

### **KENT WONG to Speak at SFVJACL's 2015 Installation**

We're honored that Kent Wong will provide the keynote address at the San Fernando Valley JACL's 73rd installation luncheon on January 18, 2015 at the Odyssey Restaurant in Granada Hills. Kent is a fearless advocate for workers, immigrants, students, and many others in his capacity as the director of the UCLA Labor Center. As director, Kent oversees several dynamic projects that challenge inequality and pursue social and economic justice, such as the Dream Resource Center, the Global Solidarity Project, and UCLA's Labor and Workplace Studies Minor, among others. He is an important figure in the fight for the DREAM Act.

The founding president of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, Kent has also served as a staff attorney for the Service Employees International Union and vice-president of the California Federation of Teachers. He has taught several popular courses in Labor at Workplace Studies as well as Asian American Studies at UCLA. With his students, Kent has edited several timely and important books that uncover the stories of undocumented students, Thai sweatshop workers, the lives of Asian American labor organizers and others.

#### Installation information

Place: Odyssey Restaurant

Date: Sunday, January 18, 2015

Time: 11:30 am Social Hour 12:00 pm

Lunch Cost: \$35 per person

Reservations: Linda Tanaka

at (805) 527-1224 or

lkitai@hotmail.com



### **UPCOMING EVENTS**



### **COME JOIN US IN THE FUN AND ACTIVITIES**

**December 10**  
Board Meeting

**January 18**  
Installation Luncheon

**January 20**  
Third Tuesday Movie  
Outing

**February 17**  
Third Tuesday Movie  
Outing

**February 21**  
Day of Remembrance

**February 22**  
Tule Lake Segregation  
Center

**March 30**  
Tuna Canyon Detention  
Center

### **Questions or Comments?**

Please email  
kyoshino@verizon.net  
or send comments to:  
Nancy Gohata  
14229 Carl Street  
Arleta, CA 91331

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

December, 2014



Greetings! It is time for the last newsletter of 2014! My first year of being president of our chapter has made me feel very grateful. It is in keeping with the season, but I truly am so thankful that we have a strong, active and hard-working board and a supportive membership.

Additionally, we have a super hard-working staff at the Pacific Southwest District office, led by Regional Director Stephanie Nitahara, Business & Development Mgr. Nancy Takayama, and Program Coordinator traci ishigo.

I wonder what percentage of our local Japanese American population is “up to speed” on the LGBTQ issue? By “up to speed” I mean those people who have learned and accepted that sexual orientation (as well as gender ID) is not chosen, but an orientation that is a part of each of us at birth. Being “up to speed” in my mind, is also applying that knowledge to your life actions and life attitudes.

Our JACL PSW office, as well as our San Fernando Valley JACL chapter, has supported LGBTQ rights by joining the list of sponsors of the Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> Okaeri Nikkei LGBTQ Gathering at the Japanese American National Museum. Marsha Aizumi, a member of our chapter and co-chair of the event with riKu Matsuda, was brought to tears while reading the grateful notes from people from Seattle, Chicago, Vancouver BC, Hawaii, Oregon, and many parts of California. The JA LGBTQ for too long has been a minority within a minority, and those attending were so grateful for being able to address issues specific to the Nikkei community. For a description of the workshops and programs, see [www.okaeri-LA.org](http://www.okaeri-LA.org).

I understand that JANM's CEO Greg Kimura received some negative comments since JANM provided the space (and their prestige) to Okaeri. To those people, I would say that JANM exists for all of us, and I am simply unable to understand their issue.

Welcome to new members Yukio and Lilian Kawaratani. (*note to Nancy G: there are only 2 Ls, not 3 in her name*) They were members of the San Gabriel Valley JACL chapter and wish to join us because we have been active in the Tule Lake Segregation Center issue. Next March, Nancy Oda will be leading our chapter in a workshop on that issue, and we will urge members, their children and grandchildren to dig into history, read up, and ask questions, just as those high school students did in the documentary “Citizen Tanouye”!

Nancy Gohata, our Programs chairperson (among other jobs), led a planning committee in creating a set of events and programs for 2015. More info on that later. (*or in this issue? Nancy: please revise as needed*) We welcome comments on what we did well and not so well! Suggestions for future events and projects are especially welcome!

Harold Kameya



## Help Us Reduce Postage and Visit Us Online

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

Visit us online at: <http://sfvjacl.weebly.com/> or [jacl.sfv@gmail.com](mailto:jacl.sfv@gmail.com)

Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/sfvjacljacl.sfv@gmail.com>



## A PERSONAL TRIBUTE TO PAUL TSUNEISHI

Paul Tsuneishi died on September 27, 2014. I would like to share my remembrances of Paul. I am proud to say he was my friend and mentor.

