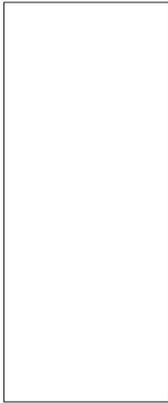


Japantown Task Force, Inc.
1765 Sutter St., Suite 1
San Francisco, CA 94115

Return Address Requested



Place
Stamp
Here



japantown task force, inc
a planning, preservation, and development organization



日本町ストリートフェア開催

アジアン・パシフィック・アイランダー (API) の文化とコミュニティの 30 年を祝って、日本町ストリートフェアが 8 月 9 日 (土) に始まります。ベイエリアのアジア太平洋諸国系アメリカ人コミュニティを称えて 2 日間にわたって開催されます。デモンストレーション、バンド演奏、絵画や手工芸品の展示、そしてバラエティに富んだフード・ブースなどが楽しめます。又、毎年人気を集めるイベントのひとつが、ゲームをしたり、伝統的工芸などを学べる「子供の世界」です。高学年グループには 3・3 バスケボールや、オートバイのショーなどが企画されています。

ストリートフェアは API コミュニティの最大の夏のイベントですが、各非営利団体にとって、多くの人たちに活動を紹介し、理解を求める良い機会でもあり、活動資金募集の大切な催しでもあります。



過去 39 年間、アーティストで活動家のリランド・ウォングさんのパワフルで、クリエイティブなポスターも人気を集めています。

この素晴らしいストリートフェアは、3 人の若いコミュニティ・リーダー達、スティーブ・中條さん、ロン&ケニー・カンザキさんによって始まり、ボランティアの活躍によって開催されています。今年のテーマは「伝統を通しての結末」で、グレース・堀切共同委員長は多くの参加を呼びかけています。

Welcome!

Summer is here, and what better way to spend it than heading out to the 30th Annual Nihonmachi Street Fair or one of many *Obon* festivals taking place across the bay area. As you may know, *Obon* is a Buddhist festival honoring the return of ancestral spirits, celebrated with an array of food and drink (for both the living and the deceased), *odori* (dance), *hanabi* (fireworks), brightly lit *chochin* (lanterns), and much more.

During *Obon*, many people return to their birthplace to honor their ancestors so it's especially significant that the Street Fair include *Obon* festivities and brings so many Japanese Americans to the community. Whatever the reason, come join us in Japantown and share in the rich culture and history of this community!

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Contact Us:

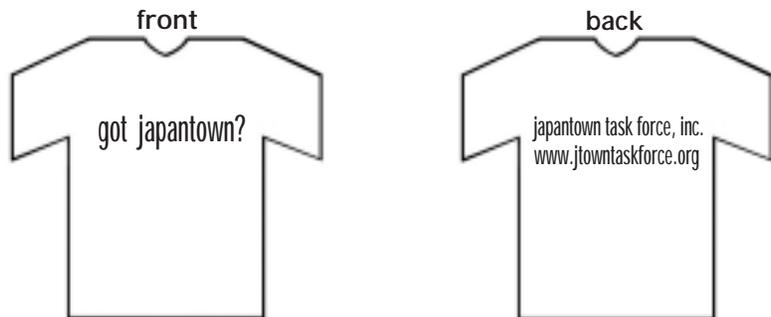
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JTF Announcements

Got T-Shirts?

Got t-shirts? Ok, you probably do, but do you have one that says "Got Japantown?" High fashion at a low price! \$10 each at fairs and events (otherwise \$15 w/ shipping). Stop by the office or see our booth at the upcoming Nihonmachi Street Fair to pick one up.



Task Force Wish List

Digital Camera, P/S2 Y-splitter, optical mouse, tea, laser printer paper, plastic sheet covers, mini fridge, binders, mail scale, technical assistance for web design and a heavy-duty paper shredder. If you are willing to donate any of the above, please contact us at (415) 346.1239. Thanks!

Thank You



Japan Center Garage Corporation, Neighborhood Beautification Fund, San Francisco Beautiful, Union Bank of California,

Brian Cordero, Judy Hamaguchi, Jeffrey Kimoto, Kazue Ishigaki & Sue Sakai McClure, Roy Ito, Chayoun Kim, Ben Kobashigawa, Dora Liou, June-ko Nakagawa, Rob Nakamura, Yoko Tsukuda, and Emi Tsutsumi.

