

#### San Fernando Valley Japanese American Citizens League Chapter Newsletter

February – March 2022



## 2022 SFV JACL and NATIONAL JACL SCHOLARSHIP ALERT

The SFV JACL Administers its own Scholarship Program

# CONGRATULATIONS 2021 SFV JACL Scholarship Awardee Dariya Paull 2021 National JACL Scholarship Awardee Lana Kobayashi

The JACL Membership and Scholarships are open to everyone of any ethnic background.

There are over 30 Awards totaling over \$70,000 including those for financial aid which is important in this era of rising tuition. Scholarships include Freshman, Undergrad, Law, Graduate Studies and Creative Arts.

The JACL Scholarship Application Process is ONLINE. Applications are available now. Please check online at <a href="mailto:jacl.org">jacl.org</a>; click on Scholarship Program (or click, Youth on the menu bar for a dropdown menu). Deadline is March 4, 2022. This year all applications MUST be sent directly to the National JACL Scholarship Committee. The National JACL will forward applications to the Local JACL. Complete all documents in one sitting. Documents will not be saved.

#### Condensed version of documents:

- All applicants must be JACL members (youth Membership \$30.00)
- Include JACL membership ONLINE receipt with application
- Include Personal Statement
- Letter of Recommendation
- E-Transcripts for grades and test scores
- Work/ School Experience
- JACL or Community Involvement IS VERY IMPORTANT.

For additional information regarding the JACL National Scholarship Program, please contact JACL Scholarship Program Manager Matthew Weisbly at scholarships@jacl.org.

Jean Paul de Guzman, SFV JACL Scholarship Chair at ucla@gmail.com. or

May Wood, SFV JACL Scholarship Co-Chair at <u>may.wood66@yahoo.com</u>

Submitted by May Wood



Click <a href="https://www.youtube.com/user/janmdotorg/featured">https://www.youtube.com/user/janmdotorg/featured</a> to watch on Feb 19 – 2 PM

This year's 'LA Day of Remembrance', will be live streamed via JANM's youtube channel at 2:00 PM PST on Saturday, February 19th. Focusing on the theme of "Power of Communities: Building Strength Through Collective Action", the virtual event will honor the resilience and fight of the community over the 80 years since the signing of Executive Order 9066, and explore the next steps for ensuring a just and equitable future for all.







This year's programming will be headlined by a conversation between Japanese American activists, traci kato-kiriyama and Kathy Masaoka, and Dreisen Heath, an expert on reparations and reparatory justice, about the need for solidarity around reparations work.



Asian American Advancing Justice (AAAJ) is a civil rights organization which originated in LA. I am encouraged to see AAAJ active in countering the Anti-Asian actions which have been occurring in communities throughout the country. Chapters in Atlanta, Chicago, San Francisco and LA have organized community workshops for Asians teaching them ways to counter the alarmingly frequent Anti-Asian incidents.

On Jan 30, nation-wide Asian rallies were held in a number of cities, including LA, commemorating the killing of a 84 year old Thai grandfather. In LA it was organized by the CDC, and held at a Thai temple in LA.

Feb 19, 2022 marks the 80 anniversary of the signing of EO 9066 by President Roosevelt which sent many of us to internment camps. We must remember this each year as a way of committing ourselves to not letting it happen again to others in our country.

HR 40 is a bill calling for reparations to African Americans for slavery. Kathy Masaoka of NCRR provided supportive testimony at a recent congressional hearing. The measure has received support from David Inouye, our national president. Later this year support from JACL chapters will be solicited.

Submitted by Phil Shigekuni



Application Deadline: March 6, 2022 @ 11:59pm HST

#### Click here to apply for the 2022 JACL/OCA Leadership Summit

Click: <a href="https://jacl.org/leadership-summit-faqs">https://jacl.org/leadership-summit-faqs</a>
for FAQs on JACL/OCA Leadership Summit

Please contact <a href="mailto:policy@jacl.org">policy@jacl.org</a> for any questions

The 2022 program will take place in person in Washington, DC. with application programmatic and government COVID-19 guidelines to promote a safe event. We will require all participants who are able to be vaccinated. Masks will be required for all activities. Both JACL and OCA will be closely monitoring the COVID-19 numbers in the coming weeks, and if necessary, may alter the program including the possibility of shifting to a virtual event, postponement, or cancellation.



### "Chanpon"

Beginning this season we are inviting our members to submit articles in order to share some of our Asian cultural experiences, past and present. As you well know, our civil rights organization has increasingly become more "hapa" and many of our Yonsei and Gosei have limited interaction with our cultural and immigrant roots.