In 1975 the San Fernando Valley JACL Chapter sponsored a program at the SFV Japanese American Community Center, chaired by Paul, which included civil rights activist Edison Uno, and explored the possibility of pressing the government for reparations for our wartime incarceration. After this panel, Paul organized and chaired EO 9066 Inc., which circulated surveys to assess the community's interest in redress. As part of their efforts, the organization sponsored dinners honoring men such as Gordon Hirabayashi, Rev. Herbert Nicholson, and Wayne Collins, Jr. Because of this work by EO 9066, Paul and I were invited to meet with two other pioneer redress groups at the JACL Headquarters in San Francisco, and provided the framework for JACL's redress resolution at their national convention in 1978. The redress bill came after 10 long years, resulting in the presidential apology and redress payments to those of us who were incarcerated.

Paul was elected president of our San Fernando Valley JACL before being appointed JACL's Pacific Southwest District Governor. During this time, Paul served as JACL's representative on the Committee of Atomic Bomb Survivors, which concerned itself with getting health care payments from Japan for the 400-500 Niseis who were affected by the atomic bombing in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. These survivors could only get financial aid for their injuries while in Japan.

Although Paul had served in the Army, he took up the cause of justice for the draft resisters. These men, as many of you are aware, took the position of refusing to be drafted into the Army unless they and their families were released from the concentration camps. These men wound up spending two years in federal penitentiaries. Paul strongly supported a movement to gain an apology from JACL for condemning these men for the stand they had taken. He advocated and supported two panel discussions in Los Angeles, consisting of the resisters, prior to a National JACL Convention in 2000, which after much contentious debate finally granted an apology to these men.

I was very impressed when I learned that Paul flew to various parts of the country to interview Niseis who played an important part of our Japanese American history during World War II. This he did at his own expense, and after personally transcribing the interviews, Paul donated the transcripts to the Japanese American National Museum.

Paul showed a lot of compassion for LGBTQ persons. He became an enthusiastic supporter of PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) and marched as a member in their Hollywood parades. In 1997, Paul chaired a LGBTQ panel held at the Centenary UMC.

Paul and his family had been long-time residents of Sunland, and he recognized the importance of memorializing the World War II detention camp that was set up in Tuna Canyon at the outset of the war. He was a strong advocate for establishing Tuna Canyon as a historical landmark.

I repeat, I am proud to say he was my friend and mentor.

Phil's complete remembrance can be found at <http://www.rafu.com/wp-content/uploads/2114/10/paul-tsuneishi.png>

Article submitted by Phil Shigekuni



## 2014 Pacific Citizen Holiday Greetings

Season's Greetings and THANK YOU to all our Pacific Citizen Holiday Issue supporters.

We deeply appreciate you supporting our chapter's major fundraiser.

Your generosity will help our program for 2015.

THANK YOU again to the following personal ads:

Wally & May Arakawa  
Kats & Fuyo Arimoto  
Lyle & Mitsu Asaoka  
Susan De Gracia  
JP de Guzman & Aujean Lee  
Mary Endo  
Elizabeth Frost  
Richard Fujimoto

Bryce & Rosie Kawamoto  
Doreen Kawamoto  
Robert Kobata & Family  
Sono Kondo  
Pat Kubota  
Linda Kuratomi  
Al & Mitzi Kushida  
Greg & Maebelle Librando

Dennis & Barbara Okita  
Elaine & Gary Saito  
Dr. Bo & Iku Sakaguchi  
Robert & Setsuko Sato  
Paul & Remi Scolari  
Phil & Marion Shigekuni  
Geri Shiraki  
Jean Taguchi  
Nancy Takayama & Patty  
Takayama  
Linda Tanaka  
Rod & Carol Taylor  
Janice, Kara & Sharon Teramura  
Jean Tsutsui  
Sumi Yamaguchi  
Mas & Norma Jean Yamashita  
Gary & Akemi Yano  
Katherine Yonemura  
  
Miye Yoshida  
Ron Yoshida

Momoyo Fujiu  
Bob & Ruth Fukuhara  
Kim Gohata & Paul Chan  
Yas & Nancy Gohata  
Frank & Emi Hino  
Dick & Suzie Hirasuna  
Ted & Chieko Iida  
Hazel Isa  
Taro & Mary Ishimoto