こころ・アシステッド・リビング

長年の計画と調査、そして基金募集が実ってSFジャパントウンに建築中のシニアのための54ユニット施設「こころ・アシステッド・リビング」は、いよいよそのドアを2003年8月15日に開こうとしています。

日本の文化と伝統に根ざすサポートを提供する「こころ」はシニアたちが求めている生活が可能になる場所となることでしょう。



この記念すべき日を祝って、「こころ」はグランド・オープニング・ガラ（祝賀会）を開きます。ベイエリア各地から500人を越える参加者が見込まれています。サイレント・オークションや素晴らしい料理に加えて、コミュニティのアーティスト達によるライブ・エンターテイメントもプログラムに組み込まれています。

この祝賀会、又「こころ」についてのお問い合わせは、(415) 776-8066にどうぞ。

ビジネス・インプローブメント・ディストリクト (BID s)

BID s について、SF市のユニオン・スクエアや、NYのタイムズ・スクエアなどに関連して耳にされたことがあると思いますが、殆どの主要都市には必ず一つはあるのです。でも、ウエスタン・アディションには適当でしょうか？ SF市の再開発局 (SFRA) は、このほどジャパントウンとフィルモアに設置することを考えています。色々なエージェンシーの代表者達がタスク・フォースのビジネス・エコノミック・ディベロップメント委員会と理事会に BID s について説明会を開いています。



BIDとは一体何でしょうか？ 基本的には、メンテナンスやセキュリティ、マーケティング、スペシャルイベント、そして経済的展開といった、サービスや改善のための資金を活性化する仕組みです。土地・家屋の所有者は特別な投票過程を経て、この計画の実行に関して許可や却下を行い、資金の管理や、その地区のマネージメントにも責任を持ちます。

今の初期段階では、タスクフォースはBIDに関する賛否を決めていません。最近の会議でこの件に関して論議がなされましたが、まだ詳しい回答は得られていません。進展していくに従って、SFRAはコミュニティ・ミーティングを重ねることになりますが、追って経過をお知らせします。

President's Report

Message from Jeff Mori, Chair JTF Inc.



After three years of community input from Japantown residents, community organizations, churches, property owners and businesses in developing the *Japantown Community Plan*, I am pleased to announce that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors has designated the Japantown Task Force, Inc. as planning entity for San Francisco's Japantown under the Senate Bill 307 resolution. The resolution passed unopposed at the Board of Supervisors' July 15 meeting.

Those individuals who were a part of the original 50 member Task Force, our current Japantown Task Force Board of Directors and staff are to be commended for their dedication and hard work to get us to this point in our development. These have been very difficult times for everyone but especially for the non-profit sector. Starting a new

non-profit, *the Japantown Task Force, Inc.*, during an economic downturn shows just how committed our community is to preserving San Francisco's Japantown—one of the last three remaining Japantowns in the entire nation.

Our Task Force has been instrumental in developing and nurturing excellent working relationships with key City and County Departments and agencies to revitalize and preserve Japantown. We have already started the "Keep Japantown Clean" program with the Japantown Merchant's Association, Mayor's Neighborhood Beautification Fund and San Francisco Beautiful to keep Japantown attractive and conducive to commerce and community service. We have been working with the San Francisco Police Department to improve neighborhood safety through our Health and Safety Committee (Captain Cashman, Officers Kiyo Kanamori and Wayne Sato serve on

"I am pleased to announce that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors has designated the Japantown Task Force, Inc. as planning entity for San Francisco's Japantown"

Board Bios

More on our Board Members

Douglas Dawkins: “Because my name is not Japanese, it often causes people to ask why I am interested in Japantown. I am Japanese on my Mother’s side and identify myself as Japanese-American. Growing up with my Grandparents, George and Namiko



Hagiwara nearby, hearing English and Japanese at their dinner table and going to Sokoji Zen Temple on Sundays brought me some sense of the beauty of Japanese culture and the Japanese-American people. Our family has been in San Francisco since 1887 and lived in and nurtured the Japanese Tea Garden until the evacuation during World War II. As a Gosei (fifth generation Japanese-American), Japantown holds the comfort and familiarity of the culture I have chosen and offers an opportunity to contribute as I think each generation must.

I have an undergraduate degree in Fine Arts from the University of Texas at Austin. My emphasis was on Ceramics and Color Photography. Also, I have an

MBA in Corporate Finance and Investment from Golden Gate University with specialization in Quantitative Analysis, Modeling and Simulation. I have worked on the Pacific Stock Exchange Options Floor for Merrill Lynch, Brokered for Charles Schwab, and

been a Financial Analyst for a \$2 Billion jet aircraft leasing corporation. Now, I am the principal at DRDC Group, a technology consultancy I founded in 1990, X Development Corporation (a technology-based-product development house) and Eivox (an online source for converged communications products and services). My family and I still live in San Francisco, go to Sokoji and enjoy the warmth of Japanese-American faces and Japanese-American culture. It is my hope that through participation on the Japantown Task Force I can help to preserve and strengthen the community that is, and has been, so important to me and to my family.”