As one of the purposes of the SFV JACL is to perpetuate our historical and cultural connections, we invite you to share your memories and stories of your childhood experiences with us, your friends and neighbors: the funnier, the better. After all, life with JA families is not only traditional, proper and serious, but it is also about sharing funny stories about aunts and uncles, cousins and especially siblings. So, lets us begin. The kind of topics to consider:

- 1) **Japanese word or traditions**; keep our Japanese American culture going. Make it fun or Interesting. (50 words or less)
- 2) You know you are SFV Japanese American when.... Bring a fun fact about remembering the valley. (50 words or less)
- 3) **Do you Remember** when, a familiar place, event, the fish man, eating the paper on Japanese candy or first time eating octopus. (50 words or less)
- 4) Miscellaneous: submit: Poetry, Artwork, Recipes, Short-short stories (250 words or less)

The name for this column will be **"Chanpon"**. According to the Kenkyusha Japanese English dictionary means "together". I first heard it used with Nagasaki Chanpon, a ramen dish with assorted other items in the mix. But that was a long time ago.

Please submit your thoughts, articles, photos with narrative and receipes to Patty Takayama at: pe.high.mtn@gmail.com

### Japan has started a new imperial era called 'Reiwa'

The new reign period began in May 1, 2019 following the abdication of Emperor Akihito with his son Naruhito being elevated to the Chrysanthemum Throne. The two ideograms (kanji) constituting the period's reign name are rei (meaning "order" or "auspicious") and wa ("harmony"). Naruhito's wife is a commoner, and they have a young daughter, Princess Aiko.



The Japanese people are hoping for a male heir.

Submitted by Kiyo Fukumoto

## A Funny Story to Remember Words & Culture

Itadakimasu" – accepting a thing with thanks.

An expression of appreciation to the host before partaking of a meal or drink.

A little girl, Rachelle was visiting her grandparents with her cousin Akemi. Rachelle joined Akemi at the dinner table. Then Obachan served each granddaughter a bowl of ramen. Akemi smiled at her grandmother, clapped her hands together and said, "Itadakimasu."

Rachelle, realizing she needed to say something, smiled and spoke the only Japanese word she could think of. Like Akemi, she clapped her hands, smiled at her grandmother and said, "Oshiri."

"Oshiri" - buttocks

Submitted by Patty Takayama

#### **OSHOGATSU** in Oahu, HAWAI

When I think of Oshogatsu, I reflect back to my childhood memories and how New Year's has evolved. I remember the excitement and preparation it took for that ONE day and how it affected my thinking for the new year. It took weeks to clean the house (Osouji) and my job was to dust every corner for cobwebs and my mother would say, "The house must be clean for Oshogatsu, so we would have a clean house for the new year. We were not allowed to sweep on New Year's Day because we did not want to sweep out the good luck and prosperity.



I remember helping my grandfather building the Shimakazari (wreath of twigs, bamboo, flowers) to decorate the front door. Then my grandmother decorated the parlor (that is what it was called in those days) with the Kagami-mochi (three stacked mochi decoration) for the continuation of families throughout the generations.

The food was the highlight of the festivities. I did not realize the food was symbolic to a healthy, happy, good year. For instance, Kamaboko - rising sun, Kuro mame - good health, Ozoni - long life and fulfillment, and Konbu- to be happy.

On New Year's morning, my sisters and I got dressed in our kimonos and went to a Shinto Temple to pay our respects and pray for a happy and healthy year. Then we had our Ozoni and donned our new clothes. The great part for us, as kids was having to wear everything new and clean, so we would be well clothed throughout the year. We were also reminded to behave, be pleasant, considerate, kind, and good to set our behavior for the new year. My mother would ask, "Do you want to have a good or troublesome year?" Well, that worked for several weeks.



We had to pay our respects to my grandmother in Japanese. Then it was fun playing with my cousins. The best part was when Obachan would take me with her to see the movie, "The 27 Samurai (Chushingura)". In Hawaii it was shown every New Year's Day with a different episode of the twenty-seven samurai

Today, Oshogatsu is so different, and I am grateful for the enriching memories I had in my childhood. Submitted by Linda Tanaka

#### **ON THE MOVE**

Our long time active members **HAROLD** and **ELLEN KAMEYA** have settled in their new abode, the Atherton Baptist Homes in Alhambra. The Kameya's looked at many locations and selected the Atherton for its diversity and the residents appeared active. After living in Granada Hills for 54 years, Harold stated, "At 81, it's time for us to move out and move on." Best Wishes to Ellen and Harold in their new residence.



