

VOLUNTEER NOW!!!

HURRY. Don't miss the opportunity to volunteer at the most popular game booth at the SFV Obon Festival. The booth where the volunteers have as much fun as the crowds playing the game!

We're looking for volunteers (18 yrs and older) to fill the following shifts:

Saturday, June 28th, 4:00-6:30 pm

Saturday, June 28th, 6:30-9:00 pm

Sunday, June 29th, 4:00-6:30 pm

Sunday, June 29th, 6:30-9:00 pm

Please contact Marcia Mahony at:
818-669-0409 or
msmahony2@gmail.com



UPCOMING EVENTS



COME JOIN US IN THE FUN AND ACTIVITIES

June 8

Tea by Velina Hasu
Houston

June 10 (June Only)

Second Tuesday Movie
Outing

June 16-June 20

Suzume no Gakkou

June 25

Tuna Canyon

June 28-29

SFVH Buddhist Temple
Obon

July 4-7

2014 Tule Lake
Pilgrimage

September 6

Citizen Tanouye - Film



SUZUME NO GAKKOU

June 16-20 8:30-12:30

Many SNG campers come the week of June 16-20 to the SFVJACC to learn about their culture, but great snacks and recess time is the best for practicing the language. Just this spring, camper Allen Lew, went to Japan with his maternal grandparents and wowed the folks back home with "*Arigatou and Itadakimasu!*"

Plans this year include "Hachiko", making a maneko (Happy Cat), singing Japanese children's songs, going by Metro to the Japanese American National Museum and many other surprises. Leaders like **Jaymie Takeshita** and **Molly Serizawa** will be joined by **Lauren Takeshita** (no relation) to expose the kids to *nihongo* (Japanese language).

We have a few spaces left. Registration is \$75 per child. Please send Mitzi Kushida the name of your child and his/her grade in September to **Mitzi Kushida, 1164 Porter Valley Dr., Northridge, CA 91326.** Please make check out to SFVJACL. For more information, you may contact her at: bighisa@aol.com or at (818) 360-6718.

Questions or Comments?

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May, 2014



Greetings to you!

I attended my first Pacific Southwest District Meeting on Sunday, May 18th, and found it an interesting experience. There are 29 chapters in the Pacific Southwest District, and those unable to attend are asked to have proxies authorized to vote in their absence.

The meeting was presided by **Gov. David Kawamoto** and his wife **Carol**, the Vice Governor, who drove up from San Diego. Chapter leaders attended from as far as Las Vegas and Arizona.

During the lunch break, candidates for the next 2-year term were allowed to speak. **Mr. David Lim**, current national president, gave an impressive talk of the organization and during a question, indicated JACL's critical need for a Development Director which was being addressed in next year's budget. Secretary **Gary Mayeda**, ably handled the technical details of Skype to allow candidates from the east coast and Midwest to be able to address us and see us!

The issues facing the affirmative action amendment, SCA-5 were presented by **Kanji Sahara**. I have requested a copy of the slides presented as they contained information of interest to us all.

Phil Shigekuni and Yukio Kawaratani discussed the resolution forwarded by our SFV chapter, and the modifications suggested by **Andy Noguchi** and the Florin chapter. Ultimately, Yukio Kawaratani requested that we withdraw the resolution, and the ad hoc committee which included **Barbara Takei**, historian of Tule Lake, agreed that more ground work needed to be done before any resolution on the issue was brought to the national convention floor.

Phil and I agree that a greater understanding of the Tule Lake Segregation Center is needed for current and future JACL members. Education remains a goal for all of us that worked together on the resolution.

A new experience for the SFV chapter will working together with an intern resulting from PSW's new Local Leaders program! **Ms. Louise Fonua** will be meeting us at the June meeting and will be working with us for the next three months!

Sincerely,

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 and register your e-mail address.ç



SFV JACL sponsors APIOPA \$1000 for “Bike to Japan”

The San Fernando Valley JACL chapter is proud to sponsor the Asian Pacific Obesity Prevention Alliance’s (APIOPA) summer 2014 program called “Bike to Japan”. Bike to Japan is a health promotion and social advocacy program that combines team physical exercise with dialogue and training to understand urban planning. This summer, 15 college youth, ages 18-25, will be part of the Bike to Japan cycling team that will bike a total of 6,000 miles as a group, which is roughly the distance from Los Angeles, California to Tokyo, Japan. Over the span of a two-month project period, these 15 youth will be encouraged to bike at least 300 miles each.

