

DAVID ONO INSTALLATION SPEAKER

David Ono, TV co-anchor for ABC7 Eyewitness News will be the guest speaker at the SFV JACL installation luncheon Sunday, January 19, 2014 at the Odyssey Restaurant in Granada Hills.

Mr. Ono joined ABC7 in 1996. Among his many projects, he trained with Los Angeles County Sheriff's elite Special Enforcement Bureau. His participation allowed viewers to see the grueling demands of the Sheriff's SWAT academy.



Mr. Ono has won two Edward R. Murrow awards for his coverage of the devastation following the January 2010 earthquake in Port-au-Prince. In March 2011, he traveled to Japan to report on the 9.0 magnitude earthquake and tsunami that killed thousands.

The Odyssey Restaurant is located at 15600 Odyssey Dr. Granada Hills, 91344. Registration will commence at 11:30am. For reservations, please contact: Linda Tanaka at 805-527-1224

Article submitted by Patricia Takayama

UPCOMING EVENTS



COME JOIN US IN THE FUN AND ACTIVITIES

December 14
Holiday Party

January 19
Installation Luncheon

January 21
Third Tuesday Movie Outing

February 15
Day of Remembrance JANM

February 18
Third Tuesday Movie Outing

March 9
East West Players
A Nice Indian Boy

DONATIONS

We would like to acknowledge the generous monetary donations made to our Chapter by members and friends.



Donations were made to our Chapter in memory of **Dr. Sanbo Sakaguchi** by members:

Yas & Nancy Gohata, Linda Kuratomi, Al & Mitzi Kushida, Harriet Nishizaka, Phil & Marion Shigekuni, Linda Tanaka, and Terry Uyehara.

Donations were made to our Chapter in memory of **Dr. Mary Oda** by members:

James E. Brody, Yas & Nancy Gohata, JP DeGuzman, Al & Mitzi Kushida, and Phil & Marion Shigekuni.

Questions or Comments?

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

PRESIDENT'S (FINAL) MESSAGE

November, 2013



It has been quite an honor to serve as the SFVJACL president for the past 15 years...well, it just feels like 15 years! I mean that in a good way. It seems much longer because this chapter is so very active. From special film screenings and plays, monthly movie outings, Manzanar and other field trips, to protests, educational programs and civil rights functions. This chapter does it all! I wish I could take credit for the flurry of activity, but the truth is I have very little to do with any of it. The SFVJACL Board of Directors, many of whom have been around for decades (again, I mean that in a good way!), year after year help develop wonderful programs for our community. They work tirelessly providing new and innovative programs for the San Fernando Valley while also taking leadership roles in the PSW, National JACL and civil rights movement. It has truly been an honor to work with such an amazing and dedicated group of individuals!

Of course, the work of the SFVJACL Board would be for naught if there wasn't involvement from the membership and community as well. Many of you volunteer at our events and attend our functions and provide financial support to this organization so we can continue doing what we do. I have worked in law enforcement for nearly 30 years and worked with many communities and have never come across a more caring, compassionate and humble group of people anywhere. That is what I love about the JACL and, in particular, the SFVJACL. The people!!

We will be in good hands with **Harold Kameya** at the helm in 2014. He is a passionate individual with a true commitment for fighting for civil rights of all people. He is very active in following issues locally, nationally and internationally and has shown true leadership in this chapter keeping us true to our mission regarding civil and human rights advocacy. I will be honored to work under his leadership as he brings new ideas and direction to the position of our chapter president.

I won't shed a tear since Asian men don't show emotion. Instead, I will smile (and not a smirky smile like I just got out of having to do something) because I know this organization will grow with new ideas while maintaining its rich tradition of programs for our community. I am proud to have been a part of this organization and this community and I am equally excited about what the future holds for us - as an organization, as a community, as civil rights activists.

I wish all of you a happy holiday season and a prosperous 2014!

Sincerely,

Brian



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 and register your e-mail address.



DR. MARY ODA

I have come to know Dr. Oda since her only son, Eugene was killed in a tragic freeway accident 35 years ago. She was devastated, and we talked at length on the phone after it happened. As I reported elsewhere, as a memorial, she and James established an annual remembrance, and for twenty years, \$1,000. was awarded to a Mexican American and \$1,000 to a Japanese American graduating senior. The Mexican American Scholarship was presented by Ralph Lazo, whose daughter had married the son of Mary's sister, Lily.

Marion and I were her patients: She cured both of us of a ringing in our ears. Although we spent some time each week in her office waiting to see her, we didn't mind because we knew the time she took with each patient was spent to get to know them personally, and this was part of why she was such an effective physician..

