

75th ANNIVERSARY INSTALLATION LUNCHEON

On January 22, 2017, the San Fernando Valley Chapter of the JACL welcomed the year of the Rooster to install officers at the Odyssey Restaurant in Granada Hills.

Despite a torrential rainstorm, Consul General **Akira Chiba**, and friends from the Greater Los Angeles, Oxnard, SELANNOCO, and guest speaker, retired Deputy Chief, **Terry Hara** to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the chapter.

Featured speaker, retired Deputy Police Chief, Terry Hara, spoke about his experiences starting with "Jump Street" that was an undercover assignment. While keeping the city of Los Angeles safe for 35 years, he believed that respect and bringing people together was his most important role. As a result, he was proud that the department has a more diverse force than before to serve Los Angeles which is a community where 220 languages are spoken. His work will inspire young folks for generations to come.

Event chairwoman, **Linda Tanaka**, prepared a beautiful pine, bamboo, and spring flower with **Bert Inoue** and **Ritsuko Shinbashi** in *sho chiku bai* style for this milestone year, the 75th anniversary, when President Tom Imai had the courage to start the chapter during the war years.

Special recognition was awarded to **Barbara Okita** who is well known for her musical contribution to the SFVHBT, line dancing, and volunteerism during *Suzume no Gakkou* summer camp and more. **Dr. Bo Sakaguchi** was honored for his long time support of the organization.

There was special rose ceremony to honor seniors like **Phil Shigekuni, Dr. Bo Sakaguchi, Doreen Kawamoto, Nancy Gohata, Mitzi Kushida, Bob Moriguchi, Tom Doi, and Karl Nobuyuki**. In addition, a well-deserved rose was presented to **Mrs. Aiko Ogata King** from Ventura who has been the campaign chair for the US Postal Service stamp for the 442 soldiers,

The SFVJACL Board of Directors have many plans for the new year that includes the Day of Remembrance at JANM, "Under the Blood Red Sun" screening on March 12, a writer's workshop, and more.

For information, <http://sfvjacl.weebly.com/>
Official Website of the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), an organization that defends civil rights through education and advocacy.

Article submitted by Nancy Oda



UPCOMING EVENTS



COME JOIN US IN THE FUN AND ACTIVITIES

February 18
Day of Remembrance

March 12
Under the Red Blood Sun

March 30 – May 4
Telling Our Stories

April 23
Asian Americans in the
Entertainment World

April 29
Manzanar Pilgrimage

Questions or Comments?

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Yesterday evening, January 26, a group of our board members attended a hastily called meeting by Congresswoman Judy Chu. The meeting was called to bring together community organizations to speak in response to the executive order signed by President Trump calling for the registration of Muslims and banning their immigration from certain countries. The meeting was held at a mosque in San Gabriel.

It was heartening to hear the strong statements of support from Sikh, Jewish, as well as Christian groups. Marion and I arrived late to a standing room only crowd. A young, middle-eastern appearing couple kindly gave up their seats to us. All the speakers encouraged the gathering to pull together, despite any differences we might have.

I wore my Manzanar t- shirt hoping to be called on to tell of how some of us were affected by the executive order issued by President Roosevelt 75 years ago. Because we had arrived late I did not get up to say anything because I did not want to duplicate something about this that someone may have said before we arrived. We were not able to attend a vigil called by NCCR, PSW JAACL and other civil rights group being held at the same time. It is imperative that we speak out about this issue.

These are my thoughts about the meeting: I would have spoken about not having anyone speaking up for us when we were herded off 75 years ago. No civil rights group, no religious group (except the Quakers)-nobody. In fact, the California Legislature, almost unanimously supported the executive order. Of course, we had no Asian, or other person of color holding a political office speaking on our behalf. Considering the anti-Asian legislation of the past, how admirable it was having Congresswoman Chu taking the lead on this issue. I was disappointed that there was no mention by one of the Jewish speakers of the holocaust as a precursor to Trump's orders of today.

As we were leaving, a couple of young Chinese women reporters from two local Chinese newspapers asked what religious group we were with. When Marion and I told them about our experience in the camps during the war, they said they knew nothing about our experience and were quite amazed. I got their cards and told them I would email literature to inform them of our brush with that executive order.

