



VOL. 46 NUMBER 1

MARCH 5, 2005

PIONEER LUNCHEON \$18.00

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2005

NOON AT LOU'S VILLAGE

Green salad

Baked salmon with cilantro & tomatoes

Rice Pilaf, rolls & butter, seasonal vegetables

Chocolate mousse! & COFFEE

RESERVATIONS BEFORE FEBRUARY 24, 2005

554-7587 make checks to Lou's Village
(For a vegetarian meal call 408-298-9043)-

The speaker for this month is Joy L. Wever, Public Information Specialist for the Senior Safety Program. The San Jose Fire Department's Office of Public Education's goal is to make seniors more prepared to protect themselves in an earthquake or other disaster. and to reduce deaths and injuries from fires, falls and burns among the high risk populations. In San Jose, there are over 200,000 people over the age of 50 and 120,00 of these are over 55. This age group is growing twice as fast as any other segment of the population. Older adults at age 65 are twice as likely to be killed or injured by fires and falls, compared to the rest of the population. By the age of 75, the risk is three times that of the general public and at 85, four times.

Statistics from the CDC show that falls are the leading cause of death from unintentional injury in the home. Thirty percent of people ages 65 and older are involved in falls each year. Some are fatal, and others permanently disable victims and may cause loss of mobility or independence.

The Fire Department focus on these serious issues is designed to prevent injuries among older adults and help them live safely at home for as long as possible. Sixteen key messages have been developed by a technical advisory group of experts and practitioners from national and local safety organizations. By focusing attention on both hazards in the home and earthquake preparedness, they hope to make a measurable improvement in the well being of older adults.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At the first meeting of 2005, your board discussed the pressing need to become more relevant to the 21st Century and proceed on our mission to "collect and preserve the literary, art and scientific works of early pioneers... to promote any means by which this corporation can transmit to future generations a faithful and correct history..."

During this discussion, I was charged with several tasks. One task was to find the way to preserve the stories of the more than thirty people here in San Jose who are now over one hundred years of age. Warren Hegg, the founder and director of the Digital Clubhouse Network has volunteered to have his organization gather as many of the stories as possible. He will use young people who record the stories while other youngsters prepare the interviewees to talk to the cameras. This program will be under the auspices of the City of San Jose and without cost to us until we are able to raise funds under our status as a charitable, educational non-profit. The results of this pilot program will be video cassettes, CDs and DVDs, all easy to store.

Another piece of business is to find a place for Mrs. Jackson's art work, furniture and memorabilia where the public will be able to view it. To that end, Past-President

Leonard McKay and I have visited with History San Jose and found that they have an interest in working with us. If we could restore one of their houses, we could have a

headquarters to work from as well as a place to display the Jackson items. I am afraid that this project is one that will really take time, but we both feel that it could work out.

The time that will be spent working toward a union with History San Jose will give us time to go to the community for the necessary funds. We need a grant writer who knows how to ask for money! And, we have to organize a "development" group to tell the grant writer which foundations and businesses to approach.

We see the need to become more public by organizing volunteers to reach out to the community for new members. The cost of the dues is small enough we can look to our children and grandchildren and their friends. Our membership chairwoman, Melita Kelly will be most happy to give you applications!

For now, that is enough to start us off. In the future, we will have to look at other "pioneers" and settlers of the area. For example, it has been more than 35 years since the first of the Southeast Asians came to our valley. Are they not pioneers here in Silicon Valley? In fifty or one hundred years will there be anyone to preserve their history if we don't?

The goals that our board is in the process of setting are all attainable. Help us to go forward by giving your support and some of your time.

Jerry Rosenthal 408-270-3101 b25gunner@earthlink.net

A Message From the Financial Secretary/Membership Chairman, Melita Kelly.

It was good to see all of the members at our Christmas luncheon and to enjoy the music of the Peninsula Banjo Band. That was a fun program for all of us. Many of you also braved the lines at the Dues Table and paid your dues for 2005. There are still many members who have not yet remitted your payment of \$15 for this year. Please check your *Trailblazer* for your expiration date.

