

HOLIDAY PARTY



Save The Date:

Saturday December 10, 2016

will be a time for your whole family, including grandkids, to have a GREAT time at the annual JACL Holiday Party!

This year the party starts at 5:00 PM!



Here are some of the highlights:

- Theme: Santa Sleigh Ride
- Our Suzume No Gakkou students and families have been invited!
- Our large buffet table will be set up for the usual delicious potluck dishes!
- Have your children exercise their creativity at our craft table!
- There will be singing and fun-filled intergenerational folk dancing!
- A surprise visit by Santa!
- Our great photo booth will be set up for memorable holiday photos!

Toys, Toys

- We need toys. If you have toys not being used, please dust them clean and bring them to our Holiday Party. In this way, the children will have a table full of Recycled toys to select from. Last year, they enjoyed toys, gameboards, and books for all ages.
- For the young kids, a candy-filled piñata!



What to bring:

- A main dish for the potluck dinner, plus salad or dessert.
- A wrapped gift *with your child's name on it*, to be placed into Santa's bag. (Gifts should not exceed \$20.)
- Please RSVP to give us an idea of the expected attendance.

What to expect:

- A GREAT TIME!

To RSVP or If you have any questions, please call **Harold Kameya, 818-368-2008**, or hkameya@gmail.com



UPCOMING EVENTS



COME JOIN US IN THE FUN AND ACTIVITIES

October 2

Only the Oaks Remain
A Traveling Exhibit

October 18

Third Tuesday Movie
Outing

October 22

PSWD Fundraising Dance

November 13

Misora Hibari
Grateful Crane Concert

November 15

Third Tuesday Movie
Outing

December 10

Holiday Party

January 22

75th Installation Luncheon

Questions or Comments?

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

October, 2016



It's good for our chapter to occasionally stand back and look at ourselves. We should do this to perhaps see what we are doing right, as well as try to determine what we can do better.

I frequently hear compliments from people in other chapters about how active we are. Yes, I tell them: we have a core of dedicated, hard-working people who have done their jobs for the chapter for many years. You are reading this newsletter because of the dedicated work of **Nancy Gohata** and her daughter, **Karen Yoshino**.

At our recent board meeting, **Marcia Mahony** (who took over the job from **Mitzi Kushida** last year) passed out the forms to be mailed out soliciting businesses and individuals for ads to be placed in the Holiday issue of the Pacific Citizen. Mitzi and Marcia do a great job each year in raising funds to allow our chapter to continue in its work.

My feelings are somewhat mixed about asking for support each year. This soliciting is an important part of sustaining our chapter. My reservation comes in possibly imposing an obligation on our members and friends to help in this way.

Then I look at what we do with the money: Last month we co-sponsored a well-received pre-Okaeri panel. This year we will be Silver Sponsors (\$250.00) for the Okaeri gathering to be held at JANM next month on the 14th and 15th. We made the same contribution for this ground-breaking event two years ago.

This Saturday, September 24th, our chapter will co-sponsor along with the Council for Pacific Asian Theology, (CPAT) a Buddhist-Christian Seminar at our Community Center.

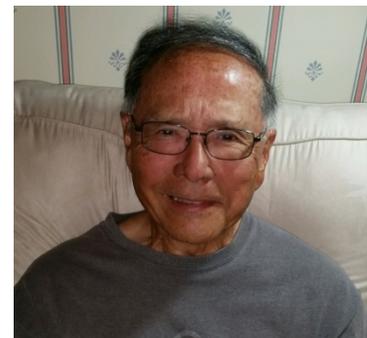
Harold Kameya, our past president, is in charge of our Holiday Party. He held a meeting prior to our board meeting to make plans for the party. As in past years this event has been a joyful time for our chapter and a time to get together with our friends in the community. Last year, **JK Yamamoto** of the Rafu Shimpo attended and wrote a fine article covering the event.

For the past several years, **Linda Tanaka** has worked with her committee to present a well-regarded Installation Luncheon. This has been a time when we invite other chapters, look back at the past year, and look forward to the new year's activities.

Our chapter contributes to "**Rising Stars**", and "**Kizuna**", two outstanding community organizations fostering the development of our community's youth.

Which brings me to what we can do to improve. Board member, **Nancy Oda**, when she served as Community Center president, was successful in getting younger folks to become involved in leadership positions at the Community Center. Perhaps we can ask her to help us to do likewise with our chapter.

