

San Fernando Valley Japanese American Citizens League Newsletter June/July 2015

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 27th, 4:00-6:30 pm

Saturday, June 27th, 6:30-9:00 pm

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

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

Please contact Marcia Mahony at:

818-669-0409 or

msmahony2@gmail.com



SUZUME NO GAKKOU

The famous Japanese children's story MOMOTARO will be our theme for Suzume no Gakkou this year. We have a myriad of activities planned to enrich our program: Storytime, Japanese Language/Writing, Arts & Crafts, Japanese Songs, and a Fieldtrip. This program will be from July 6-10, 2015, 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM for children entering 2nd grade thru 6th grade. Fee is \$100. We have a few more openings. For registration: Mitzi Kushida at bighisa@aol.com

DEADLINE for Registration:

June 13, 2015

ORIENTATION MEETING:

FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2015

AT 7:00 PM

At the SFV Japanese American Community Center,
 12953 Branford St.,
 Pacoima



Students entering grades 7-8, check
 KIZUNA'S NIKKEI DISCOVERY CAMP.

Register at WWW.KIZUNA-LA.ORG/PROGRAMS

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UPCOMING EVENTS



COME JOIN US IN THE FUN AND ACTIVITIES

June/July

No Third Tuesday Movie Outing

June 27-28

SFVHBT Obon

July 6-10

Suzume no Gakkou &
 Kizuna Discovery Camp

August 2

*Shadows for Peace for the
 Sake of the Children*

August 18

Third Tuesday Movie Outing

August 29

Tuna Canyon Detention
 Station Luncheon

September 13

East West Players Outing

September 27

*Return of A Swinging Big
 Band Concert* with Dan
 Taguchi

Second Wednesday(Month)
 Board Meeting

Questions or Comments?

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May 2015



Support of Muslim Americans: A Challenge to Japanese Americans

Soon following the 9/11 attacks, Japanese Americans civil rights groups have rallied to the support of Muslim Americans in the American public's rush to judgment. More than 14 years has passed since that day that changed the consciousness of Americans forever. Since then, the US became engaged in armed conflicts in the middle-East that has inflicted great harm to people in other countries, and great harm to people within our country, as well. I have difficulty in describing my feelings of how I wish to relate to Muslim Americans and to international Muslims in a simple paragraph.

I felt hopeful while reading Michael Dowd's *Thank God for Evolution*. Among the many subjects discussed was the evolution in religions, and of how all of humanity is in one big boat. Differences in religions could be smoothed out as new developments in physical and social sciences and legal systems continually cause theologians to go back to ancient writings and ponder differing interpretations, based on new knowledge. He suggests that much of the Old Testament and the Quran is written in symbolic language, thus offering means to reconcile passages calling for world conversion.

Our retired pastor, Rev. Jerry Stinson has long been a member of the Interfaith Council of Southern California. He recently spoke at the annual Hussan Hathout Legacy Foundation Annual Interfaith Event at USC. Hussan Hathout was a noted scientist, ethicist, poet and writer. Among his Muslim friends, Rev. Stinson regards them all as sincere people seeking peace.

I am now halfway through a CD book called "The Crisis of Islam: Holy War and Unholy Terror" by Bernard Lewis, Prof. Emeritus of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton. He explains how the Quran compels followers of their duty to defend holy lands under attack. It is no wonder that a very small number of American Muslims have attempted to aid ISIS and other groups.

I think it is important to support the efforts of the Manzanar Committee and the JACL in projects involving CAIR, Council of American-Islamic Relations. Through CAIR, I wish to promote work of American Muslims in promotion of a moderate form of Islam.



Sincerely,
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 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>



NANCY TAKAYAMA, 2015 WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Several members of the SFV chapter of the JACL gathered to honor **Nancy Takayama**, past president. **Dr. J. P. De Guzman** told of her contributions to society that included the arts, social justice, youth development, LGBTQ support, and the preservation of history. For example, Nancy Takayama worked with her parents' friends, Nisei at the local community center, and students at the Asian American Studies Department at Cal State Northridge with a mission to engage the younger generation and record oral histories. With a love for preserving the life experiences and sacrifices of Japanese and Japanese American farmers in the San Fernando Valley, she hopes to continue documenting and expanding SFV Japanese American history.

