote his name in kanji, I wouldn’t have found the photo taken in 1911 of my great grandparents’ family in Isleton. Not only does it show my great grandmother, but the caption states that my great grandfather owned and operated a restaurant in Isleton. This was news to everyone in the family who only knew about his dry goods store.

What was the most valuable thing you gained from taking the Center’s genealogy course?

There were so many valuable resources and helpful lessons in this course, such as learning what types of records are available in the U.S. and in Japan, how to request copies of them, and how to preserve family heirlooms. I really needed to hear how important it was to focus on one person or one family at a time. Researching all sides of my large family would have been a daunting task. Focusing only on one pair of Issei great-grandparents made the project manageable.

Would you recommend this course to other people, and why?

I would absolutely recommend this course to anyone interested in diving into their family history. The wealth of information provided throughout the course was astounding. Linda was available to us when we had questions or hit roadblocks. And it was motivating to hear the experiences of and to share findings with the other participants. Doing this research can be overwhelming, but the process was fun, achievable, and rewarding with the support of Linda and the other classmates.

SUE KING, CENTENNIAL, COLORADO

“Thank you to The Center and Linda for an amazing experience. I looked forward to each meeting and am most thankful that we could attend via Zoom. My appreciation and new learnings are immeasurable.”

—Millie King

“I took the course with my mother-in-law, Millie King, who is a Sansei. I am a hobby genealogist, and Millie asked me to attend this course with her so we could explore her Japanese lineage. I chose to document the story of Millie’s Uncle Shig, who was a college student when he was incarcerated.
Millie knew her grandparents’ names but not where they or the rest of her family were from. She knew her grandmother was a picture bride but nothing more. Millie has many family treasures, including two koseki. Together, we learned the significance of the koseki, and Millie had both of them translated during the course and now, she has traced her lineage back several generations.

From the training, we learned how to use several types of records to fill in blanks and create her family’s story. The most exciting discovery was learning how to use the passenger lists. We were able to discover where her grandfather immigrated from in Japan. We also learned that her picture bride grandmother was from the same area. We suspect she was known to the family, not a stranger, which was exciting new information. Along with the koseki, we now know two family lines and how they are connected.”

The class was well-organized and easy to follow. I recommend it as a way to learn and document your family’s history. I learned new research ideas that I can apply to my own recent immigrant lines.

MILLIE KING, CENTENNIAL, COLORADO

Can you sum up your family’s experience in a few sentences for our readers?

I am a Sansei. My maternal grandfather settled in California around the Stockton area as a truck farmer. I had begun to collect pieces of information, but through this class I was able to put more of our puzzle together. I was 7 months old when Pearl Harbor was bombed. Consequently, my parents and I ended up in Rohwer, Arkansas and then in Chicago. We returned to California when I was 12.

It was a Junior High School Social Studies teacher who “alerted” me that I was an internee. My parents never talked about “camp,” similar to many. As instructed, I went home to ask my mom and she then showed me my grandfather’s trunk, which revealed different stages of our family life.

What sparked your interest in pursuing your family’s history?

There were two events that pushed my inquiry into our family history. One was when my husband and I were remodeling our dining room, I had a small doll collection that I wanted to display on our newly constructed shelves. When I told my mom, she pulled out the Emperor and Empress dolls from my grandfather’s trunk and explained that my picture bride grandmother brought them with her. These dolls are close to 120 years old. The second was that I was my Uncle’s executor, and he had our family koseki and other documents, like their original marriage license, tucked away in his belongings.

These two events were pivotal in generating my interest in our family genealogy. Linda [Harms Okazaki] carefully explained how to take several pieces and have them make sense. I am grateful for the organization of this class over several months. Linda also had contacts who could help, like Yuzo, her translator buddy! But perhaps the most rewarding part was the culminating project of a Shutterfly book which now documents so much of the Nakahira history.

YOUR FAMILY, YOUR HISTORY
Genealogy Workshops
with Genealogist Linda Harms Okazaki
MONTHLY VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS
October 2024 - October 2025
(Tentatively scheduled on Thursdays)

Introduction to Family History
Preserve Your Artifacts
Finding Records in the U.S: Part 1
Finding Records in the U.S: Part 2
Camp Records
Records in Japan
Shutterfly Book: Part 1
Shutterfly Book: Part 2
Shutterfly Book: Part 3
Introduction to DNA
Share Your Stories
In-Person Field Trips (Dates TBA):
Oakland Family Search Center
California Genealogical Society

For more info and to register, go to: bit.ly/jccncgenealogy
(continued from page 2)

"My Ancestors Hiding in the Garage"

The first Osaki (大前) recorded was Ujitaka Osaki, who died in 1178 during the Heian period. His title was "Minbushōsuke" (Assistant Minister of Popular Affairs). He was later appointed the Chief Priest of Ninomiya Shrine. Amazingly, the documents revealed the names of 85 of my grandfather's ancestors, spanning 745 years. The box also contained, among other historical documents, old property deeds from the 1800s and a letter written by my great-grandfather during the Meiji era. I also found an autobiography written by my grandmother, Tomi Osaki, the Principal of Kinmon Gakuen, the Japanese language school in San Francisco, during the 1950s-1970s.