Board (cont'd on p. 16)

タック・松葉氏、ヘリテッジ賞受賞

アジアン・パシフィック・アメリカン・ヘリテッジ月間を記念して、KQED、ユニオンバンク・オブ・カリフォルニア、ナショナル・アジアン・アメリカン・テレコミュニケーションズ・アソシエーションは、コミュニティに貢献した5人を表彰しました。

ジャパントウン・タスク・フォース理事、日本町商店会副会長のタック・松葉氏（ワタハンノハラ・インターナショナル社社長）も受賞しました。松葉氏は上記の他にも、北加日米会やゴールデンゲイト・オブティミスト・クラブ等多くの非営利団体や組織の理事として、惜しみない協力・支援を続けて来ており、この栄えある賞を受賞するのにふさわしく、日系コミュニティから今回の受賞を喜ぶ声があがっています。



松葉氏は企業コミュニティと地域社会のノンプロフィットグループとの相互理解を深め、より良い関係を築くために努力を惜しみませんでした。松葉氏の活動的で、前向きな、問題解決に取り組む姿勢は高く評価されていますが、更に明るい、親切な人柄で、彼のまわりにはいつも人々の輪が出来、「和」を作っています。

他の受賞者は、アジア美術館のエミリー・佐野館長、カーニー・ストリート・ワークショップのナンシー・ホムさんら4人です。

ジャパントウンの安全と美化の改善

ジャパントウン・タスク・フォース・インク(タスクフォース)はSF市とカウンティのパブリック・ワークス局 (DPW) と共に、ジャパントウンの活性化、改善に努力しています。サター通りの歩道が木の根によって持ち上がりデコボコになっていました。このため高齢者が躓いて転んだり怪我をして、危険な状態でした。



ジャパントウン・タスク・フォース・インク(タスクフォース)はSF市とカウンティのパブリック・ワークス局 (DPW) と共に、ジャパントウンの活性化、改善に努力しています。サター通りの歩道が木の根によって持ち上がりデコボコになっていました。このため高齢者が躓いて転んだり怪我をして、危険な状態でした。

Nihonmachi Street Fair

“Unity Through Tradition”

Celebrating 30 years of Asian Pacific Islander (API) culture and community, the Nihonmachi Street Fair opens with much fanfare on Saturday, August 9th. The two-day festival honors the diversity of the many Asian and Pacific American communities throughout the bay area with exhibits, demonstrations, live bands, arts and crafts, and a wide variety of food.

As always, the festival features Children's World, where youth of all ages can play games and learn traditional arts and crafts. For older kids, the fair also hosts a three-on-three basketball tournament and the Asian American Motorcycle show.

Not to be left out are the API community nonprofit organizations which participate with information tables and food booths to spark awareness of various issues and concerns. The annual Street Fair is for many organizations an important outreach, fundraising, and promotional tool as well as the largest summer gathering of API organizations.

Most importantly, the Street Fair features food- and lots of it. Various organizations host booths selling an array of mouth-watering food as fundraisers.

And of course, what would the annual fair be like without the powerful images created by local artist and activist Leland Wong, whose work for the past 39 years captures the heart and soul of Nihonmachi Street Fair. The bold, colorful, and creative posters featured every year are collector's items which every visitor has to see.

Fully organized on a volunteer basis, the Nihonmachi Street Fair was formed “by three young community organizers — Steve Nakajo, Ron and Kenny Kanzaki. Seeing the changes taking place around them, a new trade center was being built where many families once lived, and Buchanan Street was to become an outdoor mall. Community festivals were scarce, and what festivals there were, seemed to be geared towards promoting commercialism.” 30 years later, the festival maintains its grassroots heritage and celebration of the community spirit. This year, the theme of the Fair is “Unity Through Tradition”. Grace Horikiri, event co-chair emphasized the desire to see people come and work together for a common good.

As most people will tell you

SFRA Amendments

Changes in A-2

For many community members, remembering redevelopment in the Western Addition during the '60s and '70s is a painful experience. So when people hear that the life of the Western Addition Area 2 (WA A-2) Project Area may be extended from its expiration date in 2009 until 2019, there is understandable concern. Whatever your feelings on this issue, the WA A-2 is facing important changes that will affect the community.

