

NANCY ODA TO RECEIVE KUNSHO FROM JAPANESE GOVERNMENT

On April 29, 2020, the Government of Japan announced, JACL Board member, **Nancy Oda** as one of the recipients of its Spring 2020 Decorations. From the jurisdiction of the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles, Nancy will receive “The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays, for contributing to enhancing the social welfare of Japanese American society and promoting the friendly relationship between Japan and the United States.

For over 40 years since 1978, Nancy has been an active member of the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center. She served as its president in 2011-2013 and has continued to serve as the SFVJA Coordinating Council President. The Great East Japan Earthquake occurred the year Nancy was president of the SFVJACC. She mobilized the Center and its organizations and youth groups in a major disaster relief fundraising effort that raised \$110,000 over one year. In 2016, Nancy helped organize a fifth anniversary fundraising event to benefit orphans in Japan.

In June 2013, due to persistent actions by a group of advocates led by Nancy and other community leaders, the City of Los Angeles designated the former Tuna Canyon Detention Station a Historic Cultural Monument. She and the coalition had relentlessly sought recognition of the site where 2,000 Japanese, German, and Italian immigrants and Japanese taken from Peru were detained during World War II. In 2014, due to her stature in the community as a Tule Lake survivor and longtime leader at SFVJACC, Nancy was designated the first president of the Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition, a new nonprofit formed to preserve the history of Tuna Canyon. Under Nancy’s leadership, the coalition developed a traveling exhibition that received funding through the U.S. National Park Service Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant, entitled “Only the Oaks Remain”. The exhibit tells the story of the detainees of Tuna Canyon through photos, diaries, letters, and interviews, and has been shown at 12 locations throughout the West Coast. Due to Nancy’s strong leadership and the publicity and advocacy efforts of the coalition, in 2018 the City of Los Angeles installed street signs at the site of the former detention station, providing visible homage to a chapter of Los Angeles history that prior to the coalition’s formation was largely unknown.

Motivated by a desire to teach the younger generations the history of Japanese American incarceration, Nancy has been a speaker at UCLA, CSU Northridge and CSU Long Beach, in addition to local high schools.

Nancy Oda article continued on Page 3

UPCOMING EVENTS



COME JOIN US IN THE FUN AND ACTIVITIES

- April 11**
Okaeri Connects 2021
- April 14**
Board Meeting
- April 18**
Virtual Line Dance Class
- April 18**
Virtual Cherry Blossom Tour
- May 2**
Okaeri Connects 2021
- May 12**
Board Meeting
- June 9**
Board Meeting

Questions or Comments?

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

March 2021



On March 20, 2021, Save Our Seniors held a Candlelight Vigil to inform the public and the State of California the danger of relocating senior residents and eliminating the Intermediate Care Facility at Sakura Gardens. This is the statement I made at this event.

I'm here to let the residents of Sakura Gardens know that you are being heard and supported by many friends not just in this local community. Your safety and health during this pandemic is everyone's concerns. Change in environment, staff and loss of friends will only add to the depression and isolation if relocation happens. Your mental health is equally as important as your physical health.

We want you to know we are spreading the word to Save Our Seniors AND we CARE.

JACL chapters who care.

Twin Cities (Minnesota)

Mile High (Colorado)

Cincinnati (Ohio)

Omaha (Nebraska)

St. Louis (Missouri)

Chicago Chapter

Dayton (Ohio)

Wisconsin Chapter

Locally

San Fernando Valley

Greater Los Angeles

SELANOCO

Ventura County

And the National Office of the

Japanese American Citizens League

I want to leave you with one thought and a question for Pacifica about transparency.

On September 23, 2020, at the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council a representative of Pacifica Corp presented a very impressive slide presentation displaying the new building designs, floor plans and landscaping of two multifamily buildings and a parking garage that would remove residents and eliminate the 90-bed Intermediate Care Facility. This presentation was 5 months before the 5 year agreement was to expire. So let's talk about transparency. Pacifica, when did you know that you were going to eliminate the Intermediate Care Facility? You would have had to meet with the architect to come up with a design, where you wanted to build it and how financially feasible it would be. How many months did it take you before you found an architectural company that presented you with a draft that met your expectations? Were you into your 2nd, 3rd or 4th year of your 5-year agreement when you decided to build?

