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Tomodachi

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Richard Shinomoto

Hi Everyone!

The 2015 Recognition and Awards Dinner was held on March 21st. Congratulations to all the recipients.

Outstanding Service Award recipients were: Toby and David Fusato, Jean Kodama and Jim Uyekawa.

Koichi and Toyo Nerio Scholarship recipients were: Steven Chang, Daniel Ji, Allan Lee and Jordan Wong.

NYS Scholarship recipients were: Steven Chang, Mignon Gau, Timothy Han, Taylor Hirata, Allision Lorenzo, Kylie Masumiya and Jordan Wong. Judo Scholarship recipients were: Louis Zhang and Bill Matsubara.

The theme for the Appreciation dinner this year was "Island Style". Preparing the Ono dishes started on Friday. The Kalua Pork was prepared by Toshi Teramoto and Linda Kusuda; the Potato Mac Salad (potato and other items donated by Calvin Chang), the Cucumbers were donated by Kanji Yasutomi was prepared by Judo; the Miso Green Beans was prepared by Carrie Nakatani; the Haupia was prepared by Linda Kusuda; the Chinese Chicken salad was prepared by Rascals in Gardena; and the Island Style Chicken and Kalbi Beef was prepared by the Loft of Cerritos. The Taiko drummers, Japanese Classical Dancers Akemi Jensen and Miki Doktor, Na Wahine 'O Kawena and Kelsey Kwong performed for us.

A special thanks to 58th District Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia and Norwalk City Councilmember Cheri Kelly for attending the dinner.

I would like to thank all the NYS parents that helped with set up for the dinner. We very much appreciate the Kendo members for preparing the Inari sushi and the fruits for the tables and Carrie Nakatani for organizing the Japanese School members with serving dinner. Everybody that I talk to said how Ono (delicious) the dinner was. It was like being back home on the islands.

The annual General Meeting will be held June 7th at 12:00 pm with a Bento lunch. The Board of Directors will be announcing their new Board for the coming year along with a financial report. All members are welcome to attend. Groups are encouraged to give their year-end report. Please contact Toshi Teramoto by May 22 if you would like to attend.

Everybody needs to be more conscientious about the center before leaving. Please turn off all lights in hallways and check the restrooms for running water. Please make sure ALL fire doors are closed, basketballs and chairs put away in its place after use. Let's keep the center neat and tidy at all times.

Mark your calendars and come join us for our Ondo practice beginning July 6th on Mondays and Thursdays. Practice will start at 7:30 pm at the center. Everybody is welcome to join in the fun and learn the dances. The Festival will be held on Saturday July 25th at

*Come and Celebrate
Our
90th Anniversary
Luncheon*

June 28 11:00 a.m.

\$25.00

Includes lunch,
Commemorative gift and
Commemorative Book

Tickets information on page 6 or

Send message to

sejscc2015lunch@gmail.com

or Call (562) 863-5996

President's Message cont. from p. 1

3:00 pm and Sunday July 26th at 2pm. There will be plenty of food, games, and demonstrations by Kendo, Judo, and Karate. Entertainment will include Na Wahine 'O Kawena Hawaiian Hula, Kamaki's Maika'i Jammers, and Bingo will start at 5:00 in the gym on Saturday & Sunday. Appearing on the outdoor stage will be Taiko drummers and Japanese singing. The Festival is a good time to meet with old friends and enjoy delicious food.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

March-April

David Shigekuni	\$50.00
In Memory Of George Okimoto	
M/M Fred Matsumoto	\$100.00
In Memory Of George Okimoto	
M/M Joe Okimoto	\$1,000.00
In Memory Of George Okimoto	
M/M Jon Niuro	\$75.00
In Memory Of George Okimoto	
M/M Roy Takeshita	\$30.00
In Memory Of George Okimoto	
M/M Sumio Yasutake	\$30.00
In Memory Of George Okimoto	
M/M Bob Yamada	\$100.00
In Memory Of George Okimoto	
M/M Toshihiro Teramoto	\$50.00
In Memory Of George Okimoto	
M/M David Fusato	\$50.00
In Memory Of George Okimoto	
Ms Kazuyo Murayama	\$50.00
In Memory Of George Okimoto	
Whittier Landscape Gardeners Assn	\$100.00
M/M Richard Hanki	\$200.00
M/M K Otamura	\$25.00
Mrs Shirley Oshiro	\$50.00

