



Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute

September, 2006

Maki Miyahara Honored as 2006 Nisei Week Pioneer



Back (l to r): Tim Yuge, John Mitsumori, Amon Nakprasert, Angelica Garcia, James Yamasaki, Leo Kitajima, Chris Champigny, Michael Zavaleta, Hideo Hirata, Yukio Matsuzaki Front (l to r): May Mitsumori, Maki Miyahara

Longtime PJCi kendo instructor **Maki Miyahara** was one of six individuals honored as a 2006 Nisei Week Pioneer. Nominated by the Southern California Kendo Federation, Mr. Miyahara was presented at the Pioneer Luncheon at the New Otani Hotel, and later rode in the Nisei Week Parade.

Holding the rank of 8th dan, which he achieved in 1984, Miyahara-sensei is the highest ranked kendo instructor in the United States. A 1971 inductee of the Black Belt Hall of Fame, he has been a kendo instructor at UCLA, Pomona College, and Valley Kendo Dojo. The PJCi has been fortunate to have him as head kendo instructor since 1955.

The United States national kendo team has also taken advantage of Miyahara-sensei's expertise, as he has coached and taken them to many international competitions. Active with the Southern California Kendo Federation since 1962, he is a past president and currently serves as an advisor.

He and his wife, Noriko, have three daughters, Colleen, Carolyn, and Joy.



PJCi Bazaar October 1st Will Include Arts and Craft Vendors

The Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute's Annual Bazaar will be held on Sunday, October 1, from 11:00 to 4:00. There are exciting changes in store this year, as a collection of arts and crafts vendors will be there to sell their wares. They include books from **Heritage Source** (<http://heritagesource.com>), clay, polymer and paper items by **Mini-Mono** (http://www.etsy.com/shop.php?user_id=48283), **Waka'nai Wear** (clothing line for adults and children with a very Hawaiian theme: <http://www.wakanaiwear.com>), whimsical charms, gifts and jewelry by Clayvision (<http://www.clayvision.com>), and **Mariko III**, which specializes in purses and accessories with Hawaiian and Japanese prints. This will be an excellent time to begin your shopping for Christmas!

The bazaar will also feature a variety of good food, including sushi, udon, chicken teriyaki, and snow cones. There will be martial arts demonstrations by our aikido, kendo, naginata, and judo dojos, and an exhibit of bonsai from the Pasadena Bonsai Club.

The **Pasadena Nikkei Seniors** will be manning a booth selling their popular hand made crafts, and there will be a classroom open displaying the school work of the Pasadena Gakuen students.

Sushi preparation will begin in the morning at 8:00 in the auditorium. Volunteer help is always welcome...no experience necessary!

The bazaar will conclude with the raffle drawing, which features the many prizes that are always generously donated by the merchants in the greater Pasadena area.

The Annual Bazaar is the most important fundraiser of the year for the PJCi. Proceeds not only benefit our various organizations, but also help to fund the many improvements that are necessary to maintain our center.

Raffle tickets are included in this mailing. We ask for your support and participation in this year's event. Mark your calendar now, and make it a point to come to the bazaar on October 1.



Friendship 2006

By Courtney Takeda

In August, I had the opportunity to participate in Friendship 2006. Friendship is an exchange program between Mishima, Japan and Pasadena, California. This year, Mishima sent 16 students to join 13 Pasadena students, where we toured around Southern California. Our ages ranged from 12 to 17 years old. They stayed for ten days, participating in various activities each day. Our family had the pleasure of home staying three of the Mishima students, Ayaka, Maho, and Shizuka.

During Friendship, we went to many exciting places. We began with Sea World and the San Diego Zoo. Throughout the next few days, we toured to JPL (Jet Propulsion Laboratory), Old Town Pasadena, the Pasadena City Council offices, the LA City Hall, the Japanese American National Museum, and many of the stores in Little Tokyo. We also went to Hollywood and Highland where we walked around Hollywood and later went to the KTLA Channel 5 newsroom. While we were there, we saw a live telecast and had the chance to meet news anchors Frank Buckley and Lu Parker! We shopped in Santa Monica and at the UCLA student store, and attended a Los Angeles Dodgers game as well. All of these activities and places that we toured were fun, and although we were all exhausted, we had a great time together.