Senate Bill 211

Senate Bill 211 is a change to current state law that will extend the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency's (SFRA) ability to incur debt from January 1, 2004 until January 1 2009 to complete its redevelopment program in the WA A-2. A redevelopment agency pamphlet states that "the 2004 deadline will have some unintended results, including the Agency's inability to complete the redevelopment programs in the Western Addition and other project areas." In addition to extending the debt incurrence expiration date, SB 211 also allows for plan amendments

which extend the life of a project area and extend the time in which the agency can use tax increment funds to finance activities (with restrictions). However, the plan amendments only apply to older project areas that still contain blighted areas (ie: deteriorated buildings, irregularly shaped lots, vacant or underutilized properties, high crime rates, residential overcrowding).

Senate Bill 2113

In addition to SB 211, SB 2113 allows the Board of Supervisors to amend older redevelopment plans to incur indebtedness until 2014 and receive tax increment funds to replay that debt until 2044. However, SB 2113 plan amendments include restrictions, one of which requires that tax increment revenue be used only to replace the 7,000 affordable housing units the Agency demolished before 1976.



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www.nihonmachistreetfair.org

Business Improvement

A BID for Japantown?

Business Improvement Districts (BIDs). You may have heard of them before in areas such as Union Square here in San Francisco or Times Square in New York, but just about every major city has one. The question is, how appropriate is a BID for the Western Addition? The San Francisco Redevelopment Agency (SFRA) has recently been

looking into creating a BID in Japantown and the Fillmore. Various agency representatives have been meeting with the Task Force's Business and Economic Development Committee and the Board to introduce community members to what BIDs are.

So what is a BID? Basically, a BID is a mechanism to generate funds for improvements and services such as maintenance, security, marketing, special events, and economic development. These funds are assessed upon property owners based on linear frontage through property taxes. The important part however, is that property owners, through a special voting process, authorize or reject the implementation of the program, and are also responsible for the administration of funds and management of the district.

If the SFRA continues to pursue this concept, they would begin by holding community meetings to introduce the idea to community members and hear concerns and questions. Then, the agency would hire consultants who would look into the feasibility of a BID who would create a database of property owners, hold

Tax Increment?

So what is tax increment financing? Basically, the "tax increment" refers to the *increase* in tax value generated by a property as a result of redevelopment. To give an example, if a property generated \$1,000 in property tax prior to redevelopment and now generates \$5,000 in property tax after redevelopment, then the \$4,000 difference is the "tax increment". Redevelopment agencies are entitled to collect a portion of this increase to fund redevelopment activities in project areas.

KQED Award

Tak Matsuba Honored by KQED

Commemorating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, KQED, Union Bank of California, and the National Asian American Telecommunications Association honored five individuals for their outstanding contributions in the areas of business, education, social service, and community involvement. Among these five individuals was Japantown's own Tak Matsuba, board member of the Japantown Task Force and Executive Vice President of the Japantown Merchants Association.



California Cherry Blossom Festival committee member, Nihonmachi Street Fair committee member, and owner of Watahan Nohara International Inc. and Noiseken.

Only a month before, an appreciation dinner had been held for Tak at which Daryl Higashi stated "His commitment to Japantown has spanned decades. He has dedicated himself to ensuring that the Japanese speaking and English-speaking members of the community work together to

As many in the community would attest, the award is well-deserved. In addition to being past president of the Merchants Association and chair of the Task Force business and economic development committee, Tak is a board member of Nichi Bei Kai, member of the Golden Gate Optimist Club (31 year member, twice president and board member), past board member of the Japan Center Garage Corporation, board member of the Nihonmachi Parking Corporation, Northern

contribute to the well-being of our community. He has worked doubly hard to create understanding, support and a symbiotic relationship between the business community and the non-profit community based organizations. All of us know Tak to be an energetic, positive, and problem solving force in our community. He is one of the very few people who spends more time solving problems than complaining about them . . . He is a

Matsuba (cont'd on p. 21)

Matsuba (cont'd from p. 8)

happy and kind human being that we all love." Nancy Hom; Kearny Street Workshop, Dr. Romesh Japra; India Post, and Dr. Emily Sano; Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.

Other honorees include: Dr. Sue Chan; Asian Health Services,

Clean up J-Town!