In her later years, Marion and I had frequent dinners with Mary and her care-giver, Luz at Musashi Restaurant in Northridge. We valued the time we had together. Mary was a kind and caring doctor, as well as being a wife, mother and friend. We are blessed to have known her these many years and all of us in our chapter will truly miss her.



Back(L to R): Merijane Lee, Helen Abe, Rose Marie Christy
Front: Dr. Mary Oda and James Oda

TERRY UYEHARA

Terry and her husband, Sam, in addition to their long-time involvement with JACL, were members of the Chatsworth West United Methodist Church which Marion and I attend.

When I think of Terry, I think of her smiling, ageless face. She always spoke with a quiet, even, voice and had a soft, quiet laugh.

Mary Oda, who I write also write about, told me once how doctoring was easy, compared to the seven years she spent raising her family. Terry was one who took her role and wife, mother, and grandmother, very seriously. While Sam was busy doing various tasks for the church and JACL, there was Terry solidly providing support.

We all knew, that no matter what else went on, Terry had the entire family over for dinner every Sunday night. Mark and Loreen's daughter, Sarah, was able to spend many happy hours with Terry and Sam. When Sam lived at Emeritus in Northridge in his final days, Terry was constantly by his side.

We will remember Terry for many reasons and particularly, her steadfast devotion to her family.



Sam and Terry Uyehara

Articles submitted by Phil Shigekuni



SFV JACL HOLIDAY PARTY REMINDER

Saturday, December 14, 2013

SFV Japanese American Community Center
129 Branford Street, Pacoima



POTLUCK DINNER – Bring a main dish and either a salad or dessert

GIFT EXCHANGE – Bring a new, wrapped gift, \$10 maximum

VISIT FROM SANTA – For children 10 and under,

contact Nancy Gohata at (818) 899-4237

or at yaiko16@verizon.net by **December 7th**.

**RSVP TO: Patty Takayama (818) 899-7916 or
at pe.high.mtn@juno.com**

NAKANO NURSERY PLANT SALE

Yoshi & Cathy Nakano have been running their Nakano Nursery for some twenty years. A few years ago, I was given the task of getting flowers for the California Retired Teachers (CalRTA) Luncheon Meetings held five months of the year. Since my introduction to Nakano Nursery CalRTA has been receiving donations of potted plants for their luncheons. Through conversations with community members, I learned Nakano Nursery has been donating plants to community events for years. When Cathy shared that they may have to sell the nursery due to lagging sales, the SFV JACL, working with SFVJA Community Center, offered to have a monthly plant sale at the Community Center. We began in September, continued the sale in October, and held our last sale in November. Shortly after our first sale, Nakano Nursery acquired a partner and happily no longer is up for sale. Through the generosity and support of family and friends, as well as many of the seniors who attend the Friday, Hot Meal program, the sales were very successful.

Although, we have discontinued these monthly plant sales, look for a possible sale sometime in the spring.

Nakano Nursery is located at 9647 Noble Avenue in North Hills.

Article submitted by Nancy Gohata

Back row (L to R):

Yas Gohata, John Doomey, Dennis Okita, and Paul Jonokuchi,

Front row (L to R):

Mitzi Kushida, Barbara Okita, Patty Takayama, Linda Tanaka, Liz Doomey, Sumi Yamaguchi, Janie Nakata, Marion Shigekuni, and Nancy Gohata.



LIL' TOKYO REPORTER

Sunday, November 17, 2013, the JACL sponsored the showing of the film “Lil’ Tokyo Reporter” at the SFV JACC. After the film, chapter president, **Brian Moriguchi** lead a Q & A session with academy award winning actor, **Chris Tashima**, Director, **Jeffrey Gee Chin**, and researcher, **Fumiko Carole Fujita**.

Carole and Jeffrey’s collaboration lead to the creation of the film on the little known activist **Sei Fujii**, who hailed from Yamaguchi prefecture. Sei Fujii attended USC law school, only to be denied admission to the California Bar Association. Fuji started up the Kashi Mainichi and shaped public opinion through his newspaper articles.

In collaboration with his law school classmate Marion Wright, Fujii challenged state statutes enabling the construction and establishment of the Japanese Hospital after a flu outbreak in the 1920s left Japanese residence with out access to healthcare. Then, again after WWII Fujii and his partner Wright challenged the California Alien Land Law which resulted in its being overturned and enabled Japanese, previously “ineligible for citizenship” to become naturalized.

