

Presentation details to CHSC (No. 2 July 25, 2021)

(1) What is the organization of Hokka Nichi Bei Kai

Hokka Nichi Bei Kai was originally founded as “San Francisco Japanese Association” in 1893. In 1900 the name was changed as “Japanese American Association” that was authorized by the state of California. In 1913 the name was changed to “San Francisco Japanese American Association” because in 1905 many Japanese American associations were established nationwide and the location in the name became necessary.

“San Francisco Japanese American Association” continued to create activities for establishing goodwill and friendly relations between American and Japanese communities but the activities were halted and the Association was dismissed when the Pacific War between the US and Japan broke out in 1942 and Japanese internment camps started.

After World War II in 1945, Japanese Americans were able to return to San Francisco and in 1949 the organization became the “San Francisco Japanese American Association.”

“San Francisco Japanese American Association” welcomed and entertained Mr. Shigeru Yoshida who had plenary power for the San Francisco Peace Treaty in 1951. The Association continued to arrange activities to celebrate festivities for the 100th Anniversary for the US-Japan Treaty of Amity and Commerce in 1958. The Association welcomed and entertained since 1958 to the present, the Captain and executives of the Japanese training ship “Kojima Maru” in San Francisco every other year.

In 1980 Hokka Nichi Bei Kai was supported by many donors and cooperatives and was able to build a three story building named “Culture Center of Nichi Bei Kai” at the current San Francisco location. In 1984 the special tea room named “Kanso-an” was built on the third floor by the Yasui-Moku Construction Co., one of the famous and well respected builders in Kyoto, Japan in accordance with the design of Dr. Masao Nakamura who was a well-renowned top designer of Tea Rooms and historic buildings in Japan. Yasui Moku Construction Co. has one of the best techniques to build ancient buildings for more than two hundred years in Kyoto. Yasui Moku Construction Co. has repaired and renewed the famous building called Katsura Rikyu, which was owned by the Emperor of Japan and that building included the Tea Room. “Kanso-an” is an especially unique tea room because any form of Tea School can use this tea room, which is the first in the USA and even rare in Japan. “Kanso-an” is appreciated and used by all types of Tea Schools in Northern California and may become the precious spot for Tea Culture by introducing and expanding Japanese traditional Tea Cultures to Americans.

In 2000, San Francisco Japanese American Association and Nichigo Kyokai were merged into Hokka Nichi Bei Kai. Nichigo Kyokai had a head office in San Francisco and 3 branches in Sacramento, Stockton and San Jose. However, Nichigo Kyokai had problems such as decreasing members and therefore decided to merge with San Francisco Japanese American Association. Nichigo Kyokai established Japanese speech contests for around 30 years and they wanted to continue the contests under the new organization. Presently, Hokka Nichi Bei Kai is the oldest Japanese American organization in the USA for 128 years.

(2) What kind of funds does Hokka Nichi Bei Kai gain?

The funds of Hokka Nichi Bei Kai are membership fees, donations, charges of “Kanso-an” usage, donations of attendees at Tea Ceremonies at “Kanso-an”, charges of 3 small rooms for storage, charges of meeting room on 1st floor, incomes of attending events or festivals about Japanese cultures and incomes of Fund Raising Events.

(3) The details of Hokka Nichi Bei Kai activities

Hokka Nichi Bei Kai continues to create activities to establish goodwill and friendship between Japanese and American communities through attractive programs and events with a deep understanding of the Japanese culture. For these activities, Hokka Nichi Bei Kai does its best to keep good relations with many organizations in the USA and Japan. The details of these activities are the following:

- 1) For a deep understanding of the Japanese culture, Hokka Nichi Bei Kai holds the Tea Ceremony at “Kanso-an” on the third floor of the “Culture Center of Hokka Nichi Bei Kai”. It is one of the best experiences for Americans to take “Usucha” which is the traditional Japanese tea, in accordance with the strict manners of making and drinking the tea. Those detailed manners were created over four hundred years ago in Kyoto and continuously taught by Tea Masters. This is one of the best contributions of Hokka Nichi Bei Kai to have Americans understand the Japanese culture through a Tea Ceremony at “Kanso-an”.
- 2) For the purpose of introducing and expanding Japanese traditional culture by “Spirits and Actions of Tea Ceremony”, the biggest Tea School in Japan named Urasenke established the Tankokai and the second biggest named Omotesenke established Domonkai in the USA. Both organizations held Tea Ceremonies at “Kanso an” for Americans interested in Japanese culture and the Tea Ceremony.
- 3) Hokka Nichi Bei Kai holds an annual speech contest in the fall for middle, high school, college students and adults who are interested in the Japanese language in order to expand the education and speaking of Japanese. In the spring, Hokka

Nichi Bei Kai holds a special speech contest “Ohanashi Taikai” for elementary school students in order to spread interest to those beginning to learn Japanese. In 2000, Hokka Nichi Bei Kai merged with Nichigo Kyokai. Nichigo Kyokai has a history of near 30 years of Japanese speech contests for all ages.

Calendar years 2019 in the fall welcomed the 46th speech contest for middle, high school, college students and adults and the 48th primary speech contest for elementary school students in the spring of 2020. After the Covid 19 pandemic, these contests were stopped until now in 2021.

In the fall of 2003, the S.F. Consulate General requested these speech contests as special events for the 150 year anniversary of the Japan-USA relationship and for 2 years the S.F. Consulate General became the joint producer with Hokka Nichi Bei Kai. With such a success, even after the Anniversary terms ended, the S.F. Consulate General decided to continue to this day to be the speech contest joint producer with Hokka Nichi Bei Kai.

- 4) Northern California Sakura Festival is held every year in April in San Francisco and Hokka Nichi Bei Kai always participates in the festival by selling delicious and authentic Japanese food at the booth. This is one of the efforts to help expand the knowledge and interest of Japanese foods.
- 5) Ex S.F. Consulate General Mr. Tomochika Uyama requested Hokka Nichi Bei Kai to attend “WakamatsuFest150” on June 8, 2019 and served “Usucha” in the temporary Tea House at the festival. This celebratory event has been held every 50 years from 1869 when the first Japanese immigrants landed in the USA and attempted to develop tea fields from waste land and produced the silk factory in the area of Placerville City. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Japan sent a congratulatory telegram to this event and Mr. Koguma, the member of the Lower House in Japan visited the festival. The direct descendants of the Aizu Clan in Japan also visited with many members from Aizu District and they all celebrated this big festival.
- 6) The welcome party at S.F. Consulate General for the training ship “Kojima Maru” of the Japan Coast Guard, which visits San Francisco every other year, was joined by Hokka Nichi Bei Kai. Hokka Nichi Bei Kai also participated in the farewell party on board the Kojima Maru. Hokka Nichi Bei Kai invited the Captain and executives of Kojima Maru to “Kanso-an” for Tea Ceremony. These traditional activities are continuous for Hokka Nichi Bei Kai since 1949 when the training ship of the Japan Coast Guard visited San Francisco. Even though Japanese Americans were severely mistreated in this Country during and after the Pacific

War, Hokka Nichi Bei Kai continued to entertain and maintain good relations among all communities and ethnicities.