To think that this box had almost been thrown out with the household junk, all the family records of my ancestors would be lost forever. In 1965, my grandfather must have traveled to Japan and his hometown, Hamada City in Shimane prefecture to bring the family records and other documents back to America so that his descendants would know about their ancestors and family history. He died the following year.

When cleaning out your parent’s or grandparents' garage, take the time to go through the boxes carefully. Otherwise, you might accidentally throw away your family history. You never know what ancestors are hiding in the garage.

Paul Osaki  
(Executive Director)
The torii gate, founded by Tomomori Osaki in 1822, leads to a Shinto shrine and the family grave site.

Great Grandparents

Great Grandparents

2nd Great Grandparents

2nd Great Grandparents

My Grandparents

My Grandparents
When Keeping Stuff Helps in Unexpected Ways

DIANE MATSUDA

Sometimes, having a little bit of stuff around can help you secure a job.

I grew up in a household where my family held onto EVERYTHING. You name it, we had it somewhere in the house. What made it more fun was that my maternal grandparents also lived with us and brought their stuff with them. We were the youngest set of grandchildren they had to take care of, so we were their last “home.”

Long after moving out of the family home, I decided to look for a job in Japan. However, to be considered for employment, I needed a Visa that would allow me to work. At that time, the Japanese government had a provision in their immigration law that allowed persons of Japanese ancestry to apply for a five-year Visa. The policy only extended up to the Sansei generation and it required you to do a lot of preparation to be considered.

The most crucial document needed to prove your “roots” in Japan was to show that your parents were on the koseki tohon. From there, you had to supplement it with additional information that showed your direct lineage to those named on the family registry.

This is where “the stuff” comes in.

I vaguely remember seeing a big metal chest in the basement of my house that had my grandmother’s name on it. It stood out because the return address indicated it was from Topaz, Utah.

I asked my dad to dig into that chest
to see what was inside and if any documents could help me. BINGO: he uncovered an envelope containing a very old and faded copy of my grandparents’ koseki tohon, which listed the first seven of the nine children. This important document then allowed my relatives in Japan to go to the local ward office to request an official copy for me to submit to the immigration authorities. Although my mom was not specifically listed on the koseki tohon (after a certain date, the Japanese Consulate no longer recorded Nisei of that era), I could show through her birth certificate that she was my grandmother’s daughter and that I was her daughter.

The other documents found alongside the koseki tohon illustrate my grandmother’s path toward her immigration status in the United States. What allowed her to enter this country, later allowed me to enter her native country. Sadly, I never had a chance to learn firsthand about the challenges she dealt with as an immigrant in a country that was not friendly to Asians at the time of her entry, and that incarcerated people simply because of their ethnicity. But through her, I was able to live and work in the country of my heritage and fully appreciate all of the customs and traditions she left for us to carry on.

Now, I am not so quick to judge homes and families that have lots of “stuff” around them. No doubt there are some very valuable, irreplaceable things to be found.

*A family register (koseki tohon) is an official document that records and certifies the identity and family relationships of Japanese citizens based on family law. The principal items recorded and certified in a family register are (1) an individual’s full name; (2) gender; (3) birthdate and birthplace; (4) parental relations (names of parents, relations to them, etc.); (5) spousal relations (name of spouse, date of marriage, date of divorce, etc.); (6) data related to the death of an individual (date, time, place of death); (7) name of legal custodian or legal guardian; and (8) data related to inheritance, such as the disinheritance of a presumed heir. The information recorded in each family register is based on formal declarations made by citizens to their local government (municipality) at the time of a child’s birth, marriage, etc. Such registers are maintained only for Japanese citizens; as they are not established for foreigners, they also serve to certify Japanese citizenship.

Source: Japan’s Family Registry System, US Embassy and Consulates in Japan who received the information from the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
Resources to Help You Find Your Nikkei Roots

INCARCERATION RECORDS AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
To find and trace your family’s incarceration story and records, look no further than the resources provided by the National Archives, as well as the websites of the respective camp locations that are either led by community groups or by the National Park Service. The Records About Japanese Americans Relocated During World War II database provides basic information about Japanese and Japanese Americans who were incarcerated in War Relocation Authority (WRA) camps beginning in May 1942. You can request your family’s WRA case file(s).
archives.gov/research/japanese-americans/wra

FAMILY HISTORY AND GENEALOGY AT DENSHO
From the Densho Digital Repository to Encyclopedia to the Densho’s Koseki Retrieval and Translation Services (densho.org/koseki), Densho has extensive resources to help you trace and document your family’s records and information. Densho’s extensive online resources have become increasingly useful as a tool for Japanese American families to explore their heritage. The Densho Family History Program’s mission is to “help members of the Japanese American community connect with their history through education, training, access to genealogical tools, and preservation of historical materials.”
densho.org/collections/family-history