For taking the time to attend, thanks are due to Nancy and Yas Gohata, and friend Margarita Allen; JP DeGuzman and friend Beatrice Contreras.

Phil Shigekuni



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 and register your e-mail address

Visit us online at: <http://sfvjacl.weebly.com/> or jacl.sfv@gmail.com
Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/sfvjacl>



Thank You All for your Participation in our Annual JACL Holiday Party!

The JACL Holiday party was held on Saturday, Dec. 10th at the Community Center.

You worked so hard to make the event enjoyable for all, starting with the table decorations, the buffet table preparations, the delicious desserts, salads and main dishes, the craft tables and games for kids, the toy swap table that had the kid's eyes bulging in anticipation, the musicians accompanying the children singing, Santa meeting the kids with anticipation in their hearts, the photos of the beaming kids on Santa's lap, and the kids who paced themselves to have the pinata survive precisely one round of battering!

Special thanks to **Mitzi Kushida** and **Patty Takayama** for help in the planning, the **Takayama** sisters (**Nancy & Patty**) for the elaborate Christmas tree, props and photos, **Marion Shigekuni** and many others for the work around the buffet table, **Linda Tanaka** for the table decorations, and Mitzi for her Toy Recycling Table. Patty worked on the activity table for the older kids, while my son, **Roger Kameya** and his wife **Evonne** were in charge of the craft table for the younger kids. Thanks to **Phil Shigekui**, **Nancy Gohata**, **Barbara Nakatsu** and **Evelyn Mitarai** for providing music for the kids to sing their hearts out for Santa. Incidentally, **Santa Stan** sent these words: "Seeing the happy, some bashful and wonderment in the young kid's eyes made it all worth it."

Sorry for not including all of the names of the many helpers, especially those who helped with the cleanup! Thank you to all!

Article submitted by Harold Kameya



75th Anniversary Installation Luncheon

Photo (L-R) Barbara Okita,
Terry Hara, Linda Tanaka,
Mitzi Kushida



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DAY OF REMEMBRANCE 2017

Unite to Uphold our Civil Rights

Saturday, February 18, 2017

Program: 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. Outdoor Rally: 3:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Japanese American National Museum
100 N. Central Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90012

Presenters will include:

- Norman Mineta, former U.S. Congressman & U.S. Sec. of Transportation.
- Mike Honda, former U.S. Congressman
- Representatives from local Muslim, Native, Latino, and African American communities



TELLING OUR STORIES

The “Telling Our Stories” writing class, facilitated by Academy award winner, **Tim Toyama**, will resume a six week course, beginning **Thursday, March 30, 2017 at 7pm to 9pm**. We encourage seniors to sign up.

Tim’s program encourages class members to write a short one page memoir piece on a designated topic and share it with the class. It allows each individual to reflect on young adult or other memories and identify those elements of our common Japanese American heritage. The class is a fun way to meet new people and get to know some you’ve seen around or already know.

By sharing our stories, we are able to call to mind other long forgotten events that shaped our lives that may prove important to our friends and family members. The joy and satisfaction we gain from sharing our stories enhances our relationship with other members of the class but just as important, it helps us to understand other members of our family who witnessed similar generational experiences, but are reluctant to discuss.

At the end of the class or at the end of the summer, each member will be invited to submit a short story to be printed in a class publication (a book) which we are currently seeking funding in the form of grants.

We will offer two more classes. The second session will commence **Saturday, May 13th at 2pm to 4pm** and will continue for six weeks, until **June 17th, 2017**. The third “Telling Our Stories class will commence **Thursday, July 13th at 7pm to 9pm** and continue for six weeks until **August 17, 2017**.

If you are interested, please contact: **Patty Takayama** at 818-899-7916 or email me at: pe.high.mtn@juno.com. The cost for the six week session is \$30.00, or if you’d like to visit the class for one or two sessions to check it out, the cost per class is \$5.00. If you’d like to know the writing topic for that week to share with the class, please telephone me and leave a message or email me and I will get back to you with the topic for the class.

SAVE THE DATE – SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2017

On Sunday, April 23, 2017 at 2:00 pm, SFVJACL is proud to present a program featuring Asian Americans in the entertainment field. The panel will share their career story and how much of a factor their ethnicity plays in today's entertainment industry.