Marcia Mahony  
Kimiko McCown  
Evelyn Mitarai  
Bob & Aki Moriguchi  
Brian & Jodi Moriguchi  
Chiz Morita  
Hiroyuki & Joyce Nagata  
Harry Nakada  
George & Barbara Nakatsu  
Harvey Negoro & Isabelle  
Miyata  
Harriet Nishizaka

Paul Jonokuchi  
Shoichi & Dale Kadonaga  
Darren & Kristine Kameya

**We also wish to THANK our generous monetary donors. Your contribution means so much to us.**

Paul Chan & Kim Gohata  
Richard Fujimoto  
Robert & Ruth Fukuhara  
Yas & Nancy Gohata  
Jose Gonzalez & Doreen  
Kushida  
Clara Hashimoto  
Larry & Wendy Hirota

Taro & Mary Ishimoto  
Moose Iwanaga  
Soichi & Dale Kadonaga  
Paris Kariya

May Kimura  
Linda Kuratomi  
Al & Mitzi Kushida  
Miles Kuwata & Rouxann  
Fujimoto  
Marian Nakagawa  
Harriet Nishizaka

Scott & Stacey Nishizaka  
Kay & Nancy Oda  
Dennis & Barbara Okita  
Gary & Elaine Saito

Phil & Marion Shigekuni  
Patrick & Helen Shimizu  
Ken Watase

Grace Honbo  
Stephen Hoyle  
Hazel Isa

Gary & Sandra Yamamoto  
Ron & Miye Yoshida  
Karen Yoshino

With much appreciation, Mitzi Kushida, Nancy Gohata, Marion Shigekuni & Barbara Okita.

## HOLIDAY CELEBRATION ELVISH EXPERIENCE



DATE: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2014  
TIME: 6pm Pot Luck Dinner followed by Arts & Crafts.  
7pm Program Commences  
Place: SFV JACC , Pioneer Center, Sakaguchi Hall

Please contact: Nancy Gohata to reserve a gift for your child 10 years and under. Also, kindly advise if you are bringing a teenager (11 yrs +) to join in the games for prizes.

Contact: Nancy Gohata: 818-899-4237, or email: yaiko16@verizon.net  
Patty Takayama at: 818-899-7916 or pe.high.mtn@juno.com

## LTHS Offers Three Cash Prizes for Short Story Contest

The Little Tokyo Historical Society announced its second annual fiction short story contest. This year, the contest has expanded to include a Japanese-language and youth division. The deadline for submission is January 31, 2015.

The prize for the first place winner is \$600 for of each of the adult (English and Japanese language) divisions, while the first place award for the youth division is \$400. The theme for the fiction story is "Imagine Little Tokyo."

The purpose of the contest is to raise awareness of the Little Tokyo neighborhood of Los Angeles through a creative fiction short story that takes place in contemporary, past, or future Little Tokyo. The winning stories will be published in the Rafu Shimpo newspaper and the Discover Nikkei website.

Writers with far ranging, young and elderly perspectives are encouraged to submit stories. For more information, contest details and guidelines go to: [www.littletokyohs.org](http://www.littletokyohs.org).

Article submitted by Patricia Takayama



## SUZUME NO GAKKOU SUMMER CAMP

SAVE THE DATE: JULY 6-10, 2015  
STUDENTS ENTERING GRADES 2-6



IN COLLABORATION WITH KIZUNA  
A MIDDLE SCHOOL COMPONENT WILL BE OFFERED FOR CAMPERS ENTERING GRADES 7-9  
THE SAME WEEK AT THE SAME LOCATION.



## OKAERI – a Nikkei LGBTQ gathering

A historic event took place at JANM on Saturday, November 15, 2014. It was the first Okaeri - a Nikkei LGBTQ gathering. There were over 200 people who came from across the country - New York, Portland, Hawaii, Arizona, Chicago, the greater Los Angeles area, San Diego and even Canada!

The event was co-chaired by **Marsha Aizumi** and **riKu Matsuda**. The all day event was very inspiring and moving by the sharing of personal stories and experiences. There were outstanding speakers, panelist, performers, workshops and interests groups. Valuable resource material were also made available.

Support came from the OKAERI planners, parents, grandparents, and friends, like PSW District Governor, **David Kawamoto** from San Diego, who attended with his wife, Carol and several chapter members. The National JACL sent a representative as did many PSW chapters to support and learn more about the LBGTQ community.

