

## TEA

The SFV JACL is proud to bring *Tea*, a play by award-winning American playwright, **Velina Hasu Houston** to our community. Houston is best known for her play *Tea*, which portrays the lives of Japanese war brides who move to the United States with American servicemen husbands. The play is set in Kansas. The central figure is Himiko Hamilton, (**Kimiko Gelman**) whose fatal shooting of her abusive husband has pushed her to the edge of madness. Two years later Himiko kills herself, setting her spirit on a journey toward peace and resolution, a journey that is meant to be shared by four other Japanese brides – the accommodating optimistic Setsuko Banks (**Takayo Fischer**); the judgmental Atsuko Yamamoto (**Shuko Akune**); the rational Teruko Machelli (**Ren Hanami**) and the thoroughly assimilated and cynical Chizuye Juarez (**Diana Tanaka**) – who come to Himiko’s house to share tea.

*Tea* will be presented as a reading. There will be a Q & A with playwright Velina Hasu Houston immediately following the performance.

*Note: Play synopsis taken from a theater review by Jeffrey Borak in 1999.*

Check the flyer in this newsletter for ticket information.

## A SWINGING BIG BAND CONCERT

JACL is proud to have **Dan Taguchi** (Manzanar – *Story of An American Family*) return to the SFVJA Community Center with “A Swinging Big Band Concert”. On September 2013, Dan and friends presented this same concert at a benefit for Union Church of Los Angeles. Several community members attended that concert and encouraged JACL to bring it to the Valley. Familiar songs from the 30s, 40s, 50s and 60s including *Take the A Train, I Left My Heart in San Francisco, Hello Dolly, Don’t Fence Me In, Moonlight Serenade, and In the Mood* to name a few delighted concert goers back in September. Dan and his friends, also known as “The Thursday Night Rehearsal Band” include musicians playing the saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, bass and drums. **Nina Kasuya** will be the special guest vocalist.

Check the flyer in this newsletter for ticket information.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### COME JOIN US IN THE FUN AND ACTIVITIES

**April 15**

Third Tuesday Movie Outing

**April 26**

Manzanar Pilgrimage

**May 8**

A Swinging Big Band Concert  
with Dan Taguchi

**May 18**

Exploring the Asian American  
Community

**May 20**

Third Tuesday Movie Outing

**June 8**

*Tea* by Velina Hasu Houston

**June 16-June 20**

Suzume no Gakkou

**June 17**

Third Tuesday Movie Outing

**June 28/29**

SFVH Buddhist Temple Obon

## Questions or Comments?

Please email

kyoshino@verizon.net

or send comments to:

Nancy Gohata

14229 Carl Street

Arleta, CA 91331

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

April, 2014



April is here already, and our mild winter has come and gone. I felt grateful that we did not have to endure the harsh winter of those in the Midwest and eastern coast. However, I now look forward to the summer for our San Fernando Valley with questions in my mind.

It is very easy to keep doing what I have been doing in the past. It takes less effort than to make drastic changes. I'm referring to our drought conditions and the rising water and sewer charges. From a practical dollars and cents viewpoint and from a viewpoint of civic responsibility, I realize that I need to make some changes. A nudge from others would be helpful.

We have experienced and knowledgeable people within our chapter and within the community center, and I encourage them to share their knowledge and experience with others. **Yas Gohata** has taken steps on water conservation, and others may have done as well.

My brother in Orange County drove down to San Diego to see George Takei's play *Allegiance* last year, and as a result, felt compelled to participate in the Tule Lake Pilgrimage this year. Ellen and I will join my brother Andy and Suzanne in a 4 bedroom Village Apartment unit on the Oregon Technical Institute campus in Klamath Falls. The Tule Lake Pilgrimage takes place on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend on even numbered years.

**Phil Shigekuni** was planning to attend, but had a change of plans. However, he still plans to present a resolution at the national JACL conference in San Jose in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of July. His resolution is intended to offer an apology to the Tule Lake draft resisters for some of the positions taken by JACL during and after the confinement.

There's a saying "In my youth I saw the world as black and white. Now I see the world painted in shades of gray." A multicolored kaleidoscope might be a better description for the stories of Tule Lake.

**Hiroshi Kashiwagi** spoke at the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians public hearings in San Francisco in 1981. He described how the government used strong threats (that was later found to be false and illegal). Those threats broke down the resistance to the draft, but not without tragic consequences: "In our frustration and anger we turned against each other ... Can you imagine the confusion and the turmoil? What to do? We had no recourse to counsel." He also described Tule Lake as "a psychologically abnormal, unhealthy place.

