

San Fernando Valley Japanese American Citizens League Newsletter April/May 2019

50th Anniversary MANZANAR PILGRIMAGE Saturday, April 27, 2019



Meet at 6:30 AM at San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center 12953 Branford St., Pacoima 91331

> \$12. - Bento Lunch (Chicken or Vegetarian) \$5. - Water, Snacks & Tip for Bus Driver

Arrive back at SFVJACC at 8:00 PM

For reservations and further information contact: Nancy Gohata (818) 371-8013 or nancygohata@gmail.com



UPCOMING EVENTS



COME JOIN US IN THE FUN AND ACTIVITIES

April 10

Board Meeting

April 16

Third Tues. Movie Outing

April 27

Manzanar Pilgrimage

May 5

Women of the Year (Downtown JACL)

May 8

Board Meeting

Mav 18

Scholarship Awards at JACC Family Day

May 21

Third Tues. Movie Outing

June 1

Film Festival of Short Documentaries

Questions or Comments?

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

March 2019



Just Think About It

You don't have to answer now, tomorrow or next week.

Everyone has a story to tell. It doesn't have to be about yourself. It could be about someone you know or a family member who had an experience that impacted them or yourself. The incarceration of the Japanese and Japanese Americans into the concentration camps impacted not just our ancestors but the descendants (Us!). Those purposely forgotten stories by our elders need to be remembered.

The memories of our first community center picnics, temple obon, baseball in the valley, our first *girls*' basketball team. These are just a few stories we need to capture so that we can pass on to our future generations so they know and understand their own JA culture and heritage.

Starting around summertime, I hope to create a small studio/library designed to record and archive these stories. I am looking for people to tell their stories and people who would like to work behind the camera.

It will be a time not just to learn but also a time to help educate others.

So, think about it. Do you have a story to tell? Do you wish to help find stories?

Watch for more information in the coming months.

You are always welcome to brainstorm with me.

So, if you have ideas, come share them.

Nancy Takayama

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50th ANNUAL MANZANAR PILGRIMAGE SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, APRIL 27TH, 2019

The Manzanar Committee will be celebrating their 50th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage on Saturday, April 27, 2019. The San Fernando Valley JACL first participated in 1976. It was the Manzanar Committee's 7th Annual Pilgrimage. 1976 was the nation's Bicentennial Year. Because of this auspicious year, the city of Los Angeles provided a free bus for our



Chapter to participate in this Pilgrimage. We had a full bus – made up of isseis, niseis, sanseis, and some very young yonseis. Most had experienced internment and many were incarcerated at Manzanar. In 1976, there was a stone marker at the entrance and the white Monument with the Japanese character (ireito) meaning "Monument to console the souls of the dead". Unfortunately, the dessert winds were at its worst that day. Most of the isseis never left the bus. But fortunately, we got a glimpse of what life in Manzanar must have been like for internees. Because of this experience, our Chapter formed a Bus committee so we in the Valley would always have a bus to participate in the annual Manzanar Pilgrimage. After 1976 we continued for twenty straight years. Today, Manzanar is a National Historic Site. This beautiful Interactive Museum tells the Manzanar Story. In 1976, when we were introduced to the Manzanar Committee, it was the late, **Sue Embrey** and a handful of dedicated activist who wanted to tell the Manzanar Story. Former SFVJACL President, the late **Tak Yamamoto** was on that committee. Sue and her dedicated committee members fought many battles to put Manzanar on the map.

Please mark Saturday, April 27, 2019 on your calendar to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Manzanar Pilgrimage. For more information and reserving a seat on the bus contact Nancy Gohata at nancygohata@gmail.com or call (818) 371-8013.

MARCH DONATIONS

Donate!

FLORA TERAMURA

We received yet another generous monetary gift from **FLORA TERAMURA**, one of our ardent chapter supporters in appreciation of her grandson, **SHAUN TANAKA** who was one of our Dr. Sanbo and Kay Scholarship recipients this past year. Our chapter will honor both the 2018 and 2019 Scholarship Awards along with the SFV Japanese American Community Center Scholarship Awardees during their FAMILY FUN DAY program, Saturday, May 18, 2019. Please join us on this momentous day to honor our young scholars. (See scholarship article.)

YAS and NANCY GOHATA

Long time industrious members, YAS and NANCY GOHATA, the proud grandparents of Davis Yoshino, donated a generous monetary gift in appreciation for his Dr. Sanbo and Kay Sakaguchi Scholarship. Davis graduated Granada Hills Charter High School with honors in 2018 and he is currently attending UCLA. Davis is the son of Gary Yoshino and Karen Gohata Yoshino. Karen is members of our Chapter. Karen and Nancy have been our editor and assistant editor, respectively, of our attractive and outstanding bi-monthly SFV JACL Newsletter. The Chapter is most appreciative of the Gohata's donation, as well as, for the active role and dedication of Board member Nancy. Thank you.