- 7) After the Pacific War, Japanese Americans recognized the miserable situation of Japan and Mr. Shichinosuke Asano who was a member of “San Francisco Japanese American Association”, led LARA (Licensed Agencies for Relief in Asia) to deliver many aids such as foods, cloths and medicines to Japan. Members of San Francisco Japanese American Association also supported Mr. S. Asano and helped aid LARA.
 - 8) In order to deeply understand the Japanese culture and keep good relations with neighbors of Hokka Nichi Bei Kai, the “Friendship Tea Ceremony” was conducted at Kanso-an” by members of Hokka Nichi Bei Kai. This Tea Ceremony is regularly held once a year but can be conducted at any time if needed for creating special good relations.
 - 9) Every year in mid-May, Mr. Baisho Matsumoto, the renowned Shamisen Player from Japan holds his recital at the first floor of Hokka Nichi Bei Kai. As a professional Shamisen player, Mr. Matsumoto has visited for the last 10 years. He talks and sings with his Shamisen instrument creating attractive songs for the first and the second generation Japanese Americans. This performance event was put to a halt since 2020 due to Covid19.
- (4) Year Schedule (These were in 2019 or year before because many events were cancelled or arranged by Zoom meeting in 2020 and also 2021 due to Covid19 pandemic.)
- 1) January
 - i) SF Consulate General of Japan New Year Reception was attended.
 - ii) Hokka Nichi Bei Kai New Year Party was held.
 - 2) February
 - i)Japanese American Associations meeting hosted by SF Consulate General was attended.
 - ii)The birthday party for Emperor of Japan at SF Consulate General was attended.
 - 3) March
 - i)Primary Japanese Speech Contest for Elementary School students was held.
 - 4) April
 - i)Northern California Sakura Festival was attended at the booth for selling delicious Japanese foods.
 - ii)Tea Ceremony of Northern California Sakura Festival was held for 2 days at “Kanso-an”.

- 5) May
 - i)The voluntary cleaning event of Coloma Japanese American Cemetery was attended.
 - ii)Japanese American Associations meeting hosted by SF Consulate General was attended.
- 6) June
 - i)Friendship Tea Ceremony was held at “Kanso-an”.
- 7) July
 - i)Summer Tea Ceremony was held at ‘Kanso-an”.
- 8) August
 - i)Japanese American Associations meeting hosted by SF Consulate General was attended.
- 9) September
 - i)Autumn Tea Ceremony was held at “Kanso-an”.
- 10) November
 - i)Speech Contest for middle, high school, college students and adults was held.
 - ii)Japanese American Associations meeting hosted by SF Consulate General was attended.
- 11) December
 - i)Year-end-Tea Ceremony was held at “Kanso-an”.
 - ii)Annual General Meeting was held.

(5) What are the usages of “Kanso-an”?

As the explanation of (1), “Kanso-an” is the special Tea Room which can be used by all types of Tea Schools. An usual Tea Room should be built in accordance with the rules of only one Tea School and other types of Tea Schools cannot access the Tea Room. But “Kanso-an” is a really exceptional Tea Room in California and in the West Coast.

“Kanso-an” has two parts. “Rinwa-Ken” is a large size Tea Room for 15 attendants of a Tea Ceremony. “Jikisin-an” is a small size Tea Room for a 4-5 attendants of a Tea Ceremony.

Hokka Nichi Bei Kai holds 5 Tea Ceremonies at “Rinwa-ken” a year such as the “Tea Ceremony of Northern California Sakura Festival” for 2 days, “Summer Tea Ceremony”, “Autumn Tea Ceremony”, “Year-end-Tea Ceremony” and “Friendship Tea Ceremony” for all unknown American who are not including in the list of invited guests. Representatives and teachers from Tanko-kai (Urasenke) or Doumon-kai (Omotesenke) produce Usucha for these Tea Ceremonies and the students of each Tea School serve Tea Bowls to American attendees who are interested in enjoying a Japanese cultural experience in the peaceful and beautiful Tea Room. Tankokai (Urasenke) has their four Tea Ceremonies a year such as Rikyuki, Sotanki, and so forth. Domonkai (Omotesenke) also has four Tea Ceremonies a year with similar

names because both founders of Tea Schools were directly taught by the Great Founder Senno Rikyu over four hundred years ago. They invite Americans as guests at each Tea Ceremony and “Kanso-an” is an excellent place for them to learn and experience the traditional practice of the Tea Ceremony and enjoy Usucha first hand. Domonkai (Omotesenke) has about 180 members and Tankokai (Urasenke) has about 280 members in the Bay area who manage each Tea Ceremony at “Kanso-an” and total 13 regular Tea Ceremonies are held in a year. Tea Ceremonies for high school students in San Francisco City are irregularly held according to the request from teachers and other private Tea Ceremonies are held such as for the Captain and executives of the Training Ship “Kojima Maru”. “Kanso-an” is the best place for teachers of all Tea Schools to introduce the Japanese culture to all.