After reflecting on what our chapter does, I am suddenly not so hesitant about asking about placing your Pacific Citizen ads. Also, may I enter a friendly reminder to re-new your membership?



Phil Shigekuni

DONATIONS

In our last newsletter, **Linda Kuratomi** was not acknowledged for her generous donation to the Nisei Week Queen's Bake Sale Fundraiser. Thank you, Linda.

76th NISEI WEEK QUEEN, JACLYN TOMITA

August 13th started with a capacity crowd banquet dinner at LA *Double Tree Hilton Downtown*; it was filled with family and friends of all the Nisei Week Queen candidates. After dinner we walked down 2nd street to the *Japan American Theater* for the coronation. The air was filled with excitement and anticipation with pictures of Jaclyn waving in the air. Jaclyn was well represented by her family and friends, as well as, the San Fernando Valley fans: SFV Coordinating Council, SFV JACC and many SFV JACL Board and members.

The mistress and master of ceremonies, **Tamlyn Tomita** and **David Ono**, introduced the seven candidates, followed by their speaking, dancing, and modeling routines, and individual question and answer sessions. When David Ono announced the 2016 Nisei Week Queen, Jaclyn Tomita, the crowd broke out in whistles, shouts, screams and cheers.

Queen Jaclyn described her first moments after being announced “(I) was in complete shock, then overwhelming joy set in. I was so honored and hoped I would be able to live up to the community’s expectations and make them proud.” As the 2016 Queen she anticipates the coming year to be fun, “I’m very excited to meet the pillars in the community and be more involved. The 2016 Nisei Week Court is an amazing support system and I can’t wait for all that we will accomplish.” To the SFV JACC and JACL, she said, “Thank you so much for sponsoring me. Thank you to my friends and family for supporting me. I would not be here without you I love you all.” Jaclyn’s parents are **Randy Tomita** and **Jami Tanihana** and her siblings are an older brother **Randy** and a younger sister **Tricia**.

For many years, Queen Jaclyn has been engaged in volunteer work around the SFV JACC. When one of our summer Suzume no Gakkou students saw her picture in the newspaper he said, “I know her, she helped us.”

Article submitted by Mitzi Kushida

Photo: Queen Jaclyn with parents Randy Tomita and Jami Tanihana, brother Ryan and sister Tricia.



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>



SEMINAR: BUDDHIST-CHRISTIAN ACTIVISM

On Saturday, September 24, 2016, we were introduced to **Ven. Kusala Bhikshu** and **Darlene Nicgorski** at the SFVJA Community Center. Ven. Kusala Bhikshu is an American born monk ordained in the Zen tradition of Vietnam and head monk at the International Buddhist Meditation Center of Los Angeles. He shared his most interesting experience working at the California State Prison for Men as well as other police departments. Kusala Bhikshu lives in Koreatown and has a small congregation of primarily single older people. He sees his efforts as starting what could be a version of ‘American Buddhism’. He found the youth in prison were able to effectively relate to Buddhism in a manner that may have surprised many. With the mantra of ‘Life is Suffering’, the youth were able to relate to his message with an open mind. Darlene Nicgorski, a former Roman Catholic nun, shared her incredible story helping Central American refugees in the 1980s find “sanctuary”. She was motivated by her faith and her compassion to assist the people she met to escape the horrors of civil war and terrorism. Her work with the Sanctuary Movement led to her indictment and conviction by the US government. Darlene said by winning in the court of public opinion, she was set free.

Rev. Dr. Dickson K. Yagi from the Council of Pacific Asian Theology, served on the panel adding additional information about Kusala Bhikshu. He also gave many interesting sidelights from his experience living in both Japan and the United States. **Rimban Noriaki Ito** from Higashi Buddhist Temple, also sat on the panel, offering perspective from the Jodo Shinshu form of Buddhism.

The audience participated in a Q & A session after the presentation. There was much interest in this subject matter and good participation by the group. Thanks to **Phil Shigekuni** who was instrumental in organizing this event and getting all of the wonderful speakers.

Article submitted by
Nancy Gohata &
Harold Kameya



Photo: (L to R)
L-R Phil Shigekuni,
Rimban Noriaki Ito,
Darlene Nicgorski,
Rev. Dr. Dickson
K. Yagi, Ven. Kusala
Bhikshu

SAVE THE DATE SFVJACL'S 75th INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS LUNCHEON

Place: ODYSSEY RESTAURANT

Date: Sunday, January 22, 2016

Time: 11:30 am Social Hour, 12:00 pm Lunch

Cost: \$36.00 person



To celebrate our 75th Anniversary, we are honored to have **Terry S. Hara**, LAPD Deputy Chief (Ret.) as our guest speaker. Terry is the highest and the first Asian American on the LAPD to hold such an office. We are planning a dynamic program highlighting our 75 years of service.