MY KOSEKI
As Japanese family registers are the fundamental starting point for all Japanese family history research — both for Japanese nationals and Nikkei living outside of Japan, this website provides you with some basic tools to obtain your koseki and trace your roots back to Japan. It also breaks down each part of what is written on a koseki.
mykoseki.com

JAPANESE AMERICAN RESEARCH FROM AMERICAN ANCESTORS
A list of resources, books and organizations for Japanese American Research page on the American Ancestors website.
americanancestors.org/japanese-american-research

FAMILYSEARCH: SEARCHING FOR YOUR JAPANESE ANCESTORS
This resource page from Family Search leads researchers to different sites to trace their family’s historical roots from Japan. By providing some important Japanese historical context as well, this page offers the different registry routes you could take to find your ancestors from Japan, from the Koseki Tohon (Household Registers), to the Kokocho (Buddhist Death Records) and the Shumoncho (Examination of Religious Register).
familysearch.org/en/blog/japanese-ancestors-records-find

FAMILYSEARCH RESOURCE PAPER
An extensive bibliographical resource paper (PDF only, no active links) compiled with the guidance of the FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City. Includes resources on major genealogical sources in Japan, from koseki information to the history of family crests.
files.lib.byu.edu/family-history-library/research-outlines/Asia/Japan.pdf
Japanese American History Archives (JAHA) Digital Collection Site Scheduled for a June Debut

The Center’s Japanese American History Archives (JAHA) was very honored to receive a two-year Planning Grant from the National Historic Public Record Collections (NHPRC) of the National Archives.

The grant allowed the Center to work with a dedicated group of individuals to identify an initial set of documents from the JAHA collection to scan, digitize, translate, analyze and document items to be a part of the community digital collection.

Over the past two years, and after several meetings and document reviews, we are proud to announce that the JAHA Community Digital Collection will be available for public view this June. As part of this work, articles on documents that are part of the Yokohama Specie Bank (YSB) records will be highlighted, including the review and explanation of remittance forms that were submitted to Japan in the 1930s by Issei living in California, an essay on the first Japanese to California and other relevant topics.

There will also be a section highlighting photos and other documents illustrating the full and vibrant life of the Issei during the 1920s and 1930s.

For more information about this exciting ongoing work, please contact the JAHA team at jaha@jcccnc.org with any questions or to stay in the loop!
Meet Your Nihonmachi:
Tokaido Arts

In this issue of Meet Your Nihonmachi, we are pleased to introduce Robert Hsu of Tokaido Arts, an independent art gallery in Japantown that is now in its 53rd year of business. To visit Tokaido Arts is to enter into a calm, meditative atmosphere, where beautiful Japanese prints and notecards beckon you to discover more about the centuries old art of woodblock printing. “For me, the craft behind Japanese woodblock prints is so rich and awe-inspiring. It is a lens into how the people of yesterday and today interpret the world around them,” says Robert.

Can you talk about the origins of Tokaido Arts and how your parents became passionate about art? What interests you personally about the world of woodblock prints and Japanese or Asian art?

As a writer, historian, and artist in his early years, my father opened the gallery as a space to share his deep knowledge of Asian art and culture in the early 1970s. My mother also had a deep affinity for Asian art and not only helped run the store with my father, but also raised me and brothers just a few blocks from Japantown on Sutter Street. Gradually over the decades, they established themselves as one of the most reputable dealers of Japanese woodblock prints in the world.

I started to work at the family business in 2018 after my father passed away in October 2017. I have always been involved in helping my parents at the gallery, but it was at this time that I left my career in the non-profit sector and embedded myself deeply into the store and the business full-time. The gallery was also renamed to Tokaido Arts (from International Art Gallery), after the famous Tokaido route and stations connecting Kyoto and Edo (Tokyo) in Japan. In 2020, my mother passed away, and the business that my parents built came fully into my care.

What is significant about Japanese woodblock prints, and the art form itself? What does it reflect about Japanese culture?

Japanese woodblock prints have almost no parallel in the art world. While the process of printing from carved
Woodblocks originated from China, Japanese mokuhanga (woodblock printing) has evolved over the past centuries into a highly refined and meticulous art form.

While the craft of making woodblock prints is impressive, it is also the aesthetic and meanings found in Japanese prints that have been a source of inspiration for people all around the world. Some of the earliest Impressionist-era artists were heavily influenced by Japanese print artists, for instance, and many compositions have become icons in the art world. Consider Hokusai’s famous “Great Wave Off Kanagawa,” which can be seen everywhere.

Do you have one piece that always stands out to you, or is one of the most memorable?

I have seen so many woodblock prints that it is difficult to narrow what has resonated the most for me down to just one. For example, I have seen and examined several originals of Hokusai’s “Great Wave Off Kanagawa” over the years. I have also seen some of the rarest and most sought-after designs by the great 20th-century artist Hasui Kawase. Often, the most memorable pieces for me are the ones that a customer falls in love with as it is so rewarding to know that what I showcase at the gallery is resonating with people.

What depictions seem to be the most popular with your customers?