Hokka Nichi Bei Kai keeps precious Tea tools which were brought from Japan and they are displayed in the glass cabinets to be seen by the attendees of the “Kanso-an” Tea Ceremony.

“Kanso-an” is a very rare, unique and beautiful Tea Room. Selected teachers, students and guests of Omotesenke and Urasenke mainly arrange the annual Tea Ceremonies and determine the guest list. But it would benefit all if Hokka Nichi Bei Kai change this rule and think strategy by increasing the number of annual Tea Ceremonies and invite a wider range of visitors who are interested in learning about the Japanese culture through Tea.

(6) Bunk-a hall of fame

Bunka (cultural) Hall of Fame in 2006, the Bunka Hall of Fame committee was established as a committee of the Hokka Nichi Bei Kai based on the initiative of the late Eddy Moriguchi, who was president of Hokka Nichi Bei Kai. This is an event that commends and honors Nikkei or Nikkei groups who have contributed to the introduction and dissemination of Japanese culture in Northern California society for many years. The selection committee consists of five members, with the late Eddy Moriguchi as chairman, JCCNC, Japanese American Religious Federations JCCNC, Japanese American Citizen League. The Selection committee will select candidates and groups for the Bunka Hall of Fame and final decision will be made by voting by the all members of the Hokka Nichi Bei Kai. The award ceremony was held at the New year’s party hosted by the Hokka Nichi Bei Kai and was awarded to 46 individuals and groups in 11 years. The photograph of the award winner is displayed in the Hokka Nichi Bei Kai Hall to praise its honor. There are no relevant persons or groups in 2017, 2018 and 2019, and it has been suspended due to COVID-19 since 2020.

(7) Sustainability

The 128th year of the "Hokka Nichi Bei Kai" in 2021 is a Nikkei association created by Issei, a Nikkei immigrant to the United States. It is an organization that has survived

the suffering of people and continues to this day. The position and significance of the Hokka Nichi Bei Kai has changed with the times, but maintaining a Hokka Nichi Bei Kai that matches the current environment is the biggest challenge. Rather than thinking about Sustainability, we are thinking of ways to continue looking at the past, present, and future of Nikkei, and to become an organization that will continue for the next 150 and 200 years, based on the intention that we must remain Sustainable.

As for the operating funds of the Hokka Nichi Bei Kai, the annual income of about \$ 50,000 is obtained by the contents of (2) what kind of fund mentioned above, and the society is maintained by keeping the expenditure to about the same amount. doing. However, as an NPO corporation, it operates with limited income sources such as annual membership fees, donations, and Fund Raising Event income, so there is currently no financial margin. For example, there is no financial capacity to deal with emergency expenses due to sudden matters (total replacement due to elevator failure, etc.), and obtaining a grant is extremely important for maintaining sustainability.

(8) Our Goals

- 1) As we continue to pursue our mission which was mentioned at (3), we work to achieve our goals.
- 2) We will work to promote the “Kanso-an” and develop new projects for the “Sado” – Tea Ceremony with the purpose of introducing and spreading it.
- 3) We will try to create new projects for the Japanese language and youth chorus groups in order to preserve Japanese culture.
- 4) We will recruit more members and donors in order to gain more financial resources.
- 5) We will support the individuals, groups, and organizations who engage in spreading the Japanese culture once we build up the financial resources.
- 6) As we are the oldest organization in the Japanese community in the United States for the past 128 years, we continue to engage in our responsibilities and development.