Submitted by Mitzi Kushida

Day of Remembrance. 2019

On February 19, 1942, Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, exclusion and incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. The families of Japanese ancestry were removed from the West Coast based solely on their nationality and veiled under the guise of national security. Just like the Japanese during World War II, migrant children, between 14,000 to 16,000, from Central America, are currently being held in detention camps across this country.

The theme for this year's Day of Remembrance program, held at the Japanese American Historical Museum, was "Behind Barbed Wire: Keeping Children Safe and Families Together." It grew out of the events from last year that exposed the inhuman treatment of refugees and asylum seekers at our southern borders as children were forcibly separated from their parents. How can our country built on the "Bill of Rights" and Constitution, and equal justice for all treat children and immigrants in this inhuman manner."?

Ann Burroughs, President and CEO of the JANM, greeted the community attendees. The Los Angeles Taiko Ichiza, which means a group of people gathering together for a common purpose, pounded out the call to gather, and we joined together to take part in a meaningful program. We heard, "The Kondo family letters from camp," read by actors, Edward Hong and Kelvin Han Yee. The dramatic reading was based on the correspondence between Nisei soldier, Henry Kondo and his Issei father, Yasaku. The letters revealed details about the life in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and in Gila River concentration camp. The letters shared the concern for their son fighting in war. Henry's letters helped allay the fears and anxiety of his mother and family members. The tragedy is that Henry was killed in action in Italy in 1944.

A call roll of all relocation camps, detention camps, and Department of justice camps were announced with camp banners bought in by various Boy Scouts Troops. A moment of silence was requested to honor all those who sacrificed, and suffered racism and hatred during the war. The San Fernando JACL members joined the other Pacific Southwest District Council JACL Chapters, and the many other community organizations, religious organizations, cultural groups, and concerned individuals in support of the cr "Never forget what happened in the past." "Never again!"

Martin Luther King, Jr. in his speech, "A Time to Break Silence," on April 4, 1967 stated, "If we do not act, we shall surely be dragged down the long, dark, and shameful corridors of time reserved for those who possess power without compassion, might without morality, and strength without sight.

Please plan to attend the next year's DOR with friends and family.

Article submitted by Kiyo Fukumoto

COMMUNITY CORNER

A speedy get well card was sent to former Board member, **June Aoki**. June fell in her home and broke her femur. She is recovering nicely. On a recent visit, we found June in good spirits. We should see her soon back at JANM and continuing her volunteer work with the seniors.

Congratulations to Board member, **JP de Guzman and Beatrice Contreras**. They announced their engagement with wedding bells sometime in 2020.

2019 VENTURA COUNTY INSTALLATION LUNCHEON

SFV JACL members joined in celebrating the signing by President Reagan of the historic Civil Liberties Act of 1988 and the installation of the Ventura County JACL 2019 Executive Board at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library on February 10, 2019.

Despite the inclement weather, early flowering crab apple trees greeted us as we passed the Rose Garden. The 2018 Executive Board Members of the Ventura County JACL, President: Elizabeth Hiroyasu, Vice President: Betty Katsura, Treasurer: Ken Nakano, Secretary: Marcia Miyasaka, and Cemetery Restoration Coordinator: Anne Chilcott welcomed the 2019 Executive Board, President: Lily Anne Welty Tamai, Vice President: Betty Katsura, Treasurer: Ken Nakano, Secretary: Marcia Miyasaka, Cemetery Restoration Coordinator: Anne Chilcot, and Scholarship Chair: Jennifer Kuo.

JACL members filled the Multi-purpose room to enjoy the delicious chicken tofu stir fry, boxed Chinese salad and a gluten free chocolate dessert. We listened to Megan Gately, Associate Director of Education and JACL Board Member presenting the background to the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 which apologized for Executive Order 9066 of 1942 that ordered the Incarceration of Japanese Americans living in the United States. She shared information about the additional incarceration of Japanese Latinos, German Americans and Italian Americans in locations such as Tuna Canyon located in the nearby Verdugo area. She shared some anecdotes regarding an extraneous politician who appeared in the official photo of the Presidential signing.

Our Civil Rights Chair, Phil Shigekuni eloquently spoke of personal remembrances of the coordinated efforts leading up to the signing of The Civil Rights Act of 1988.