Donation: \$10

Bento: \$10

For Bento orders please contact Nancy Gohata at nancygohata@gmail.com by April 14th.



Keiko Agena, a Japanese-American, was born in Honolulu. She is probably best known for her role in *Gilmore Girls*.

Guy Aoki, founding president of Media Action Network for Asian Americans (MANAA) was our 2016 Installation speaker.



Francois Chau is a Cambodian American actor. He is best known as Dr. Pierre Chang in ABC's *Lost*.

Amy Hill is an American character actress and stand-up comedian. We know her from the television series *All-American Girl*.



Clyde Kusatsu was born and raised in Honolulu. He was in several episodes of *All in the Family* and many times at East West Players.

Elizabeth Sung is a Chinese actress and film director. She appeared in *The Young and the Restless* and directed the short film *Requiem*.



Chris Tashima is a Japanese American actor and director. He is an Academy Award winner for directing the film *Visas and Virtue* as well as starring in it.

Tamlyn Tomita, our own Valley Girl was born in Okinawa. She was Nisei Week Queen in 1984 and we all remember her in *The Karate Kid* and *The Joy Luck Club*.



UNDER THE BLOOD RED SUN

At the SFVJA Community Center
12953 Branford Street, Pacoima 91331

Synopsis: A 13-year-old Japanese boy faces monumental adversity in 1941 Hawaii, when the Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor.

This film won numerous awards on the film festival circuit including the Spirit Award at the International Family Film Festival. One of the actors includes **Chris Tashima**, Academy Award Winning director for *Visas and Virtue*. Chris will be joining us for a Q & A.

Ticket donation: \$10

Bento: \$10 (Must be ordered by March 7, 2017)

You may purchase tickets from any SFVJACL Board member or contact Nancy Gohata at nancygohata@gmail.com or at (818) 371-8013.

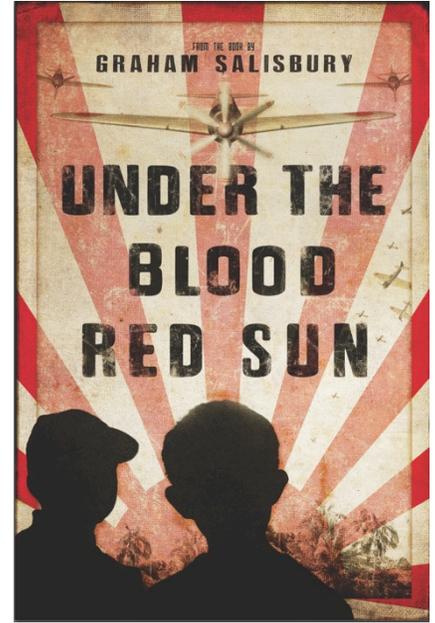


Photo: "Vigilant Love" was the theme of a solidarity community vigil against violence and Islamophobia held on December 7, 2016 in Little Tokyo. Banner reads: *Standing Up for Unity and Peace and Against Islamophobia and Fear.*

(Photo taken by Mario G. Reyes/Rafu Shimpo)

Thanks to J.K.Yamamoto for providing



MUSLIM AND INTERFAITH SOLIDARITY EVENT WITH REP. JUDY CHU

On January 26, 2017 a handful of JACL-ers and friends attended an event hosted by Congresswoman Judy Chu to express solidarity with the Muslim American community. Held at the Masjid Gibrail, a small neighborhood mosque in San Gabriel, this inter-faith, multiethnic, and multilingual event was a timely as President Donald Trump has announced plans to severely curtail Muslim immigration. It is no secret that we are living in a time of unprecedented Islamophobia, and Rep. Chu opened the event by noting that the Southern Poverty Law Center recorded over 800 hate incidents within the 10 days after the November election. As the president has not backed down from campaign promises for a Muslim registry, Rep. Chu drew parallels between the experiences of Japanese Americans during World War II and Muslim Americans today.