There were religious advocates who spoke and made the case for religious support of the LGBTQ community from a Christian and Buddhist tradition,. They were **Rev. Mark Nakagawa, Rev. John Oda, Rinban William Briones, Rev.Dr. Ken Fong and Rev. Melvin Fujikawa**

One workshop entitled, *One Family's Journey*, presented by Marsha and Aiden Aizumi, her transgender son. Tad and Stefan Aizumi (Marsha's husband and younger son) participated in the discussion following the presentation. From the beginning to the end of the workshop Marsha's voice often quivered with emotion as she shared with us their difficult but heartwarming journey. Marsha and Aiden have written a book, *Two Spirits, One Heart: A Mother, Her Transgender Son, and Their Journey to Love and Acceptance*.

It was truly a day of reflection and responding with voice, heart and action to bring about needed change for our brothers and sisters in the LBGTQ community. It was a beautiful display of diversity on all levels as well. It provided a much needed safe place for people to find their community of love and acceptance. Hopefully this event will inspire creating safer spaces within our communities where all are welcomed and supported. This is the beginning of a courageous movement that will bring more visibility and understanding to our Nikkei LGBTQ community.

Our Okaeri event has spurred the Seattle JACL chapter to plan a similar event, and the San Jose Japanese American Museum has similar plans.

Special thanks go to volunteers from our SFV chapter: **Harvey Negoro, Nancy Oda, and Marion Shigekuni** who assisted in registration. **Nancy Takayama** worked tirelessly in the kitchen all day bringing out breakfast, lunchtime snacks and afternoon snacks! Kudos also go to our own traci ishigo for a job well done as one of the program's M.C.

This article was a collaboration effort by **Harold Kameya, Betty Kubota, Isabelle Miyata, and Nancy Oda**. For **Phil Shigekuni's** complete report of the Okaeri event go to <http://www.rafu.com/2014/11/senior-moments-okaeri-a-welcome-home-at-janm>.



## Fresh Asian Veggie Drop Offs at the SFV JACC!

The Asian Pacific Islander Obesity Prevention Alliance (APIOPA) is excited to announce a partnership with the SFV JACL chapter to bring fresh, sustainably grown, and pesticide free Asian produce to the JACC starting in January 2015 through our Roots Community Supported Agriculture (Roots CSA) program!

### What is Roots CSA?

Roots CSA, in a nutshell, is a grassroots program in which we partner with small local Asian American farmers to bring fresh Asian produce to local communities throughout Los Angeles County.

### Why participate in the Roots CSA program?

- Support small local farmers and get to know the people who grow your food
- Satisfaction of knowing how your food was grown and a stronger appreciation of what it took to grow it (Sustainably, pesticide free, preservative free, GMO free)
- Reconnect to your food by eating with the changing seasons, utilizing produce you may have never used before, and trying out new recipes

### How do I sign up for the SFV CSA program?

To sign up please visit: <http://www.rootscsa.org/locations/sfv/>  
OR

Contact Kyle Tsukahira (APIOPA Program Coordinator)  
by email at [ktsukahira@apiopa.org](mailto:ktsukahira@apiopa.org) or by phone 626-872-4801.

For more information about Roots CSA  
please visit: [www.rootscsa.org](http://www.rootscsa.org)



## Did You Notice?

Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> was a 100o plus in the Valley, so smart people like President **Harold Kameya** started scrubbing the grease off the stove in the SFV JACC kitchen at the break of dawn. Under the direction of CC President **Paul Jonokuchi**, organizations were assigned different cleaning chores, including trimming the precious Japanese pine trees by our senior gardeners. What a beautiful job everyone did. The JACC received so much energy and tender loving care from its members. Of course, the dedicated volunteers developed an appetite by lunch time.

Our JACL chapter was assigned to serve lunch. Our crew consisted of **Nancy Gohata, Barbara Okita, Doreen Kawamoto, and Nancy Takayama** and more; they prepared and served the traditional Hot Dogs, Chile with Onions, Chips, and chilled Watermelon. Additionally, **Nancy Oda** donated her special fresh Green Salad. **Dr. Harvey Negoro and Dennis Okita** prepared the kosher wieners like professional cooks, while **Linda Tanaka** supervised in cutting of the watermelons. A perfect treat on this hot day! **Isabelle Miyata and Patti Takayama** also joined us. At the end, **Al Kushida** was honored with the “Dish Pan Hands” award.

It’s a wonderful feeling to think that we had a part in keeping our home, the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center, sparkling clean. We hope you noticed.