So this meant you already set aside the time and money to invest in an architectural firm. As noted in your February 26th letter, you knew within the first two years of the taking over Keiro what your financial responsibilities would incur. Why didn't you take the time and money you spent in finding an architect and put it into research and discovery of doing what you knew the residents and the community wanted and needed, a culturally necessary home and life style. If you are in it to make money then find another area. Don't take away the quality of life of the residents and the people by building something that isn't wanted and GOT VOTED DOWN by the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council.

Save Our Seniors. Let them stay where quality of life is where culturally sensitive people thrive.

THANK YOU!

Nancy Takayama, President



Motivated by a desire to teach the younger generations the history of Japanese American incarceration, Nancy has been a speaker at UCLA, CSU Northridge and CSU Long Beach, in addition to local high schools.

This most prestigious award recognizes individuals who have made distinguished achievements in international relations, promotion of Japanese culture, advancements in their field, development in welfare or preservation of the environment. Other notable past honorees include Soichiro Honda, Hank Aaron, Gustav Eiffel, John McCain, and this year, includes Bill Gates.

Article taken from the Rafu Shimpo, May 2, 2020.



In Memory of Rose and James Higashida

Our dear members and friends Rose and James Higashida passed away in January-February 2021, less than a month apart. Rose (91) was an outstanding homemaker, she was famous for her hoshi kaki, delicious jellies and for nurturing her orchids. James (92) was known as "You're a swell guy!" in his year book at the Manzanar internment camp. His "swell" personality enhanced his career and he became a successful real estate agent. They were both active members of the SFV Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. Rose and James took pride in their family and enjoyed their many grandchildren. JACL will miss them dearly in the San Fernando Valley community at large. Our deepest condolence goes to the Higashida family members of Kathy, Neil and Terri.



Anti-Asian Racism

We can all agree that the horrible acts we have read and heard about are appalling. We can vow to stick together as Asians to condemn such acts. Those who scapegoat Asians do so out of ignorance. They do not see us as Chinese, Japanese, Tai or from any other Asian group.

I recall our experience as being Japanese during a time when the United States was at war with Japan. The Chinese and other Asian groups offered little support for us, and unfortunately, our community did little to create better relationships with non-Japanese.

Today, we are in a far better place in standing up to such blatant racism. We can openly condemn racist acts and leaders in government making statements fostering racism. And, more importantly, we have Asians in positions of leadership speaking out on our behalf.

As a JACL Chapter, and individually, we must continue to condemn these forms of racism.

Article submitted by Phil Shigekuni



A Big Thank you to Carolyn Sanwo

Carolyn Sanwo, retired owner of Heritage Source, generously donated many books to the SFV JACL. Carolyn and her husband Aaron have always been big supporters of our chapter. They are kind, thoughtful, sweet, hardworking and dedicated people. Her books were always on topics that focused on the Japanese -American and Japanese culture. The books ranged from Children's Stories, Cookbooks, Anime, Fiction and of course Japanese American History. She was not just a bookseller but she intimately knew the books. She was a wealth of information on her books and inventory. They set up their book display for parents and students to browse during our Suzume no Gakko Summer Program and she would help our chapter secure inventory for our various events. She organized book signing with many Japanese American authors and was at variety of Japanese American events across the southland. The family spent many hours and drove many miles with their mobile display of books.

Thank you so much for your generous donation and we will miss seeing you and your books around town. Enjoy your retirement and perhaps we can talk you into recommending and writing book reviews for our newsletters.



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News from the Scholarship Desk

This year we are delighted to bestow chapter scholarships to two talented graduating seniors. Both students are academically talented and have been very involved with their school communities. Lana Kobayashi (El Camino Real HS) is highly involved with the local Japanese American community and has actually presented to our chapter as a member of Rising Stars. Her recommender offered this glowing praise:

Lana is a special individual; she will no doubt succeed in whatever path she chooses. She will be a tremendous asset. She is a tremendous role model for young women and her strength of character is exceptional. I know that Lana with her calm, modest, unassuming, yet powerful personality will be successful at whatever she attempts. I look forward to following Lana's future endeavors.

We also awarded a scholarship to Dariya Paull (La Canada HS) who is a scholar athlete and very involved with the Girl Scouts. Her teacher fully recommended her, writing:

Without question, Dariya Paull would be an incredible student to be selected for this scholarship. She is destined to do great things in life and has a tremendous heart and mind to guide her along the way. Her people skills and overall talents transcend the already great things she does in the classroom. Thank you very much for your time and consideration, please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding this gifted young lady.