Further information will be available in the November newsletter.



MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORANT TO OUR ORGANIZATION

Welcome to **new member, June Aochi-Berk** of Studio City. We look forward to seeing you at future chapter events!

Our thanks to **renewing members: Marsha Aizumi, Mitsu & Lyle Asaoka, Stephanie Cohen, Susan DeGracia, JP De Guzman, Mary Endo, June Fukui, Ikuyo Hata, Emi Shimoyama-Hino, Grace Honbo, Darren & Kristine Kameya, Marian and Koso Nakagawa, Dennis & Barbara Okita, Randy Ouchi, Phil & Marion Shigekunia, Helen Shimizu, Jane Sommers, Naomi Suenaka, Michiko Kus Tokunaga, Stan & Masako Watanabe and Dr. Roderick Yasuda**

TELLING OUR STORIES

The last “Telling Our Stories” class for this year, met on Saturday, September 10, 2016. Classes will begin again next spring, as academy award winner for short documentary screen play; **Tim Toyama** has agreed to continue the short story classes and encourages more Sansei and Nisei to share their unique experiences.

Toyama led the “Telling Our Stories” writing class as facilitator more than teacher. His easy going demeanor created an atmosphere of trust that encouraged positive comments and clarification of the story as opposed to criticism. Occasionally, he pointed out structural attributes of short story writing including story arch and dialogue and identified points that needed clarification.

Toyama’s approach to comments avoided criticism, which ensured that participants were able to develop trust and empathy. This approach encouraged classmates to reveal hardships, funny and intimate stories about past experiences and their families. The sharing of stories forged a bond between class members that would likely have not otherwise developed.

If you or your friends have amusing or interesting experiences or stories to tell, please encourage your friends to join the class with you next spring.

Article submitted by Patty Takayama

LGBTQ INFORMATIONAL PANEL

About 40 people enjoyed a most interesting and informative panel on August 28th at our Community Center. People often experience discomfort when dealing with issues that we know little about. This panel provided an opportunity to learn about being transgender, gay or bisexual. **Mia Yamamoto** and her wife **Kimberly Tellez**, told their interesting story of their lives together. Mia told how her service as a soldier in Vietnam was an example of coping in life until she was able to transition. It was heartwarming to hear when Mia, who is a practicing attorney, shared how her clients, fellow attorneys, and judges supported her after she made her transition. **Jason Takagi** described how a fortunate coincidence of an empty pulpit at his church provided an opportunity for him to come out of his church as a gay man, and to inform them about how the church could be more welcoming to the LGBTQ public. **Marsha Aizumi**, a member of our chapter, facilitated the panel discussion, and was able to share her experience of having a transgender child, and having written a book about her family’s experience. She has been on the national board of the PFLAG organization for a number of years.

Thanks to Board members who provided a beautiful selection of delicious desserts.

Article submitted by Harold Kameya

**REMINDER: PACIFIC CITIZEN HOLIDAY GREETINGS FUNDRAISER
DEADLINE: MONDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2016**

You may contact any of the following Board members:

Marcia Mahony at msmahony2@gmail.com

Mitzi Kushida at bighisa@aol.com

Nancy Gohata at yaiko16@verizon.net

Barbara Okita at barbokt@aol.com

Marion Shigekuni at pshig2000@yahoo.com



For monetary donations, please write a check to SFV JACL and send it directly to:

Marcia Mahony – Chairperson

18320 Hampton Court

Porter Ranch, CA 91326



WE APPRECIATE AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

COMMUNITY CORNER

In the August/September Newsletter, we had incorrectly listed the new Chiba Restaurant, that opened on February was in Sun Valley. See correction below:

NEW CHIBA JAPANESE RESTAURANT Opened February 2016

7515 Lankershim Blvd.

North Hollywood 91605

(818) 765-9119



MEN'S COFFEE HOUR

A Men's Coffee Hour has been started, and will meet on the first Tuesday of every month, 8:30 AM at Coco's on Sepulveda in Mission Hills. We have a cozy back room where we can share stories undisturbed! Join us on October 4th, November 1st, and December 6th. Contact Harold Kameya at hkameya@gmail.com

LOS ANGELES CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY ONLINE OFFERINGS!!