In the early 2000s, Takayama found herself recruited to serve on both the San Fernando Valley JACL and San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center boards. Working together with both organizations, she felt that "giving back" became even more rewarding. She came to understand how the organizations functioned like a village by coordinating community events, educational programs, and various preservation community activities. In 2004, Takayama was elected to serve as president of the SFV JACL, as well as a board member of the JACL-Pacific Southwest District. Wanting to bring multiple generations of Japanese Americans together to share their stories and preserve their experiences on film or in other photographic projects, she worked with the PSW staff to help create and bring the Katarou Histories program to the San Fernando Valley. Takayama has also engaged with promoting the historical legacy of Japanese Americans through her volunteerism as a board member for the Grateful Crane Ensemble since 2010. She supports its mission as a unique nonprofit theater group with the vision to educate the public about the JA community's history, hardships and contributions through performances.

Takayama held the SFV JACL presidency for five years and continued on the PSW board until 2012, when she decided to work for PSWD JACL full-time. Thus her involvement grew from San Fernando Valley to working with the PSWD mission of protecting civil rights and preserving the JA heritage in the broader historical geographical preservation region of Southern California and the Southwest. She has been a dedicated supporter of PSW programs, such as Local Leaders, a chapter-district partnership and summer leadership program, and the Nikkei LGBTQ Initiative, which helped organize the first Nikkei LGBTQ Conference, "Okaeri," in November 2014.

Takayama is also a strong community supporter in the fight to preserve the Tuna Canyon Detention Center property, which was recently designated as a historical site in Los Angeles County. With that success, the Tuna Canyon committee established a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization to make the most out of the Tuna Canyon property, and transform it into an educational learning site. This was of particular interest as she subsequently learned that her maternal grandfather was held captive there before being transferred eventually to Crystal City, Texas.

The Downtown Los Angeles Chapter of the Japanese American Citizen League and the Japanese Women's Society of Southern California honored five exceptional Japanese American community leaders for the 2015 Women of the Year Award: Kimiko Goya, Yoshie Hirata, Martha Nishinaka, Pearl Omiya, and Nancy Takayama.

Members of the SFVJACL that cheered Nancy Takayama included:
Nancy & Yas Gohata, Harold & Ellen Kameya, Doreen Kawamoto, Linda Kuratomi, Mitzi Kushida, Isabelle Miyata & Harvey Negoro, Nancy Oda, Dr. Bo & Iku Sakaguchi, Marion & Phil Shigekuni, Linda Tanaka, and Sumi Yamaguchi.

Article submitted by Nancy Oda

Photo: Nancy Takayama with President George Kita,
Downtown LA Chapter, JACL



46th ANNUAL MANZANAR PILGRIMAGE

April 25, 2015

WATASHI WA MANZANAR, WATASHI WA MANZANAR, I am Manzanar, I am Manzanar was the cry of the 46th Manzanar Pilgrimage. The weather was great except for the constant wind which is part of Manzanar. This was my first pilgrimage to Manzanar. I was surprised to see some 1,200 pilgrims, who drove hundreds of miles from all over California to this dry, desolate, dusty place to be a part of this pilgrimage with enthusiasm and deep emotion. Being from Hawaii, I did not know what to expect even after hearing stories of internment.

I'm so glad my sister **Jean**, my brother-in-law **Ron** and his father, **George Tsukushima** attended the Pilgrimage because George enriched our visit to Manzanar. Listening to his story I could feel the emotional hardships the internees went through with "gaman and shikata-ga-nai".

