

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

IT'S DOUGH BALL TIME!!!

Please join us at the SFV Hongwanji Buddhist Temple's Obon Festival on **Saturday, June 24th and Sunday, June 25th**, at the SFV Japanese American Community Center, 12953 Branford Street, Pacoima. The SFV JACL will once again host the popular game booth - Dough Ball.

Please consider volunteering to help with our Dough Ball booth. You'll be right in the middle of all the fun and able to enjoy all the festivities. The Obon Festival hours are 4:30-10:00 pm on Saturday, 4:30-9:00 pm on Sunday. The Dough Ball Booth opens at 5:00 pm both nights. **COME AND ENJOY THE FUN!**

To volunteer, please contact Marcia Mahony at msmahony2@gmail.com or (818) 669-0409.



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>



UPCOMING EVENTS



COME JOIN US IN THE FUN AND ACTIVITIES

June 3 & 17

Telling Our Stories

June 16

Short Film Screenings
at SFVJACC

June 17

Hold These Truths
Pasadena Playhouse

June 19-June 23

Kizuna Summer Camp

June 24/25

SFVH Buddhist Temple
Obon Festival

July 8, 15, 29

Telling Our Stories

July 18

Third Tuesday Movie Outing

August 5 & 12

Telling Our Stories

September 9

Children's Day

Questions or Comments?

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May 15, 2017



Harold Kameya, our chapter president in 2014-15 has taken on the job as membership chair. Harold always does whatever job he has with a lot of energy. He immediately got the Chapter's membership status and found that our membership number of 144 has, fortunately, stayed fairly constant these past few years. Harold and I talked about ways to keep our members active, and also ways to gain new members. It caused me to look at our website to get some answers.

Our website master, JP De Guzman, has done a great job in maintaining it. One part of it caught my attention: He reports how, back in the 60's and 70's, people like Bob Moriguchi and others, had our Chapter work on getting Congress to do away with the McCarran Act which allowed for the detention, without due process, of certain "undesirables" such as the Black Panthers, who were agitating for justice for African Americans. Together, along with some staunch Sanseis, this was achieved. Another issue the Chapter supported was legislation dealing with fair housing. This sort of advocacy benefitted all minorities suffering various forms of discrimination.

The motivation for our advocacy, of course, stems from the trauma our community suffered due to our WWII internment.

So, why belong to JACL? Marion and I have been members for over 40 years, and it is good to pause sometimes, to think why we continue to exist. I am proud to be a part of our Chapter for the excellent programs we provide for our community: From "Suzume No Gakko", to the recent panel we sponsored featuring Asian Americans in the media.

However, the core of what we are about is to defend the rights Muslims and other Southeast Asians, immigrants, refugees, LGBTQ individuals and others.

Our heroes are Gordon Hirabayashi, Fred Korematsu, Mitsue Endo and others. They are our inspiration, and our appeal for new members is an appeal to follow in their footsteps.

Phil Shigekuni



ASIAN AMERICANS IN THE ENTERTAINMENT FIELD

On April 23rd, 2017, the SFVJACL presented “Meet the Asian Americans in the Entertainment Field”. The celebrity panel included **Keiko Agena, Francois Chau, Amy Hill, Alvin Ing, Clyde Kusatsu, Elizabeth Sung, Chris Tashima, and Tamlyn Tomita** moderated by **Guy Aoki**. There were about 100 people in attendance and bentos were served afterwards. The panel shared their struggles and triumphs of their careers and discussed how simply looking different dictated what roles they were offered. Many topics were discussed including stereotypical portrayal of Asians, the generalization of the Asian culture, and most importantly white washing in the media. The panel unanimously agreed that white washing is the biggest problem Asian Americans face in the entertainment world today. We must continue to promote our Asian actors and actresses advocating for our stories to be told. The best way we can do this is through social media. We must voice our demand to hire Asian entertainers for Asian roles, support the shows and movies that do so, and protest white washing when we see it in the media.

Article submitted by Jaclyn Tomita

Editors Note: Thanks to Board members, Nancy Gohata, Linda Kuratomi, Doreen Kawamoto, Mitzi Kushida, Isabelle Miyata, Marcia Mahony, Nancy Oda, Barbara Okita, Marion Shigekuni, Patty & Nancy Takayama, Michiko Tokunaga and Karen Yoshino for providing desserts and all those who helped with the set-up and clean-up.