Left-Right: Carly Matsukuma, Akemi Neufeld, Frank Buckley, Lauren Babamoto, Priscilla Chan, Courtney Takeda

Throughout the ten days that the students were here, I learned a couple of things. Spending time with the students from Mishima made me realize how much I haven't used the Japanese that I have already learned. I only know a few words, but the few words that I know helped me out a lot. For instance, when the students didn't understand something that we were talking about, using the few words I knew helped me to explain it to the students. I also learned about our different lifestyles and how our daily schedules differ from each other.

Friendship 2006 is an experience that I will never forget because of all the fun and great experiences that this program has given to me. I have made many friends through Friendship, and I am looking forward to seeing them again. I am also looking forward to next year's program in Japan, Friendship 2007.

MISHIMA STUDENTS VISIT PASADENA



Friendship 2006, the 5th annual Pasadena-Mishima Summer Program, recently concluded, with Pasadena taking its turn as hosts to 16 students from Mishima, Japan. Program director Bryan Takeda and PJC President Ron Dyo spent several months planning and organizing the activities for the 16 Mishima students' ten day visit.

Following their arrival in America, the Mishima students, their two chaperones, and 11 local students were whisked down to San Diego for a quick two day stay, visiting Sea World and the San Diego Zoo. Upon returning to Pasadena, the visitors were picked up by their homestay families, and then proceeded to spend six whirlwind days at various sites in Southern California.

Stops included JPL, Little Tokyo, the Japanese American National Museum, and an LA Dodger-Colorado Rockies baseball game. One day was spent with the students at Pasadena Gakuen, and there were shopping days in Old Town Pasadena, Universal City Walk, and Santa Monica's 3rd Street Promenade. The group was also invited by KTLA Channel 5 news anchor Frank Buckley to watch a Saturday night 10:00 evening news broadcast.

Local participants included Lauren Babamoto, Denise Bender, Priscilla Chan, Brian Chikumi, Katsu Frausto, Ashley Irvin, Lena Kelly, Carly Matsukuma, Kyle Mayeda, Miaka McClenahan, Megan Musashi, Akemi Neufeld, Stephanie Ozawa, Courtney Takeda, and Veronica Wickline.

The PJC and Friendship 2006 would like to extend a sincere thank you to the following host families: Yoji and Candy Arai, Dennis and Carol Babamoto, Ron and Cindy Dyo, Mariko Fesser, Jane Maruyama-Frausto, Kirk and Caroline Mayeda, Art and Teruye Musashi, John and Lynn Ozawa, and Bryan and Jeri Takeda.

Pasadena Buddhist Church Gourmet Dinner

Pasadena Buddhist Church's annual Gourmet Dinner fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday October 21. Dinner includes their tasty barbecue chicken, tempura, rice and tsukemoto. You can take-out your dinner from 4:00 PM until 6:00 PM, or have your dinner served to you from 5:00 PM until 7:30 PM. Pasadena Buddhist Church is located at 1993 Glen Ave, Pasadena. For more information, please call the church at (626) 355-0531.

Annual Mochi sale will be in December.

Utsunomiya and Sera Awardees Presented at PJCI Annual Party

At the 2006 PJCI Annual Party, a number of local students were presented as awardees of scholarships and community service awards in memory of Tak Sera and Amy Utsunomiya.

Lauren Takeda, a student at Flintridge Prep, received \$500 as this year's recipient of the Tak Sera Memorial Scholarship. Established by the family of the late Tak Sera, the scholarship is awarded to high school seniors who have been involved in PJCI activities. For many years, Lauren has been an active volunteer for the Pasadena Nikkei Seniors, the Pasadena-Mishima Summer Friendship Program, and the Nikkei Federation's Rising Stars. She has also devoted time working with the residents at the Keiro Retirement Home.

The 2006 recipients of the Amy Utsunomiya Youth Community Service Award were Victoria Emi (La Canada HS), Russell Fujimoto (PCC), Hana Kikuchi (South Pasadena HS), Courtney Takeda (Flintridge Prep) and Lauren Takeda (Flintridge Prep). All were honored for the unselfish donation of their time and energy in doing volunteer work for the PJCI, Altadena First Presbyterian Church, and the Pasadena Buddhist Church.

This award was established by the Wade Utsunomiya and John Ota families in memory of Amy Utsunomiya. Amy epitomized the word *volunteer*, as she was always cheerfully giving of her time to a number of community organizations. A long-time PJCI board member, she was the first female PJCI president, and for a number of years, was in charge of the PJCI Matsuri Camp, a summer program devoted to promoting Japanese culture to the local youth.