As we approached the entrance and saw the sign, George immediately felt sadness and despair. He said, "I think I'm going to cry". Ron felt sad and sorry seeing his father relive his camp experience. It had been 72 years since he'd been there and still the memories were as vivid as yesterday. George said little or nothing for 72 years but on that day he pointed out the different areas where the hospital, jail, administration building, the apple orchard and the building where he worked as the maintenance foreman stood. When he discovered block 19 it was difficult to talk about barrack 14-unit 2. Ron was born in Manzanar and it took this pilgrimage for George to talk about his experience and to answer the many questions Ron had. The newly opened barracks gave us a picture of what life was like and George stated that their barracks were not as comfortable as the barracks on display. Talking and answering Ron's questions drew non-Japanese people to listen to what he had to say. It was significant when Jean found the names of the Tsukushima family on the wall in the museum. Ron requested to have their prison identification numbers and data on the family history sent to him.

I found the program inspiring and the Voices from Camp by Pat Sakamoto and Mary Higuchi meaningful after talking to George. The Keynote speaker was Dr. Satsuki Ina, author and professor emeritus at Cal State University Sacramento. "I Am Manzanar" was her theme, to identify with Manzanar and what it means to all of us and to remember what the internees went through with *gaman* and *shikata-gai-nai*. It was also a fateful surprise when we learned that Rev. Paul Nakamura, the uncle of close family friends, Kathy and Mort Migita, received the *Sue Kunitomi Embrey Legacy Award*. It was nice to see friends, like **Craig Ishii** and **Rev. Ruy Mizuki** participating in the program. It was wonderful to feel the energy of the youth, and the UCLA Kyodo Taiko group. I was motivated by the enthusiasm of the Ondo dancers and had to join in.

We all came away with an awareness of what our families went through and on a personal level, I saw the bonding of father and son finally communicating about those horrific years. Ron felt sadness, helplessness and then anger. He feels there is a need for the youth to be more informed about the history of their parents and grandparents in camp.

Submitted by Linda Tanaka

Photo (L-R): Valerie Kameya, Sumi Yamaguchi, Marion & Phil Shigekuni, Linda Tanaka, Bob Goka, Dr. Bo Sakaguchi, George Tsukushima, Harold Kameya, Ron & Jean Tsukushima



HULA GIRLS

We had a great turnout for the *Hula Girls* movie that **Nancy Gohata** and so many members contributed toward a successful event! It was an interesting docudrama that won many film awards in Japan. My sister in Kona hosts Mari, a hula teacher from Japan, about twice a year. Mari needs to teach her students new steps and so ‘continuing education’ for hula kumu masters is a must. On Mari’s first visit about 10 years ago, she brought a copy of Hula Girls to show to my sister.

Indeed, the 1965 planned foreclosure of a coal mine which resulted in the eventual development of a Hawaiian tourist center might be considered to be the forerunner of the state of hula in Japan now. There have been estimates of over 400,000 hula students in Japan, far outnumbering the number of hula students in Hawaii.

If you have viewed youtube videos of the Merry Monarch Festival in Hawaii, you might eventually run into related hula videos of halau (dance schools) from Japan. It seems to me that the Japanese lady dancers are typically very precise in their movements.

I haven’t read any articles on the reasons for hula’s great popularity in Japan, but just based on the stereotypical Japanese businessman’s frequent obligatory social drinking after work, hula dancing provides a legitimate opportunity for the Japanese office worker or housewife to have her own social group with their own activities. Speculating even further, hula dancing might also provide a respectable outlet for Japanese women to express their sexuality as a member of an organized group.

Thanks to all who helped in the many tasks necessary to host the screening, including advertising flyers, ticket sales, setup of chairs, tables, lighting, darkening of windows, delicious dessert offerings, the rearrangement of chairs, tables, sweeping, and other cleanup tasks, and **Nancy Takayama**’s technical expertise on projection.

Article submitted by Harold Kameya



TASTING THE “LU”

On May 24, 2015, JACLers and friends from the community had an opportunity to learn a little about the Tongan culture and their foods. **Louise Isa Fonua**, our PSW Intern, began the afternoon with a power point presentation about Tongan food. She explained that taro plants grow in wet tropical climates, but another variety grows in dry climates. The taro leaves used in Louisa’s demonstration were grown locally at a community garden. She emphasized that the heart-shaped taro leaves need to be washed thoroughly. Participants were treated to the taro leaf dish filled with corned beef, chopped onions, and swirled with coconut milk. It was wrapped in foil and had been steamed for four hours.