Photo:

Seated (L to R): Amy Hill, Elizabeth Sung, Clyde Kusatsu, Tamlyn Tomita, Alvin Ing, Nancy Oda, Nancy Takayama

Standing (L to R): Phil Shigekuni, Mitzi Kushida, Harold Kameya, Patty Takayama, Chris Tashima, Keiko Agena, Guy Aoki, Linda Tanaka, Francois Chau, Marcia Marcia Mahony, Marion Shigekuni, Dennis Okita, Doreen Kawamoto, Barbara Okita, Nancy Gohata

JACL/CSUN MANZANAR PILGRIMAGE

Saturday, April 29, 2017

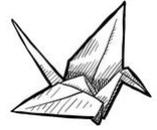
To mark the 75th anniversary of President Roosevelt's signing of Executive Order 9066, the San Fernando Valley JACL Chapter this year sponsored two buses to the Manzanar Pilgrimage. One bus carried a SFV JACL contingent and the other one carried 28 students, faculty, and staff largely from California State University, Northridge (CSUN) mixed with 13 SFV JACL members. CSUN Department of Asian American Studies Professor **Tomo Hattori**, who is also a SFV JACL board member, arranged the CSUN involvement. The two buses left on time around 7:30 am from the SFV JACL Community Center thanks to the skilled organizing of board member **Patty Takayama**. Patty's cousin once removed **Shawn Iwaoka** was also particularly helpful directing traffic, loading the buses, distributing food and drinks, assembling name card tags, and numerous other necessary tasks. Patty prepared a sheet of informative Background Notes for the participants as well as name tags of notable incarcerated who we could trace at the museum once we got there. Patty's outstanding itinerary kept the whole day running smoothly.

Notable CSUN participants included graduate journalism students **Fathima Mohaideen** and **Maria Clara Ramirez** who covered the event and conducted interviews with their smartphones, College of Humanities Student Services Director **Marvin Villanueva** and companion **Ximena Quezada**, Chair of the Department of Asian American Studies **Dr. Eunai Shrake**, and President of the CSUN Muslim Students Association **Omar Aly**. UCLA alumni **Susan Abraham Areeckal** and students **Jeannie Chen**, and **Zili Wang** were also able to join the trip. CSUN AAS Majors **Arturo Aseo, Jr.**, **Von Bondoc**, **Nuttakung Booncherm**, **Kegan Durrance**, and **Cielito Thea Fernandez** represented the wider AAS Department. **Maria Barron**, **Zachary Carlson**, **Kevine Ecliserio-Velez**, and **Jen McClellan** represented a contingent from Professor Hattori's AAS literature courses. Members from the SFV JACL community who kindly volunteered to share their time with the CSUN group included **Min Tonai**, **Bo Sakaguchi**, **Phil** and **Marion Shigekuni**, **Evelyn Mitarai**, **Tom Nishimura**, **Sharon Kodama**, **Ryan Kuromiya**, **Jean-Paul deGuzman** and **Beatrice Contreras**. Phil and Marion brought **Yasuko Takezawa**, an anthropology professor from Kyoto University, who is re-releasing her 1995 book *Breaking the Silence* on the Redress Commission Hearings for the occasion of the 75th anniversary of EO 9066.

After a rest stop at the McDonald's in Mojave, Phil led the CSUN bus in song with "Don't Fence Me In," "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing," and "We Shall Overcome." Patty's provision, courtesy of the SFV JACL, of water, chips, muffins, clementines, and cookies on both the outbound and inbound bus rides kept us in good spirits all the way. On arrival at Manzanar, both bus groups enjoyed an excellent obento lunch ordered from **Yamatani Restaurant** in Bishop. After lunch, we were able to catch the core of the Manzanar program including the major addresses by **Bruce Embrey**, **Alan Nishio**, and **Warren Furutani**; the poetry reading by **traci kato-kirayama**, **traci ishigo**, **Kathy Masaoka**, and **Sahar Pirzada** of **#VigilantLOVE**; and folk songs by **Ken Koshio**. After **Monica Embrey's** Roll Call of the Camps and the Procession to the Monument, we boarded the buses again to visit the museum. We enjoyed over an hour of deep immersion in the outstanding exhibit and then it was time to head home. Phil again entertained the CSUN bus, this time with stories from the incarceration recounted by himself as well as by Min Tonai, Bo Sakaguchi, and Phil's sister Evelyn Mitarai. These stories, spoken from the microphone from the front of the bus, were the true treasure of the day for the CSUN group. The remain supply of SFV JACL snacks, supplemented by a fruit and power bar cache courtesy of CSUN AAS Chair Eunai Shrake, satisfied those who were not fast asleep. Exhausted but also fulfilled, thanks to our excellent drivers **Christina** and **Oscar** of **Patty Wagon Charter**, we all arrived safely back at the Community Center around 8:30 pm.