The Litter Hawk

Reduced noise level makes the Litter Hawk quiet enough to operate without disturbing pedestrians

Easy-to-change dust filters give outstanding dust control



Three cylinder Kubota diesel engine provides smooth operation and plenty of power

Off the shelf, 30 gallon litter bag changes quickly, without hassle

Participate in the Japantown Task Force's "Keep J-Town Clean" program by making use of the recently purchased *Litter Hawk* Street Sweeper. This machine picks up even the smallest pieces of trash and keeps noise and dust at minimal levels. Perfect for larger properties, the Litter Hawk covers wide areas in little time, and is nimble enough to get through small spaces saving you time and effort. The Litter Hawk was purchased as a joint project of the Japantown Merchants Association and the Japantown Task Force, and is available for the community at \$25/hr (including operator).

For more information, contact the Japantown Task Force at (415) 346-1239



Thanks to our funders: Neighborhood Beautification Fund & San Francisco Beautiful

BID (cont'd from p. 7)

community meetings, focus groups, survey residents, do outreach, and eventually hold an election in which property owners in the designated boundaries of the district could vote on whether or not to implement a BID. The BID would then have to be approved by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, and then another election would be held to designate an organization to administer BID funds. A board of businesses, residents, and nonprofits could be such an entity.



At this early point, the Task Force has not taken a stance in support or against a BID. Many questions and concerns arose at recent meetings as to how exactly BIDs are administered, the cost, community input, and what it can do for the neighborhood however detailed answers were not available. As the process moves forward, the SFRA will start holding community meetings, and we'll be sure to keep you posted.

How You Can Help

Help Preserve and Revitalize Japantown

- Send in a donation in the envelope enclosed in the newsletter
- Designate a donation to the "Japantown Task Force, Inc." through the United Way payroll deduction program at your workplace
- Donate appreciated securities (stocks) to the Japantown Task

- Force, Inc. and receive tax benefits for your stocks appreciation/increased value (call Linda at 415/346-1239 for more information)
- Volunteer to help in a Japantown festival or event
- Purchase a "got japantown?" T-shirt for \$15 (call 415-346-1239 to order your shirt – specify size S,M, L, XL)

Sutter St. Repairs

DPW Pitches In to Revitalize Japantown!

The Japantown Task Force, Inc. has been working with the City and County of San Francisco's Department of Public Works (DPW) to revitalize the all too forgotten Japantown neighborhood. The sidewalks were buckling from tree roots on Sutter Street between Buchanan Street and Laguna Street. Members of the community had expressed concern because several elders had tripped and hurt themselves on the sidewalk.

and destructive trees on Sutter Street in Japantown, the Department's Bureau of Urban Forestry and Sidewalk/Cement Shop



came to fix the problem within a span of three weeks. DPW, at the same time, fixed some broken and uneven sidewalk squares in front of the Peace Plaza and Union Bank of California on Post Street just prior to the Cherry Blossom Festival.

In addition to the uneven and buckling sidewalks, the trees were previously trimmed from the bottom up so that the tops were blocking street lighting. Thus, the street was doubly hazardous because it was dark and the pathway was treacherous. There is also high foot traffic on this portion of Sutter Street since there are bus stops at Buchanan and Laguna.

"We are very concerned



After the Task Force sent a letter to Director of Public Works Ed Lee regarding hazardous sidewalks

about pedestrian safety in our

Prop 40 Update

Task Force and Community Center Reach Agreement

Update on Proposition 40 and Senate Bill 307.

On Memorial Day weekend Jeff Mori, Chair, Japantown Task Force, Inc. (Task Force) received a phone call from Paul Osaki, executive director, Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California



(JCCCNC) requesting that the Task Force meet with him, Allen Okamoto and Supervisor Matt Gonzalez regarding Proposition 40 Japantown set-aside funds and Senate Bill 307. The Task Force has been meeting with Supervisor Matt Gonzalez and Paul Osaki for approximately two-years to make a decision over who would receive Senate Bill 307 planning funds for San Francisco's Japantown.

Prior to Memorial Day, Task Force executive director Linda Jofuku was working with both Kokoro and Nihonmachi Little Friends to include them in the Proposition 40 funding. There was debate with the California Japanese

American Leadership Council (CJALC) over whether or not these two projects would meet the State's criteria for funding. Nihonmachi Little Friends had requested an official letter explaining exactly why their capital project would not qualify for funding, and, to this date has not received a letter from the State of California Parks and Recreation Department.

"Whatever the case is, Nihonmachi Little Friends deserves to have an official State of California Parks and Recreation Department explanation regarding why they do not meet the funding criteria in writing," stated Jofuku. The Task Force has been consistently supportive of both Kokoro's and Nihonmachi Little Friends' capital projects.