Louise was dressed in a colorful Tongan dress, very similar to the Hawaiian muu-muu. Unfortunately, because this event was held on the Memorial Day weekend, the group was very small, however **Evelyn Motoyama**, who contributed to this report, thanked the JACL, and specifically Louise and **Nancy Takayama** for bringing this event to the Community Center. She added that it was a most enjoyable afternoon.

Photo: Louise Isa Fonua preparing the taro leaf dish.



JACLERS SUPPORTS GRATEFUL CRANE

What a wonderful night of entertainment and a trip down memory lane. The annual fund raising event's theme this year was "Back in the Day: The Sansei Show." It was held at the Nishi Hongwanji. Those enjoying the evening from the Valley were: **Kevin and Uman Tamaki, Ed and Beverly Kambe, Larry and Wendy Hirota, Bob and Betty Kobata, Susan DeGracia and Aileen Toshiyuki.**

The mistress of the ceremony was Alison Minami. The evening began with a video of the 2014 tour to Japan by the Grateful Crane Ensemble. They toured the areas that were affected by the devastating tsunami of 2011. They were there to bring encouragement, love and hope through entertainment by way of song and dance. They were very impressed with the efforts of the people who are still struggling to rebuild their lives.

An explanation of a Pilot Program, "Singing for Seniors," was given. The purpose was to address the larger audience of Nisei members who are no longer able to attend performances. The program will consist of live music, story telling, and singing of popular songs that are familiar to them. Since music is a universal language, it is hoped that this will bring some added enjoyment to our seniors with added sing-alongs for them as well. A call for funds to sponsor this program was made. It was estimated that \$2,000 would be needed to start. A very generous donor had already contributed \$1,000. The remaining \$1,000 was hoped to be raised that evening.

After a very satisfying and delicious meal, the main part of the program was a nostalgic walk through the Sansei era by way of skits and songs reflecting the music of the day with historic events as well. A silent auction had a great variety of items. We had three winners at our table: Susan DeGracia, Aileen Toshiyuki and Betty Kobata. The evening ended with the outstanding music of *The Music Company*: Dane Matsumura, Randy Hoshimoto, Dennis Yokitake with vocalists: Howie Hiyoshida and Mariko NIshizu. With such great music, there were people of all age groups hitting the dance floor! It really brought back memories of all the Sansei dances we all went to. When it comes to remembering the "good old days" it brings back the best in us".

Article submitted by Betty Kobata

The Los Angeles Times recently featured board member **Nancy Oda** in an article about the successful campaign to stop an auction house from selling off priceless pieces of artwork made by Japanese American imprisoned in concentration camps. You can learn more about this story at: <http://lat.ms/1baVZDg>.





MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORTANT TO OUR ORGANIZATION

Welcome to new student members **Jenny Chhea, Ariel Imamoto, Keith Matsushita, and Kara Tanaka**. Kara becomes the third generation from the Teramura family to be a JACLER. Her parents **Sharon** and **Nathan Tanaka** and grandmother **Flora Teramura** have been supportive members of our Chapter. We are always encouraged when our youth recognize the importance of joining our organization. We also welcome new member, **Mikkie Loi**. We're hoping to meet our new members at our upcoming events.

Under the leadership of **President Harold Kameya**, we are forming a Committee to brainstorm ideas of increasing our membership. We are an active Chapter and we have participated in a variety of programs that included civil rights and cultural identity issues. We have also supported youth programs which included scholarships and internships. If you would like to help us with this very important task, please contact **Nancy Gohata** at yaiko16@verizon.net.

ENDORSEMENT OF MITSUYE ENDO FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

At its meeting on May 13, 2015, the San Fernando Valley Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League unanimously approved the endorsement of Hawaii Senator Schatz's nomination of Mitsuye Endo for the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

At a time in our history when our community desperately submitted to the gross violation of its rights as American citizens by its own government, Mitsuye Endo, courageously, stood alone in resisting.

It is vitally important that this honor be awarded to a person who exemplified the very best of what it means to be an American, a Japanese American, and a Japanese American woman.