The line up of speakers represented much of the religious and ethnic diversity of Southern California. The imam of Masjid Gibrail, who began his career as an engineer, spoke of the cornerstones of peace and compassion of the Muslim faith. In addition to its religious activities, the mosque, for example, hosts elder care programs. Two rabbis delivered powerful messages about the strength of interfaith activism and how generations of anti-Semitism have called Jewish people to fight against injustice. A Sikh leader spoke of the need to defend our religious freedoms, while a Catholic leader with LA Voice, a faith-based social justice group, shared his experiences of working with grassroots community organizing. A pastor of All Saints Church in Pasadena gave one of the most rousing speeches, issuing a call for all of us to fight for people targeted by the current administration, from refugees to women seeking healthcare to undocumented immigrants to scientists whose findings may be muzzled. She noted that while reconciliation is God's work, so too is resistance. A recent Afghan American immigrant delivered a fascinating testimony about his life: at the age of 17 he volunteered to serve as an English translator for the US Army in Afghanistan. He survived three bomb attacks, was almost paralyzed, and because of immigration bureaucracy was almost unable to come to the US. His story was inspiring but also chilling, to think of the countless other people who may be imperiled by a Muslim ban.

To be sure, the circumstances under which this gathering took place were very worrisome. Yet, the collective energy and motivation to move forward boldly, committed to the same principles of justice and civil rights that motivate JACL, was infectious. Sitting in the packed community room were JACL folks **Marion and Phil Shigekuni, Nancy and Yas Gohata, Margarete Allen, Beatrice Contreras, and Jean-Paul deGuzman**. Meanwhile, across town in Little Tokyo chapter member **traci ishigo** was busy co-organizing the **No Ban, No Walls** vigil.

Article submitted by Jean-Paul deGuzman

MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORANT TO OUR ORGANIZATION

As our nation undergoes some significant changes in direction under President Trump, membership in our JACL organization becomes more important.

A special welcome to **June Aochi Berk** who joined our Chapter in September 2016 and will be serving on the 2017 Board of Directors. June brings a wealth of experiences from other organizations to us.

Our thanks to renewing members: **Wally & May Arakawa, Hideko & Ronald Hamamoto, Clara Hashimoto, Rose Higashida, Hazel Isa, Paris Kariya, Traci Yukiye Kuratomi, Rouxann & Miles Kuwata, Marcia Mahoney, Evelyn Miratai, Sam Mukai, Kay & Nancy Oda, Elaine Sato, Donald Takeda, Betty Tanaka, Roger & Bettie Tamaki, Linda Tanaka, Clay Thibodeaux, Tadao Yamanaka, and Reilly Yamauchi.**

Special recognition is due for **Ron and Miye Yoshida, Millenium Club members.** They moved to the San Francisco area a few years ago. Their presence is still missed at our JACL events. Ron served as president for many years and served as auctioneer “extraordinaire” at our Holiday parties.

For questions and more information please contact Harold Kameya, Membership Chair at hkameya@gmail.com or at (818) 368-2008.

TWIN CITIES PBS: NEXT AVENUE Website, “Where Grownups Keep Growing”

Have you been to the website www.nextavenue.org ?
It’s one of the most interesting and informative websites I’ve seen. To receive the newsletters, go to <http://www.nextavenue.org/newsletter/> and sign up!

You will receive newsletters with articles such as “5 Worst Foods for your Brain”!

If you don’t have a smart phone, a computer tablet or a computer, ask a family member or a friend to sign up for the newsletter, and to pass on any appropriate information to you. You will love them for doing so!

CONTACT Harold Kameya at hkameya@gmail.com for more information.



ALLEGIANCE, THE FILM

By: Patricia Takayama

The film, *Allegiance* was about a family trauma suffered during WWII while incarcerated in a relocation camp. Originally a Broadway play, it had several incarnations prior to opening on the New York stage. I attended an earlier version of the performance in San Diego and a reading in Los Angeles.

The earliest version of the story started off as a blistering attack on the JACL and Mike Masaoka in particular. The San Diego incarnation retained the bias. However, by the time it reached the Broadway stage, the revised script took on a more balanced view of history. At the end of the film, script writers discussed the issues they saw as important and more universal during a period of war, patriotism, family unity and crisis.

The story amplified the divisive positions that confronted the Japanese American community and shattered family camp life. The most significant issues were the transference of leadership and authority from the Issei generation to the young adult Nisei generation. The War Relocation Authority recognized English speaking leaders to negotiate with the camp administration.