Do not forget to let me know if you need applications for membership or are planning to move. We need your help to keep the *Trailblazer* list current.

Send your payment made *payable to the California Pioneers* to Melita Kelly, Financial Secretary, 460 North 15th

Street, San Jose, CA 95112-1725. If you enclose a self addressed, stamped envelope, your membership card will be sent to you.

New Members for 2005

Virginia Frazier, Marguerite Heintze, Edith Pricolo, Sybil Ruggles, Joanne Souza.

ED SAKAUYE

Highlights of The Life of Eichii "Ed" Sakauye
by BethWyman

Eiichi Sakauye's father, Yuwakichi Sakauye, arrived in Santa Clara County in 1900. He hailed from Wakayama-Ken prefecture in southern Japan. In 1911 Yuwakichi returned to his homeland to claim his 26 year old bride and Eiichi was born on January 25, 1912. The family first lived on North First Street where California Water Works is presently located. Ed's father was able to purchase the property in 1907, prior to the 1913 Alien Land Law that prevented Japanese from owning land. He subsequently acquired parcels in Gilroy, Sunnyvale and on the San Jose-Alviso Road in San Jose.

Ed began working in the fields as a toddler. During high school, his Dad picked him up from school, he changed clothing and was in the field until dark. Today, Ed still grows a variety of Asian fruits, but takes the most pride in his flowers. He still uses a tractor that he built decades ago, although his farm now sits sandwiched between massive office buildings on the edge of San Jose.

It was my fortune to meet Ed through historical preservation pursuits. He has been active for many years, in numerous organizations and committees, serving on the **Santa Clara County Historical Heritage Commission for more than 20 years**, the **Jefferson School Board of Education** in the City of Santa Clara, and, after a school district was created, as a **trustee for the Santa Clara Unified School District for 9 years**. In addition, he has worked closely with the **Santa Clara Valley Water District** and with the **County Agricultural Commission**, and he helped found the **City of Milpitas Historical Museum**. Ed served on the **County Planning Commission** in 1975. Planners were looking at the

area now known as "The Golden Triangle" but which was, at that time, mostly farms and orchards. Ed is a life member of the **Japanese American Citizen League** (JACL). He joined in 1932 and is the only member with such an extensive record. He probably holds a record for membership in the local branch of the **California Pioneers** as well. In addition, he has always supported the local **Santa Clara County Pear Association** as well as the state Association and the cannery organizations.

Ed published a book about the experiences of the Japanese who were interned during the years of World War II from 1941 - 1945, at Heart Mountain, Wyoming. These included "all persons of Japanese ancestry", even 1/16 blood. Although cameras were banned, Ed was given permission to use a camera and photograph life in the camp a year later. Obtaining film and supplies and having the film processed was difficult - there were no convenient drug stores at Heart Mountain. A special memory of the camp experience was when a Sister from the Mary Knoll order visited and asked what was needed. Ed explained to her that the so-called school had no supplies. The next day, the Sister appeared with an armful of school supplies. He served as a Weather Bureau Observer, Post Master for blocks 23,24 & 30, an Assistant Farm Superintendent and a Block manager.

Edward Seely, a neighbor, looked after and protected their ranch, living in their house while they were gone. He was grateful to them for looking after his invalid mother and his property when he was overseas during World War I. Unlike many, Seely turned their property back over to them when they returned from Wyoming.

After his family returned to the valley in 1945, Ed was contacted by Walter Cronkite who wanted to see his camp film footage. Cronkite told Ed, "Looks like you guys had a good time there." Ed reminded him that camp life had been very harsh. Definitely not pleasant. As a result, Ed's images were used in a documentary called *Pride and Shame* which was aired on national television. His book, *Heart Mountain. A Photo Essay*, was published in 2000.

After the camp experience, a group of local historians met at University of Santa Clara and pledged that the history of the immigrant Japanese would be preserved, an account that

would include that of the earliest settlers, the Issei; the second generation, the Neisei; and the third generation, the Sansei. They felt it was important to document the camp experience in order to prevent it from ever happening again. This led to numerous speaking engagements for Ed in many of the local schools as well as at University of California, Davis, Stanford University and in Gardena, CA.