Many thanks to everyone who provided feedback on the scholarship applications including: Kiyo Fukumoto, Nancy Gohata, Mitzi Kushida, Marcia Mahony, Nancy Oda, Barbara Okita, Linda Tanaka, Nancy Takayama and especially May Wood who did the lion's share of work communicating between our chapter and the National JACL Scholarship Committee.



Submitted by JP deGuzman

VIRTUAL LINE DANCE CLASS

Sunday, April 18th at 1:00 pm on Zoom

SFV JACL MEMBERS! San Fernando Hongwanji Buddhist Temple is offering a Virtual Line Dance class as part of their fundraising program. Barbara Okita and Marcia Mahony will lead us in an afternoon of fun and exercise.

Join us from the comfort of your own home.

RSVP by Friday, April 16th and a Zoom link invitation will be emailed to you prior to event.

Contact:

Marcia Mahony- msmahony2@gmail.com / (818) 669-0409

Barbara Okita - barbokt@aol.com / (818) 371-7029



Line Dancing

Where Does the JACL Go From Here?

President Biden stated we need to get vaccines in arms and money in pockets. The passage of the American Rescue Plan will begin the process of helping the people of this country. It is only a start when we realize the Plan was approved in Congress with no Republican Senators voting for it. So our country stands divided with many, many problems from COVID, the economy, jobs, health care, law enforcement, justice system, voting rights, climate, education, poverty, social and civil rights. It is apparent that we live in a nation of immigrants - new arrivals coming to establish citizenry –from diverse nations and cultures. We, as a nation, still struggle to find an answer of how we can work together effectively and cooperatively toward our collective and mutual benefits.

We, in the JACL, are organized to fight for civil rights and to fight injustice in this country. As recent anti- Asian incidents increase in our nation, it's in our self interest to collectively oppose and protest such behaviors.

We, in the JACL, have to reach out to increase our membership and get greater support in voicing our concerns. In a survey of 368 new members, 91% knew about the organization and large numbers were Yonseis. They were eager to advocate for Civil Rights for all and in participating in youth program.

Many of the Sanseis wanted to re-engage with the Japanese American community, and they wanted to reconnect with their heritage. We need to reach out and invite others to join us.

Since some of our parents and grandparents donated part or all of their \$20,000 reparation check to the JACL, I propose to pay for youth memberships to any young person interested in joining our Chapter. Please call me at (626) 483-2578 or email: me at kiyofukumoto@yahoo.com. Hopefully, our Chapter can give support to help this youth group. Members will also receive the *Pacific Citizen* to help them learn more about the JACL.

Article submitted by Membership Chair: Kiyo Fukumoto



Nancy Oda
celebrating the
last chemo
treatment on
March 3, 2021.



LEARNING MORE ABOUT COVID

On March 16, 2021, retired Infection Control Nurse, **Setsuko Nakahara**, presented to JACLers, information on infectious agents, routes of transmission, susceptibility, infection prevention and COVID-19.

COVID-19 is caused by a new coronavirus that is causing a world pandemic. COVID-19, is spread mainly from person to person by respiratory droplets (from coughing, sneezing, talking, breathing). Respiratory droplets are wet and heavy, falling within six feet. Transmission can be prevented by staying at least six feet away from others. A less common way for COVID-19 spread is by indirect transmission, touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, wear a mask (two layers of fabric, cover nose and mouth, snug around the edges) when going out. Keep 6-feet away from others who don't live with you. Wash your hands (sanitize with 60% alcohol if sink is not available). Get vaccinated as soon as it is available to you. Avoid the three C's: confined spaces, crowds, close contact.

Some people are at high risk for developing severe disease, if infected with COVID-19. They are older adults and those with certain medical conditions, including obesity, diabetes, heart and lung disease, and asthma.

CDC estimates that 50% of infections are spread by people with no symptoms. Some have mild symptoms, others develop life-threatening illness. Some of the mild symptoms are fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea. Severe emergency symptoms of COVID-19 are: trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion, inability to wake or stay awake, bluish lips or face. Call 911.

If infected with COVID-19 (having symptoms or testing positive) you must self-isolate. Stay at home, separated from others until: 10 days from the start of symptoms, AND no fever for 24 hours (without fever reducing medicine), AND until symptoms are improved. For a positive test, self-isolate for 10 days after the test was taken. If symptoms develop, self isolate

If you are in close contact (within 6 feet) for 15 minutes or more) over a 24-hour period; or unprotected contact with body fluids/secretions, i.e. coughed on or sneezed on) with an infected person (2 days before they showed symptoms), you must self-quarantine for 10 days and monitor for symptoms for 14 days. If you develop symptoms, self isolate.