*Thank you for your kind generosity
and continuing support.*

JAPANESE SCHOOL

Philip Loveridge

"Hanami", or "cherry blossom viewing" is an annual event in Japan. Students learned about the Japanese tradition and also enjoyed making their own "sakura mochi" using Matsumoto sensei's recipe.

Gakuen students observed Children's Day on May 2nd. Students enjoyed the display of Koi Nobori and Musha Ningyo along with the annual Jan Ken Pon contest.

The Annual Speech Program will be held on May 16th at 9:00 am. Students and teachers are working very hard every Saturday for this performance. Students will receive trophies for their efforts. The students will use slides to enhance their presentations.

New student registration will be conducted June 6th and 13th at the school between 9:00 and 1:00. Kindergarten class (for 5 year olds) usually fills up fast. Our beginner class is for 6 year olds and above. Please tell your friends who might be interested in enrolling their children.

Camp Hanabi registration has begun. The camp is open to children 5 to 10 years old. The Camp will be held July 6 - July 10, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. The children will experience Japanese culture and language through music, crafts, stories, food tasting and sports. Registration forms are available online at sejscc.org.



Intermediate Class enjoying
Sakuramochi



Elementary Class students making Sakuramochi

Southeast Japanese School and Community Center

The Annual General Meeting of Members

June 7, 2015 12:00 PM

Call Toshi at (562) 863-5996 to reserve
a seat for the Luncheon (\$10)

Or email gakuen@sejscc.org

HIKARI TAIKO

Mary Jane Mayeda

Hikari presented a taiko program to Leal Elementary School in March. We had two separate programs to accommodate most of the school children. The school also hosted about a dozen children from Japan so this was a new experience for the Japanese students to learn about an American taiko group. After a performance which included the ShiShi Lion dance, the children were able to come up and play the drums. During the last program the teachers and staff were invited to come up too.

Hikari Taiko helped celebrate the city of Hawaiian Gardens 51st Carnival and Parade Anniversary in April. Along with fun rides and game booths, entertainment was held on the other side of the playground at Furgeson Elementary school.

May will be very busy for us as we have six performances coming up. Have a wonderful Mothers Day!

Southeast Japanese School and Community Center

<http://www.sejscc.org/school/main.htm>

14615 S. Gridley Road · Norwalk, CA 90650

New Student Registration

June 6 and 13th, 2015 (9 am – 1 pm)



FALL SEMESTER STARTS SEPT. 12TH

Learn Japanese vocabularies and phrases through Games & Songs.

Learn and experience Japanese Culture.

Tuition \$65.00 per month plus registration fee

This program is open to everyone regardless of race, religion.



SEJSCC BOARD MEMBERS

If you wish to contact any of the board members, please call the Center and leave a message.

Calvin Chang
Lynn Chang
Linda Kusuda
Kimie Matsumoto
Fred Matsumoto
Carrie Nakatani
Jim Niuro
Ernie Nishii
Mas Onoda
Richard Shinomoto
Tosh Teramoto
Bob Yamada
Ted Yoshimura

Reminder...

B I N G O				
7	25	44	57	62
15	22	40	50	70
11	30	46	74	
2	28	37	55	68
10	27	39	59	75

June 6 Na Wahine 'O Kawena/Ukulele
serving Hawaiian Dinner.

July 11 Judo
Serving Chinese Dinner

Dinner served at 6 pm

BINGO 6:30 pm

First Saturday Of the month
Come join us!

“Tomodachi”, 14615 Gridley Rd., Norwalk CA 90650.