Our SFV JACL President, Nancy Takayama shared information and flyers regarding the annual Day of Remembrance – LA Event at JANM - February 16, 2019; and The Grateful Cranes Fundraiser – Ichigo Ichie on March 23, 2019 at the Nishi Hongwanji Los Angeles Betsuin.

Nancy Oda provided flyers announcing the screening of "Alternative Facts-The Lies of Executive Order 9066" on March 30, 2019 at 1:00 pm (\$15 Donation) with Bento (\$10) in the Dr. Sanbo Sakaguchi Hall.

Marion Shigekuni passed out flyers on the Joint SFV JACL AND Ventura JACL Cherry Blossom Picnic at the Lake Balboa Park Pavilion 3. Please note the change of date due to weather to Saturday, March 9, 2019 NOT March 16, 2019 – same time and place.

We thank the **Ventura JACL** and **the Tamai Farms** for their graciousness and generosity for the individual gifts and delicious fresh vegetables. Their cherry tomatoes were the best. I made a chicken stir fry with the swiss chard as recommended by the **new President, Lily Welty Tamai.**

We also thank the **Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Staff** as we were given a special behind the scene docent led tour of the Reagan Library and viewed the actual notes for President Reagan's

speech at the time of the signing of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

Article submitted by May Wood

Photo (L-R): May Wood, Geri Shiraki, Linda Tanaka, Mitzi Kushida, Al Kushida, Nancy Gohata, and Michiko Tokunaga Kus



SFVJACL CHERRY BLOSSOM PICNIC AT LAKE BALBOA PARK

On March 9, 2019, under blue skies mixed with clouds and windy weather, the SVFJACL and the VENTURA JACL chapters gathered in a joint event to celebrate the onset of spring. Despite the cold, JACL members and friends and neighbors enjoyed a



view of some blossoms while taking a 'sampo' around the lake. Members such as **Marion Shigekuni** and **Mitzi Kushida** managed to fit in two long power walks while some of us participated once. **Nancy Gohata** started the walk with me, but was soon far ahead in the distance.

It was wonderful to see **Anne** and **Mark Chilcott** from the Ventura Chapter whom we last saw at the 2019 Ventura JACL Installation Luncheon at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. Anne is the Cemetery Restoration Coordinator bringing the community up to date on the little-known history of the Japanese American Cemetery located in Oxnard.

Richard Yamaoka, son of the late **Don** and **Betty Yamaoka** traveled the longest distance by coming in from Idaho. He spotted several swans and cygnets leisurely swimming in Lake Balboa, but the ducks and ducklings outnumbered them. The general population were feeding the birds who were eagerly awaiting any morsels dropped or deliberately thrown by humans despite the prohibition against feeding them. After the walks, we were pleasantly surprised by the hot vegetable barley soup provided by **Dennis** and **Barbara Okita** that took the chill off the day and warmed our tummies.

Barbara Okita, **Linda Tanaka** and **Marcia Mahony** led our group in country line dancing. They were wonderful instructors, kindly directing our efforts toward a semblance of grace. Many of the attendees were experienced line dancers while some of us with two left feet stomped around the picnic grounds. Lucky that country line dancing is in a large crowd. It was great fun even for all.

Nancy Gohata, **Phil Shigekuni** and **Barbara Nakatsu** harmonized in a trio while the rest of us joined in the singing-a-long. There were several songs I had never heard before, but the show tunes from Brigadoon and the folk songs were pure nostalgia from our younger days as we 'tried to remember those days...'.

Of course, the best part of the day was the potluck luncheon provided by each of us. There was chirashi sushi, spam musubi, sekihan, several types of chicken, mounds of a variety of salads, and naturally desserts. Marion Shigekuni made inari sushi just like Mama would have made. Nancy Gohata was teased about her 'home made' sushi which were delicious no matter who made them. Once again, the ducks and ducklings swept close to us looking for any of our tasty morsels that may have dropped to the ground. It felt a little like a scene from Hitchcock's, "The Birds".

Other attendees were our fabulous leader, Nancy Takayama, Dave and Georgina Yamamura, Geri and Ken Radman, Sachiko Mukozaka from Simi, Steve and Claudia and Bob and Donna. These gatherings are wonderful, friendly gatherings of JACL to reach out to the community and neighbors at large as well as provide the strengthening of bonds within our organization. Thanks to the chairs, Marion Shigekuni and Mitzi Kushida, we had a great time. We look forward to another Cherry Blossom Picnic next year.