Phil Shigekuni, Civil Rights Chair

RACISM: ALIVE AND WELL

Apparently, racism is alive and well in a bowling alley in the town of Bishop, north of Manzanar. The Florin JACL chapter alleges that the Back Alley Bowl in Bishop, CA denied service to their group. The Florin JACL letter to the establishment states: *Our group of 15 Asian American and Muslim American young adults, plus some older members and senior citizens, was denied service at Back Alley Bowl on three occasions on the night of April 25, 2015. The group conducted themselves in a civil, reasonable manner at all times, offering workable options to bowl, despite alleged computer problems and shutting down the business early though posted hours were until midnight.*

You can read more of the incident in the Manzanar Committee blog:

<http://blog.manzanarcommittee.org/2015/05/19/florinjaclcair-bishop-bowling-alley-051915/>

Racism & School Bullying

The national JACL issued a statement on the bullying and death of Emilie Grace Olsen in a report issued on May 21, 2015, written by Bill Yoshino, Midwest Regional Director, byoshino@jacl.org. School bullying continues to be a disturbing problem and we welcome any recommendations for action by our chapter.

Article submitted by Harold Kameya

CONGRATULATIONS JACL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The SFVJACL Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that the following Outstanding students have been selected by **Harold Kameya, Doreen Kawamoto, Marcia Mahony, Nancy Oda, Mabel Takimoto** and **Chairman, Dr. J.P. DeGuzman**, for the 2015 Scholarship Awards. (Article submitted by J.P.)

The Graduating High School Senior Scholarship will go to **Kara Tanaka**. Kara currently attends Cleveland Humanities Magnet High School and boasts a 4.0 GPA. She will attend Santa Clara University in the fall as an Economics Major. She has been involved with SFV Athletics, Obon Dancing at SFVBHT, Sun Valley, and Nishi Hongwanji, SFVJACL Katarou Histories, Kizuna Community Leadership Program, Rising Stars, JACL-CAIR Bridging Communities and numerous service activities at her school. She participated in the prestigious UCLA Anderson School of Management Global Green Business Summer Institute for Young Leaders and was the founding president of the Cleveland High School Water Project, which funded a well in Kenya.



Photo(L-R): Nathan Tanaka, Sharon Teramura, Kara Tanaka, Flora Teramura, Shaun Tanaka at the SFVJACC Picnic. Jenny Chhea, Ariel Imamoto and Madison Villanueva did not attend the picnic.

The Undergraduate Scholarship will go to **Jenny Chhea**. Jenny is from the San Gabriel Valley, will graduate from UCLA with degrees in History and Asian American Studies and holds a 3.9 GPA. She has served with the Justice Corps, the Asian Pacific Environmental Network, Asian Americans Advancing Justice-LA (formerly APALC), Chinatown Community for Equitable Economic Development, Pacific Clinics-Asian Pacific Family Center, and Neighborhood Legal Services of LA County Worker's Rights Clinic. At UCLA she is currently an intern at the Center for the Study of Inequality and has held leadership positions in the Asian Pacific Coalition, the UCLA Undergraduate Students Association and the Kappa Alpha Pi Pre-Law Fraternity, among others. She will join the Peace Corps and plans to attend Law School. She was the inaugural winner of the Professor Don T. Nakanishi Award for Outstanding Engaged Scholarship.

Ariel Imamoto from Cal State Fullerton. Ariel is an active member of the SFVJACC community having volunteered with the SFVHBT Obon, Athletics Peewee Clinic and others. She was also volunteered with the JA Living Legacy Project, Nikkei Writers Guild, Congressional Gold Medal Celebration in Honor of Nisei WWII Vets, Kizuna, and the Rising Stars Program. At CSUF she holds leadership positions in their Nikkei Student Union. She received the Lauren Taguchi Memorial Scholarship from the SFVJACC recently.