Tel: 562-863-5996. Published 6 times annually by the Southeast Japanese School and Community Center. A no charge newsletter informing all participants of activities on a one per household basis. Bulk Mail Postage Paid at Norwalk, CA.

Editor: SEJSCC Staff; Advertising & Mailing: SEJSCC Staff, Mas Onoda, Gakuen PTA and Norwalk Nikkei Seniors.

NORWALK DANCECLUB

Connie Ciranna

Norwalk Dance Club "March Spring Fling" Dance 2015

It was another delightful evening for the 67 dancers who attended NDC's "March Fling". Needless to say, the colorful refreshments of salad, different colored finger-jello, ham, beef, or turkey sandwiches, chips, & a little Easter candy were very tasty. Thank you Helen, Harriet, Edna, & Connie, for making the jello, & for Aileen, Sonita, Jean, & Jim, helping out in the kitchen.

As usual, Yuso provided each table his musical order sheet so everyone would know what dance style would be next which really helps everyone. It is so nice to see couples exchanging dances with other couples. Plus, we thank Edna for leading the group in two dances, "Black Velvet" & "Old Time Rock-N-Roll". Then it was time to have a Mixer, where everyone could get have a dance with anyone in line.

So we thank all those from GVNC, Langley, NDC, & friends for attending our dance. Be sure to get those western outfits ready for our "April Western Dance" on April 25th!

Western Night with Norwalk Dance Club – April 25th, 2015

All 79 dancers were at it again, dancing the evening away. It was nice to see West Covina dance group joining us once again. They enjoyed dancing on the nice, large dance floor & the friendliness of the other dancers who came from Gardena & Langley. It is nice to see a past president of NDC, Sho Kitayama & his wife, Shiz, continue to come & support the dances. Thank you!

Of course, Helen H. prepared the typical western meal of a hot dog, chili, chips, & a couple of sliced watermelon. Thanks to her & the helpers in the kitchen, Harriet, Jim, Aileen, Dennis, Jean I, & George. Also, thanks to Mark Murakami for providing a bottle of wine, which was added to the refreshment table.

We missed the line dance lesson due to Edna's sore leg, but we thank Yuso, for playing a song so the dancers could dance on their own.

Hope you all will plan to attend our next dance on May 23rd, Latin Night.



Orange Coast Optimist Club and Tanaka Farms

Walk the Farm 2015

A Fundraiser to help send "Kibou" (hope)

to the farmers in Japan and Central California

100% of the registration sales will go to farmers in Japan that were affected by the 2011 earthquake, as well as farmers in Central California suffering from the current drought

Saturday, June 20, 2015

Tanaka Farms

5380 3/4 University Drive, Irvine, CA 92612

Check-In Anytime Between 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Take a leisurely 1.5 - mile walk around the Tanaka Farm and sample some of the farm's fresh fruits and vegetables along the way.

REGISTER NOW!

www.walkthefarm.com

Walkers must pre-register due to limited space

On-line registration ends June 14

DONATION:

Walker \$25 (by May 31)

Non registered walkers \$30 on June 20 at the farm

Dog \$5 (with registered walker)

Dog walkers check-in between 12 - 2 p.m.;

Dogs MUST be on a leash throughout the Walk

- For More information: email us at walk@walkthefarm.com -

Currently Accepting Applications For Sponsors

Please contact Glenn Tanaka at glenn@tanakafarms.com or (949)653-2100 ext. 202

2015 Recognition and Awards Dinner



Dave and Toby Fusato receive award from Assembly member Cristina Garcia



Jean Kodama



Jim Uyekawa



Judo scholarship recipient



NYS scholarship recipients



Nerio Scholarship recipients



Outstanding Volunteer Award recipients



Southeast Japanese School & Community Center Activities List

If you are interested in any of the activities at the Center, please contact the person listed below