There are few constants, but right now works from the Edo and Meiji-periods (18th to 19th centuries) by artists such as Utagawa Kuniyoshi and Kunisada showing warriors, ghosts and demons, and tattooed kabuki actors are very sought after. Of course, the landscapes of Hokusai and Hiroshige endure as favorites among collectors.

But works from the 20th century shin-hanga period (new prints) are especially desired today. Prints by Hasui Kawase are very popular to collectors both casual and high-end. And rightly so. Many of Hasui’s works exemplify 20th century print-making at its finest. Other artists such as Tsuchiya Koitsu, who excelled at depicting famous places in Japan, and Toshi Yoshida are also favorites. Some of Toshi’s woodblock prints documenting his travels in the U.S. are especially popular.

TOKAIDO ARTS
Wed.-Sat. noon-6 p.m.
Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
1581 Webster St., Suite 203
San Francisco, CA 94115
tokaidoarts.com

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CENTER MEMBERS RECEIVE
10% OFF AT TOKAIDO ARTS
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Exclusive Hawaii Travel Benefits for Center Members

Take advantage of all that paradise has to offer with these exclusive Center Member deals for 2024!

Book online with Hawaiian Airlines and receive 5% off the lowest available web fare and earn bonus miles for the Center at a rate of one mile for every dollar spent. Visit www.hawaiianairlines.com for direct access to the Center Member discount.

USE CODE: AMWEBJCC

Sink into the relaxed rhythm of island life in your private oasis at the Prince Waikiki. Preferred room rates start at $240* per night and include daily complimentary self-parking, $20 daily food credit, 10% off all private and semi-private tennis lessons at Hawaii Prince Golf Club and waived resort charge. Visit princewaikiki.com for direct access.

USE CODE: 11111559

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USE CODE: TCN
Meet the Center Staff

The Center has recently welcomed two new staff members to the family! You may have already had the pleasure of meeting one or all of them, as they are familiar faces to the Center community. We are excited to have their energy, enthusiasm and passion on our team to help grow the community center’s presence not just across Northern California, but across California and beyond.

JULIANNE AIKO HO, MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

“I grew up in San Jose involved in a lot of community organizations in Japantown and my family was also involved at the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin. I attended Lotus Preschool and played basketball with CYS and Ninjas. As an intern with Nikkei Community Internship in 2022, I worked for the Nichi Bei. During that summer I used to visit the Center a lot and I became interested in the direct, community-facing work that the Center does on a daily basis. I’m looking forward to expanding our membership base and sharing all of the great opportunities that we have to offer. I’m also looking forward to creating bonds with longtime supporters of the Center.

In my spare time, I’m a part-time assistant coach at the King’s Academy High School Girls Varsity Basketball team. You can often find me hanging out and eating with my best friend, Kai Takahashi (and Zen!) in Japantown.”

BRYANT MIURA, PROGRAMS COORDINATOR

“As someone who grew up in Japantown, I made many memories within the community. Whether it was making mochi at Benkyodo for New Years, volunteering at Nihonmachi Little Friends, or attending JCYC, I was able to experience what makes Japantown special. When I heard about working for the Center, I knew it was a great opportunity to give back to the community that shaped me into who I am today. It’s exciting to be in a position where I can contribute to the Programs Department with my ideas to continue enriching our community. I’m most looking forward to meeting our Members so I can create new programs and workshops that they can enjoy and ultimately see the impact I’m able to have. Some things I like to do in my free time are play video games, eat food, and watch TV shows.”
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**

**BEGINNING IKEBANA**
Learn the fundamentals of Ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arrangement in our beginners’ class. Prevailing as a popular cultural art form through the ages, Ikebana holds its roots in tradition but has also evolved as a modern expressive art form. Please contact the Programs Department at least 48 hours in advance if interested.
Instructor: Chizuko Nakamura
Second and fourth Thursdays: 6-7:30p.m.
Cost: $22 M | $28 NM per class

**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: Suekichi Terakado
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 and info@sfkendo.org

**IN PERSON CLASSES**

**PROGRAMS AND EVENTS**

**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 visit ncjsc.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

**HANA FUDA**
Come to socialize and play Hana Fuda (Flower Cards) a traditional Japanese Card game with 48 cards divided into the 12 calendar months. Contact the Programs Dept. if you are interested.
Cost: $2 M | $3 NM per session
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 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@ijccnc.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

60+ OPEN GYM

Starting on March 8, 2024, the Center will be offering open gym basketball on Fridays from 9-11 a.m. Come and get some exercise, improve your shooting, dribbling, and practice your trick shots! All that come must be current members of the Center and will need to sign-up online at: http://14797.blackbaudhosting.com/14797/tickets?tab=3&txobjid=328b7040-4888-4d26-aff4-610e08232539
Please make sure to sign in at the table.

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, uptempo 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
Virtual: $12 M | $17 NM monthly
$3 M | $5 NM drop-in

MUSIC

CHORALE MAY
Be part of a male chorus group and sign 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

KOTO
Learn the koto, the classical stringed Japanese instrument. Group lessons for the koto are held weekly on Monday evenings and every other week on Thursday evenings for up to five students. Private lessons for individual students also available. Koto instruments are available to borrow directly from the Center and instructor. Students must provide their own finger picks (about $40-$60). Students may rent a koto for 1 hour practice sessions for an additional $10.