Article submitted by May Wood

TALES OF CLAMOR

This ground breaking show shook us to the core during the long rainy months of February and March in the intimate black box stage at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center. Vice President of Programs, **Alison De La Cruz**, boldly welcomed us for the world premiere of "Tales of Clamor."

Principal writer and actress, **traci Akemi Kato Kiriyama**, daughter of **Iku** and the late **George Kiriyama**, brought seven actors to the Aratani Theater stage to explore the deafening silence of our community after the forced incarceration of all Japanese and Japanese Americans from the west coast during World War II. Her vision took root four years ago when she decided the need to break the silence especially in today's anti-immigrant climate. The Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) hearings in Los Angeles in 1980 took a massive effort to bring the nisei (second generation) out to testify. The excruciating experience was demonstrated when each actor had to walk across a tight rope representing the community's difficulty in breaking the silence. It left me almost standing up and clapping for veteran actress, **Takayo Fischer**. The cast included **Greg Watanabe**, **Kirk Kuniyoshi**, **Jully Lee**, **Sharon Omi**, **Dian Kobayashi**. It was directed by **Dan Kwong** and a talented roster including **Howard Ho** that creatively supported the auditory and visual senses emotionally. My friend, **Professor Masumi Izumi**, came from Kyoto to support the opening. This widespread enthusiasm and success brought a growing audience each weekend.

Velina Hasu Huston said, "It was moving to watch the footage of the redress trials included old friend, Yuji Ichioka and Sue Kunitomi Embrey." For me, emotions swelled when seeing our beloved friend, Dr. Mary Oda speaking from her heart. Storytellers traci and Kennedy Kabasares (acrobat) grasped the angst and created a safe place for us during the post show share outs.

During the 2019 Day of Remembrance at JANM, traci called us to action by saying, "I give myself permission to connect the dots. I give myself permission to use my voice. I give myself permission to be a little bit louder. I give myself permission to show up for others NOW!"

Partners for the project were Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress and a grant from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program and Aratani Foundation.

Article submitted by Nancy Oda



Board members, Dennis Okita, Barbara Okita, Linda Tanaka, Nancy Gohata, Mitzi Kushida, and Marcia Mahony pose to take a photo with Liz Doomey, President of the Meiji Senior Club. JACLers were invited to a delicious buffet luncheon at the Vegas Buffet in Glendale for their volunteer work with the Senior Club.

Below is the letter sent to the United States Supreme Court from the SFVJACL Chapter on March 22, 2019.

RE: Opposition to Citizenship question in the 2020 Census.
Supreme Court of the United States,
1 First Street, N.E.

Washington, D.C. 20543

Your Honorable Justices.

As members of the Japanese American Citizens League, the San Fernando Valley Chapter, California, a civil rights organization, we oppose the proposed attempt to include a citizenship question in the Census survey data.

We are aware that a citizenship question was included in the 1940 census. Despite assurances that data collected for the Census would <u>not</u> be used or shared with other departments, the Department of Commerce provided access to such data which was used to remove Japanese Americans, a majority of whom were U.S. citizens, to temporary Assembly Centers and later to be incarcerated in relocation camps in violation of their due process rights.

The U.S. Constitution requirement for gathering Census data each decade was presumably, to determine the total and identify the geographical location of the population to appropriately ascertain the division of Congressional representation and the distribution of needs according to the residency of the population.

The U.S. Constitution does not require or distinguish the need for determination of residency status, to single-out any specific status for representation or determination of characteristics to receive benefits according to any unique discriminatory factor. By setting out such a distinction, the Census Data would single out a specific category for special treatment which would be contrary to the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment.

The Commerce Secretary, Wilbur Ross has suggested that the need for the Citizenship question is to encourage the general population to participate in and respond to the Census. If he had any familiarity with the collection of Census data, he would know that is farthest possible from the truth.

Those of our members, who worked for the government to collect data for the 2010 Census in the San Fernando Valley, can tell you that most people are reluctant to share Census data, especially if they are immigrants, fearing that by bringing attention to them or family members might put them in jeopardy. The most persuasive arguments for participating in the Census were: 1) the data will not be used by other government departments, and 2) the primary reason it is important to be counted is for the State and County to receive federal funds for local programs proportionate to and according to the population.

As a civil rights organization whose history bears witness and was founded on discriminatory treatment of immigrant and citizenship alike, we are offended and outraged that this kind of discriminatory data collection would be supported, let alone be encouraged by the U.S. Commerce Department. We see no rational value that would be served or justify a State purpose under the 5th Amendment or discriminatory purpose in violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment.

We the Board of the San Fernando Valley JACL, offer this letter to oppose the inclusion of the Citizenship status data question in the next and all future Census Data Surveys.