Other interesting revelations alluded to in the film, included gangster activity in Little Tokyo and Sei Fujii’s attraction to married women. One interesting note came from **Dr. Bo Sakaguchi**, in the audience, as Sei Fujii’s advice touched the residence of the San Fernando Valley. Fujii with foresight of the pending political hostilities had recommended Japanese organizations change their officers from Issei leadership to American born Nisei. As the North Hollywood chapter of the Farmers Association heeded his advice, prior officers of the association were able to relocate to Manzanar with their families.

Article submitted by Patricia Takayama



Standing (L to R): Barbara Okita, Dennis Okita, Sumi Yamaguchi, Marcia Mahony, Patty Takayama, Linda Tanaka, Phil Shigekuni, Nancy Gohata, Harold Kameya and Marion Shigekuni
Sitting (L to R): Brian Moriguchi, Carole Fujita, Jeffrey Chin, Chris Tashima and Nancy Takayama

MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORTANT TO OUR ORGANIZATION

PLEASE CONTINUE TO HELP RECRUIT NEW JACL MEMBERS

“Why should I join JACL?”

- To make a connection with the community
- Volunteerism
- Grassroots and activism for social justice
- A family tradition of continued involvement
- Stay current on Japanese American and Asian American issues
- Continue the JACL legacy for future generations
- JACL member benefits, i.e. insurance, credit union, scholarship, Pacific Citizen, programs, etc.
- Cultural events, social outings

A JACL application form is in this issue of the newsletter. For questions and more information email Nancy Gohata at yaiko16@verizon.net or call 1-818-899-4237.

COMMUNITY CENTER CLEAN UP DAY

Each year, the SFVJACL participates in the CC cleanup. Nowadays, we are cooks, rather than scrubbers, painters, or trash pickers. With **Marion Shigekuni** shopping and running the kitchen, it all goes well. This year the Center expected less help due to the VFW basketball tournament but people arrived from other resources and Marion ran out to Food 4 Less and bought more hot dogs, chips and such. She saved the day! JACL volunteers served 150 chili dogs to hungry helpers! Thank you to **Liz Doomey, Nancy Gohata, Doreen Kawamoto, Linda Kuratomi, Barbara & Dennis Okita and Sumi Yamaguchi.**

Article by Nancy Oda

Photo (L to R):
Linda Kuratomi,
Sumi Yamaguchi,
Nancy Gohata,
Liz Doomey,
Marion Shigekuni,
and Barbara Okita





THIRD TUESDAY MOVIE OUTING



In October, our movie was *Gravity*. It starred **Sandra Bullock** as Dr. Ryan Stone, a brilliant medical engineer on her first shuttle mission and **George Clooney**, as Matt Kowalsky, a veteran shuttle commander on the final run of his career. Director **Alfonso Cuaron** and cinematographer, **Emmanuel Lubezki** take us 370 miles above Earth, on a spectacular space journey, as we experience with the help of 3D, the enormity and the soundlessness of space. The adventure starts when a Russian satellite hundreds of miles away explodes, sending debris flying into space which breaks apart the shuttle. With the help of Kowalsky, Dr. Ryan has to overcome this catastrophe and like E.T. “Go Home”. With Rotten Tomatoes giving this film a 98% rating and my favorite critics on KPCC giving it the thumbs up (in fact Claudia Puig said it was 2013’s best film), it was an easy choice for our October outing. I would agree with the critics that the visuals were (excuse the pun) “out of this world”, but for this moviegoer, *Gravity* would not be the film of 2013.

In November, we had two movie choices: *12 Years a Slave* and *About Time*. *12 Years a Slave* is based on a true story about Solomon Northup (**Chiwetel Ejiofor**), a well-to-do married man with two children who is a free Negro fiddle player living in Saratoga, New York. In 1841, Northup was drugged, kidnapped and sold into slavery. For the next 12 years, Northup endures a series of degrading and life threatening experiences as a slave. Most of us chose to see this film to add to our understanding of slavery in our nation. Unlike movies like *Gone With the Wind* and even *Roots*, Director **Steve McQueen** did not shield us from the relentless brutality endured by slaves. Outstanding performances by Ejiofor and newcomer **Lupita Nyong’o**.

About Time is a sci-fi movie starring **Bill Nighy** who tells his 21 year-old son, Tim (**Domhnall Gleeson**) that the men in their family have the ability to travel back between the present and past. Mary (**Rachel McAdams**) comes along and Tim uses his gift to win her affection. The movie is also about family and with humor and charm – the film led us to appreciate the here and now.

