

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Roger Minami
645 South College Drive
Santa Maria, CA 93454
[Rminami@ix.netcom.com](mailto:rminami@ix.netcom.com)

“Tour of the National Steinbeck Center to take place during the JACL National Convention”

Monterey: The West Valley JACL Chapter will host a tour of the National Steinbeck Center during the JACL National Convention this coming June in Monterey. The National Steinbeck Center was created to promote the life of author John Steinbeck, a native of Salinas. Steinbeck wrote such works as “Cannery Row”, “Grapes of Wrath”, East of Eden”, and “Of Mice and Men”.

The National Steinbeck Center is an \$11 million interactive museum that guides visitors through Steinbeck’s books, life, and places about which he lived and wrote. Through the center, Steinbeck’s world comes to life in themed galleries throughout the main exhibit wing: Growing up East of Eden, An’ Live Off the Fatta the Lan’, Grapes of Wrath, Cannery Row, Adventures on Land and Sea, and Steinbeck’s America.

Through stimulating multi-sensory stage-set activity centers, graphic and text panels discussing literary themes and interactive features, visitors get a sense of the author and the man. There is enough variety to entertain the casual visitor, while at the same time, satisfy the thirst of the biggest Steinbeck enthusiast.

West Valley JACL will charter a bus for its chapter members and guests that leaves from San Jose around mid-morning on Saturday, 7/1/00. The bus will arrive in Monterey to allow individuals the opportunity to do one or more of the following: visit the convention, see a video presentation on Japanese American fishermen at the Maritime Museum, go shopping, and/or catch lunch at one of the many restaurants in downtown Monterey. The tour of the National Steinbeck Center will take place after lunch where convention delegates will have the opportunity to join West Valley JACL for an afternoon of fun and excitement.

Seating on the bus is limited! Make sure to reserve your space early!

For more information on the National Steinbeck Center tour, please contact Roger Minami at rminami@ix.netcom.com

“How to Start a Japanese Cultural Heritage Program for your Community; A Guide to Success.”

Setting up a cultural heritage program in your community is just one of the many educational workshops during the upcoming JACL National Convention this June in Monterey.

Monterey: Have you wondered how one shares a cultural heritage with the next generation? Dr. Gerald Kondo and music teacher Mark Takeuchi, both Sansei, had such a conversation in 1989 that led to Kokoro no Gakko (“a school with a heart”), a two-week Japanese American cultural summer program in Watsonville. After 10 successful years, the kindergarten through 6th grade program continues to connect children, parents, and grandparents with their culture.

The co-founders and its current chairman, educator Robb Mayeda will take you systematic through the process of organizing and implementing a cultural school for your community. They will discuss curriculum, materials, staffing and funding. Participants are encouraged to bring their vision, ideas, questions, and enthusiasm. For more information on this workshop, please contact Larry Oda at tsuneo1@msn.com