The reference librarian can tell you about the many online courses for work, industry, continuing education, personal and social needs that are available from several institutions through their website, www.lapl.org. Like the young kids, you can just poke around that website to discover some wonderful offerings paid for by your tax dollars. They have thousands of songs that you can download, as well as ebooks and audio books. (Thanks to **Harold Kameya** for this information)

JACL LIBRARY ADDITION

JACL IN QUEST OF JUSTICE By Bill Hosokawa. The History of the Japanese American Citizen League. This book was published in 1982.



MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORANT TO OUR ORGANIZATION

To all JACL members – please continue to help our organization recruit new members. Let’s see if we can make a difference in our membership numbers by talking to friends and family about becoming a JACLER. A membership form can be found in this newsletter.

FROM THE SCHOLARSHIP DESK: CONGRATULATIONS, TRACI ISHIGO!

I am delighted to report that one of our most dynamic board members, **traci ishigo**, has recently earned the **Rev. H. John and Asako Yamashita Memorial Scholarship** from the National JACL Scholarship Committee.

As both a member of our JACL chapter and as a former staffer in the PSW office, traci has been on the frontlines of developing timely, creative, and generative programs that include Katarou Histories, the Local Leaders Internship Program, Okaeri-Nikkei LGBT Initiative, Bridging Communities, Vigilant Love, Camp Musubi, API RISE, and many others. Recognizing the importance of solidarity work, traci is responsible for many of the efforts to bridge the JACL and the local Asian American community with Black Lives Matter as well as continuing relationships with Muslim Americans.

Many of us also know of traci’s thoughtful and accessible yoga instruction. She facilitates Mottainai Yoga regularly at JANM, and, like her social justice work, in her capacity as a yoga teacher she engages and empowers people of various ages and backgrounds.

It is fitting that traci received an award named after Rev. Yamashita, a Methodist minister who, guided by a strong sense of social justice, worked tirelessly to provide assistance and dignity for homeless and impoverished Japanese Americans as they left the WWII concentration camps. This prestigious scholarship will assist traci as she writes the latest chapter in her life story: pursuing a Master’s of Social Welfare Degree at USC where she is a Dean’s Leadership Scholar.

To close, I would like to draw from the letter of recommendation I wrote for traci and reiterate her importance to us. Without a doubt, traci “thinks creatively, acts boldly, leads with vision, and represents the best of the JACL.” We love you, traci!

Article submitted by Jean-Paul deGuzman



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Misora Hibara Tribute Show coming to San Fernando Valley JACC on Sunday, Nov. 13, 2016

“Misora Hibara: A Tribute to a Legend,” the Grateful Crane Ensemble’s fond look-back at the life and career of one of the most popular Japanese entertainers of all-time, will be performed on Sunday, November 13 at 2 p.m. at the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center.

“When we did this show for the first time last year, we found out that many Japanese Americans have a very strong personal connection to Misora Hibari,” said Soji Kashiwagi, Executive Producer of the Grateful Crane Ensemble. “They listened to her records. They watched her movies. They are big fans of her to this day.”

Some have fond memories of attending overflow Hibari concerts as she toured Hawaii and the continental U.S in 1950 and again in 1973 when she performed at the Forum in Los Angeles, the Cow Palace in San Francisco and the Olympic Hotel in Seattle

Younger generations and others interested in Japanese culture may not be familiar with her name but would probably recognize Hibari’s distinctive voice and songs – a familiar soundtrack for Japanese restaurants, summer festivals, karaoke singing and all things Japanese. Her prolific career spanned 40 years of continuous recording and film popularity as she began performing at age eight.

“After World War II, ‘Hibari-chan’ did so much to inspire the people of Japan that the Japanese government bestowed upon her a Medal of Honor. This show is our way of recognizing her for the encouragement and joy she gave to our people here in America as well,” continued Kashiwagi.

The two-act show will feature over 20 of Misora Hibari’s greatest hits, including “Kawa no Nagare no Youni” (Like the Flow of a River), “Tokyo Kid,” and “Yawara” (Judo); and remembrances of a difficult time when Japanese in war-devastated Japan and Japanese Americans were struggling to survive after World War II. The show will also illustrate how “Hibari-chan’s” incredible voice, enormous talent and indomitable spirit helped to lift them up, and gave them encouragement and hope for a better future.