NOTE: Because of the busy holiday season, we will not have a movie outing in December. See everyone on the third Tuesday in January.

TUNA CANYON DETENTION STATION CEREMONY

On **Monday, December 16, 2013**, you are invited to witness a Shinto Purification Ceremony at the Verdugo Hills Golf Course, 6433 La Tuna Canyon, Tujunga 91402 for the Tuna Canyon Detention Station.

Please send your reservation to tuna1941@gmail.com by December 7th.

After the event, there will be a reception at the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center, 12953 Branford Street, Pacoima 91331.

For more information, contact Nancy Oda at nancyoda@juno.com

KOREAN COMFORT WOMEN SCULPTURE

Board member, **Harold Kameya** sent the following letter to the new acting mayor of Glendale. Mayor Weaver, who expressed regret that the Korean Comfort Women sculpture, was the lone board member against the sculpture.

Dear Mayor Weaver and City Council Members:

It is unfortunate that the Korean Comfort Women sculpture has created the controversy existing among the Japanese and Korean media.

I had previously expressed my desire for the Japanese government to admit to the atrocities of the Nanjing Massacre, the comfort women sex trafficking and sex slavery, and other World War II crimes. The attempts of the current Japanese government officials to sanitize the WWII war crimes reflects badly on Americans of Japanese ancestry, though we are separated by several generations from the immigrant experience.

In the United States, Americans of Japanese ancestry were unjustly incarcerated during WWII. As a result of those injustices, and as a result of the national turmoil experienced during the Vietnam War and succeeding wars, we feel free to criticize our government whenever we feel it is justified. Freedom of speech and thought has resulted in a stronger and a more vibrant nation, I feel.

My belief is that the most vocal critics that you have heard against the Comfort Women sculpture are from people who were born in Japan. Their culture and upbringing seems to have made the preservation of their country's image of paramount importance, higher even than upholding the honor of one's family name. These far-right Japanese nationalists are also responsible for the efforts to sanitize their history books regarding Japan's WWII atrocities.

Please note that although the voices of opposition from the Japan nationalists against the sculpture might be loud and prominent, I have not heard a single person attacking the veracity of the year 2000 UN Commission on Human Rights report, nor the report of the Congressional Research Service that supported the House of Representatives Bill HR121.

In Japan, I have been told that there is support for the plight of the comfort women. There is a small Comfort Women Museum in a suburb of Tokyo, according to an article in the Japan Times. There is also the Progressive political faction in Japan that feels that it is important for the youth of Japan to know the horrors of war, as an entire generation in Japan has never experienced it. One of the Progressive leaders in Japan is attorney Takashi Niimi. The Los Angeles Times archives has a report from the 1990s where Attorney Takahashi Niimi came to the US with two elderly Japanese Army veterans who wanted to disclose their roles in Nanjing, etc. Ironically, the elderly soldiers were denied entry because they were still on the list of war criminals.

"There is no morality in international relations," said historian Ira Fistell. He asserts that countries do whatever they wish to do with the power and influence under their control.

That may be so, but it is unfortunate that words of compassion, empathy and justice are missing from the protesters of the Comfort Women sculpture.

What's Love Got to Do With It? A Review of *Cowboy Versus Samurai*

Cowboy Versus Samurai: Written by Michael Golamco; Directed by Peter J. Kuo; Reviewed by Jean-Paul deGuzman

Why do the relationships between heterosexual White males and Asian females still arouse so much curiosity, attention, and consternation? Why are those relationships constructed as emblematic of racial liberalism at times and racial fetishism at others? On October 13 JACL members, friends, and family attended a performance of *Cowboy Versus Samurai*, staged by Artists at Play at the Rosenthal Theater of Inner-City Arts, which tackled those relationships head-on.

The play centers on the emotional turmoil of Travis, a Korean American teacher who ostensibly leaves the frenetic pace of the big city to teach in the remote town of Breakneck, Wyoming. There, he befriends Chester the only other Asian American in Breakneck and an avowed Asian supremacist who venerates Bruce Lee, dons ninja attire, fights against the emasculation of Asian men, and demands reparations for every form of racism against Asians he perceives. Travis's other friend is Chester's foil, the tall, rugged, good ol' boy, Del. Del, as you have guessed by now, is White. When Veronica, a strong, articulate Korean American woman moves to town to teach at Travis's school, all three men take note. Travis struggles to reconcile the tensions between the inchoate attraction he feels towards her and his belief in colorblindness when she reveals her "preference" for White men. Informed by his bizarre racial dogmatism, Chester derides her as a "sell-out." Meanwhile, Del finds a certain *je ne sais quoi* (read: exotic) about Veronica and enlists Travis to write poignant love letters to her on Del's behalf. The ruse worked perfectly, for Del and Veronica at least. Travis is left tortured by his unresolved feelings for Veronica and, in an unexpected twist, his White ex-fiancé whose father would not approve of their marriage. Soon Veronica finds out about Travis's ghostwriting and her relationship with Del crumbles. Del encourages Travis to share his feelings with Veronica and in a climactic scene in the classroom they share, she tearfully explains that "preferences" are not immutable or absolute. The play ends with the ambiguous possibility that they may indeed fall in love.