Sincerely,

Nancy Takayama, President, SFV JACL Chapter

For Office Use Only



DR. SANBO AND MRS. KAY SAKAGUCHI

UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

DESCRIPTION:

The Dr. Sanbo and Mrs. Kay Sakaguchi Scholarship supports outstanding undergraduates with interests in social justice and civil rights. The award is administered by the San Fernando Valley chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Applicants must hold student membership in the San Fernando Valley chapter of the JACL. Students are welcome to apply for membership with their scholarship application. To apply for student membership, please see https://jacl.org/member/join-or-renew-youthstudent-membership for more details and remember to select "San Fernando Valley." Do not send a check with your application
- 2. Minimum GPA of 3.2.
- 3. Service to one's school, local, and Japanese American and/or Asian American communities.

MATERIALS REQUIRED:

- 1. One copy of the application (see pages 2-4).
- 2. One copy of an official transcript from your university registrar's office
- 3. One letter of recommendation from a faculty member, employer, or community organizer/leader. The letter must be submitted with this application.
- 4. One writing sample (max. 10 pages).
- 5. One photograph for possible use in scholarship program and other materials.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. Sections A and B: Fill out the required information on the application, please print clearly.
- 2. Sections C through G should by typed out separately. Documents for these sections should be double spaced, typed in Times New Roman 12-point font, and have 1-inch margins. To ensure the best consideration, make sure to copy-edit and proofread all documents.
- 3. Do **not** include this cover page in your application.

A. GENERAL INFORMATION - Please print clearly.				
Name (Last, First, MI)		·		
Email Address	Ph	Phone No.		
Permanent Address				
City	State Zip Code	Cell No		
JACL Membership Number	er:			
Check here if from a sing	le parent household: Is that p	parent your sole financial support? Yes No		
B. ACADEMIC HISTO	RY			
Please list all colleges and universities you have attended and provide the following information:				
Institution	Major/Minor (if applicable)	Anticipated Graduation Date		
Overall GPA:				

C. PERSONAL STATEMENT

In a 3-4 page essay, discuss what you see as the most pressing civil rights/social justice issue for Asian Americans today. What efforts could be done to address that issue and create a more equitable society?

D. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

List all relevant service to your local community and the larger Asian American community. Indicate years of participation, positions held, and awards received.

E. SCHOLASTIC HONORS

List all academic awards, prizes, or scholarships earned during college.

F. CAMPUS ACTIVISM

List all campus activities, indicating the year of the activity, leadership positions held and non-academic awards received.

G. WRITING SAMPLE

Your writing sample maybe an essay written for an Asian American Studies, Ethnic Studies, American Studies, Women's/Gender Studies or related course. It should be no more than 10 pages and showcases both your writing abilities as well as your critical understanding of topics such as race, gender, class, sexuality, or dis/ability.

APPLICATION PROCESSING

- 1. Please submit one copy of your completed application, including all supporting documents and official transcripts.
- 2. Notification of receipt will be via email after applications are received.
- 3. Completed applications must be sent to:

Jean-Paul deGuzman 7336 Beck Avenue North Hollywood, CA 91605 Attn: Sakaguchi Scholarship

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY THE DATE LISTED ON THE CHAPTER_WEBSITE FOR CONSIDERATION

AWARDS LOGISTICS

Awardees will receive their scholarships alongside the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center's scholarship recipients at the SFVJACC's family picnic.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please note that the Dr. Sanbo and Mrs. Kay Sakaguchi Scholarship is administered separately from the San Fernando Valley JACC scholarships. Applicants should direct all inquiries to:

Jean-Paul deGuzman SFVJACL Scholarship Chair jacl.sfv@gmail.com Scholarship Committee: TBA

To learn more about the San Fernando Valley JACL, please go to: http://sfvjacl.weebly.com/

Thanks to the following businesses who supported our Pacific Citizen Holiday Issue fundraiser.

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SFV JACC

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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 - \$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

Thousand Club Spouse or Century Club Spouse - \$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 receiving the print edition of the Pacific C		ndment assessing a \$17 s		
\square Yes , I would like to receive the Po \square No , I will not pay an additional so		•		
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Card Number:	Expiration		Security Code:	
Name (as it appears on card):		(Month / Year)		
Please send this form to: Japanese American Citizens Leag P.O. Box 45397			\$ \$ \$	

Additional donation to SFV JACL (optional) \$

TOTAL enclosed \$___

JOIN or RENEW Online: http://www.jacl.org/member

San Francisco, CA 94145-0397