Instructor: Kazuma Ishikawa
Monday Group 1 Lessons 8-9 p.m.
Every other Thursday
Group 2 Lessons 8-9 p.m.
Wednesday Private Lessons

continued on page 20
**Classes continued from page 19**

**SHAMISEN**

Learn the classical Japanese 3-stringed shamisen with Master Hidekyouharu Fujimoto! Group lessons for the shamisen are held on Monday evenings for up to 5 students. Private lessons for individual students also available. Rental shamisen instruments are available to borrow directly from the instructor.

**Instructor: Hidekyoharu Fujimoto**
Monday Group Lessons 7-8 p.m.
Wednesday Private Lessons 7-8 p.m. or 8-9 p.m.
Thursday Private Lessons 7-8 p.m. or 8-9 p.m. (alternating weeks)
Location: The Center
Group Lesson: $30 M | $35 NM
Private Lesson: $35 M | $40 NM
Practice room 1 hour rental | $20/hr
Subject to availability. Please e-mail us at programsevents@jccnc.org to make a reservation.

**ENSEMBLE SHIKI**

Let’s enjoy singing a wide variety of songs from Japan and worldwide in this mixed chorus. Instructed in Japanese. All levels of singers are welcome. Shiki means four seasons in Japanese. They usually perform at their annual and holiday concerts, Japanese cultural festivals, and other events.

**Instructor: Ruriko Miura**
Two weekends (Saturday or Sunday) every month, 2-4 p.m.
Cost: $25 M | $31 NM monthly
$15 M | $18 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

**NEW CLASS AND WORKSHOP INSTRUCTORS WANTED**

The Center is always looking to expand the classes and workshops that we offer to the community. If you or anyone you know may be interested in sharing your passion, skills and talents with the community, let us know! From arts and crafts, cooking, Japanese cultural arts, music, sports and other recreational activities, we’d love to work with you! Email us at programsevents@jccnc.org.

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**ONLINE CLASSES**

$17 M | $22 NM drop-in

**SENIOR CHAIR AEROBICS**

Designed for seniors who want to build basic physical strength in a low-impact class. Students will use a chair to participate in exercises to increase flexibility, muscle coordination and strength.

**Instructor: Kaeko Inori**
Thursdays, 10:00-10:45 a.m.
$4 M | $5 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

**THANK YOU, Wendy Yoshimura and Genevieve Lim!**

The Center would like to thank Wendy Yoshimura for her years of teaching at the Center. She has been an instructor at the Center for over 20 years and had many students take her class. Her passion for the art of watercolor brought out the artistic talent in our students. We would wish Wendy a happy retirement!

Watercolor Class from left to right: Pat Okamoto, Fumi Fukuda, Akemi Yoshimoto, Instructor Wendy Yoshimura, Itoko Akuhara, Satoe Ogawa, Satoko Kanzaki and Chiyo Uchida

Genny Lim (far left) leading Writing Class with former students Harumi Serata and Flo Dobashi

Genny Lim was our Asian American Writing instructor and helped our students publish the book From Both Shores: An Anthology of Japanese and Chinese American Women’s Family Memoirs. She encouraged the students to write about their past and share their stories. We wish her the best in her future endeavors.
Upcoming Spring and Summer Workshops

OPEN SEWING STUDIO
4th Tuesday of each month
6–8:30 p.m.
The Center
$45 M | $50 NM
Register: bit.ly/jcccncopensewing
Our Open Sewing Studio nights are perfect for anyone who wants to work on a sewing project but doesn’t have a sewing machine or space to work. Bring your sewing projects and use the Center’s sewing machines and supplies to complete your sewing creations. Sewing instructor Katie Furukawa is on hand to provide assistance and guidance if needed.

FUROSHIKI WORKSHOP
Saturday, April 27 | 1–3 p.m.
The Center
$25 M | $30 NM
Register: bit.ly/CenterFuroshiki
Join us at the Center for our first Furoshiki Workshop led by Jessica Ann of Nikoniko gifts! Through this workshop, Jessica will teach you how to use the traditional Japanese cloth to wrap different items and you’ll get to take home two of your very own furoshiki as well.

PICKLEBALL LEVEL UP!
INTERMEDIATE PLAY CLINIC
Saturday, April 27 | 1–3 p.m
The Center’s Gymnasium
$30 M | $35 NM
Register: bit.ly/042724pickleballskillsclinik
Professional pickleball instructor Marcia Neishi returns to our gym for her next pickleball clinic building on the fundamentals taught at her previous Pickleball Basics 101 clinic. Marcia’s IPTPA-certified coaching will bring your game to new heights with an Improved drop shot and blocking technique.