Southeast Gakuen: Kimie Matsumoto 562 863-5996
Ikebana (Flower Arrgmt): Ogawa Sensei 714 893-1245
Guitar Class: Yuji Hata 562 695.1908
Norwalk Youth Sports: Rich Tamaki rytamaki@yahoo.com
Judo: Bill Matsubara 562 483-9374
Kendo: Brian Yoon email: yoonbrian@hotmail.com
Karate: Brock Nishimura 714 826-9128

Hikari Taiko: Mary Jane Mayeda 562 924-1454
Norwalk Nikkei Seniors: Toby Fusato 562 860-7368
Na Wahine 'O Kawena: Karen Toyoshiba 562 863-5996
Hawaiian Karaoke Club: Stan Shimomura 562 865-9672
Ukulele Class: Kamaki Keawe 714 928-7157
Norwalk Dance Club: Edna Kurihara 714 847-1173

NORWALK KENDO DOJO

March and April were once again busy months for Norwalk Kendo Dojo. Our first event was the North South Tournament which was held up north in San Jose. Norwalk participants included Sumi Domen, Linda Fu, Courtney Yoon (women's division), Jeffrey Trost (1-2dan division), Jeffrey Chang, Yu Hamamura, Emil Nguyen, Takeshi Nakagawa, Brian Yoon (3-4dan division), Jean Kodama (senior division).

Congratulations to Sumi Domen for winning 3rd place in the women's division and to Yu Hamamura for 3rd place in the 3-4dan division. Also, Sumi Domen and Courtney Yoon were on the SCKF women's team and Jeffrey Chang and Yu Hamamura were on the SCKF yudansha team, both won NCKF. Overall it was a great bonding experience for the Norwalk kenshi.

On March 21st the center held a recognition dinner where Jean Kodama and Daniel Ji were among the honorees. Jean Kodama was recognized for all her years of dedication to the center and to Norwalk Kendo Dojo. Daniel Ji was one of the five recipients of the Nerio scholarship.

April 18th was the SCKF spring shinsa (or promotional exam). Participants included William Hwang and Byung Kim who both tested for 4 kyu. Not only did they pass but they did so with perfect scores!

Finally, 16th World Kendo Championship will be held in Tokyo, Japan from 5/29 to 5/31. Sumi Domen will be participating as a member of Team USA's Women's Team representing the USA Kendo. Good luck, Sumi! We are proud of you!

Norwalk Kendo Dojo practices Mondays from 7:00 to 8:30 pm and Fridays from 7:30 to 10:00 pm. We also practice iaido from 9 to 10:30 pm on Mondays. New members are welcome; beginners are accepted at the start of each odd month. Please see our website at <http://www.eanet.com/norwalk> for information about Norwalk Kendo Dojo, including upcoming and past events as well as how to join, or send email to norwalkkendo@gmail.com.

CALENDAR

Advisory Committee Mtg-1st Wed Monthly 7pm
Center Bd Mtg-2nd Wed Monthly 7 pm

May	2	Monthly Bingo Games	6:30 pm
May	16	Gakuen Speech Program	9:00 am
Jun	6/13	Gakuen new student registration	9:00-1:00 pm
Jun	6	Monthly Bingo Games	6:30 pm
	7	Annual General Meeting	12:00 pm
Jun	18	Camp Hanabi registration deadline	
Jun	28	90th Anniversary Luncheon	11:00 am
Jul	4	Holiday, No school	
	6-10	Camp Hanabi	9:00-3:00
	6 & 9	Ondo Practice	7:30 pm
	11	Monthly Bingo Games	6:30 pm
	13 & 16	Ondo Practice	7:30 pm
	20 & 23	Ondo Practice	7:30 pm
	25 & 26	Cultural Festival and Ondo	

**SOUTHEAST JAPANESE SCHOOL
AND COMMUNITY CENTER**

90TH ANNIVERSARY

JUNE 28, 2015

11:00 AM

Southeast Japanese School 90th Anniversary Celebration

Name _____ Number attending _____

_____ Will not attend Will order book _____ @ \$20 each (To be picked up at Festival 7/25-7/26)

Luncheon: \$25.00 per person includes commemorative book (one per family) and commemorative gift.