Everyone should get the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as available to them. Increasing the percentage of individuals vaccinated will stop the spread of COVID-19. Studies suggest, current vaccines recognize current variants. Allowing the virus to spread and replicate, increases the emergence of variant viruses. Variants may become more transmissible and may cause more severe disease.

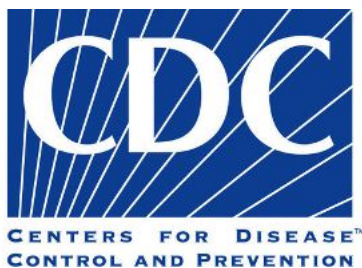
Using a mask, physical distancing, handwashing, and vaccinating are simple, but important things that everyone should be doing to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Sources for more information:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>

California State Department of Public Health: <http://covid19.ca.gov>

Los Angeles County Public Health Dept.: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov>
<https://covid19.lacounty.gov>



OKAERI CONNECTS! ONLINE GATHERING
SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2021
4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

We're springing into the next Okaeri Connects! Virtual Gathering on Sunday, April 11th, which is intended for Nikkei LGBTQ and community members and allies of all ages and backgrounds. We are so excited about the connections that are being made between people all over North America and in Japan!

At this gathering we will discuss and examine the Japanese tradition of Gils' Day (Hinamatsuri) and Boys' Day (Kodomo no Hi) and how they may be reframed for today. We will also lead you in creating a small art piece, so please bring a square sheet of paper (at least 6" x 6") and some colored markers. You don't have to be an artist or show your work – just bring your own creativity!

As always, we will break into small groups for meaningful conversations. Please sign up for one of the following break out groups and we will do our best to assign you to your preferred group.

- 1) LGBTQ + members only (CLOSED GROUP)
- 2) Trans, non-binary, or gender nonconforming members only (CLOSED GROUP)
- 3) Combo Group of parents, allies, and LGBTQ + members (OPEN GROUP)

The purpose of having the 2 closed groups, which are intended only for participants that share identities is a way to foster a safer healing space. We ask you to please respect the intention of these 2 groups and to only sign up for the closed group with whom you share an identity. If you either do not have a preference or want to be in a mixed group of parents, allies, and LGBTQ+ community members, please sign up for the ComboGroup. Thank you for respecting this special space we have created together.

We look forward to connecting with all of you! If you have any questions, please contact us at okaericonnects@gmail.com.



Join us for the next

OKAERI CONNECTS! ONLINE GATHERING

Sun, April 11, 2021

4pm PT | 5pm MT | 6pm CT | 7pm ET



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>



Virtual Cherry Blossom Tour

Celebrating Spring



DATE: Sunday, April 18th

TIME: 7:00 pm

TOUR GUIDE: Kimiaki Chiba

Please join us for a virtual Cherry Blossom tour of Japan with Kimiaki Chiba sharing his personal experiences.

A Chirashi Sushi demonstration will follow, time permitting.

RSVP by April 17th to receive Zoom link invitation

Contact: Linda Tanaka at: lkita@hotmai.com / (805) 527-1224 or

Marcia Mahony at: msmahony2@gmail.com / (818) 669-0409

A Zoom link will be emailed to you prior to the event

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 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.

☐ **Yes**, I would like to receive the Pacific Citizen newspaper. Please add \$17 to my purchase.

☐ **No**, I will not pay an additional surcharge and will receive the digital version via email.

☐ **New Member**

☐ **Renewing Membership**

☐ **Gift Membership**

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY Member Information

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Payment Method ☐ **Check enclosed**, make checks payable to "JACL"

Please charge my Credit Card ☐ Visa ☐ American Express ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: ____/____/____ Security Code: _____
(Month / Year)

Name (as it appears on card): _____

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Japanese American Citizens League

P.O. Box 45397

San Francisco, CA 94145-0397

Membership Dues \$ _____

Pacific Citizen Newspaper (\$17) \$ _____

Additional donation to JACL (optional) \$ _____

Additional donation to SFV JACL (optional) \$ _____

TOTAL enclosed \$ _____

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



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Arleta, CA 91331**