There are no doubt thousands of views of the injustices and conflicts arose in Tule Lake. The next few months will be interesting. Old feelings and grudges might be rekindled. My hope is that people will also be able to step back and take a longer view of history, and offer it as another component to the overall narrative.

Harold Kameya



## Please help us lower our postage cost?

You can greatly help our chapter by getting the Chapter newsletter via email. Please go to [kyoshino@verizon.net](mailto:kyoshino@verizon.net) and register your e-mail address.ç



## 2014 TULE LAKE PILGRIMAGE: JULY 4- JULY 7

The Tule Lake Committee will hold its 20<sup>th</sup> pilgrimage to the site of the Tule Lake Segregation Center over the 2014 Fourth of July weekend. It will be a four day event, that includes a round-trip bus journey to the site, a day of organized tours to the Tule Lake site, a morning of intergenerational discussion groups, afternoon of workshops and discussions groups, a memorial service to honor the memory of those incarcerated at Tule Lake, and an evening cultural performance to which the Tule Lake and Klamath Falls regional community are invited.



Registration forms will be available on the Tule Lake website: [www.tulelake.org](http://www.tulelake.org). Registration will close when the 350 person capacity is reached.

The fee will be \$475 or \$375 (student). The registration fee covers transportation from the Sacramento airport, lodging, meals, all programming, except airfare and sale items in our Pilgrimage Sales Room.

The Tule Lake committee will provide a bus to pick up people from Southern California at the Sacramento Airport at about 10 am or so dependent on flight schedules.

**Chairperson Hiroshi Shimizu, email: [hshimizu@pacbell.net](mailto:hshimizu@pacbell.net)**



### NAKANO NURSERY PLANT SALE FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2014 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM



Get ready to beautify your yard with plants from Nakano Nursery. Together with the SFVJA Community Center, we will again sell flowers and plants at the Community Center, 12953 Branford Street, Pacoima 91331. This will be the only sale for 2014. Bringing plants to sell at the Community Center was a small gesture to say Thank You to the Nakano Family for their many years of support to our community.

For questions or special requests, contact Nancy Gohata at [yaiko16@verizon.net](mailto:yaiko16@verizon.net) or call (818) 371-8013.

### Musical Theatre Opportunity

Here's a way to introduce live musical theatre to your children and grandchildren:

Where: The Glendale Centre Theater's *The Music Man*.

When: May 17 to July 6

Tickets: \$18 for 16 and under, \$23 seniors, \$28 adults

Go to [glendalecentretheatre.com](http://glendalecentretheatre.com)

## SUZUME NO GAKKOU IS COMING

Although it just turned spring, SFVJACL's Suzume no Gakkou Summer Camp is almost full. Teams of volunteers have already met to prepare fun for youngsters entering the second through sixth grade. Since kids love animals, "*Hachiko*" and the newly published, "*The Cat Who Chose to Dream*", were selected to teach about loyalty and perseverance in a setting that is located in Japan and Tule Lake Camp. Small groups will be able to speak a little Japanese! write their names with a brush, sing songs like "*Yuyake Koyakete*", and dabble in origami, haiku and make a signature piece of art, A trip on the metro will bring the families to the Japanese American National Museum on Thursday. It is so popular, that one camper will stay at her Bachan's house since they are coming in from San Luis Obispo for the third year making special memories.

The camp is scheduled from June 16-20 from 8:30-12:30. Location is 12953 Branford Street, Pacoima, CA in the Japanese language institute classrooms.  
Cost is \$75. Children will receive a book to build their personal libraries.

If you are interested in registering, please contact [nancyoda64@gmail.com](mailto:nancyoda64@gmail.com) or [bighisa@aol.com](mailto:bighisa@aol.com). Space is limited to 40. First come, first served.

See flyer in this newsletter

# Tea

BY VELINA HASU HOUSTON

Directed by Ernest A. Figueroa

presented by

San Fernando Valley

**JACL**

Civil Rights • Justice

Cast: Shuko Akune  
Takayo Fischer  
Kimiko Gelman  
Ren Hanami  
Diana Tanaka

Q&A with playwright Velina Hasu Houston

Sunday, June 8, 2014, 2:00 PM  
San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center  
12953 Branford Street, Pacoima 91331

Contact: Nancy Gohata at  
[yaiko16@verizon.net](mailto:yaiko16@verizon.net) or (818) 371-8013

Suggested Donation \$15, Payable to SFVJACL  
Mail to Nancy Gohata,  
14229 Carl St., Arleta, CA 91331

\$10 bento available after the performance, order deadline June 1, 2014



## VENTURA COUNTY JACL INSTALLATION LUNCHEON

On February 14, 2014, the Ventura Chapter of the JACL held its 34th Installation Luncheon at the Los Robles Golf Course in Thousand Oaks. Sixteen SFVJACL members were in attendance including, **Harold & Ellen Kameya, Yas & Nancy Gohata, Phil & Marion Shigekuni, Al & Mitzi Kushida, Dennis & Barbara Okita, Mabel Takimoto, Sumi Yamaguchi, Doreen Kawamoto, Harriet Nishizaka, Traci Ishigo & Brian Moriguchi**. A good time was had by all.