Email: _____ Phone: _____ Total enclosed _____

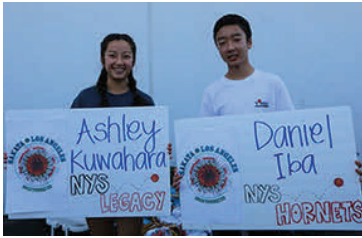
Please make check payable to Southeast Japanese School
Send to: 14615 Gridley Rd. Norwalk, CA 90650

Please respond before June 6, 2015.

NORWALK YOUTH SPORTS

By Kandi Kawakami

Yonsei Basketball



Congratulations to Ashley Kuwahara (NYS Legacy) and Daniel Iba (NYS Hornets) who were selected in January as players on the 22nd Yonsei Basketball Association (Y22) team. Participants are 8th graders who have been chosen based on academic excellence, positive attitude, extracurricular activities, sound basketball skills and personal interviews.

Yonsei Basketball provides an opportunity for Southern California boys and girls to participate in a cultural exchange program with a Japanese city. This summer, Y22 players will travel to Sakata, Japan and stay with a host family. Ashley and Daniel will participate in goodwill basketball games against Sakata-area teams and experience the Japanese heritage and culture firsthand through their home-stay experience. The following year, Y22 families will return the favor and host the Japanese players in Southern California.

Y22 players and families have been meeting monthly to prepare for their trip by engaging in:

- Cultural activities to prepare for the trip to Japan
- Cultural education to prepare for their home-stay
- Planning of fundraisers and community service events that will facilitate team-bonding
- Basketball practices coached by high school-level coaches

Ashley and Daniel are looking forward to learning more about Japan and having an experience of a lifetime!

For more information about Yonsei Basketball and the Y22 team please follow this link:

<http://www.yonseibasketball.com/introducing-the-yonsei-22-team/>

Southeast Japanese School and Community Center

<http://www.sejscc.org>
14615 S. Gridley Road · Norwalk, CA 90650

Camp Hanabi

July 6th – July 10th, 2015 (9 am – 3 pm)

For ages 5-10

Space is limited, Registration forms online at
www.sejscc.org

Language (conversation & songs)
Culture (dances, taiko, food tasting, story time)
Crafts (origami, ikebana)
Sports (basketball, kendo, karate).

All-inclusive summer camp is only \$175 (includes Materials and snack). Early bird registration (\$150) ends June 10th.

This program is open to everyone regardless of race, religion or physical abilities.

Hot Shots in San Jose

Hot Shots 9th Grade girls came in 1st place in the San Jose Ninja Tournament. Hot Shots always have a good time at his tournament! The following weekend the girls came in 1st place in the Wanjetette's Tournament!

The Girls: Hailey Russell, Kira Escovar, Kalei Iwami, Nicolle Kawakami, Stefanie Berberabe, Tracey Nakamura, Sarah Ito.



NYS Rebels - 2015 West LA Tournament Champions

Congratulations to our 8th grade boys Rebels on their hard work, effort and well deserved championship. The boys defended their title from 2014 with great defense, execution, teamwork and an unselfish style of play. We are all very proud of you! Thank you to all families in attendance for your support! Pictured from left to right: Christian Bombarda, Joseph Palad, Keoni Baxter, Joshua Castro, Kameron Kohara, Jeremiah Jones & Ryan Young. Not pictured: Parent Rep Montesa Henri, Coach Russell & Coach Kurt. Unavailable: Jett Sonoda, Franklin Li, Kevin Tai & Coach Dave.



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Japanese School Fund-raising

Purchase Marukai
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Available in \$10 denominations

Ask any Board member

Also available at the Monthly Bingo

NORWALK JUDO DOJO

By June Uyekawa

As we continue on our tournament trail, we saw a lot of competitors forging ahead with their conquest of exposing themselves to new challenges and experiences.