This group also formed the **Heart Mountain Foundation** with the objective of preserving the site and "telling the story." After struggling for many years, the Foundation now has federal government support and has established a learning center. Students from Powell High School in Powell, Wyoming, 12 miles east of Heart Mountain, are active participants in the project.

In the 1990s, he owned the historical buildings on the Horn Ranch, then located on North First Street and was instrumental in having the house and the worker cabins saved and moved. In addition, with the help of a preservation group, the redwoods and the weeping willow in the back were also protected. The house is nicely restored on its present site at BEA Systems on North First and Highway 87. Furthermore, in a magnanimous gesture, Ed purchased the building in which the **Japanese-American Museum** is now located on North Fifth Street in the 1990s and turned over the deed to the nonprofit organization. He was an important contributor to the Japanese-American Museum in Los Angeles. With two partners, Ed formed a business that was called NKS for Nakamura, Kinno and Sakauye.

More recently, Ed has been interviewed by KPIX in 2004 for a couple of *Evening Magazine* features regarding the historic Del Monte Fruit Cocktail in which his famous Bartlett pears were an ingredient. He also provided information about the 1933 Brooke Hart murder and subsequent vigilante hanging of the accused conspirators in St. James Park. One of my own favorite "Ed" stories is the one about the "baby picture contest" that was held at San Jose High School when Ed was a senior. His photo took first prize!

Eiichi Sakauye is one of Santa Clara County's precious natural resources. He will be 93 years young in a few weeks. One has only to drive around Santa Clara County

[illegible]

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Colonial complex in the tradition of arts and crafts guilds he had admired in Europe. The guild later became a non-profit operation for the benefit of Stanford Children's Hospital. We will have a guided tour of the facility followed by luncheon in the on-site restaurant. We will have free time to explore the shops and gardens. This trip is filled, but you may place yourself on the wait list.

#1 Leave: 9:30 a.m. Return: 2:30 p.m. Cost: \$33

#2 Leave: 11:00 a.m. Return: 4:00 p.m.

APRIL 22, 2005 FRIDAY, ROOFTOP GARDENS of SAN FRANCISCO Our guide, Craig Smith, will show us some hidden gardens not usually seen by visitors. Some of these include the Crocker Bank and the Hinds Building's rooftop gardens, Embarcadero Center and the Fairmont Hotel. We will also visit Yerba Buena Gardens and take an optional Merry-go-round ride. Our included three course lunch will be at Pompei's Grotto with a choice of three entrees.

Leave: 9:00 a.m. Return: 4:45 p.m. Cost: \$42

MAY 27, 2005 FRIDAY, WILD THINGS ANIMAL PARK and JOHN STEINBECK HOUSE

We travel to Salinas for a visit to Wild Things Animal Park, home to over 100 exotic and domestic animals. Many of these have been featured in movies, television, and print ads. We will have a half-hour presentation, and a guided tour of the park, seeing elephants, tigers, zebras, camels, lions, and many other animals. We will have our included three course lunch at 1:30 p.m. at the John Steinbeck House, with time to see memorabilia of John Steinbeck's youth, and visit the gift shop.

Leave: 9:45 a.m. Return: 4:45 p.m. Cost: \$41

JUNE 18, 2005 SATURDAY, HALF MOON BAY FLOWER MARKET and the JAMES JOHNSTON HOUSE

We will visit the James Johnston House situated on a hill south of Half Moon Bay, with beautiful views of the ocean and the mountains. Pioneer ranchers James and Pietra de Jara Johnston built their salt box style home in 1853. It is now on the National Register of Historic Places. A garden was planted last year, featuring historically authentic rose bushes, which should be in bloom for our visit. Next, we return to downtown Main Street to enjoy the monthly Flower Market.

Local growers bring in cut flowers, plants, wreaths, and dried flowers. We will have free time to see the displays, and to have lunch on your own at one of the many restaurants along Main Street.