KODOMO NO HI CHILDREN’S DAY KIMONO DRESSING
Tuesday, April 30, Thursday, May 2 and Saturday, May 4
20 minute sessions from 3:30–5:30 p.m.
The Center
$25 M | $30 NM
Register: bit.ly/2024kodomokimono
The Center is pleased to bring back our annual children’s kimono dressing activity as part of our Children’s Day programs. Bring your own camera and create cherished photo portraits of your children or grandchildren dressed in traditional Japanese kimono. Kimono for girls 34” to 60” tall and boys 36” to 48” tall are available for use during the photo session.

KODOMO NO HI CHILDREN’S DAY FESTIVAL
Saturday, May 4 | 11 a.m.–4 p.m.
The Center
Free
Celebrate the Kodomo no Hi Children’s Day holiday with us at our annual festival! Kids will enjoy a fun day of games, craft activities, performances, and more! Due to the reconstruction of the Japan Center Peace Plaza, this year’s festival will be held at the Center.

INTRODUCTION TO SEWING
2-PART WORKSHOP SERIES
Sunday, May 5 and Sunday, May 19
11 a.m.–2 p.m.
The Center
$110 M | $125 NM
continued on page 22
Programs and Events

Programs continued from page 21

Register: bit.ly/intro2sewingmay2024

We are now offering our introductory 2-part sewing workshop every other month to get you started with basic machine sewing skills. Sewing instructor Katie Furukawa of Old River Design Co. will walk you through how to thread and operate a sewing machine and guide you through stitching together your own zip pouch project. All supplies and equipment provided.

Block Printing Workshop
Saturday, May 11 | 2–5 p.m.
The Center
$75 M | $90 NM
Register: bit.ly/JCCNCblockprinting

We are looking forward to having local block printing artist Lance Nihei Van Cleve share his art and teach us lino block carving techniques to create our own block print designs. Registration includes a materials kit with the supplies you will need to make your own carved linoleum printing blocks.

Annual Colma Japanese Cemetery Community Cleanup Day
Saturday, May 18 | 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Colma Japanese Cemetery, 1300 Hillside Blvd., Colma, CA
Volunteer Registration: bit.ly/2024colmacemetery

Learn how to make elegant multi-course kaiseki meals in the kaiseki inspired by centuries of Japanese culinary tradition from tea ceremonies and Zen temples. Our quarterly online kaiseki cooking workshops use dishes highlighting the colors and flavors of each season. Full menu TBA

Join us and over 200 other volunteers for our annual community cleanup day at the historic Japanese Cemetery in Colma where we take the time to honor our issei, nisei and friends and loved ones laid to rest. All cleaning tools and supplies provided along with a light lunch.

Okaeri Northern California LGBTQ+ Pre-Pride Month Potluck
Saturday, May 25 | 11 a.m.–4 p.m.
The Center
Free, RSVP Required
Register: bit.ly/okaerinorcalpotluck2024

The Center is teaming up once again with Okaeri to co-host a fun potluck to kick off your Pride month celebrations! Come out to meet other Nikkei LGBTQ+ folks and allies from around the Bay Area, and enjoy some great food as we connect and look forward to the rest of the month’s Pride events.

Introduction to Sewing 2-Part Workshop Series
Thursday, July 11 and Thursday, July 25 | 6–9 p.m.
The Center
$110 M | $125 NM

We are once again offering our introduction to sewing workshops in July for anyone unable to attend our May workshop series.
If you’re a sake lover, enthusiast or just want to learn more about this beloved spirit, look no further for your next bottle and sake enlightenment than the boutique business of True Sake.

Envisioned by Beau Timken, his passion for the drink came about while living in Cape Town, South Africa, obtaining his M.B.A. After meeting a group of Japanese fishermen who were drinking their own premium sake in a sushi restaurant, the fishermen explained that the hot sake Timken had been used to consuming back home in the U.S. was “inferior,” thus spurring his passion for learning everything he could about how sake was made, what made certain sake better than others and understanding the nuances of its taste. After acquiring two professional sake-tasting licenses and a master sake sommelier license, Timken opened True Sake in 2003, becoming the first dedicated sake store opened outside of Japan, with the mission to demystify the experience of sake tasting and buying it. “I wanted to disarm sake and make a shopping experience that rewarded those who wanted to learn more about this outstanding beverage,” says Timken.

Together with Mei Ho, Director of Sake Day, True Sake has generously donated the proceeds from every annual Sake Day to the Center for more than ten years. Last year, their gift totaled $50,000, and the Center is deeply grateful for their partnership and support of our community! Please visit and support their small business – you may just discover your new favorite bottle of sake.

SAVE THE DATE
SAKE DAY 2024
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
556 HAYES STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102
(415) 355-9555
TRUESAKE.COM
INSTAGRAM: @TRUESAKE
STORE HOURS:
MONDAY-THURSDAY
NOON–6 P.M.
FRIDAY-SATURDAY
11 A.M.–7 P.M.
CLOSED SUNDAY
50th Anniversary Fall Support Drive

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to our donors for supporting our 50th Anniversary Fall 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 16, 2023 to January 31, 2024 are listed below.