Our bright and young member, **JON YAMAOKA**, has been appointed to Head of Nursing at a hospital in Watsonville,

California. He is the youngest son of Don and Betty Yamaoka who were active SFV JACL members in the 1970-80's. Our Best Wishes to Jon in his new exciting position.

Submitted by Mitzi Kushida



#### Ventura County Installation Sunday, January 30, 2022

The Ventura County JACL virtual Installation of Officers was held on Sunday, January 30, 2022. Our own President, Nancy Takayama, had the honor of installing Ventura's 2022 Board. In virtual unison, the pledge was made by Co-Presidents Lily Welty Tamai and Megan Gately, Co-Vice Presidents Betty Katsura and Jessica Wan, Secretary Anne Chilcott, Treasurer Ken Nakano and Board Members Mark Chilcott, Joanne Nakano and Janice Tanaka



Guest Speaker, Wayne Osaka, shared the fascinating history of the Go For Broke Soldiers Commemorative postage stamp. Wayne is Co-Chair, along with Founder and Co-Chair Fusa Takahashi, of the Stamp

Our Story Committee. Conceived over 15 years ago by friends Fusa Takahashi, Aiko Ogata King and Chiz Ohira, Wayne spoke of

the challenges that the Committee had to overcome to get the stamp issued and the Nationwide support that they built. The USPS stamp commemorating the Nisei veterans of WWII was issued in June 2021.



A raffle was held at the end of the Installation with prizes going to 4 lucky attendees. Winners received a sheet of Go For Broke stamps and one lucky individual got an adorable Go For Broke Hello Kitty, dressed in a 1940s Army uniform with the GFB logo on the back.

Submitted by Marcia Mahony



#### **COVIDtests.gov**

# Get free at-home COVID-19 tests

Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order 4 free at-home COVID-19 tests. The tests are completely free. Orders will usually ship in 7-12 days.

Order your tests now so you have them when you need them.

Click below to order free test kit

https://www.covidtests.gov

#### 2022 SELANOCO JACL 56th VIRTUAL INSTALLATION January 22, 2022

Past President, **George Tanaka** as Master of Ceremony welcomed us to the 2022 SELANOCO Installation reminding us that 2022 was the **YEAR OF THE TIGER**. George began with one of his TIGER jokes. He interspersed these jokes throughout the installation producing laughter, groans and shakes of the head. For example: "What did the tiger say after he ate the comedian? Answer: He felt funny in his tummy."



George introduced us to the guest speaker, **Susan Kamei** as well as the other participating members, **Nicole Inouye**, **Jamie Morishima**, **Erin Hitomi**, **Eadan Dury**, and **Reilly Chang**.

Co-President for 2022, Jamie Morishima presented the" Year in Review".

SELANOCO and **Tomo No Kai** from UC Irvine have joined forces to interact with the **SELANOCO Community Speaker Collaboration** in events such as the 2021 Mochitsuki which was the first time that the members had been able to see each other since the beginning of the Pandemic.

Guest Speaker, Susan Kamei is a Summa Cum Laude graduate of UC IRVINE, and a JACL Hayashi Fellowship Awardee who graduated from Georgetown School of Law. Susan was an editor for Georgetown Law Journal. She continues to teach at USC. Her most recent book is "When We Go Back to America: Voices of Japanese American Incarceration During WW II," published by Simon and Schuster



**Susan Kamei** is no stranger to SELANOCO since her father was a three times past president and pioneer. Susan learned about the issues of Civil Rights watching from her parents' knees. The first organizing meeting of the SELANOCO Chapter was at her parents' home in Downey with Dr, and Mrs. Seri and Dr. Jim Toda. Giving a name to the chapter was important to underscore the inclusivity of their chapter.

Ms. Kamei was in the first JACL cohort at Georgetown School of Law with Representative Sparky Matsunaga becoming a mentor.

In 1980 while Susan was in her second year of law school, she was asked to analyze the constitutional issues of Executive Order 9066. She was initially hesitant because she felt that a more experienced lawyer might be a better fit to analyze the historical underpinning of EO 9066. It turned out to be an eleven-year commitment until 1988 when then President Reagan signed the Bill HR 442 into law that provided Redress for Japanese Americans. Her analysis of EO 9066 provided the foundations for strategies to successfully pass the legislation for redress. Susan Kamei attended the historic event with her father, Hiroshi Kamei.