Article submitted by: Tomo Hattori

Kizuna Summer Camp



Join Kizuna for its Summer Camp, a local summer camp for kids ages 7-13 (entering 2nd grade to entering 8th grade), centered on building a foundation of Japanese American culture and heritage. This is Kizuna's third year hosting the program in the San Fernando Valley area!

Camp this summer is on July 19-23, 2017, from 9am-5pm at the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center. Pricing begins at \$215 per child. Please see website for more information on dates, times, locations, and pricing.

Visit www.camp.kizuna-la.org or contact Paul Matsushima at paul@kizuna-la.org or (213) 973-4465 for more information.

TELLING OUR STORIES

(Revised Schedule)

Come sharpen your writing skills. Have fun. Record your memories. Share your numerous stories with a sympathetic audience. We want to hear your stories. Academy Award winner for short documentary, **Tim Toyama** guides writers to develop short stories based on every day personal experiences.

Become a published writer. **Gwen Muranaka**, the English language editor for the Rafu Shimpō has invited Toyama to submit short stories from his classes to be published in The Rafu Shimpō.

Invite your friends and prepare to use this class as writing practice for submitting a longer short story to the "Imagine Little Tokyo" writing contest next January.

The 5-week-Summer class begins on Saturday, July 8th from 2-4pm and meets July 15th, 29th, August 5th, 12th. The fee is \$25.

The Spring-writing class is meeting June 3rd and 17th. If you are interested in checking out the class, contact: Patty Takayama at pe.high.mtn@juno.com

To register for the class or for information, leave a message at: 818-899-7916.

To visit a class, the fee is \$5 per session. Call ahead for the topic and be prepared to share a 500 word story.

SAVE THE DATE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2017 JAPANESE CHILDREN'S DAY

The **Suzume no Gakkou** staff and volunteers want to spend one Saturday each year to bring some of the Japanese cultural activities we shared with children in Grades 2-5 in our summer program. More details in the August/September newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORANT TO OUR ORGANIZATION



What are some of the benefits of a JACL membership?

- * Free admission to the Japanese American National Museum
- * Subscription to the Pacific Citizen with national and local JACL news.
- * Eligibility for scholarships, fellowships, and the JACL/OCA Leadership Summit
- * Eligibility for the JACL Credit Union.
- * Discounts on UPS and Hertz, and for JINS Eyewear (contact mbr@jacl.org for coupon)

Additionally, you have a hard-working Board that puts on events, screenings, plays, etc. for entertainment, information and enjoyment.

As more of our membership acquire smartphones and computer tablets, periodic emails called “SFV JACL Misc. News Items” are sent out with selected information from the web.

Young adults might wonder how JACL membership can benefit them. Several reasons come to mind:

- * JACL provides opportunities to develop leadership skills. You can organize people from our Chapter and other chapters to champion civil rights and human causes, both under increasing Pressure in today’s world,.
- * JACL membership, esp. JACL board membership, will enhance your resume.
- * Interaction with people that are older provides opportunity to work with people with different values and ideas, and provide real life situations to practice communication and people skills.
- * Our JACL chapter has a number of capable mentors for younger people.
- * You will have opportunities to network with others at our events!

We would love hearing from people interested in joining our board as a member-at-large.

We welcome **Jaelyn Tomita** as the newest member of our JACL board. Jaelyn, as you recall, was the Nisei Week Queen of 2016! Congratulations, Jaelyn!

A big welcome to our new members reported between the January and April reports! Feel free to contact us with any questions about the organization.

- * **Traci Yukiye Kuratomi**, Student/Youth member
- * **Caitlin Sunada**, Student/Youth member
- * **Lauren Watanabe**, Student/Youth member
- * **David Osako**
- * **Dawn Kunihiro**

Thank you to those who renewed their memberships during the same reporting period:

Wendy & Larry Hirota, Paris Kariya, Peggy Kurihara, Joyce Okui, Pauline Okutake, Roger & Betty Tamaki, Jami Tanihana, Sumi Yamaguchi, Reilly Yamauchi and Mas & Norma Jean Yamashita.



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Remembering Paul Jonokuchi February 15, 1948 - March 21, 2017

SFV JACL's Suzume no Gakkou Summer Camp always started the day with gorgeous koi no bori (carp) flying from the CC flag pole. Paul would come early to set it up by 8:30 am, he urged the campers and teachers to do warmups.

He said, "Ichi, ni, san, ichi, ni, san," accompanied by loud music coming from his boom box.