Throughout the program, participants will learn about the importance of exploring how space is used in local communities and ways for community members to advocate for a voice in how their neighborhood should/could look. 10 workshop bike ride sessions have been planned that will share the benefits of engaging in daily physical activities, review bike safety and emergency procedures, show various neighborhoods/communities in Los Angeles County, and learn the basics of urban planning in order to develop a new generation of youth leaders and activists. Some of the communities and cities will be the following: Chinatown, Little Tokyo, Koreatown, Downtown L.A., Boyle Heights, the San Gabriel Valley, the South Bay, Santa Monica, Long Beach, and last but not least, the San Fernando Valley.

The SFV JACL board will have a chance to meet the 15 youth participants when they bike to the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center (SFV JACC). During this bike session, the participants will learn about the rich history of the SFV JACC, and the important community work of the SFV JACL. The SFV JACL board knows the importance of youth leadership in the community, and looks forward to being a part of this year’s Bike to Japan program.

Article submitted by traci ishigo



NAKANO NURSERY

So many times, we would walk into the Community Center for luncheons and we would see the beautiful potted flowers as our center pieces. These were all generously donated by the NAKANO NURSERY of Sepulveda. They have been supporting the various organizations in the Valley for a number of years.



It was now our turn to show appreciation for their generosity. JACL under the leadership of **Nancy Gohata**, has had several plant sales at the SFV JACC. The most recent sale was on Friday, April 25th. It was a beautiful sunny morning, members of the Board along with **John and Liz Doomey**, and many eager plant enthusiasts were there to greet the truck load of beautiful, fresh potted flowers, vegetables, and large potted plants. Because they were all at a bargain prices, the healthy looking nursery items were in high demand. **Kathy Nakano** brought in more requested Spring annuals and vegetables, especially the Japanese eggplants and cucumbers. Every penny of the sale went to the NAKANO NURSERY, it was our way of saying THANK YOU. And thank you to all, JACC and JACL members and friends that made this sale a successful event.

NAKANO NURSERY is located at 9647 Nobel Ave North Hills, Ca 91343 818-892-3080

Article submitted by Mitzi Kushida

ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER – EQUALITY LUNCHEON, MAY 4.

Along with two other outstanding women, **Ellen Kameya**, of our chapter, was honored at a luncheon held on May 4 at the Quiet Cannon Restaurant in Montebello. Twenty-six years ago, Ellen, along with her husband, **Harold**, found out their daughter, Valerie was a lesbian. Since that time, they have come to not only fully accept her, but to be staunch advocates for all lesbians, gays, bi-sexuals, transsexuals and queers, (LGBTQ). Together, they have appeared in videos, spoken at numerous meetings and founded a support group, the Asian Pacific Islander Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. (API-PFLAG) Marion and I were proud to be at this gathering to honor Ellen for her ground-breaking accomplishments these many years.

Article
submitted by
Phil Shigekuni

Photo (L to R):
Front row:
Rachel Koza,
Phil and
Marion
Shigekuni

Back row:
Harold and
Ellen Kameya,
Annie and
Stephanie
Wong, Clara
Kramer and
Nancy Oda



JACLers
helping serve
hot dogs and
chili at the
SFVJACC
Family Picnic
on Saturday,
May 17th.



Photo (L to R): Paul Jonokuchi, Nancy Takayama, Patty Takayama, Dennis Okita, Linda Kuratomi, Nancy Oda, Barbara Okita, Nancy Gohata, Harold Kameya

A SWINGING BIG BAND CONCERT

At the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center

On a beautiful day on May 4, 2014, a group of about 150 people gathered to hear **Dan Taguchi** and Friends, AKA “The Thursday Night Rehearsal Band”. This is not a typical “Garage Band” but a 17 member jazz band that is composed of friends and former students of all ages. They are a highly talented group and I think all of the musicians performed at least one solo during the show. They played a selection of Jazz music from the 40’s to the 60’s and we were introduced to **Nina Kasuya**, a Japanese American vocalist who has a fantastic voice. She is a former student of Dan’s and will be graduating from UCLA. She sang “*Taking A Chance on Love*”, “*At Last*”, “*A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square*” and “*Orange Colored Sky*”. We were also treated to Dan singing “*Hello Dolly*” imitating Louis Armstrong. He dedicated this song to his dad, who encouraged him to pursue music and was watching him from the audience.