Paul Osaki, also a CJALC board member and Allen Okamoto, Nihonmachi Parking Corporation (NPC) submitted an alternate proposal to the Kokoro and Nihonmachi Little Friends proposal

NSF (cont'd from p. 5)

who have been to the fair before, "the Nihonmachi Street Fair is not just another Fair. There is a purpose, to celebrate the pride in

our communities and to help our young people become leaders of tomorrow by giving them the chance to utilize their potential."

SFRA (cont'd from p. 6)

What does this mean?

So what does this mean for Japantown? It's hard to say. The possible benefit of staying in a redevelopment area is the availability of tax increment funds which have provided funds for projects such as the Japantown Task Force, Kokoro, and the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California. Whether this is a "fair share" is a question however, since tax increment funds from Japantown do not have to remain in Japantown. If the plan is not extended until 2019, and Japantown is no longer a part of a redevelopment area, then rather than being under the Redevelopment Agency and its Commission, Japantown would be under the Department of Planning as well as its Commission.

Hoping to bring tax increment dollars into the community, the Task Force wrote a letter of support for SB 211 and 2113 in early April to encourage funding for the revitalization of Japantown. However, the Task Force also asked that the SFRA alter its criteria for affordable housing so that it is determined by specific neighborhood and block rather than City-wide numbers to better serve lower income neighborhood residents. In addition, the Task Force also requested more language-specific outreach as well as increased efforts to provide opportunities for certificate holders (those who were evicted due to redevelopment in the mid 60's to early 70's) to return to the Western Addition. Currently, the bills have been approved by the SFRA Commission and are waiting for action from the Supervisors.

What has the Task Force done?

BID (cont'd on p. 17)

DPW (cont'd from p. 9)

neighborhood and are grateful that the Department of Public Works responded to our request to fix these sidewalks and trim the trees in an expeditious and courteous manner," said Japantown Task Force Health

and Safety Committee Chair, Benh Nakajo. "You can see where you are going now without the fear of falling. It looks great and it is much safer."

Bike Lane (cont'd from p. 13)

- Info Guide" will be pulled; and
- The Japantown Task Force, Inc. and Japantown community concerns will be noted in the Department of Parking and Traffic and the Metropolitan Authority's reports in the Bike Plan; and
- The City will provide a copy of the current San Francisco Bike Plan to the Japantown Task Force, Inc., and
- The City will provide a copy of the evaluation form of proposed projects for the Bike Plan so the community would know the criteria for ranking the proposed projects; and
- The SF Bike Coalition and the Metropolitan Transit Authority will provide culturally and linguistically competent and relevant outreach material regarding meetings and the bike plan in Chinese, Japanese

- and Korean; and
- The SF Bike Coalition will work with the Japantown Task Force, Inc. staff to schedule a community meeting in Japantown in June 2003; and
- The SF Bike Coalition will provide stipends (payment) for community Chinese, Japanese and Korean speaking interpreters for bike plan outreach.

If you are concerned about a bike lane that is proposed by the SF Bike Coalition on Post Street in Japantown you may attend the monthly meeting of the Japantown Task Force Health and Safety Committee at 1765 Sutter Street, First Floor, San Francisco or call (415) 431-2453 x22 to see express your concerns to the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition.

Kokoro Update

Gala Opening Date Set



After many years of planning, outreach, and fundraising, Kokoro Assisted Living is set to open the doors of its 54-unit senior assisted living facility in San Francisco's Japantown September 12, 2003. Providing support rooted in Japanese culture and tradition, Kokoro will be a place where elders can spend their time secure in the knowledge that their needs will be well-addressed (*for more information on Kokoro's history see JTF Newsletter 1.1 Spring 2003*). To celebrate this momentous occasion, Kokoro will

be hosting a Grand Opening Gala this summer at which over 500 attendees are anticipated form throughout the Bay Area. In addition to a silent auction and fine cuisine, the event will also include community performing artists providing live entertainment. For more information on the Gala or Kokoro, call 415.776.8066.

Task Force Meetings

Join Us!

All Japantown Task Force board and committee meetings are open to the public, and we welcome your attendance and comments. Also, if you'd like to join our email list for announcements, meetings, and updates, just email us at heiwa@jtowntaskforce.org. All Japantown Task Force meetings take place at our office at 1765 Sutter Street (JACL building) in Japantown unless otherwise noted. Please note meeting dates are subject to change. Visit our website

at www.jtowntaskforce.org or call us at 346.1239 for the latest information.