Ventura JACL President **Anne Chilcott** was the Mistress of Ceremonies. The keynote speaker was **Wade Nomura**, City Councilman from Carpinteria, who told the crowd of nearly 100 attendees about his involvement with Rotary International. Wade gave an inspirational speech about humanitarian services and his travels to many countries to help improve their standard of living including basic water supplies. Wade was a District Governor for Rotary International in 2011-2012 covering California, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

**Ken Inouye**, PSW District Governor, swore in the new Ventura JACL Board. Also in attendance was **Stephanie Nitahara**, PSW Regional Director. As usual, everyone left with an abundance of fresh vegetables and a gift from the Ventura Board of Directors. The SFVJACL and Ventura JACL have always had a wonderful relationship as neighboring chapters and work closely together to provide programs for our members. We congratulate their Board and look forward to working together in the future.

Article submitted by Brian Moriguchi



Sitting (L ro R): Barbara Okita, Sumi Yamaguchi, Marion Shigekuni, Doreen Kawamoto, Harriet Nishizaka

Standing (L to R): Yas Gohata, Harold Kameya, Al Kushida, Mabel Takimoto, Dennis Okita, Mitzi Kushida, Nancy Gohata, traci ishigo, Brian Moriguchi, Stephanie Nitahara, Ellen Kameya, Phil Shigekuni

## Riverside JACL: Sunny Inside with a Chance of History

Despite severe rain predictions, **Mabel Takimoto**, **Nancy Takayama**, and I went to Riverside for what was to become a great day, The director of the Riverside Museum, **Sarah Mundy**, welcomed us to a private lecture on the HARADA House where **Sumi Harada** kept the war era family house intact for posterity. However, due to the weather, we were unable to go to the frail house itself that torrential March 1.

We then followed her to the Riverside JACL luncheon near a beautiful stream where we could watch the rain through huge floor to ceiling windows. We were warmly greeted and seated for a catered lunch. Master of ceremonies, **Dr. Clyde Wilson**, introduced the Mayor of Riverside and guests. **Kanji Sahara**, from PSW inducted **Michiko Yoshimura**, president, and leaders who comprised the Riverside board for 2014. Students from UC Riverside were enthusiastic next generation JACLers.

The program continued with a report on "Sumi's House," a play based on the Harada House story which was a successful fundraiser. There was also a report about the newly opened Center for Social Justice and Civil Liberties where the Mine Okubo Art Collection will be on display on Saturdays only until volunteers can help extend the hours.

Nancy Takayama and I tried to win a weekend trip to Big Bear that was donated in the raffle but alas! it wasn't meant to be. To our delight, we were gifted a large bag of juicy oranges, amazing cake, jam, and teriyaki sauce from Takano Orchards.

On our way back to the Valley, we stopped in Glendora to get some fresh strawberry goodies from the Donut Man in Glendora. We want to return to see the inside of the HARADA House and visit the nice people of Riverside again.

Article submitted by Nancy Oda



Standing (LtoR): SELANOCO-Steve Matsubara, Riverside President Michiko Yoshimura, SFV-Mabel Takimoto, SELANOCO past president, Alice Ishigame-Tao, SFV-Nancy Takayama, SFV-Sitting (L toR): Nancy Oda, PSWD Board Member-Kanji Sahara, Guest Speaker-Riverside Museum Director Sarah Mundy



## THIRD TUESDAY MOVIE OUTING



Our **February** movie was *The Lego Movie*, a computer animated family movie highly rated by Rotten Tomatoes and a box office hit. The story follows Emmet, an ordinary, rules-following, perfectly average LEGO mini-figure who is mistakenly identified as the most extraordinary person and the key to saving the world. The minute the movie begins, the energy is exhausting. Jokes flew by at such a frenzied clip, most of us missed them. My thirteen-year-old grandson loved the movie and together with his middle school classmate, recalled the many funny pop-culture references that are so much a part of their young lives

With one exception, the senior group did not appreciate *The Lego Movie*. It might be that legos were not part of our childhood, Batman, Superman, and the Green Lantern are not our heroes, visuals that raced with lightning speed were difficult to see, or we have no history with video games.

However, no one can question the creativity of film makers **Phil Lord** and **Christopher Miller** and the technical team who had the vision to bring legos to the screen.