**PLATINUM**
$5,000+
Mr. Greg Ishizaki
Ishizaki Family Trust

**GOLD**
$1,000-$4,999
Anonymous (2)
Mr. Tod and Mrs. Susan Bottari
Mrs. Sadako Kashiwagi
Mr. Ryan and Mrs. Laura Kimura
Mr. Bernie and Mrs. Ginger Lee
Mr. Charles and Mrs. Naurie Morimoto
Ms. Kay Nomura
Ms. Susan Sakuma and Mr. Wilfred Lim
Ms. Marcella Yano

**SILVER**
$500-$999
Ms. Sherilyn Chew and Mr. Peti Arunamata
Mr. Steve Dung
Mrs. Kristi and Mr. Darren Hiatt
Mr. Tom Kawakami
Mr. John and Mrs. Ruby Kobayashi
Ms. Janet Morimoto and Mr. Greg Terra
Mr. Don Ng and Ms. Jane Gorai
Mr. Roy and Mrs. Karen Okuhara
Mr. Van Okamura and Ms. Glynis Nakahara
Ms. Marilyn C. Oshiro
Ms. Midori Tabata and Mr. Charles Ingram
Mr. Paul Sakai and Ms. Carol Edmiston
Mr. Noriyuki Shimoda
Mr. Keith Uyeda
Mr. Ken Woo and Mrs. Nancy Yokoyama Woo

**EMERALD**
$250-$499
Ms. Eiko Aoki
Mr. Saburo and Mrs. Lucille Fukuda
Mr. Craig and Mrs. Lyn Hamakawa
Ms. Diane Honda
Mr. Edward and Mrs. Cynthia Ishizaki
Ms. Brenda Jow
Ms. Hope Kamimoto
Mrs. Nana Naito and Family
Mr. Robert L. Nakamura and Ms. Linda Chen
Mr. Ted Okazaki and Mrs. Linda Harms Okazaki
Mr. William and Mrs. Louise Osada
Mrs. Adelina Serata

**RUBY**
$100-$249
Mr. Kenneth Abiko
Ms. Penelope Aiu
Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Akiko Arikawa
Ms. Atsuko Awaya
Mr. Jack and Mrs. Jun Dairiki
Ms. Michiko Fu
Mr. Lucky Fung
Mr. Alan Gee
Mr. Sherman Gee and Ms. Jeannette Wong
Mr. Matthew Hada and Ms. Nell Shimasaki
Ms. Amy Hanamoto
Mr. Steve Hayashi and Ms. Judy Winn-Bell
Mrs. Mary K. Hidekawa
Mr. Jonathan Hirabayashi
Ms. Cynthia Inaba
Ms. Dawn Iwamoto
Mr. Ronald and Mrs. Mimi Kagehiro
Ms. Robin Kawabata
Mr. Russell and Mrs. Harumi Kishida
Ms. Kikuko Koba
Mr. Frank and Mrs. Yoko Lum
Ms. Adele Magee
Mr. Kazuo Maruoka
Reverend Masato and Mrs. Alice Kawahatsu
Mrs. June Matsueda
Ms. Piper Murakami
Mr. Hiroshi and Mrs. Joyce Nakai
Mr. Lionel and Mrs. Millie Ng
Mr. Douglas Noumura
Dr. Jerry Y. and Mrs. Eleanor Osumi
Mr. Gordon and Mrs. Kaeko Park-Li
Mr. Randall Sakamoto
Mr. Gerald and Mrs. Gayling Sakuyama
Mrs. Mary Shin
Mr. Jeffrey and Mrs. Pamela Suda
Ms. Marumi Suyeyasu
Ms. Louise Takeuchi
Ms. Mari Williams
Ms. Misako Yoshinaga and Mr. Teruo E. Takeya
Mr. Benjamin and Mrs. Candace Yee

**DONORS**
$1-$99
Mr. Bob and Mrs. Leslie Chan
Mr. Gordon and Mrs. Amy Hamachi
Ms. Katherine Kato
Mrs. Gretti Keith
Mr. Dennis and Mrs. Deborah Nakamura
Ms. Barbara Wada
Mr. Jimmy and Mrs. Caroline Wong

*deceased
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/JCCCCNCmembership.

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

- **JAPAN AIRLINES**
- **HAWAIIAN AIRLINES**
- **PRINCE WAIKIKI**
- **HAMPTON INN & SUITES**
- **AQUA ASTON**

**DINING**

- **ON THE BRIDGE** Free soup or salad
- **KISAKO TEA** $10 Daily Special Set
- **YAKINOKU CAFE** 10% off drinks
- **MATCHA CAFE MAIKO** 10% off
- **AKARI JAPANESE BISTRO** 10% off

**SHOPPING**

- **CHAMELEON VINTAGE** 10% off
- **TOKAIDO ARTS** 10% off
- **ASAKICHI** 15% off
- **JAPAN VIDEO AND MEDIA** 10% off
- **CHATO** 10% off
- **KATACHI** 10% off
- **AMIKO BOUTIQUE** 10% off
- **PAPER TREE** 10% off

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

- **AMC THEATRES** $14.50/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.
Honoring the Special People and Moments in our Lives

50th Anniversary Fall Tribute Gifts

In this edition, we would like to recognize the tribute gifts made In Memory or In Honor of someone special through our 50th Anniversary Fall Support Drive from November 1, 2023 - January 31, 2024. We thank you for remembering and honoring those extraordinary individuals who helped make your lives and our community exceptional.