Paul had many great ideas but none better than riding the metro to Little Tokyo so that the yonsei (4th) and gosei (5th generation) would get out of their car pools and SUVs to ride the METRO that was public transportation.

When asked to cut wood for my sister's clay project, he cut it, painted it, and handed it over with his unforgettable smile. He always did more than what you asked for.

There were many sides to Board Member, Paul Jonokuchi, who was a role model that was patient, hardworking, and ever present. His life can be summed up in one word, **ikigai**, a purposeful life. His leadership and devotion as a leader, teacher, husband, father, and son will be remembered by his many JACL friends,

Paul passed away with no regrets because he knew what was important and acted upon it. He had satisfaction and meaning for his life.

NOTE: In our last newsletter we noted that Paul was president of the SFVJACC in 2008-2009 and again in 2014-2016, continuing in 2017. We omitted that Paul was also president of the SFVJACC in 1994.

Article submitted by Nancy Oda



In Memoriam - George Wakiji

New SFVJACL Board member, George Minoru Wakiji passed away in his sleep on May 7, 2017. He was a former Ventura Chapter JACL president. George was 88 years old. He and his wife Betty moved to Nikkei Senior Gardens where they recently established residency. He is survived by his wife, Betty, daughter Dana Wakiji, son-in-law Tom Gromat, and elder sister, Takeko "Tachy" Wakiji.

George led a remarkably adventurous life. At his funeral Rev. Clifford Ishigaki reviewed some of George's life experiences which included his trip in 1955 with twelve of his UCLA classmates working on a project in India. Members of that group were present and spoke of their long friendship.

George graduated from UCLA with degrees in journalism and social welfare. His work took him to Washington D.C. where one of his projects was securing funding for the Japanese American monument and working on the Redress legislation. Grant Ujifusa contributed a remembrance of how George became a mentor to him during that period in DC. One of George's many jobs took him to Chicago as a publicist, where lack of funding prompted him to become a photographer. He also joined the Peace Corp and was eventually appointed Director of Tonga. He held a variety of jobs including being a bartender and working for Kohl's.

Recently, George joined the "Telling Our Stories" writing class with Tim Toyama. He shared a few of his wonderful stories about his adventures in Tonga and his experience working as a journalist and photographer. He fondly shared all the happy times with his best friend and wife, Betty.

Article submitted by Patty Takayama



COMMUNITY CORNER

SFV JACC receives Keiro and JA Community Foundation Grants

The SFVJA Community Center saw a need to help seniors learn to communicate and keep in touch with family and friends through the latest technology. The idea was presented in two grants, offering workshops in basic computer skills, internet access, email, Facebook, Word, Smartphone usage, texting and using other forms of social media. The Community Center wanted to give the seniors the opportunity to stay connected regardless of the distance or time of day. Learning to send a photo or a quick text would be like sending a smile to our family.

Keiro and the JA Community Foundation offered nonprofit organizations grants to improve the quality of life for our seniors. In March 2017, the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center was awarded a combined total of \$60,000 from both the JA Community Foundation and the Keiro Grants Program to provide training and education for our seniors in the ever changing world of technology. With the funds received the center will purchase media equipment for *hands-on* and *video viewing* workshops. Classes are expected to start mid or late summer. Information and sign up will be announced in the CC newsletter and at the center in the early summer.

The Community Center would like to thank Keiro and the JA Community Foundation for awarding us the grant and we hope to share our appreciation and accomplishments at the end of the program year.

The SFVJACC and the SFVJACL would like to thank **Nancy Takayama**, who was responsible for getting this grant for our seniors.

At the April, **California Retired Teachers Association** luncheon, **Nancy Gohata** was honored with the Division's Exemplary Service Award. She was recognized for the thousands of hours of volunteer work that she does 24/7 for her family, friends, and community organizations, including CalRTA Division 19. Congratulations Nancy!

Condolences to **Wade Nomura**, President of the Santa Barbara Chapter of the JACL, whose wife, **Roxanne Hamako** Nomura passed away on May 15, 2017. Roxanne was an active member of her community, which included serving as Chair on the Santa Barbara Fair Housing Board, Past President of the Carpenteria American Heart Association Chapter, Past President of the Rotary Club of Carpenteria, and Board member of the Santa Barbara JACL.



DONATIONS



Here's a Board member that made her donation in the most creative and clever way. **MICHIKO TOKUNAGA** bought \$200 worth of tickets for the recent, *Asian Americans in the Entertainment Field* program held on April 23rd. She held a raffle at the Japanese American Community Center's Friday Hot Meal Program and gave away 10 tickets, including 10 bentos. She sold raffle tickets for \$1.00. Each of the winners won a ticket to attend program and enjoy the obento! The mostly senior attendees of the Hot Meal Program had a fun time with Michi's clever idea. What a Win, Win idea that was. Thank you very much, Michi. for your generosity.