Several of us were curious to see *The Lego Movie* upon receiving a flyer from the *North Shore Meditation Dharma Center* citing the film as the Best Buddhist Movie ever. This movie goer had the opportunity to see the film two more times with her granddaughters and was able to catch some of the missed jokes, pop culture references, and possible life messages that raced unnoticed at the first viewing. Without hesitation, this senior citizen recommends, *The Lego Movie*.

Our movie in **March** was *The Lunchbox*. In Mumbai, a middle-class housewife named Ila tries to rekindle the spark missing from her marriage by preparing her husband gourmet lunches delivered to his office. Through this storyline, we are introduced to India's elaborate lunch system, in which bicycle carriers deliver home-cooked meals to men at their workplace. However, Ila's lunch gets delivered to widower Saajan, a serious government accountant nearing retirement. When Ila realizes her lunch wasn't eaten by her husband, this begins a series of lunchbox notes between Ila and Saajan. First-time Indian director **Ritesh Batra**, who also wrote the screenplay, wove a beautiful, sensitive story of two lonely people making an attempt to find happiness.



## MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORTANT

Welcome to new student members **Brett Monji** and **Makena Morgan**. We are always encouraged when our youth recognize the importance of joining our organization. We also welcome Makena's parents, **Ellen** and **Dirck Morgan**. We're hoping to meet them all at our events in 2014. Long time JACL supporter **Betty Kobata**, moved to the Seal Beach area several years ago, but recently renewed her SFVJACL membership. She has attended many of our chapter events.

We need your help! Together with Board members, let's make that extra effort to recruit new members. We are an active Chapter and we have participated in a variety of programs that included civil rights and cultural identity issues. We have also supported youth programs which included scholarships and internships. Please contact Nancy Gohata at [yaiko16@verizon.net](mailto:yaiko16@verizon.net) with suggestions and ideas that may increase our membership.

## Day of Remembrance 2014

I attended the Day of Remembrance (DOR) event at JANM on Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014. It was my first attendance of such an event. I appreciated the work that was evident in producing the event. It might be **the** single event that annually draws most of the Japanese Community leaders of Southern California together.

The multi-generational line up of speakers was impressive, and included two members of our chapter, **MC Traci Ishigo**, and **Marsha Aizumi**, author of “Two Spirits, One Heart.”

Assemblyman **Al Muratsuchi** gave us his perspective of the commemoration, and mentioned that introduction of legislation for a statewide recognition of the Day of Remembrance is being planned.

Marsha Aizumi is on the national board of PFLAG (Parents, Family and Friends for Lesbians and Gays). She issued the traditional “challenge” to the audience. She touched the audience as she spoke passionately about her transgender son and his struggles. Traci Ishigo summed up her message when she added, “We hope that the Day of Remembrance will encourage everyone here to remember, and continue the fight for equal rights and justice for all people ... and to fight for inclusion and acceptance of our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer men, women, sons and daughters.”

**Akemi Kikumura Yano (sister of Marion Shigekuni) read a passage from her book *Promises Kept: The Life of an Issei Man*, where the struggles of her mother as an immigrant were poignantly described.**

Playwright **Velina Hasu Houston** read her poem called “Different”. I found it to be quite moving. It read, in part:

*Instructions to all persons of Japanese ancestry:  
Many things you left behind, but not your dignity  
No matter how secret, no matter how deeply buried  
Call upon it now to carry on, but carry on remembrance of things past  
Remember so that you can be better than the past  
Remember so that you never leave anything behind  
and never force another to leave anything behind  
Instructions to all persons of Japanese ancestry:  
We remember so that we will not forget  
We remember so that we can be different*

**Sean Miura** gave his poem called “Yonsei” which reflected on the experiences of generations preceding. Excerpts from “Yonsei” and additional DOR 2014 details can be found in the Rafu Shimpō link:

<http://www.rafu.com/2014/02/generations-speak-out-at-2014-day-of-remembrance/>

Emcees Traci Ishigo and **riKu Matsuda** kept the program moving along at a lively pace, despite having to deal with the muffled sounds from the faulty speaker system. With networking of attendees apparently being one of the goals of the event, a reception with tasty hors d'oeuvres ended the inspiring afternoon.

Event sponsors, along with their well-staffed information tables, included JANM, JACL PSW, the Manzanar Committee, and Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress.

Article submitted by Harold Kameya



## 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage Saturday, April 26, 2014



Once again the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Citizens League is sponsoring a bus to the Manzanar National Historical Site. In 2004, Manzanar celebrated the grand opening of the Interpretive Center. Today, two barracks and a mess hall with exhibits has been reconstruction in Block 14.