The older Nisei, American citizens by birth, had established a civil rights organization in 1929 long before the outbreak of WWII and were thus thrust forward as spokespersons for the Japanese American community. With representation in Washington D.C., the JACL urged a patriotic approach with the government. But, because the JACL encouraged the Japanese community show their loyalty and support to the U.S. government, the anger and confusion over President Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066, which authorized registry, removal and relocation of persons of Japanese ancestry, the Japanese community directed its anger at the JACL for failing to resist the order and were perceived as FBI or government collaborators.

The other positions were exacerbated by the loyalty questionnaire, poorly designed to identify who could be resettled outside camp by a show of loyalty or might be considered for military service in an all Nisei, segregated unit, which the JACL supported. This resulted in establishing Tule Lake as the Segregation Center for those respondents between the ages of 17 to 65, Issei, Nisei, Kibei and male and female who answered "No, No" to the two controversial questions.

Mike Masaoka was among the 1500 or so Nisei who volunteered to serve in the army (the Navy refused to accept Nisei), less than half of what was expected. Over 250 Nisei resisted the draft until due process rights were restored. The Hawaiian 100th Battalion and the 442 RCT who volunteered from camp were seen as heroes, while those who challenged the betrayal of constitutional rights were regarded as cowards by the Japanese American community long after the end of the war. Some family relationships suffered irreparable losses and some never recovered or only reconnected after siblings or parents past away, as was the case in the story of *Allegiance*.

COMMUNITY CORNER

Condolences to the family of **Tom Honma**, long time member of our chapter, who passed away on October 25, 2016. He was 94 years old. Tom had moved out of the Valley in March 2014 to be near his children in Mill Valley. His daughter, Lani, shared that Tom missed the Friday lunches at the Community Center.

Well wishes to Board member and SFVJACC President, **Paul Jonokuchi** who's been battling some health issues in the month of January. Feel better, Paul!!.

We will soon be saying "goodbye" to long time Board member and friend, **Sumi Yamaguchi**. Sumi has found a care facility in San Jose, near her sister. Sumi has served our Board for many years as cheer chair, recognition chair, scholarship chair and treasurer. We will miss Sumi's sunny disposition and her willingness to always help. The Board wishes her the best in her new home.

A belated Happy Birthday to Board member, **Patty Takayama**, who celebrated her 70th birthday with family and friends. A surprise party was held on Saturday, January 28th at the SFVJA Community Center. Patty was thoroughly surprised, especially when eldest sister, Joanne, had flown in from Michigan to be with her on

DONATIONS

We want to warmly thank **FLORA TERAMURA** for her generous Christmas monetary gift to our Chapter's dwindling fund. She supports our Holiday Greetings Ad in our Pacific Citizens Holiday Issue Fundraiser annually, too. The entire donation will go directly to our committed goals. THANK YOU again Flora!



As a yearend gift, **BOB and AKI MORIGUCHI** has generously donated to general fund. Your monetary contribution will uplift our program for 2017. We deeply appreciate your continued support. A warm thank you to Bob and Aki.

DR BO and IKU SAKAGUCHI has donated a variety of items to our 75th Installation. These items will be used as Door Prizes. You have enhanced our special event and the winners will enjoy their gifts. Thank you Dr Bo and Iku for your thoughtfulness.

This is a good time for donations, as JACL is a non-profit 501© (3) organization and we, upon request, have a federal tax identification number. As our President Phil Shigekuni stated, "We truly appreciate your part in helping to raise the necessary funds to allow us to continue our programs and community support."

The following business who supported our Pacific Citizen Holiday Issued fundraiser will help us provide programs for our community in 2017. We are extremely grateful for their generosity.

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Studio City, CA 91604
(818) 985-6976

KATSU-YA – Woodland Hills
6220 Topanga Canyon Blvd.
Woodland Hills, CA 91367
(818) 704-1213

The IZAKA-YA by KATSU-YA
1133 Highland Ave.
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
(310) 796-1888

KATSU-YA – Northridge
9701 Reseda Blvd.
Northridge, CA 91324
(818) 678-1700

88 STEAK & GRILL – Northridge
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(323) 782-9536

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