Madison Villanueva is from Panorama City and attends UC Santa Barbara. As many of you might remember, Madison was the runner up for our Local Leaders Internship (which ultimately went to Louisa Fonua). Madison identifies as an "undocumented, low-income Filipino woman" and holds numerous leadership positions at UCSB where she advocates for and supports other immigrant students. She is a Peer Mentor for the Undocumented Students Services Center, the Immigration Liaison for the Asian Pacific Islander Political Alliance and co-chair of the organization Improving Dreams, Equality, Access, and Success (IDEAS). She has interned with the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance and Thai Health and Information Services and is a core member for ASPIRE-LA, an immigrant advocacy group for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

WRITING CONTEST WINNERS.

Wednesday, April 22nd, 2015, the winners of the Lil Tokyo Historical Society, "Imagine Little Tokyo" short story contest were announced at an evening celebration in the garden room of the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Los Angeles.

The writing contest was supported by various individuals and organization donors including the SFV JACL. The first place winners in the adult categories in English and Japanese were awarded \$600 each. The winner of the Japanese language story was: Miyuki Sato, whose story, "Mitate Club" was read in Japanese by actress Megumi Sato, who appeared in the film *Lil Tokyo Reporter*, among others. Miyuki spoke to the audience via a transpacific phone conversation as she accepted the award from Hokkaido, Japan.

The first place winner for the English language story was Nathaniel Campbell, who accepted the award via Skype from Iowa. His short story, "Fish Market in Little Tokyo" was read by Kurt Kuniyoshi a member of the Grateful Crane Theater Ensemble.

The three finalists for the youth division were present and were introduced to the audience. They were Serena Kuhn, Madeline Parga and Linda Toch. The winner of the \$400 prize for the youth division was Linda Toch for her story "Kazuo Alone." Her story was read by actress, poet, and activist: Traci-Kato-Kiryama.

Other finalists in the adult English language division included: Glen Morizawa, Glendale, "The Tempura King"; Dan Akira Nishimura, Van Nuys, "We've Only Just Begun"; Chester Sakamoto, Winnetka, "Both Alike in Dignity."

Article submitted by Patricia Takayama



Photo (L to R): Linda Toch, Serena Kuhn, Madeline

HIROSHIMA/NAGASAKI – LET'S LEARN MORE

As I am sure we are all aware, this year marks the 70th anniversary of the dropping of the Atomic Bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Last March, Marion and I attended a well-done presentation at the Japanese American National Museum (JANM), entitled, *Shadows for Peace for the Sake of the Children*. It was produced by **Robert Horsting**, who also produced *Citizen Tanouye*, which was shown at our Community Center last year.

A follow-up to the JANM program also involving Mr. Horsting is being planned concerning this topic on **Sunday, August 2, 2015** at the Community Center. In addition to hearing accounts from survivors, we will also hear from knowledgeable persons to tell us interesting facts about the bombings which are not generally known. Working on this program with me are Harold Kameya, Robert Horsting, and Dickson Yagi, a board member of the Council of Pacific Asian Theology (CPAT)

Article submitted by Phil Shigekuni

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, September 13, 2015 at 2:00 pm

Please plan to join us for the East West Players Production of David Henry Hwang's play, **Chinglish, a Comedy about Cultural Misunderstanding**.

More information in our August/September newsletter.

COMMUNITY CORNER

Board member, **Aujean Lee**, received a Graduate Research Mentorship Fellowship from UCLA's Graduate Division. Along with a handful of other graduate students, she was also selected to present her research to legislative staff in Sacramento in April. Congratulations! Aujean!

The Board sent a speedy recovery message to **Tom Doi** after his shoulder replacement surgery. Tom served as Chapter President as well as our Treasurer for many years.

Congratulations to **Keiko Arzouman** for completing her studies at the University of the Pacific. Keiko is the daughter of JACL members, **Cherylee** and **Michael Arzouman** and granddaughter of Board member **Mitzi Kushida** and her husband **Al**.