As sentient beings governed by basic emotions – sadness, happiness, and love – we can all find this ending is heartwarming. However, that story arc places the contested meanings we craft about interracial relationships into a false dichotomy: the extremist racial tribalism espoused by Chester or the racial colorblindness to which Travis adheres. Although Chester's character is rich with potential (we learn, for example, that he is a trans-racial adoptee and his cultural nationalism emerges from a deep search for identity) he is ultimately a caricature and not to be taken seriously. Thus, the victor in the story is the view that personal attraction and relationships exist outside of social and political context. As sociologist Kumiko Nemoto points out in *Racing Romance* (2009), however, individuals in interracial relationships must make "sense of the power structures surrounding racialized and gendered desires and . . . the current cultural milieu that regulates and disciplines the exchange of desires in interracial relationships" (2). In other words, while *Cowboy Versus Samurai* did provide several good laughs, the topic it covers is far more complicated than it suggests.



Front (L to R): Nancy Takayama, Dorothy Shiba, Barbara Okita, Linda Tanaka, Priscilla Mui, Nancy Gohata and Peggy Furutani

Back: Jean Taguchi, JP DeGuzman, Yas Gohata, Marion Shigekuni, Phil Shigekuni, Derek Mio, Peter Kuo, Keiko Uyeda, Helen Shimizu and Dennis Okita

2013 PACIFIC CITIZEN HOLIDAY GREETINGS

SEASON'S GREETINGS AND **THANK YOU** all of our *PACIFIC CITIZEN HOLIDAY ISSUE* supporters. We deeply appreciate you supporting our chapter's major fundraiser. Your generosity will help our program for 2014.

THANK YOU again for the following personal ads:

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We also want to THANK our generous monetary donors.

| | | |
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Business and professional advertisers as well as more personal ads will be acknowledged in the coming issues. Please look forward to your copy of the *Pacific Citizen Holiday Issue* in December.

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

2014 SFV JACL PROGRAM

| | |
|------------------|---|
| January 19 | SFV JACL Installation Luncheon |
| February 15 | Day of Remembrance at JANM |
| March 9 | East West Players – <i>A Nice Indian Boy</i> |
| March 16 | Working Towards Inclusion with our Nikkei LGBTQ Community |
| March 30 | Tuna Canyon Informational Meeting |
| April 26 | Manzanar Pilgrimage |
| May 4 | Dan Taguchi Concert |
| May 12 – June | Katarou Histories (Thursday Evenings) |
| May 18 | Exploring the Asian American Community |
| June 8 | <i>Tea</i> by Velina Hasu Houston – A Reading |
| June 16-20 | Suzume no Gakkou |
| June 28/29 | SFVH Buddhist Temple Obon |
| September 6 | <i>Citizen Tanouye</i> – Film |
| September 7 | Board Summer Party |
| October | Pacific Citizen Holiday Issue Fundraiser Begins |
| TBA | PSW District Awards |
| October 11 | SFV JACC Clean Up |
| October 26 | <i>Hula Girl</i> – Film |
| December 13 | Holiday Party |
| January 18, 2015 | SFV JACL Installation Luncheon |

2nd WEDNESDAY MONTHLY MEETING AT 7:00 PM

THIRD TUESDAY MONTHLY MOVIE OUTING (Except in December)

SUMI'S CORNER



Congratulations to President **Brian Moriguchi**, who won another two-year term on the Professional Peace Officers Association (PPOA) board. Board members are responsible for running the association and providing services to over 8,700 members. Board members provide support for their jobs and negotiate salaries and benefits, as well as providing a full service insurance agency, a credit union, and offer financial planning advice, scholarship and legal assistance. The association also runs a non-profit charity called Star & Shield Foundation that provides support to members when they are in need. The election for President of PPOA is scheduled for December 11th. Brian has held this post for five terms. We are hoping he will lead the organization for his 6th term.



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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