Dan, always the teacher not only conducts the band, but teaches the audience by giving us interesting information about each song. He gave us background on the various songs, musicians and the performers. The song “Don’t Fence Me In” was dedicated to his mother and everyone who was put in a relocation camp. Dan is a co-composer of a musical play called “*Manzanar: Story of an American Family*” which has been performed all over Southern California, including at our own Community Center.

The show was enjoyable to both the young and the young at heart, many whom were transported down memory lane to hear favorite tunes from their youth. We even had a couple that got up danced during the performance. I notice many people in the audience swaying to the music and singing the melodies.

Dan recognizes that learning music has an important role in a student’s learning. Students who learn to play musical instruments on average will out perform non-musical students on the standardized testing. He sees this on a first hand basis since he has been an educator for over 35 years. We are lucky to have this familiar face at the SFVJACC, someone who grew up in the SFV and is a part of our community.

It is always a treat to hear Dan Taguchi and his Friends perform. I promise you won’t be disappointed if you got to one of his performances.

Article submitted by Keiko Linda Kuratomi

Editor’s Note: Thanks to Nancy Gohata, Doreen Kawamoto, Keiko Kuratomi, Marcia Mahony, Yo Monji, Nancy Oda, Geri Shiraki, Patty & Nancy Takayama, Michiko Tokunaga, and Sumi Yamaguchi for providing the delicious desserts.



Front (L to R): Dylan Ulaner, Nina Kasuya, Patty Takayama
Middle: Larry Friedrich, Dan Taguchi, Marcia Mahony, Nancy Gohata
Back: Daniel Lewis, Gary Lenk, Nancy Takayama

On April 29, 2014 SFVJACL members **Nancy Gohata, Nancy Oda, Nancy Takayama, Phil Shigekuni, and Jean-Paul deGuzman** attended the dedication of the **Glenn Omatsu House** at CSUN. Prof. Omatsu is a veteran of the Asian American, Ethnic Studies, Redress, and labor movements as well as a beloved teacher. space for Asian American students and activism.



Free Writing Workshop

Discover Nikkei is launching a new writing series called “Nikkei Names.” A free writing workshop is being offered at the Japanese American National Museum (JANM) on: Saturday, June 28, 2014, from 10am – 12 noon. Registration begins at 9:30am. The theme is: “What’s in a name?” The session will explore what your name says about you and the origin of Nikkei names.

For more information check the website: www.discovernikkei.org. As space is limited to 20 persons, please contact: Yoko Nishimura at JANM to reserve a space. Her email address is: ynishimura@janm.org.



MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORTANT TO OUR ORGANIZATION

We would like to acknowledge JACL members who have supported our Chapter by being members at the **1000 Club, 1000 Club Life, and 1000 Club Life Trust**, and the **Century Club** level. By being members in these categories, members make a larger annual contribution to our chapter and national programs of the organization.

We thank 1000 Club Members: **Bob & Akiko Moriguchi, Dr. James Nitahara, Robert Ozaki, Dr. Bo & Iku Sakaguchi, the late Sam & Terry Uyehara, and Tadao Yamanaka.**

We thank 1000 Club Life Members: **Katsumi & Fuyo Arimoto**

We thank 1000 Club Life Trust: **The late Chiye Y. Harada, the late Helen Kaneko, Ron T. Kimura, David & Toshiko Miyamoto, and Harry Muranaka**

We thank Century Club Members: **Linda & Roger Itaya**

DONATIONS

Rose Higashida, a member of our chapter, has generously donated the following: A DVD about Daniel Inouye, "Journey to Washington" and "The Untold Story of Ralph Carr and the Japanese". Thank you Rose for sharing an important part of our Japanese history.



Exploring the Asian American Community

On Sunday, May 18, 2014, a panel of CSUN professors presented the status of the Asian American community at a SFV JACL sponsored forum. Nancy Oda served as moderator for the absent JP de Guzman, who organized the event. The announced panelists were: Dr. Tracy Buenavista, Dr. Tomo Hattori, and Dr. Gina Masequesmay.

Leading off was Dr. Tracy Lachica Buenavista, who immediately engaged the audience by providing a clear and concise overview of the numbers of Asian American immigrants and their status. She defined what it meant to be “undocumented” in California vs. America. The California Dream Act offers financial aid options, which remain unknown to students as high school teachers and counselors are either unaware or fail to provide undocumented students with information about college support programs. The lack of financial assistance is the greatest deterrent to higher education. The federal program, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival, DACA, provides for 2-years deferred deportation and work authorization.