Japantown Task Force Meetings:

- Board meetings:**
Every 4th Monday of the month at 6:00pm.
- Communications & Marketing:**
Every 3rd Thursday of the month at noon.
- Cultural and Historical Preservation:**
Every 3rd Friday of the month at noon.
- Economic & Business Development:**
TBA
- Fundraising:**
TBA
- Health and Safety:**
TBA

Demographics

How old are Japantown residents?

Part III in our ongoing series on Census 2000 data relevant to Japantown. This time around, we're looking at the age breakdown of Japantown residents. Note that although there are many residents in the 20-40 bracket, the area also has a very large

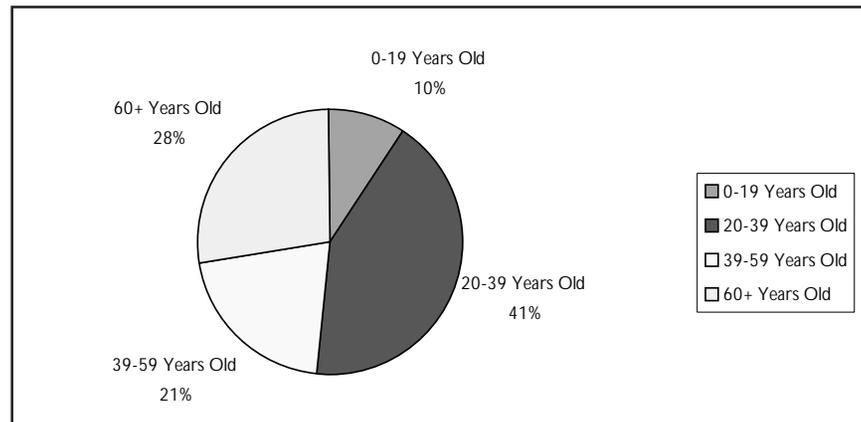
concentration of seniors as one can tell by the many senior housing complexes throughout the neighborhood. If you have any requests regarding what type of data you'd like to see in the future, feel free to email us at heiwa@jtowntaskforce.org.

Age Groups: 2000

Data Set: Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF 1) 100-Percent Data
Geographic Area: Census Tract 152, 155, 159 (Japantown)

Age

Under 5 years	302	50 to 54 years	631
5 to 9 years	254	55 to 59 years	489
10 to 14 years	271	60 to 64 years	455
15 to 19 years	282	65 to 69 years	485
20 to 24 years	997	70 to 74 years	570
25 to 29 years	1,625	75 to 79 years	613
30 to 34 years	1,376	80 to 84 years	474
35 to 39 years	874	85 to 89 years	351
40 to 44 years	670	90 years and over	278
45 to 49 years	616		
Total Population		11,613	



to Supervisor Matt Gonzalez. The NPC and JCCCNC proposal requests \$330,000 to redesign Ruth Asawa's and Rai Okamoto's stone river in the Buchanan Mall; put a sound system to play Japanese music in the Buchanan Mall; signage that will reinforce Post Street as commercial and Sutter Street as a community and cultural corridor.

The Memorial Day Agreement.

The Memorial Day meeting with Jeff Mori, Paul Osaki, Allen Okamoto and Matt Gonzalez resulted in the following Agreement:

- In order to move the Japantown projects beyond impasse and move forward, the Task Force (Jeff Mori) would agree to the Nihonmachi Parking Corporation (Allen Okamoto) applying for Proposition 40 funds with the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (Paul Osaki) as their fiscal agent. The Task Force would support their proposal in so far as it meets the strategies in the Japantown Community Plan (September 12, 2002).
- The Nihonmachi Parking Corporation and the Japanese Cultural and Community Center would have to comply with government funding

requirements (letter of intent subject to board approval, audits, regular reporting and previous and current operational budgets) and their project proposals would be subject to public hearings (Sunshine Ordinance and Brown Act) with affected jurisdictions (Redevelopment Agency, A-2, City of San Francisco, and Art Commission).

- Should the Proposition 40 project experience undue delays, the unused funding will revert to Task Force designated projects.
- The Task Force strongly urged support of Kokoro and Nihonmachi Little Friends in the next round of Proposition 40 funds.
- The Japantown Task Force, Inc. shall be designated the planning entity for Japantown and define "cultural preservation" under SB 307 by a Board of Supervisors Resolution sponsored by Matt Gonzalez.
- A SB 307 Committee will be appointed by the Chair, Japantown Task Force, Inc. (50% Task Force, 50% residents, business owners and property owners) to define "cultural preservation" for SB 307.