**Students invite your parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles to this unforgettable experience. Hear stories about living in paper thin walled barracks in the freezing winter and desert heat.**

### **Seats are limited. Reserve your seats**

Email the following information to:

Nancy Takayama at email: [nt.high.mtn@juno.com](mailto:nt.high.mtn@juno.com) or call 818.601.6296

- Name of all individuals occupying a seat.
  - Email address
  - Cell Phone number

Confirmations will be made by email or phone.

The bus will leave from the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center, 12953 Branford Street, Pacoima at 7 AM. **PLEASE arrive before 6:45 AM.** We will need time to load coolers, chairs and all other items under the bus.

Wear comfortable walking shoes, layers of clothing for weather changes. Bring sunscreen, a hat, sunglasses and folding chairs. Dust and high winds are possible.

Attendees are invited to participate in an informal pot-luck lunch. JACL will provide water, tables, paper goods, utensils and snacks for the bus ride. Once at the Manzanar site there is nowhere to purchase food. The bus will make one stop in Mojave in route to Manzanar for a quick breakfast and restroom break.

There is no charge for the bus ride. However, donations will be greatly appreciated. We will be collecting a small donation for the bus driver.

SFV JACL's first participation in the Manzanar Pilgrimage was in 1976.

## *A Nice Indian Boy*

Written by Madhuri Shekar and Directed by Snehal Desai.

Reviewed by Jean-Paul deGuzman

When the rest of the nation was just beginning to peek out of the winter's snow, a handful of JACL members, friends, and family took our first trip to East West Players of 2014 on a warm March Sunday. Thanks to Nancy Gohata's unflagging organizing we enjoyed a performance of *A Nice Indian Boy*.

In a nutshell, Naveen Gavaskar is a young Indian American man who wants nothing more than to settle down and get married. One day meets Keshav Kurundkar at the local Hindu temple. Sparks fly, a relationship develops, a proposal happens, and Naveen decides it's time to introduce Keshav to the family. A tale as old as time, to be sure, but what differentiates this story from countless others is the reality that both Naveen and Keshav are queer men. Oh, and Keshav is actually a White man who was adopted by an Indian family. The meeting between Naveen's family and Keshav is an utter disaster. Keshav fails to impress the Gavaskars with his obsequious display of Indian etiquette. This leads to a fight and the two temporarily break up, yet Megha, Naveen's sister who deals with her own relationship woes, convinces him that bond he shares with Keshav is worth saving. The apex of the play occurs when Naveen confronts his parents about his relationship and sexuality more generally. He decries what he perceives as their closed mindedness to his emotional needs. However, his parents reveal that their reticence towards the marriage has less to do with Naveen's sexuality or even Keshav's unique background, than with the lack of communication they had with Naveen. They felt that because Naveen moved away shortly after he came out of the closet, they never really got to fully understand him. Once the family comes to this understanding, and Keshav genuinely endears himself to the parents, the marriage proceeds in the same temple where the protagonists met.

*A Nice Indian Boy* was appropriately co-sponsored by API-Equality LA and Satrang, a South Asian American LGBTQ organization. In a very instructive Q&A session after the performance, representatives of those two groups spoke about the intricate relationships between straight parents and queer children in the Asian American community. The play, they noted, demonstrated that through open communication that involves everyone in the family, acceptance, love, and empowerment are possible.

After the play we took a leisurely stroll from East West Players to Pitfire Artisan Pizza, located across the street from the historic St. Vibiana's cathedral, where we feasted on handmade pizzas, kale salads, roasted Brussels sprouts, and other tasty treats (what a healthy bunch!). I always thoroughly enjoy our JACL outings to East West Players where I can experience the best of Asian American cultural production, spend time with dear old friends, and make some new ones. I hope you can join us next time!



Concert Presented by:  
San Fernando Valley JACL

# A Swinging Big Band Concert

Featuring  
Dan Taguchi and Friends

An afternoon of classic and  
contemporary jazz  
from the 1940s to the present  
with a seventeen piece jazz ensemble and guest vocalists

**Date: Sunday, May 4, 2014**

**Time: 2:00 p.m.**

**Place: San Fernando Valley  
Japanese American Community Center  
12953 Branford St., Pacoima, CA 91331**

**Tickets: Donation \$15**



For tickets contact Nancy Gohata at [yaiko16@verizon.net](mailto:yaiko16@verizon.net) or  
(818) 371-8013

Make checks payable to SFVJACL

\$10 bento available after the concert  
Must be reserved before April 28, 2014

## BOB AND BRIAN MORIGUCHI

With the Day of Remembrance just past, I came across an email message from a long-time friend, Bob Moriguchi. It was quite coincidental, in that it related to what I was preparing to write in my column about Bob and his son Brian.