Dr. Clement Lai, who substituted for the ill, Dr. Gina Masequesmay, traced the beginning of the Asian American social movements in the 1960s-1970s to the founding of ethnic and Asian American studies on public California university campuses. He explained that the resurgence of support in 1980s-1990s was for Asian American studies departments and classes at private institutions, such as the Pomona Claremont colleges where he and Dr. Masequesmay were actively involved. He shared his efforts to create classroom curriculum and activities that were connected to the community and outlined administrative obstacles to internship programs.

Dr. Tomo Hattori who hails from Toronto, Canada, spoke of the Tuna Canyon Detention Center research he discovered with his students at the county archives in the form of a letter. The letter implied that the Japanese in Manzanar were basically prisoners so any crops that were grown by internees of the camp could be harvested and confiscated. Dr. Hattori contends that policy established by government management programs, from the time of Nazi concentration camps helped legitimize internment of Japanese as a “safety” measure, for the protection of the whole of society. This non military management control policy is extrapolated to apply to environmental and health and safety issues.

Following the presentations, the panelists answered questions, as the audience eagerly sought clarification of specific issues. Afterwards, high school and college, “Team Mirai” members had an opportunity to speak to the professors and learn more about the various programs and insights that the professors had to share.

By: Patricia Takayama

Photo
(R to L):
Dr. Tomo
Hattori,
Dr. Clement
Lai, Dr. Tracy
Buenavista,
Nancy Oda



CELEBRATING TUNA CANYON HCM #1039

The Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition will be celebrating its designation as Los Angeles City Historic-Cultural Monument #1039 at the San Fernando Valley Japanese Community Center on Wednesday, June 25 at 11:00 AM. **Kanji Sahara**, a member of the Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition (TCDS) board, will present a talk on the **1913 Alien Land Law** that prevented the *Issei* from owning land and often led to property being registered in the name of their American-born children

Beginning in 2006, **Dr. Lloyd Hitt** and **Paul Tsuneishi** began a quest to learn about the Tuna Canyon Detention Station. Initially they received few responses. Undaunted, they persevered, and they have inspired local activists and Asian American scholars who have begun to make Tuna Canyon Detention Station's history widely-known.

Beginning in the days following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the Department of Justice imprisoned Japanese, German, and Italian immigrants, Japanese from Peru, and others who they suspected were "dangerous enemy aliens." It is painful for the grandchildren of **Mrs. Nobue Nishii** to think of her plight during that turbulent time as she spoke no English with two little children when her husband, a Buddhist priest, was arrested by the FBI at the San Diego Buddhist Church as it was called then. The family returned from camp to a fire damaged temple which had to have major repairs before they could move back in. Despite the hardship she endured, she became an American citizen at age ninety. When the 1988 Civil Liberties Act was passed it restored her belief in America. Now, one year after struggles with the Los Angeles City Council and the owners of the TCDS site, the Coalition that includes her grandsons continues its activism for the memorialization of Tuna Canyon Detention Station.

Everyone is welcome to come for the potluck lunch at 11:00 AM with the keynote speaker immediately following. Please make reservations at tuna1941@gmail.com or call Nancy Oda at 818 935 2603 by June 20.

Article submitted by Nancy Oda

COMMUNITY CORNER

Congratulations to Communications Coordinator for the chapter **Christina Aujean Lee**, who graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign on May 18th with a Master's in Urban Planning. She earned the Department's Outstanding Thesis Award for her research entitled "Risky Business: The Foreclosure Crisis, Asian Americans, and Asian American-Serving Community Based Organizations."

The Dr. Sanbo Sakaguchi Scholarship Award, sponsored by SFVJACC, was given to Brandon Isa, son of JACL members, Derrick and Janet Isa. Brandon is graduating from Thousand Oaks High School and will attend Moorpark College in the fall, majoring in psychology and dance.

The SFVJACL donated \$1500 to support the Pacific South West JACL's Local Leaders Internship Program. According to PSW, "Interns will receive leadership development training, and will directly engage with the local community to learn about relevant advocacy and public policy issues in the area." Interns will also help their chapter recruit young members. This summer we will welcome **Ms. Louise Fonua**, a CSUN alumni and recipient of many honors such as the CSUN Community Builder Award and Dean's List. She's interested in food justice (access to healthy foods) and organized a community garden.

45th Manzanar Pilgrimage

April 26, 2014, the SFV JACL sponsored a bus to the 45th Annual Pilgrimage to the Manzanar Wartime Relocation Camp just off highway 395 in the Mojave Desert. The nearest towns are Independence to the north and Lone Pine to the south, with Mt. Whitney to the west and Death Valley to the east.