In Honor of

THE CENTER’S 50TH ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN
Mr. Wayne and Mrs. Anna Yamaguchi, $250
Mr. Wayne and Mrs. Patricia Mizuiri, $100
Ms. Julie Nishihara, $100

THE CENTER BOARD
Ms. Patricia Ito, $100

THE CENTER STAFF
Ms. Patricia Ito, $100

EIKO AOKI
Ms. Denise Teraoka, $25

JENNIFER HAMAMOTO
Ms. Patricia Ito, $100

RUBY HATA
Ms. Patricia Ito, $100

CAROLE HAYASHINO AND KYLE TATSUMOTO
Anonymous, $200

NAOKO A. ITO
Ms. Patricia Ito, $1,000
Ms. Yoneko Higashigawa, $100

LORI MATOBA
Ms. Patricia Ito, $100

DIANE MATSUDA
Mr. Dale Minami and Ms. Ai Mori, $500

MATT OKADA
Ms. Denise Teraoka, $25

PAUL OSAKI
Mr. Dale Minami and Ms. Ai Mori, $500
Ms. Patricia Ito, $100
Ms. Teresa Ono, $100

JERRY AND ELEANOR OSUMI
Ms. Denise Teraoka, $25

NOBORU AND DOROTHY YAMANAKA
Wendi Yamanaka, $250

In Memory of

DR. RICHARD BREWER
Dr. Emily Brewer, $500

LORRAINE CHOIY
Mr. Curtis and Mrs. Jackie Nakano, $250

MARJORIE FLETCHER
Mr. Richard and Mrs. Ruby Hata, $50
Mr. Kenneth and Mrs. Yoshiko Ho, $500
Ms. Patricia Ito, $100
Mr. Tom Kawakami*, $250
Ms. Kay Nomura, $50
Ms. Diana Tanaka, $250

MITZI HADA
The Coxon Family, $150

VERNON HAMA
Mr. Aldric Hama, $1,000

MASAO “SAM” HANDA
Sam Honda of Honda Auto Repair, served the San Francisco Japanese community for more than 40 years since the 1960s.

JOYCE HATA
Mr. Richard and Mrs. Ruby Hata, $150
Ms. Lori Matoba and Mr. Jeff Wun, $150
Ms. Patricia K. Wada, $50

MICHIKO HORIO
Ms. Janet Ninomiya, $1,000

TAKAKO HUANG
Mr. Cyrus Stoller, $1,000

TAKEKI PETER ITO
Ms. Patricia Ito, $1,000

THOMAS KAWAKAMI
Mr. Phil Kawakami, $100

MARY KAWANO
Mr. Collen Low, $200

WENDI YAMANAKA
Mrs. Setsuko Handa, $500

MAS HASHIMOTO
Mrs. Marcia Hashimoto, $200

MRS. BERTIE FRAZIER
Mr. Tom Frazier, $250

WENDEY WONG
Mr. David Wheeley, $250

MRS. KANEO SAKAGAMI
Mr. Kaneko Sakagami, $250

MRS. RAYMEI KAWASAKI
Mr. Raymei Kawasak, $250

MRS. KANOKO TAKAHASHI
Mr. Kanoko Takahashi, $250

MRS. FUMIE SUBARA
Mr. Fumie Subara, $250

MRS. KAZUMI KIMURA
Mr. Kazumi Kimura, $250

MRS. KAZUKO NAGAE
Mr. Kazuko Nagae, $250

MRS. MAVIS KATO
Mr. Mavis Kato, $250

MRS. AKIO KIMURA
Mr. Akio Kimura, $250

MRS. KAZUMI KIMURA
Mr. Kazumi Kimura, $250

MRS. KAZUKO NAGAE
Mr. Kazuko Nagae, $250

MRS. FUMIE SUBARA
Mr. Fumie Subara, $250

MRS. RAYMEI KAWASAKI
Mr. Raymei Kawasak, $250

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JOIN the center FOR THE 2024 SEASON @ ORACLE PARK

HELLO KITTY DAY
VS. CINCINNATI REDS - 5/11 @ 4:15

JAPANESE HERITAGE NIGHT
VS. COLORADO ROCKIES - 5/17 @ 7:15 PM

PEANUTS NIGHT
VS. HOUSTON ASTROS - 6/10 @ 6:45 PM

PIXAR DAY
VS. LOS ANGELES ANGELS - 6/16 @ 1:05 PM

VS. LA DODGERS
6/28 @7:15 PM

STAR WARS DAY
VS. DETROIT TIGERS - 8/11 @ 1:05 PM

HARRY POTTER NIGHT
VS. CHICAGO WHITE SOX - 8/19 @ 6:45 PM