February is Black History Month. Bob's message was about a five-minute video of Sybil Jordan Hampton, one of the black students at Little Rock High School who told her story about attending the school during 1959-62 when President Eisenhower was forced to order the National Guard to the school to enforce integration.

Ms. Hampton's story was quite moving. Her three years at the school were spent in complete isolation. No one even talked to her, much less befriended her. She said she endured this humiliation because she knew she was doing it for her race.

Ms. Hampton went on to attain a Ph.D. and has since served as president of the Rockefeller Foundation, as well as serving on the board of the Japanese American National Museum. The Rockefeller Foundation provided \$2 million for a conference that was sponsored by JANM and held in Little Rock about 12 years ago. The convention drew about 1,000 people.

The Day of Remembrance is a significant event we observe each year to remember the sacrifices of those who endured the stressful WWII years.

As Black Americans, during Black History Month, recognize people like Ms. Hampton who made significant contributions to America, and in particular to Black America, I believe we JAs, as we observe the Day of Remembrance, would be well-served by recognizing those who have done similarly for our community.

I first encountered Bob when he came to make a presentation at a church I was attending in the San Fernando Valley. He came in the early 1960s as a representative for the San Fernando Valley JACL Chapter, asking for our support for a petition repealing Title II of the National Security Act of 1950, which had a provision for the detention into concentration camps, without due process, of those deemed dangerous to national security.

Bob's efforts, along with those of many JACL chapters, bore fruit: Title II was later successfully repealed by Congress.

I mention this because of the impression it made on me — one that stayed with me, even after 50 years. Here was a Japanese American man who cared enough about a cause to come to us to plead the case for a matter that affected our entire country. It dealt with something that we as Japanese Americans had endured, that we knew was wrong, that we did not want to have happen again in this country. This sort of activism was inspiring.

Bob grew up in San Francisco and was sent to Amache in Colorado before his family resettled during the war in Utah to do farming. His pre-retirement work was as a pharmacist, and he served as president of the San Fernando Valley JACL in 1968.

Bob has been a long-time volunteer at the Japanese American National Museum, where he works two days a week. He has been presented awards for his outstanding work there, and a reliable source informs me he has been a generous donor to the museum as well.

Bob's son, Brian, recently was presented an award by the San Fernando Valley JACL for his five years of service as its board president. How Brian came to become involved in the JACL is a story not unrelated to his father's story.

Brian became an L.A. County sheriff's deputy at age 21. After a few years, he was assigned to a station where he encountered a buck-toothed drawing and phrases such as "ah, so" and "al-light den" on a blackboard where the deputies gathered in the morning. The following is taken from an *L.A. Times* story written in March of 2000.

Brian's complaints and requests to have the blackboard inscriptions removed were not heeded. He was told, "You don't count. You're not black or Hispanic." So Brian requested his complaint be addressed

at a higher level. After this request, he was told to be quiet about it and threatened with termination — a tactic Brian says is known as the Code of Silence. His tires were slashed, his files were tampered with, and he and his girlfriend were followed by sheriff's investigators as intimidation.

Because of his experience, a few civil rights groups, with support from the ACLU, requested the formation of a county independent review board to hear complaints of these civil rights violations.

After a civil rights trial jury awarded Brian \$60,000, he declined the award, saying he would instead rather have established a county independent citizens' commission. The county declined his request and gave Brian his award.

The final decision was to allow the county's affirmative action commission to handle discrimination complaints, with the cooperation of the Sheriff's department. This, it was presumed, would forestall the kind of retaliation Brian endured.

Brian had stated from the outset, "There are a lot of other officers out there who have suffered the same as I have, but are afraid to come forward."

Out of retaliation for filing charges of discrimination, Brian was given an assignment far from his previous assignment. His schedule was changed and he was given unreasonable restrictions in his duties, hampering his ability to do his job. The retaliation continued even after his lawsuit. He was denied promotions even though he scored high on the exams. On one exam, he had the second-highest overall score, but he was promoted last on the list.

When I met with Brian and Bob, Brian told me while all this was going on, he suffered severe headaches, indigestion and diarrhea. I asked him what he learned from his dad that motivated him to stay with this ordeal. Brian told me his dad always told him to do the right thing, no matter what. It seems likely to me that Bob's spirit of activism carried over to Brian.

Brian realizes the importance of an organization such as the JACL, and was supported in his trial by Elizabeth Au, our regional director. He subsequently joined the San Fernando Valley Chapter Board and served for two years as the JACL/PSW District chair for civil rights.