It was 45 years ago that **Sue Kunitomi Embrey** and other leaders, rallied college students from UCLA, Berkeley, San Francisco, up and down the state to remember those people whose lives were interrupted with their incarceration in Manzanar or other wartime relocation camp. It was on the coattails of battling California regents and college presidents for ethnic and Asian studies classes that empowered college students, internees and others recognized that Asian American history needed to be taught and disseminated, WWII injustices against Japanese Americans should not be covered up or U.S. history might repeat its grave mistakes.

The SFV JACL chapter sponsored a bus to the Manzanar Pilgrimage annually from 1976-1998. It was during this period that discussions were held and strategy committees organized to formulate a policy to pursue Redress and Reparations. After decades of concealing their shame, courageous Issei and Nisei shared their pain and suffering at federal government sponsored Wartime Relocation Commission Hearings. It was the revelation of this denial of due process and the impact on families and individuals that led to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1988. The act signed by President Reagan provided for a formal apology and \$20,000 reparations to each person, still alive at signing, who was incarcerated in an internment camp.

Almost one fourth of the riders on the SFV JACL sponsored bus were former internees of the WWII camp. One of whom, **Liz (Takimoto) Doomey** was born in camp, another, **Bo Sakaguchi**, graduated Manzanar high school, and **George Oda**, met his wife to be while working at the block 22 mess hall.

One quarter of the pilgrims were visiting Manzanar for the first time. Former internees on the bus included: **Nancy Gohata, Bettie Tamaki, Ben Ogami, Herb Tsutsui and Doreen Kawamoto**. First time and returning visitors included: Toshiye Sugui, Judy Sugii-Hom, Brian Hom, Jodi Kawamoto, Kyle Kawamoto, Stan Rivera, Karen Takeiri-Pells, Shirley Docken, Joanne and Stephanie Ritoper, Dorothy Oda, Grace Oda Anderson, Janet Soo Hoo, Jeffrey Soo Hoo, Nancy and Patty Takayama, Debbie Yamada, Darrell and Haley Tsutsui, Kira Imazu, the Nimura family: Karen, Keiko, Stephanie, and Michael, Roger Tamaki, Ellen Yoshifumi Yoshikawa, Yukio Yoshikawa, Keiko Tsuji. Also on board were returning JACL members Phil and Marion Shigekuni, Ellen and Harold Kameya, Yas Gohata. Many of those repeat visitors had relatives who were incarcerated at Manzanar or some other internment camp.

This was the 10th anniversary of the Interpretive Center, which was opened in April 2004. A few years ago Block 14 mess hall and barracks were also opened for viewing. In 2004 the chapter sponsored a bus for the grand opening of the interpretive center, and every five years since. The bus is free to those wishing to visit Manzanar and share in the historical learning experience.

Mas Okui, 10 years old when he arrived at Manzanar, was honored for his contributions. As a southland teacher he introduced the Manzanar experience to teachers and classrooms. He was also one of the subjects of the film *Manzanar Fishing Club*. **Mas Okui and Dr. Arthur Hansen** were recognized as this year's recipients of the Sue Kunitomi Embrey Legacy Award. Hansen was an early collector and recorder of interviews of camp internees, while a professor emeritus of history at Cal State Univ. Fullerton.

This year's keynote speaker, **Eileen Tamura**, a Professor of History of Education at the University of Hawaii, spoke about her recent book, "In Defense of Justice," about Joseph Kurihara, born in Hawaii. He served in the U.S. military during WWI, and protested his incarceration at Manzanar. While at Tule Lake, Kurihara renounced his U.S. citizenship, repatriated to Japan and never returned. UCLA taiko performers provided entertainment. Afterwards, the 10 camp banner carriers led the program to the Manzanar monument for words of interfaith benediction. The Tule Lake banner were carried by **Nancy Oda and Ernie Nishi**.

Article continued on page

Visitors on the JACL bus were given name tags, similar to those Manzanar internees wore when they were first removed from their homes. The name tags provided for a blank line to insert the family number of the person being researched and space enough to collect data about an exit date and exit destination or other information during their visit.