Directed by Keiko Kawashima, the show will feature the singing talents of Kawashima, Haruye Ioka, Merv Maruyama, Helen H. Ota and Fusako Shiotani. Musicians for the show include Grateful Crane’s musical director Scott Nagatani on piano, Danny Yamamoto (of Hiroshima) on drums and Japanese percussion, and Hiro Morozumi on keyboards and guitar.

This San Fernando show will be performed as a benefit for the JAACL Pacific Southwest District.

**The San Fernando Valley JACC is located at
12953 Branford Street in Pacoima.**

**General admission tickets are \$35.00.
Reserve an obento, \$10.**



**To reserve tickets and charge by phone, call Grateful Crane Ensemble at:
(310) 995-5841 or (818) 899-7916**

ELECTION OF 2017 BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The following members have been nominated by the Nominations Committee to serve on the 2017 San Fernando Valley Chapter JACL Board of Governors.

BALLOT

If you wish to vote for the entire slate listed below, place an "X" on the line below.

I wish to vote for the entire slate below. _____

Otherwise, place an "X" after each name you wish to vote for plus any write-in names.

(Note: write-ins must have the consent of the nominee.)

De Guzman, J.P.	_____	Takayama, Patty	_____
Gohata, Nancy	_____	Takimoto, Mabel	_____
Hattori, Tomo	_____	Tanaka, Linda	_____
Ishigo, Traci	_____	Tanihana, Jami	_____
Jonokuchi, Paul	_____	Tokunaga, Michiko	_____
Kameya, Harold	_____	Wakiji, George	_____
Kawamoto, Doreen	_____	Yamaguchi, Sumi	_____
Kushida, Mitzi	_____	Yoshino, Karen	_____
Mahony, Marcia	_____	_____	_____
Moriguchi, Brian	_____	Send to:	
Oda, Nancy	_____	Barbara Okita	
Okita, Barbara	_____	13343 Magnolia Blvd.	
Shigekuni, Marion	_____	Sherman Oaks, CA 91423.	
Shigekuni, Phil	_____		
Shiraki, Geri	_____		
Takayama, Nancy	_____		

**THANKS TO CHURCH, TEMPLE, AND ORGANIZATIONS IN OUR
COMMUNITY WHO SUPPORTED OUR
PACIFIC CITIZEN HOLIDAY ISSUE FUNDRAISER**

**VALLEY JAPANESE COMMUNITY
CENTER, INC.**
8850 Lankershim Blvd.
Sun Valley, CA 91352

SUNRISE FOUR SQUARE CHURCH
14705 Wyandotte Street
Van Nuys, CA 91405
(818) 782-8735

**CHATSWORTH WEST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH.**
10824 Topanga Canyon Blvd.
Chatsworth, CA 91331
(818) 341-1270



**SAN FERNANDO VALLEY JAPANESE
AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER**
12953 Branford Street
Pacoima, CA 91331
(818) 899-1989

**SAN FERNANDO VALLEY
JAPANESE CREDIT UNION**
Mayko Martinez
(818) 362-0680
FAX: (818) 367-8894

**SAN FERNANDO VALLEY
HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE**
9450 Remick Avenue
Pacoima, CA 91331
(818) 899-4030, (818) 899-0447 FAX
Email: sfvhbtds@yahoo.com



MEIJI SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB
12953 Branford Street
Pacoima, CA 91331

NIKKEI SENIOR GARDENS
Assisted Living – Memory Support
9221 Arleta Avenue
Arleta, CA 91331
(818) 899-1000 * www.NikkeiSeniorGardens.com

**SAN GABRIEL VALLEY
ASIAN-PACIFIC ISLANDER PFLAG**
Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays
Marsha Aizumi (626) 695-9073 maizumi888@gmail.com
Harold & Ellen Kameya (818) 368-2008 hkameya@gmail.com
www.sgvapipflag.tumblr.com, facebook/sgvapipflag
sgvpipflag@gmail.com

BALLROOM DANCE CLASS
SFVJACC 12953 Branford Street
Pacoima, CA 91331
For Info: Barbara Okita
barbokt@aol.com or (818) 784-5128

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY TAIKO
Eryn Tokuhara & Reid Taguchi
SFVJACC 12953 Branford Street
Pacoima, CA 91331
(818) 899-1989

**SAN FERNANDO VALLEY
JAPANESE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE**
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San Fernando Valley

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