The Mojica Judo Club Scrimmage Tournament on March 8th displayed the efforts of Sergio Lemus Jr., Kylie Perrey, Daisy Perrey, Jocelynn Blas, and Kay Sugahara. Congratulations to 1st place winners, Sergio and Kay-a 2nd place finish for Jocelynn and bringing home 3rd place, Kylie. Daisy's first tournament of the year was a good showing and a start of a competitive year.

The March 22nd, 5th Annual Taishi tournament provided larger competitive weight classes and many competitors representing Norwalk. The list of competitors are as follows: Sergio Lemus, 3rd place, Daniel Lemus, Ariana Lemus, 1st place, Kylie and Daisy Perrey, Ariana Lemus, 1st place, Weston Uyekawa, Jocelynn Blas, Tiahna Arellano, 1st place, Conor Uyekawa, Ryan Kuratani, 3rd place, Kyle Morishima, Joshua Chen, Kay Sugahara, 1st place. It was a long day and a valiant effort by all of our competitors.

As we round out the tournament trek, on March 29th the Nanka Spring Jr/Sr Judo Tournament was held at Westminster High School. Congratulations to each and everyone of the competitors: Kylie Perrey, 3rd place,

Daisy Perrey, 3rd place, Weston Uyekawa, 3rd place, Arianna Lemus, 1st place, Conor Uyekawa 1st place, Ryan Kuratani, 2nd place and Billy Matsubara 1st place. Everyone who competed came home with a medal...how can you top that?

The road to hard work continues with the CJI State Championships on May 9th/10th, West Coast Invitational Judo Championships on May 17th, Barstow Judo Tournament on June 7th

As I regress, March 20th proved to be a special day at Norwalk when Isao Okano sensei, a former All-Japan, World and Olympic Champion graced the dojo with his presence. As an observer, he portrayed such a kind, gentle face with such a fierce competitive spirit...how fortunate to have been given the opportunity to revel in his being.

"There are people who are excitable by nature and allow themselves to become angry for the most trivial of reasons. Judo can help such people learn to control themselves. Through training, they quickly realize that anger is a waste of energy, that it has only negative effects on the self and others."—Jigoro Kano



Coming Soon our SEJSCC's

52nd Annual Cultural Festival and Ondo

JULY 25 – 26 Sat. and Sun.



- | | |
|---|----------------|
| *Cultural Arts Displays | *Raffle Prizes |
| *Martial Arts Demonstrations | *Boutique |
| *Great Foods | *Plant Sale |
| *Games | *Ondo |
| *Entertainment Indoor Stage & Outdoor Stage | |

Ondo Dance Practice begins July 6th 7:30 pm

NIKKEI SENIORS

Toby Fusato

The Seniors are busily making various craft items for the Rummage Sale & Crafts booth for the upcoming Cultural Festival in July. They are also accepting items to sell if anyone wants to clean out their closets and garages of things they no longer use. Contact Toby Fusato at (562) 860-7368.

The Seniors will be enjoying their annual Mother's Day Luncheon at Hibachi Grille in May. Delicious food and games are planned for this event. They will also be busy at the May 2nd Bingo Night serving their delicious Spaghetti Dinner prepared by Chef Geoff Chow.

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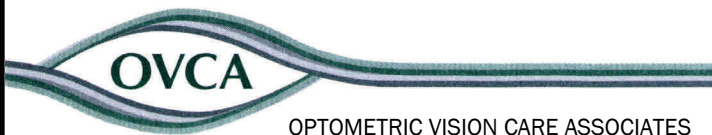
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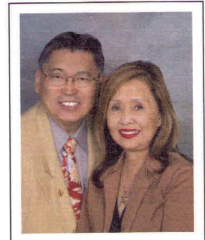
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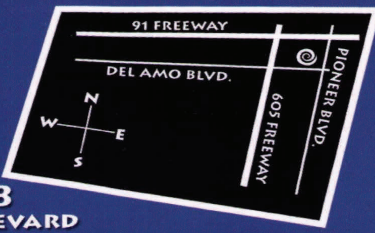
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