Despite all the groundwork laid by JACL and other organizations to point out the injustices and civil rights violations inherent in EO 9066; Susan was horrified in 2016 to hear a supporter of the 45<sup>th</sup> President, Carl Higby cite EO 9066 as a precedence for the incarceration of refugees and immigrants.

Ms. Kamei authored her book to stress the importance of remaining vigilant to the forces who are ready to undermine the gains we have made for civil rights. She chose to present personal stories to demonstrate the consequences of the Japanese American Incarceration that reverberate into the future generations.

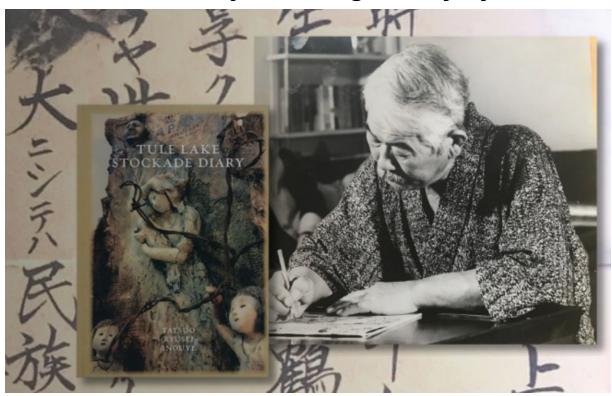


Submitted by May Wood

# Save the Date Saturday, March 26, 2022

Sponsored by SFV JACL

Featuring
JP DeGuzman, Soji Kashiwagi, Nancy Kyoko Oda



# Join Tatsuo Ryusei Inouye's daughter Nancy Kyoko Oda

in a conversation around this groundbreaking new book, *Tule Lake Stockade Diary* 

The diary, originally written in Japanese and translated into English, tells Tatsuo Ryusei Inouye's story of struggle and resilience in his own voice.

RSVP to: <a href="mailto:nt.high.mtn@gmail.com">nt.high.mtn@gmail.com</a>
To receive virtual link for March 26<sup>th</sup> event

To order book: https://tulelakestockadediary.com

#### SFV JACL 2022 Calendar

March 26 – Book: "Tule Lake Stockade Diary" April – Premier screening of "Paper Chase" May – Children's Crafts & Fun Day (w/SFVJACC) June – SFV Hongwanji Buddhist Temple Obon July 21 – Tour at JANM "Virtual Japanese Experience Internment"

August – TBA – Movies (Documentary Shorts)
September – Field trip: Nethercut Museum
(Estee Lauder's Museum)
October – SFV CC Clean-up
December – Holiday Party
We welcome other ideas

# TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOP IN LOS ANGELES June 19-24 & July 10-15, 2022

#### Civil Liberties in Times of Crisis: The Japanese American Experience

JACL and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) are inviting seventy-two educators to explore the historical significance and enduring legacy of the World War II Japanese American incarceration experience and the reparations movement. While past participants are primarily social studies and humanities teachers at the K-12 levels, all are invited to apply.

This NEH Landmarks of American History and Culture workshop will be offered twice: **June 19-24** and **July 10-15**, **2022**. Participants will be staying in the historic Little Tokyo neighborhood in Los Angeles with the majority of programming being at our host institution, the Japanese American National Museum (JANM), with day trips to Santa Anita Park (a WWII temporary "assembly center") and Manzanar National Historic Site (one of the ten permanent WWII "internment" camps). This will be one of the last times we are able to host a workshop with living camp survivors as the WWII generation passes the torch to future ones.

#### Click below to apply

https://jacl.org/2022-neh-landmarks?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=758f40cd-2e04-4110-9588-25693cef8dbf



## San Fernando Valley Japanese American Citizens League Membership Application



#### **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 - \$30

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

#### Thousand Club Spouse or Century Club Spouse – Add \$32

Spouse or partner of a JACL Thousand Club or Century Club member

#### 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 who 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

#### Pacific Citizen Newspaper

The 2016 JACL National Council approved a resolution and budget amendment assessing a \$17 surcharge on memberships receiving the print edition of the Pacific Citizens beginning January 1, 2017. Digital subscriptions do not incur additional fees.

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☐ <b>Yes</b> , I would like to receive the Paci☐ <b>No</b> , I will not pay an additional surc			
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Or JOIN or RENEW Online: <a href="http://www.jacl.org/member">http://www.jacl.org/member</a>

**TOTAL** enclosed



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