President (cont'd from p. 3)

the Japantown Task Force Health and Safety Committee). We continue to work with the Department of Public Works, Department of Parking and Traffic and the Metropolitan Transit Authority to include the *Japantown Community Plan* and Japantown's concerns in their on-going studies and work plans. We will be working with the Planning Department to make the *Japantown Community Plan* specific and incorporate it into the City's Master Plan.

Soon, for the first time, you will see Japantown signs from highways 101, I-80 (Bay Bridge), 280, and the Golden Gate Bridge to major thoroughfares to Japantown. The signs will have *kanji* as well as English so that Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Taiwanese who read *kanji* will more easily find Japantown. The neighborhood Japantown street signs that have faded will soon be replaced as well.

We will be developing a *Senate Bill 307 Working Committee* to define "cultural preservation" for

the State of California. I, as the Chair of the Japantown Task Force will appoint residents, property owners and business owners to this committee. This is particularly exciting since this will be the first time our community will be able to define "cultural preservation" for legislative and funding purposes. If we are able to establish a broad definition it has positive implications in preserving art, history, culture, festivals and education in our ethnic neighborhoods.

I encourage you to join us in determining the future of Japantown. Our board meetings are open to the public and are every fourth Monday of the month, 6:00 pm at 1765 Sutter Street, Suite 1, San Francisco, CA 94115. Call us at (415) 346-1239 if you are interested in joining our committees have a concern, or would like to be placed on our mailing/email list.

Sincerely,
Jeff Mori

Board (cont'd from p. 4)

Colin Gomez: General Manager, Kintetsu Enterprises Co. of America. "I wanted to be on the board of the Japantown Task Force to complete and then implement the Japantown Community Plan, the concept of which was developed

by the Japantown Preservation, Planning, and Development Task Force, of which I was a member. I hope to see the neighborhood improve as we begin to implement these plans"

Health and Safety

A Bicycle Lane on Post?



In a dispute that has spanned the past three years, the Japantown Task Force has been contending with the Bicycle Coalition over attempts to stripe a bike lane on Japantown's Post Street commercial corridor. As part of the citywide bike plan, the Coalition has been advocating the re-striping of Post between Gough and Steiner, thereby removing one lane of car traffic and adding another for bikes. The concerns of the Japantown Task Force and the Japantown community were stated in petitions signed by over 500 Japantown residents, business owners, property owners, and workers: *"We the undersigned are opposed to a bike lane being placed on Post Street in Japantown. We have concerns regarding pedestrian safety particularly for the elder Japantown pedestrians if there should be a bicycle thoroughfare placed on Post Street. Given the existing businesses and heavy delivery truck traffic and traffic into the Japan Center Garages, additional bicycle traffic would create a safety hazard for pedestrians, vehicles and cyclists on Post Street . . . We strongly suggest that the City and County of San Francisco consider an alternate route for a bicycle lane such as Golden Gate Avenue, Bush Street or the Geary corridor."*

While previous attempts have been stopped by the Task Force, the Bicycle Coalition has been persistent in its efforts. At a board meeting in May 2002, the Task Force met with Coalition representatives Mary Brown and Cheryl Brinkman to discuss the issue as well as alternatives, yet no agreement could be reached (see *JTF Newsletter 1.1*). Since then, the Coalition has been pushing its plans to re-stripe Post street, through the Committee for Post Street Traffic Calming despite the community's continued opposition.

However, at a recent meeting with representatives of the Bicycle Coalition, Metropolitan Transit Authority, Department of Parking and Traffic, Japantown Merchant's Association, Kimochi, and Japantown Task Force representatives, the following was agreed to:

- The information listing "Bike lanes on Post Street from Steiner to Laguna" in the "SF Bike Plan Update

Bike (cont'd on p. 18)

清理日本城

재팬타운 깨끗이하기

清理日本城

Litter Hawk 掃街車

*使用 Litter Hawk 掃街車不會干擾行人, *使用 Litter Hawk 掃街車不會造成很多
因為它產生的噪音很小。 灰塵, 且濾網很容易更換

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Off the shelf, 30 gallon litter bag changes quickly,
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適用於大型建築物.

如有任何疑問, 請電詢 Japantown Task Force
(415) 346-1239



Thanks to our funders: Neighborhood Beautification Fund & San Francisco Beautiful

Clean up J-Town!

“재팬타운 깨끗이하기”

The Litter Hawk

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없이 쉽게 교체 가능합니다.

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길거리 청소기를 사용함으로써 참여하세요. 이 기계는 아주 작은 조각들의 쓰레기도
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