In addition, our chapter was pleased to congratulate Brian on being elected for the fifth consecutive year as president of the County Professional Peace Officers Association, the advocacy organization for over 8,700 law enforcement professionals in L.A. County. He continues to fight for justice within the Sheriff's Department today.

Bob and Brian Moriguchi, you are real Japanese American heroes, and we in the community salute you!

Article submitted by Phil Shigekuni

Editor's Note: This article appeared in the Rafu Shimpo



# LOCAL LEADERS

FOR COMMUNITY BASED SOLUTIONS

***Be The Change - Your Local Community Needs You!***

The JACL-PSW is offering positions in the newest Local Leaders initiative to empower community leaders of our upcoming generation.

Local Leaders will grow their skills, knowledge, resume, and community network through:

- 3 day intensive leadership development & social justice retreat
- 3 month experience (June-August) on a local JACL civil rights nonprofit board
- Hands-on development through a public service and grassroots-organizing project
- Meaningful connections with your team of Local Leaders from various cities

**Local Leaders are also rewarded \$800 educational stipends**

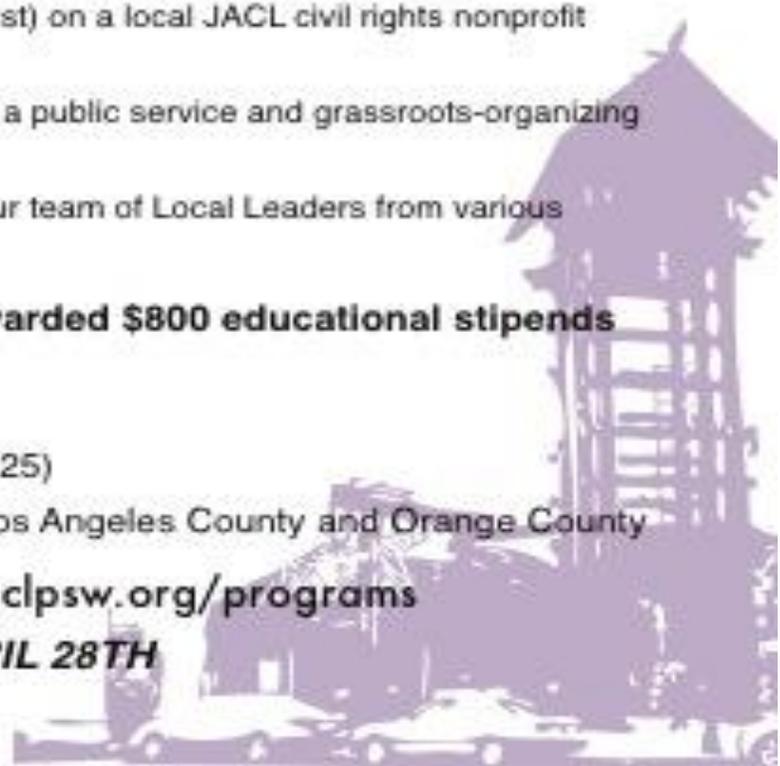
## **QUALIFICATIONS:**

**WHO:** Young adults (ages 18-25)

**WHERE:** Spots available in Los Angeles County and Orange County

**APPLY NOW:** [www.jaclpsw.org/programs](http://www.jaclpsw.org/programs)

**Deadline:** *MONDAY, APRIL 28TH*



For more information contact:  
traci ishigo at <http://www.jaclpsw.org/>

# SFV JACL SUZUME NO GAKKOU SUMMER CAMP

JUNE 16 - 20, 8:30 - 12:30

\$75 per child

Japanese Language Institute classrooms  
12953 Branford Street, Pacoima CA



## FUN FILLED WEEK FOR KIDS GRADE 2-6

ENROLLMENT LIMITED TO 40  
FIRST COME FIRST SERVED

HERITAGE BOOK STORE ON SITE

SNACKS DAILY BY PARENTS  
sign up

- STORY TIME READING OF "THE CAT THAT CHOSE TO DREAM" AND "HACHIKO"
- LEARN BASIC JAPANESE PHRASES
- BRUSH PAINT YOUR NAME
- EXERCISE, DANCE, SING, COOK
- FOLD ORIGAMI
- FIELD TRIP TO JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM BY METRO ON THURS

### Additional information:

- T-Shirts only \$10 - Available at Orientation on May 29, 6 PM at Dr. Sakaguchi Hall
- Grandparents Welcome to Closing Program held in Sakaguchi Hall - Potluck Lunch
- Volunteer and Junior Counselor training will be held on June 11, 5 PM at SFVJACC

SFV JACL SUZUME NO GAKKOU SUMMER CAMP - JUNE 17-21, 2014  
Registration form and field trip consent slip for each child