Article submitted by Mitzi Kushida

## PSWD QUARTERLY MEETING IN ARIZONA

On November 1, 2014, the PSWD 3rd quarterly meeting was hosted by the Arizona JACL Chapter. The Arizona Chapter was celebrating its 80 year anniversary. The meeting held at the Chapter's own building began with a Southwestern lunch. The host Chapter provided gift bags filled with snacks and gifts for each of us. The meeting was chaired by **Governor, David Kawamoto** and he welcomed **Victor Yamada** from New Mexico, the newest chapter to PSW District. He announced that the National Parks will be entering a float in the 2016 Rose Parade with a Manzanar Theme. The Smithsonian Museum will present an EO9066 Exhibit in 2017. The 2015 JACL National Convention will be held in Las Vegas.

Regional Director, **Stephanie Nitahara**, Program Coordinator, **traci ishigo**, and Business Manager, **Nancy Takayama** shared with chapter representatives the programs PSWD is currently sponsoring. These programs include Bridging Communities, the Local Leaders Chapter Internship Program, the Nikkei LGBTQ Initiative, and the Asian Pacific Islanders Incarcerated Community Project.

The biggest challenge for PSWD is funding. PSWD leads all Districts in the diversity of programs it offers the community. Without the three staff members, these programs would not be available to members and especially our youth. Fundraising events like the annual PSW District Awards Luncheon need the support of our membership.

The following day, the Arizona Chapter celebrated their 80th Anniversary with a Luau Luncheon. All Chapter delegates who attended the quarterly meeting were invited as guests to this celebration. The JACL Arizona Chapter was formed in 1934. The Chapter's current community building, located in Glendale, Arizona, was dedicated in 1977. In 2002, the Chapter was awarded the George Inagaki Chapter Citizenship Award at the National JACL Convention in Las Vegas. In 2006, the Chapter hosted the National JACL Convention. Over a hundred people enjoyed the food, entertainment, gifts, and hospitality of the Arizona Chapter. National JACL President, **David Lin** congratulated the Arizona Chapter for its continual participation and commitment to the JACL organization.



Standing (L to R): Yas Gohata, traci ishigo, David Lin - JACL National President, & Yas Tokita - Las Vegas Chapter  
Seated: Nancy Gohata, Nancy Takayama, Frank Kawase - SELANOCO Chapter & Joan Kawase





## MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORANT TO OUR ORGANIZATION

Trying to recruit new members to our organization is an ongoing endeavor. We are proud that JACL offers a variety of programs that benefit our youth and our community. We need your help to reach out to your family and friends to join the San Fernando Valley Chapter. A JACL application form is in this issue of the newsletter.

**For questions and more information contact Nancy Gohata at [yaiko16@verizon.net](mailto:yaiko16@verizon.net) or (818) 899-4237.**

### 2015 SFV JACL PROGRAM

January 18	SFV JACL Installation Luncheon
February 21	Day of Remembrance at JANM
February 22	Panel on the Tule Lake Segregation Center
March 29	Tuna Canyon Detention Center
April 19	Hula Girls (a film)
April 26	Manzanar Pilgrimage
June 27/28	SFVH Buddhist Temple Obon
July 6-10	Suzume no Gakkou/Kizuna
September 9	Pacific Citizen Holiday Issue Fundraiser Begins
September (TBA)	Board End-of-the-Summer Party
September 27	Big Band Concert with Dan Taguchi
Sept/Oct. (TBA)	East West Players “Chinglish”
Sept/Oct. (TBA)	PSWD 18th Annual Awards Benefit Luncheon
October 14	Pacific Citizen Holiday Issue Fundraiser Deadline
December 12	Holiday Party
January 17, 2016	SFV JACL Installation Luncheon

2<sup>nd</sup> WEDNESDAY MONTHLY MEETING AT 7:00 PM

THIRD TUESDAY MONTHLY MOVIE OUTING (No Outing in December)

### DONATIONS



**Pat Kubota's** thoughtful donation was in appreciation of receiving our Chapter Newsletter via US mail. Thank you Pat.

**Karl & Sandy Nobuyuki's** generous monetary donation was in memory of their mother, **Chiyo Goka**, an active member of our chapter. Many thanks Karl and Sandy.

# 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**

🍏 Regular/Individual - \$67.00

🍏 Couple/Family - \$110.00

🍏 Youth/Students - \$25.00

### **🍏 Renewing Membership**

🍏 1000 Club Individual - \$200.00

🍏 1000 Club Spouse - \$32.00

🍏 1000 Club Life - \$3000.00

### **🍏 Gift Membership**

🍏 Century Club - \$175.00

🍏 Century Club Spouse - \$32.00

🍏 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**

Please make checks payable to:

**Japanese American Citizens League**

### **🍏 Credit Card**

🍏 Visa

🍏 MasterCard

🍏 American Express

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

**JACL**

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14229 Carl Street  
Arleta, CA 91331