The JACL also provided name tags to the “Team Mirai” youth group, whose bus, left from the community center at the same time. Most of their members were visiting Manzanar for the first time. Providing name tags was an attempt to connect visitors to the history of the camp. Among those named on the tags were internees on the JACL bus and other notable internees such as Sue Kunitomi (Embrey), one of the organizer of the first pilgrimage, Harry K Ueno, mess hall union leader, Mas Okui, noted above, Karl Yoneda, labor organizer, James Ito, who was shot and killed during the December 1942 riot in camp, and names of SFV connected individuals who met while incarcerated and some of whom married while in camp or after they were released.



Ernie Nishi and Nancy Oda carrying the Tule Lake banner.

Article submitted by: Patricia Takayama

‘Nikkei Intersections: An LGBTQ Forum for Everyone’ Event Recap

Over forty community members gathered for “Nikkei Intersections: An LGBTQ Forum for Everyone” at the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center on Sunday, March 23rd. The San Fernando Valley JACL chapter partnered with the JACL Pacific Southwest District’s new Nikkei LGBTQ Initiative to host the first of many educational events intended to bring gender, sexuality and LGBTQ awareness and inclusion to the greater Nikkei community.

This event was a great opportunity for multiple generations, including many Nisei, Sansei, Yonsei and Shin-Issei attendees, to learn from the moving experiences of the engaging panelists, **riKu Matsuda, Ellen and Harold Kameya, and Eric Arimoto.**

Before the panel, attendees had the opportunity to reflect on various questions to understand how they have experienced homophobia and transphobia, as well as how inclusive they perceive Japanese American community to be. As evidence of how much cultural change is needed, an overwhelming majority of attendees responded “yes” to the question, “Have you ever sensed or heard homophobic and transphobic comments/language in your family and/or community?”

riKu Matsuda, from the LA County Commission on Human Relations, then led the group through an important LGBTQ 101 terminology and provided the opportunity to answer many questions to clarify the difference between multiple and fluid gender identities and sexual orientations. Moreover, as a queer mixed-race Nikkei trans-man, riKu’s story on the panel spoke to the importance of making the effort to intentionally understand all of a person’s identities, including their gender and sexuality. One audience member commented how “it was most touching” that riKu’s open dialogue with his family about his identities has also made space for younger family relatives to feel open about their LGBTQ identities as well.

Continued on page

'Nikkei Intersections: An LGBTQ Forum for Everyone' Event Recap continued from page Ellen and Harold Kameya, parents of a lesbian daughter, shared the importance of the greater community showing support for LGBTQ community members. When their daughter came out to them in 1988, Ellen and Harold feared of what their friends and family would say, and faced painful discomfort from their church. Ellen and Harold are now strong leaders in Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbian and Gays (PFLAG), and started their own Asian Pacific Islander chapter in the San Gabriel Valley. One attendee shared their happiness that now, as two LGBTQ-rights advocate parents who speak to multiple audiences, "Ellen and Harold are so outspoken to share their story that many people can find a way to connect to."

Eric Arimoto, an LGBT-affirming psychotherapist, shared his journey of struggling with his gay-identity since he was a child. As a young adult, with fear of what would happen if his parents knew, he joined the military to suppress his sexual orientation, but decided to come-out during his time and was discharged due to recently overturned "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. Coming out as a gay Asian man also meant that he would face intense anti-Asian racism from the majority White LGBTQ spaces he navigated through. Since then, Eric has reconciled with his parents who support him and also shared how "healing" it was to have had the opportunity to publicly discuss his experiences in the Nikkei community.

Future LGBTQ educational events centering on Nikkei experiences will be programmed throughout the year, leading up to the Nikkei LGBTQ Gathering/conference to be held on November 15th, 2014 at the Japanese American National Museum. The next event will take place on Saturday, May 31st from 1-3 PM at the Centenary United Methodist Church of Los Angeles in downtown Little Tokyo. Everyone is encouraged to attend, learn from the moving stories of panelists that day, and also enjoy refreshments following the program. Please see the JAACL PSW website (jaclpsw.org) for more information.

Article submitted by traci ishigo



Standing (L to R): Patty Takayama, Nancy Gohata, Nancy Takayama, Doreen Kawamoto, Marion Shigekuni, Nancy Oda, Barbara Okita, Sumi Yamaguchi, Geri Shiraki, Phil Shigekuni
Seated: Stephanie Nitahara, traci ishigo, Ellen Kameya, Eric Arimoto, riKu Matsuda, Harold Kameya

Graduation day for Board member Aujean Christina Lee with fellow Board member, JP de Guzman and friends.



**THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES WHO SUPPORTED OUR PACIFIC CITIZEN
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Simi Valley, CA 95456.

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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