Leave: 10:00 a.m. Return: 4:00 p.m. Cost: \$17

EXTENDED TRIPS

APRIL 28 – MAY 9, 2005 JAPAN

See our brochure for a complete itinerary. We have 22 people, but we welcome more registrations on a space available basis. Registrants are invited to a Document Party on Thursday, March 31, 3:00 p.m. at Mama Mia's Restaurant, 200 East Hamilton Avenue, Campbell, two blocks west of Highway 17. RSVP to Rose Crimi, (408) 293-0896.

JUNE 6 -- 12, 2005 SOUTH DAKOTA and the BADLANDS

We have an opportunity to join another group for an exploration of the Black Hills area. Features include: Mt. Rushmore monument, both by day and for the night lighted ceremony, Crazy Horse Monument, jeep ride to see buffalo in Custer State Park, a mammoth graveyard excavation, wild horse sanctuary, replica of an 800 year old Norwegian stave church, open pit gold mine in Lead, Spearfish Passion Play, Museum of Geology, Badlands National Park, famous Wall Drug store, 1880 Black Hills Central Railroad ride into Gold Rush country, and a tour of a Black Hills gold factory. We fly round trip from San Jose to Rapid City for a one hotel stay at the Radisson Hotel. Cost is \$1760 and \$425 for single supplement, which includes baggage handling, and driver and guides gratuities; optional travel insurance. We need 15 people for a group. Brochures will be available on the January and February day trips, and the March 5 luncheon.

SEPTEMBER 27 – OCTOBER 6, 2005 SWITZERLAND

We fly round-trip San Francisco to Geneva, and take a short ride to Montreux for a one hotel stay at the five-star Le Montreux Palace overlooking Lake Geneva. This area has a moderate climate and an incredible scenic setting. Every day we travel in a different direction for excursions to the Castle of Chillon, wine growing areas, cog railroad ride to Zermatt and the Matterhorn, capital city tour of Bern, St. Bernard Tunnel into Aosta, Italy, Mt. Blanc Tunnel into Chamonix, France, home of the first winter Olympics in 1924, plus optional

excursions to Gstaad, Gruyere, and Lausanne. Cost is \$2399 and \$400 for single supplement. Gratuities to the bus driver and tour guide are not included. Optional cancellation insurance is available at \$129. We need 12 people for a group. Brochures will be available at the March luncheon.

OCTOBER 16 -- 21, 2005 GREAT TRAINS and the GRAND CANYONS

We fly round-trip San Jose to Phoenix, Arizona for a one hotel stay at the Hilton Sedona Hotel. Touring includes a drive through Oak Creek Canyon with its spectacular white, yellow, and red cliffs, Grand Canyon Railway ride from Williams to the south rim of the Grand Canyon, Sedona Chapel of the Holy Cross, Spanish-Mexican village of Tlaquepaque, Montezuma Castle, old mining town of Jerome, Wilderness Train through Verde Canyon, Sunset Craters volcano, Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, and Old Town Scottsdale. Cost is \$1299 and \$425 for single supplement; includes all gratuities. Optional cancellation insurance is available at \$89. We need 12 people for a group. Brochures will be available at the March luncheon.

NOVEMBER 2 -- 9, 2005 MAYAN RIVIERA

We fly round-trip San Jose to Cancun, Mexico for a one hotel stay at the five-star Bahia Principe Tulum Resort. Our excursion to the Mayan ruins of Tulum built on rocky cliffs overlooking the Gulf of Mexico demonstrates the sophistication and architectural beauty of the Mayan civilization. We will also visit Playa del Carmen for a taste of Mexican small-town charm, Optional excursions will also be available to Chichen Itza, capital of the Mayan Empire, and the spectacular Aquarium at Xel-Ha. Cost is \$1799 and \$300 for single supplement. The amenities include all meals, all alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, 24-hour snacks, resort entertainment, and all non-motorized water sports. We need 12 people for a group. Brochures will be available at the March luncheon.

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