Board members, **Phil** and **Marion Shigekuni** have been busy traveling to Albuquerque, New Mexico and San Francisco attending their grandchildren's graduation. JACL member and eldest daughter, **Laurie**'s son **Miles** graduated from Lincoln High School in San Francisco and will be attending Long Beach State in the fall. **Julie**'s daughter, **Emiko**, graduated from Bosque High School in Albuquerque. She received a scholarship in gymnastics from the University of Wisconsin. Older sister, **Kiyomi** will be working on a Master's Degree in creative writing at the University of New Mexico. Kiyomo graduated last year from Bard's College at Simon's Rock. Congratulations to the Shigekuni family!!

JACL MEDIA LIBRARY

DVD, Video Tapes, and Books are available on loan. You may go to our website: sfvjacl.weebly.com to get a complete list and synopsis of each item. Please contact Nancy Gohata at yaiko16@verizon.net or at (818) 899-4237 for information on checking out these items.

We would like to thank **Marion and Phil Shigekuni** who donated the following items:
The Camp Dance: The Music & the Memories (CD), Caught in Between: What to Call Home in Times of War (DVD), Daughters of the Dragon (BK), A Divided Community – 3 Personal Stories of Resistance (DVD), From a Silk Cocoon (DVD), Leap of Faith: How Enmanji Temple Was Saved (DVD), Lil Tokyo Reporter (DVD), Speak Out for Justice: Voices of Japanese Americans Interned in U.S. Concentration Camps, Volume 2 (VT), Yoshida Brothers II (CD), and Yo-Yo Ma: Concertos from the New World

DONATION

This month we would like to thank **Phil and Marion Shigekuni** for their generous donation to our media library. The donation included 5 DVDs, 3 CDs, 1 VCR, and a book. Please refer to our Chapter's Library collection for brief synopsis of the items. Our heartfelt THANK YOU goes to the Shegekunis.



Thank you to **Rose Higashida** for her donation of stamps towards our newsletter mailings. It is greatly appreciated.



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TAKEN BY THE FBI: BUDDHIST AND SHINTO PRIESTS

On May 28, 2015, the Second Anniversary of the Tuna Canyon Detention Station as the Historic Cultural Monument #1039 was well attended by one hundred fifty guests including the honorable **Consul Izuru Shimmura** of the Consulate General of Japan. The gathering took place in Dr. Sanbo Sakaguchi Hall, where **Dr. Lloyd Hitt**, Chairman of Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition, provided a brief summary of the group's mission. **Dr. Duncan Williams** translated a portion of **Daisho Tana**'s diary written while he was incarcerated in Tujunga. His eldest son, **Yas Tana, and wife, Alice**, were in attendance as well as twenty five adult descendants like **Sumi Yamaguchi, Kay Yamada, Teddy Yamane, and Ken Fujitani** who were receptionist while **Genevieve Lew** prepared tea. **Nancy Takayama** provided technology assistance for Dr. Williams. Community Center members **Kei Inoue**, cut the cake with **Sharlene Miyagishima**. Graphic artist, **Jane Taguchi**, prepared the program book. Also in attendance was former Councilman and State Senator Richard Alarcon.

JACLers, **Linda Tanaka, Nancy Gohata, and Doreen Kawamoto** came early to set up the room while Paul Jonokuchi assisted. San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple head minister, **Reverend Patricia Usuki**, recited the "Shokuzen no Gassho" before bento lunches were served.

Dr. William's translation told of details about life in Tuna Canyon never heard before. In addition, a special table was set up in memory of **Tomoe Tana**, tanka poet, wife of Daisho Tana, representing the families left behind. A haiku poem written by **Mits Hino**'s father was shared after being in obscurity for seventy three years. Obutsudan came from Senshin Temple's Sugano Family, (Poston) LA Hompa Hongwanji Temple.'s Kimoto Family (Heart Mountain). Senshin Dojo, Judo Institute, shared a Shinto shrine (Tule Lake Segregation Center)

Kanji Sahara spoke about the work being done in preparation for the upcoming Traveling Exhibit. The Coalition is seeking photographs, letters, artifacts, and interviews to preserve the history of Tuna Canyon. **Nancy Oda** closed the festive event thanking the guests for their generous donations for the memorial. Each guest took home a box of fresh strawberries donated by **Linda and Robert Takayama**.