SCREENING OF FOUR SHORT FILMS AT THE SFVJACC FRIDAY HOT MEAL JUNE 16, 2017

Come for a hot meal. Stay for the movies. On Friday, June 16th, 2017 four Digital Histories filmmakers will present their films at the SFV JACC in the Pioneer Center at 12:15pm. The filmmakers: **Larry Furukawa, Steve Nagano, Robert Shoji and Cathy Uchida** address a variety of subjects in their films.

In Cathy Uchida's film, "Not Just Gardening", she examines the gardeners who left their spiritually and aesthetically Japanese footprint on Southern California. Gardening was not just a job to support the family but a means to send their children to college and their creative efforts transformed the region into artistically cultivated islands in our environment. .

Steve Nagano's film, "6 Weddings and a Dress" is a heartwarming story about six couples who find love at Manzanar, a WWII WRA relocation camp in the desolate Mojave Desert camp. Despite the isolation, and meager access to goods and services, these brides managed to find a dress to make their wedding – "stuff dreams are made of" with a borrowed gown, artificial flowers, a groom in a suit and memorable wedding photo.

In Larry Furukawa's film "Breaking Happiness: A Japanese American Family's Struggle with a Rare Disease." Furukawa looks at a rare genetic disease which usually appears around age 30 or earlier. The disease, dentatorubral-pallidoluysian atrophy or DPRLA symptoms manifest as seizures, loss of muscle control and mental and emotional problems.

Robert Shoji's film "I Am an American," is based on the interviews with Toshiko Shoji Ito, his aunt. Toshiko Ito wrote the novel, "Endure," about being born to Japanese parents in America. In the film, she reminisces about her forced incarceration in the Minidoka War Relocation in Idaho.

Sponsored by: The Meiji Club

Article submitted by Patricia Takayama



Little Tokyo Short Story Contest Winners

Photo - Back (L-R): Yoshi Ishii (Japanese Category Runner Up), Ronan Takagi (English Category Runner Up), Kai Horikoshi (Japanese Category Runner Up).

Front (L-R): Madeline Parga (Youth Category Runner Up), Jamie Han (Youth Category Co-Winner), (on computer laptop Elizabeth Farris (English Category Winner)), Masafumi Mori (Japanese Category Winner), Akira Tsurukame (Japanese Category Runner Up).

**THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES WHO SUPPORTED OUR PACIFIC CITIZEN
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San Fernando Valley Japanese American Citizens League Membership Application

Annual Membership Categories

Regular/Individual - \$67

Regular sustaining members of the organization

Couple/Family - \$110

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

Youth/Student - \$25

Members 25 years of age or younger or students currently enrolled in a college, trade school, or university.

Thousand Club - \$200

A membership category where members make a larger annual contribution to their chapter and national programs of the organization

Century Club - \$350

An exclusive membership category where members make a larger annual contribution to their chapter and national programs of the organization

Millennium Club - \$1000

An exclusive membership category where members make a larger annual contribution to their chapter and national programs of the organization

Life Membership Categories

Thousand Club Life \$3000

Members pay a lump sum to establish a lifetime membership

Century Club Life - \$5000

An exclusive membership category where members pay a lump sum to establish a lifetime membership

🍏 New Member

🍏 Renewing Membership

🍏 Gift Membership

Annual Membership

🍏 Regular/Individual - \$67.00

🍏 Thousand Club - \$200.00

🍏 Century Club - \$350.00

🍏 Couple/Family - \$110.00

🍏 Thousand Club Spouse - \$32.00

🍏 Cent. Club Spouse - \$32.00

🍏 Youth/Students - \$25.00

🍏 Millennium Club - \$1000.00

Life Membership (one-time payment)

🍏 Thousand Club Life - \$3000.00

🍏 Century Club Life - \$5000.00

Member Information

Member ID: _____ (renewals only)

JACL Chapter

San Fernando Valley

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Email _____

Gender _____

Phone _____

Year of Birth _____

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Japanese American Citizens League

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ (Month / Year)

Send the completed application along with your payment via U.S. mail to:

JACL Membership / P.O. Box 45397 / San Francisco, CA 94145-0397

Or join Online: <http://www.jacl.org> → **Membership** → **Join/Renew** → (select membership category)

San Fernando Valley

JACL

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