PJCI President Ron Dyo and Lauren Takeda, Tak Sera Scholarship Recipient.



Left to Right: Wade Utsunomiya, Russell Fujimoto, Victoria Emi, Courtney Takeda, Lauren Takeda, Holly Utsunomiya and Warren Utsunomiya. Not pictured: Hana Kikuchi

巴文 Kendo News P.C.I. KENDO DOJO

Congratulations to Kenny Kim, who took 1st place in the Adult Division at the SCKF Championships, and Lorena Romero who placed 3rd in the Women's Kyu Division at the Nisei Week Tournament.

The SCKF Team Championships will be held on September 24 and Promotional Exams will be held in October. Both events will be held at Torrance's Wilson Park gym.

Pasadena Kendo Dojo will accept new students only in January. Contact James Yamasaki for more information (626 676-0318).

Tuesday Nite Cooking Classes

The Pasadena Buddhist Women's Association Culinary Class, *Japanese Cooking the Easy Way*, will begin September 12th at 7:00 PM. This class will meet the second Tuesday of each month (except December, July and August) at the Pasadena Buddhist Church. Hitomi Hashimoto is the instructor. Menu items include basic Japanese meals.

Cost is \$15 per session. Everyone eats after the class. Contact Misa Morihoro (626 398-9987) or Yuki Okazai (626 286-0788) for more details.

PJCI Organization Contacts <http://www.pjci.org>

Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute	
Ron Dyo, President	(626) 449-5487
Pasadena Gakuen Japanese Language School	
Carl Wakimoto, PTA President	(626) 577-2653
Pasadena Nikkei Seniors	
Kiyoshi Takeda, President	(626) 359-3780
Pasadena Aikikai	
Jim Moore, Instructor	(626) 792-2936
Integrated Martial Arts	
Tim Piering, Instructor	timpmoto@aol.com
Pasadena Judo Dojo	
Mike Verdugo, Instructor	verdugoassoc@earthlink.net
Pasadena Kendo Dojo	
James Yamasaki, Instructor	(626) 676-0318
Los Angeles Kyudokai	
Rick Beal, Instructor	(323) 340-1462
Pasadena Naginata Dojo	
Cathy Mikuni, Instructor	(818) 790-2446
Kodama Taiko	
Wendy Arai Reed, Director	(213) 369-8191
Pasadena Japanese Athletic Association (Bruins)	
Dan Nakauchi, Commissioner	(626) 564-0485
Qi Gong	
Ernest Fukumoto, Instructor	(626) 345-1935

Make a difference in the Community – Develop lifelong skills – Great for college apps and resumes!

Rising Stars

Youth Leadership Program

The Nikkei Federation **Rising Stars Youth Leadership Program** is a leadership development & cultural education program for high school students.

The goal of the program is to train leaders and to encourage youth involvement in the Japanese American community by presenting a series of active, engaging workshops on various leadership topics.

Rising Stars participants will apply their skills by completing a group project.

Training Workshops Include

Working in Groups
Japanese American Community Awareness
Networking & Career Development
Effective Presentation Skills
Assertiveness Training and Time Management

Where and When

Sessions are held on selected Saturdays from November 4, 2006 through March 31, 2007, at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Little Tokyo, downtown, Los Angeles

How to Apply

Applicants can download an application from our website or by calling the Nikkei Federation office at (626) 755-7957. Applicants must be currently enrolled in high school. Enrollment will be limited to a maximum of 25 students. There is a \$100 registration fee payable upon acceptance. Applications must be postmarked by September 29, 2006.

For more information contact:

Bryan Takeda,
Nikkei Federation, 595 Lincoln Avenue, Suite 207, Pasadena, CA 91103
Phone: (626) 755-7957 Fax: (626) 396-3882

Visit The Rising Stars Page on our website at www.NikkeiFederation.org/youth

The *Rising Stars Youth Leadership Program* is supported in part by the generous donations from the David & Pearl Louie Family Foundation, East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center, Hollywood Dodgers Youth Sport Association, Ito Farms, Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, John & Sarah Kobara Family Foundation, Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute, Tokio Marine Nichido, San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center Athletics, Southeast Japanese Community Center, and Union Bank.

Nikkei Federation

Working together to promote and preserve our Japanese American culture and community

PJCI • September 2006