Article submitted by Nancy Oda

Photo (LtoR): Counsel General Izuru Shimmura, Nancy Oda, Dr. Duncan Williams, Lloyd Hitt, Rev. Patricia Usuki



HAROLD KAMEYA'S BOOK CORNER

I would like to invite all JACL members to suggest non-fiction book titles for a reading list, to be published in our newsletter. You may include books that have been highly rated that you may not have yet read. Two books are recommended to start the list:

Infamy: The Shocking Story of the Japanese American Internment in WWII, by **Richard Reeves**.

The Crisis of Islam – Holy War and Unholy Terror, by **Bernard Lewis**, Emeritus Professor of Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

A Swinging Big Band Concert with Dan Taguchi

Sunday, September 27, 2015

2:00 pm

San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center
12953 Branford St., Pacoima 91331

Tickets: \$15

Make checks payable to SFVJACL

Bento orders \$10 by September 18, 2015

Contact Nancy Gohata

yaiko@verizon.net

818-371-8013



SAVE THE DATE



invites the community to honor

Dr. Lloyd Hitt and Minoru Tonai

**Saturday, August 29, 2015
11:00-2:00 Luncheon**

Nishi Hongwanji Kaikan (Social Hall)
815 East First Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

contact: nancyoda64@gmail.com



www.tunacanyon.org

Our chapter again helped serve hot dogs at the Community Center Picnic held on Saturday, May 16, 2015. Pictured are JACLers **Linda Tanaka** and **Marion Shigekuni**. Other helpers were **Dennis Okita** and **Nancy Gohata**. **Liz Doomey**, President of the Meiji Senior Club, headed the food committee.



EDITOR'S NOTE: **Paige Negoro**, daughter of JACL members **Isabelle Miyata** and **Harvey Negoro**, graduated from Tufts University this spring. She ran in the Boston Marathon for the first time this year. We would like to share her experience and her appreciation of her family and friends.

I cannot fully express how deeply thankful I am to all of you for your support as I took on the challenge of running the Boston Marathon. As I was running for those four hours and fifteen minutes in the cold, headwinds, and constant rain, thoughts of your love and support fueled my determination to persevere. I really could not have done it without all of you. There were many times during the marathon when I thought to myself, "Wow, I think my legs are actually going to stop working and I'm going to fall on my face and drown in that puddle in front of me." But then I would think of all of you, or I would hear "GO TUFTS GO!!" from a random spectator, or I would see a familiar face in the crowd screaming for me...AND in those moments, I actually felt like I could do anything. So I pushed on, and I did finish my first marathon.

It was easily one of the hardest things I have ever done in my life, but also one of the most incredible and rewarding experiences. I have never felt so part of a community. Even in such a large event, I felt strongly connected to the 30,000+ marathoners running with me, and the even thousands more in the crowd cheering for the entire 26.2 miles.

Being part of the Tufts Marathon Team, which you all generously supported, has been such an enriching part of my college career. Everyone, even if I didn't know all 100 runners by name, is truly inspiring to me.

At a team reception yesterday evening several teammates shared their personal stories. One of my classmates while running in the 2013 Boston Marathon witnessed the bombs explode just as she was turning the final corner to reach the finish line. That had been the second terrorist attack that had personally affected her life. She expressed how running on Monday was the scariest thing she has ever done, but she mustered up the courage to do so because of the unyielding support from our coach and the team. Another teammate shared how her father had been a big-time marathon runner before he passed away, and that her friends at mile 25 placed her father's Boston Marathon medal on her neck as she ran by them. Another middle-aged woman on the team shared how training for this marathon had been the first time she had run in 15 years after 10 different surgeries. She ended her story by saying that Monday had been the first time in her life she had run pain-free.

Thank you for giving me the chance to run alongside people who have touched my life in so many positive ways. Thank you for being a part of my life! I hope to see you all soon.

Most gratefully,
Paige

The following businesses supported our Pacific Citizen Holiday Issue fundraiser which will help us provide programs for our community in 2015. We are extremely grateful for their generosity.



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San Fernando Valley Japanese American Citizens League

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Regular sustaining members of the organization

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

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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

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