

December 28, 2015

NCWNP Chapters,

Thank you for helping to collect items for the silent auction. Together we should be able to create a wide variety of wonderful things to offer. I've written this letter as a guide. Hopefully it will give you some ideas, stir your imagination and give you some points to keep in mind.

With this letter you have received copies of the donation submission form. Please be sure to submit a form with **each** auction item and please fill out the form completely. If you need additional forms feel free to make as many copies as you need or you can download copies from the web site.

Reminder to be careful not to get too regional. Remember, this is an event for the entire NCWNP District. That means people will be attending from Monterey to Sacramento, from Reno to Hawaii, and even some of friends from outside of our district. You may be able to get dinner for ten donated from a wonderful Italian restaurant in your neighborhood, but if no one else comes from your neighborhood, who's going to bid on it? There was only one item that did not sell in the past and that was due to the fact that it was just too regional.

If you're having trouble getting one large item why not collect several small items with a theme. Here's a chance to really use your creativity. What's your passion? Baseball? Movies? Reading? Your pet? Put together a collection that any fanatic would love. Some other theme ideas are kids, sports, scrap booking, cooking, home improvement, romance, personal pampering and travel. Use some more of that creativity when packaging your items. A little red wagon could hold a children's theme or a dog bed for a pet theme.

We will begin to collect items at the next District Council meeting on January 31, 2016. This will give us the opportunity to adequately thank the donors and organize and catalogue the donations. If we don't connect at the DC meeting, then feel free to send them along. All items should be sent to my home at the address below. If they are too large to ship please contact me so other arrangements can be made or send a picture and description and bring on the day of the event.

Taking what we've learned from the past, I've attached is a list of auction donation ideas. I hope they will help get you started. Mostly be creative and think about what you would like to bid on. Chances are if you're interested in it, someone else will be too. Please don't be afraid to ask for advice. If you have an item that you're just not sure about give me a call or drop me an e-mail.

Thanks again,

Thaya Mune-Craig

Silent Auction Chair

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NCWNPD Fundraiser

Auction Donation Ideas

Travel & Leisure - Travel can range from an extravagant cruise to a 1-2 night stay at a hotel in a destination city such as Monterey, Reno or San Francisco. Sporting travel opportunities (skiing, sailing, golfing, fishing, etc.) or the use of a private vacation home, time share or lodge also make great auction items. Disney vacations are always popular. Don't forget romantic getaways and spa weekends. Some of the packages put together by chapters for weekend getaways were truly wonderful. We can also use other travel related items such as luggage, car rentals, dinners or tickets for events in the destination cities, etc. such as for sporting events, concerts, plays, musicals, even movies. Keep in mind the "regional" issue. If the event is taking place in a metropolitan area there is a better chance it will sell well at the auction.

Food & Wine- This is California and wine is big business here. Not only are bottles or even cases of wine appropriate but also tours of wineries and private wine tastings. Why not approach your favorite vintner. Everybody likes to eat. Whether it's a basket of prepared foods or collection of items that will enable someone to create their own feast, it's sure to please. Some favorites themes are chocolate, gourmet, ethnic foods and unique specialty items. What's your favorite?

Memorabilia & Collectibles - eBay is full of people trying to increase or complete their collections and people collect just about anything you can think of. Autographed items are great, one-of-a-kind is even better. This includes memorabilia from sports, movies, television, music, etc. Past district silent auction events have done well with historically significant cultural items. Especially those that were signed. Antique is also good, but please not just plain old.

Arts & Crafts - This was probably the most surprising and one of the most profitable areas of past auctions. It's amazing that we had so many talented artists in our midst or knew others who were willing to donate to the cause. The items were unique, one of a kind in some cases, and highly desired. So if you dabble in art, whether it be painting, sculpture, glass, textiles, jewelry, or any other medium, or if you know someone who does, let us showcase their work.

Jewelry, Clothing & Accessories - Most of the items we had in this category in past years were "wearable art" such as scarves, pins, necklaces. Again, this would be a great area to increase. Maybe some specialty children's clothing?

Home & Garden - It seems everyone today is trying to update their homes and yards. Maybe that's why this category has done well in the past. Donations ranging from potting soil, tools and plants to lovely tea sets, dishes, bowls and home décor will do well. Do you have items that you purchased or received as a gift but never used? It may not fit your decor, but we bet there's someone out there who would just love it.

Children - Books, toys, games, videos, especially with an educational aspect, are very popular. There are a lot of doting parents and grandparents out there. Let's let them fill that need to spoil the special child in their life.

Electronics - This is always a great area but again we need to remember the event and our audience. Many people are traveling a distance to attend and don't have the ability to transport a large piece of electronics, such as a desktop computer. But they would certainly bid on the many small electronic gizmos and gadgets that are available for the techie at heart.

Books, Periodicals & Movies - From histories to cookbooks, there are so many wonderful books and movies created by Japanese Americans. Most of the authors are familiar with the JACL and are more than willing to donate a copy of their work. Don't forget to have it autographed!