Name of student \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in Sept. \_\_\_\_\_

Japanese Name \_\_\_\_\_ Contact E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Parent or Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies \_\_\_\_\_

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT Nancy Oda [nancyoda64@gmail.com](mailto:nancyoda64@gmail.com) or cell 818 935-2603  
Send registration to Mitzi Kushida, 11641 Porter Valley Dr., Northridge, CA 91326

#### Mission Statement:

To nourish pride in American history through education and hands on activities for young people  
To develop programs for youth so they can be well rounded and fair minded citizens in a diverse world





The San Gabriel Valley Asian Pacific Islander (SGV API) Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays Chapter marched in the Los Angeles Golden Dragon Lunar New Year Parade on February 1, 2014. Marching with the group were **Harold and Ellen Kameya and Phil and Marion Shigekuni**.

## PAUL'S CORNER

Congratulations to Board member and communications chair, **Aujean (Christina) Lee**, who got accepted into PhD in Urban Planning programs at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs and the USC Price School of Public Policy.

We send a very belated condolence message to **Jean Tsutsui**. Sincere sympathies to you and your sons and family on the death of your husband, **Dr. Arthur H. Tsutsui**. Long time JACL member, Dr. Tsutsui passed away on October 14, 2013. Dr. Tsutsui practiced orthodontistry in Northridge and helped straighten the teeth of many children of JACL members.

Congratulations to **Akemi Arzouman**, who recently competed in the Los Angeles Marathon on March 9, 2014. She completed the 26.2 miles in 4 hours and 28 minutes. Akemi, (22) is the eldest granddaughter of Board member, **Mitzi and Al Kushida**.

## DONATIONS

We would like to thank our members and friends for their generous donations. We truly appreciate your kind thoughts.

The following donations were made In **Memory of Dr Mary Oda:**

**James and Mary Oda Trust , Blossom & Robert Uyeda and Phil & Marion Shigekuni.**

**Helen Nina Oda Abe's** donation will be used to purchase individual books for the Suzume no Gakko students.

We also would like to thank **Pat Kubota** for her donation in memory of **Dr Sanbo Sakaguchi and Dr Mary Oda**.



**THANKS TO THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH COMMUNITY WHO SUPPORTED OUR  
PACIFIC CITIZEN HOLIDAY ISSUE FUNDRAISER**

**In Memory of Dr. Mary Oda**  
**In Memory of Dr. Arthur Tsutsui**  
**Dr. Scott Nishizaka**, Stacey, Ava and Maya  
**Dr. Bo Sakaguchi** and Mrs. Ikuyo Sakaguchi  
**Dr. Mark Uyehara**, Loreen and Sarah  
15989 Yarnell St., Sylmar, CA 91342

**In Memory of Dr. Sanbo Sakaguchi**  
**Drs. David & Donna Uyehara**  
**Dr. James Nitahara**  
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# San Fernando Valley Japanese American Citizens League Membership Application

## Membership Categories

### **Regular/Individual**

Regular sustaining members of the organization

### **Couple/Family**

Membership for an individual, their spouse/partner and any children under 25 years of age.

### **Youth/Student**

Members 25 years of age or younger or students currently enrolled in a college, trade school, or university.

### **1000 Club**

A membership category where members make a larger annual contribution to their chapter and national programs of the organization

### **1000 Club Life**

Members who pay a lump sum to establish a lifetime membership

### **1000 Club or Century Club Spouse**

Spouse or partner of a JAACL 1000 Club or Century Club member

### **Century Club**

An exclusive membership category where members make a larger annual contribution to their chapter and national programs of the organization

### **Century Club Life**

An exclusive membership category where members pay a lump sum to establish a lifetime membership

**New Member**

**Renewing Membership**

**Gift Membership**

Regular/Individual - \$67.00

1000 Club Individual - \$100.00

Century Club - \$175.00

Couple/Family - \$110.00

1000 Club Spouse - \$32.00

Century Club Spouse - \$32.00

Youth/Students - \$25.00

1000 Club Life - \$3000.00

Century Club Life - \$5000.00

## Member Information

Member ID: \_\_\_\_\_ (renewals only)

**First Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Last Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_

**State** \_\_\_\_\_

**Zip Code** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Payment Method**

**Check**

**Credit Card**

Please make checks payable to:

Visa

MasterCard

American Express

**Japanese American Citizens League**

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(Month / Year)

Send the completed application along with your payment via U.S. mail to: **JAACL Membership**

**P.O. Box 45397**

**San Francisco, CA 94145-0397**

Or join Online: <http://www.jacl.org/member> → →PSWDC → →San Fernando Valley

San Fernando Valley

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