

PACIFIC CITIZEN HOLIDAY GREETINGS FUNDRAISER

Attention All Members!!! The Pacific Citizen Holiday Ad Fundraiser campaign is right around the corner. Thanks to our generous members and supporters, we historically take out more PC Holiday Issue ad space than any other Chapter. With your help, we hope to continue this distinction.

The Pacific Citizen Holiday Ad fundraiser is the SFV JACL's main vehicle to raise money for our programs. With the help of the JACL membership, affiliated businesses, family and friends, we were able to sponsor the following programs in 2016:

- The Grateful Crane presented: *Garage Door Opener*
- Suzume no Gakkou – Final year, over 50 students
- Japan's Earthquake Tsunami Relief 5th Anniversary Fundraiser
- Participation in 47th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage
- Awarded Undergraduate Scholarships
- ONLY THE OAKS REMAIN Exhibit at the SFVJA Community Center
- Sponsored *TELLING YOUR STORIES*, Writing Class
- Seminar: Buddhist-Christian Activism

We are asking all members to purchase a personal ad for the Holiday Issue. You can also help solicit ads from businesses you frequent. Your ad or personal Holiday message will be viewed by approximately 50,000 Pacific Citizen hard copy subscribers nationwide.

Please contact the following Committee Members for a PC Holiday Ad form:

Marcia Mahony (818) 669-0409 or msmahony2@gmail.com
Mitzi Kushida (818) 360-6718 or bighisa@aol.com
Nancy Gohata (818) 371-8013 or yaiko16@verizon.net
Barbara Okita (818) 784-5128 or barbot@aol.com
Marion Shigekuni (818) 893-1581 or pshig2000@yahoo.com

For monetary donations, please write a check to SFV JACL and send to:
SFV JACL
c/o SFVJACC
12953 Branford St.
Pacoima, CA 91331

DEADLINE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2017

UPCOMING EVENTS



COME JOIN US IN THE FUN AND ACTIVITIES

August 3
"Only the Oaks Remain"
Bolton Hall Museum

August 5
Support Fukushima

August 9
Board Meeting

August 13
End-of-Summer Board Party

August 15
Third Tues Movie Outing

August 26
PSWD Awards Luncheon

September 9
Children's Japanese Cultural Day

September 13
Board Meeting

September/October
PC Holiday Issue
Fundraiser Begins

Questions or Comments?

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

July 14, 2017



My daughter, **Laurie Shigekuni**, my wife **Marion**, and I attended the 48th National JACL Convention that was held in Washington, D.C. July 6-9, 2017. It was Laurie's first National JACL Convention. For this month's President's Message, I would like to share her observations and impressions of her first JACL convention with our membership.

My Dad and Mom, **Phil and Marion Shigekuni**, and I had the joy and privilege of representing the Chapter at the National Convention in Washington D.C. My parents know a lot of people so it was interesting and rewarding to meet their friends. At the check-in desk, my Dad introduced me to **George Johnson** (Senior Pacific Citizen Editor), and we greeted **Susan Yokoyama** (Business Manager) and the whole staff of the Pacific Citizen. That first day there was a bus trip to the Smithsonian Museum. In the process I got a chance to meet **Bill Yoshino**, **Stephanie Nitahara**, (interim JACL Executive Director), **Masako Takiguchi** (the Aunt of Wendy Hirota an SFV person), **Ben Takeshita**, and **Marie Sugiyama**, (President of the Santa Rosa JACL).

On another occasion, also by chance, my Dad was able to have a one on one discussion with **Mike Honda**, which he was grateful for.

The trip to the Smithsonian and the dinner the following night at the Japanese embassy were highlights of the conference. At the Smithsonian, there was appetizers, wine, champagne, desserts and after dinner, a chance to see the Japanese American and African American exhibits. As we viewed the JA Exhibit my Mom mentioned that my Baachan was excited to come to this county. But it sure was hard for her after she got here. Skipping to her generation, my Mom acknowledged that Niseis have played an important part in American history.

The Japanese embassy really knows how to throw a party. As soon as we walked in, there were servers there to offer us a drink. They offered sushi, sashimi, wagyu beef, tofu lasagna with quail eggs... We were all very impressed by the show of kindness, and happy to be guests at Ambassador Sasae's home. His assistant expressed that he considered Japanese Americans as "family". At the banquet, **Wade Henderson** was given the Ralph L. Carr Award for Courage and **William Hoshino** was honored by the government of Japan with the presentation of the Foreign Minister's award for his commitment to the education of younger generations.

One of the plenary sessions was entitled, "Building Bridges: Sharing Our Experiences". One of the panelists, **Emi Kamemoto**, a shin-issei, shared that one of her grandfathers was drafted at the age of 16 to be a kamakazi pilot and the other grandfather was drafted by Patton's army to fight in Europe. She said if those two men could learn to be family then anything could be possible. **Manabu Ota**, Counselor, Embassy of Japan, was a model of diplomacy. He was faced with several questions, one about Japan's low immigration rates and a perceived selectivity bias about who is allowed to enter. He courteously thanked every person for their feedback and had a gracious response for every comment. [Moderator: Stephanie Nitahara. Panelists: **Emi Kamemoto** (Partnerships Coordinator, Bossed Up, LLC), **Samantha Mori** (2016 JACL Kakehashi Project Participant), **David Nakamura** (Staff writer, Washington Post), and Manabu Ota.

The other plenary session was about the current state of AAPI Civil Rights. All the participants shared about the power of stories and the way people are moved by hearing about individuals. One advocate was sharing about how Black Lives Matter had participants but lacked funding. Some of the Muslim groups had funding and wanted to donate. "Intersectionality" happened and it gave **Zaki Barzini** (Public Affairs Consultant) hope. (I learned a new word.) There was a call to action by one convention member who asked everybody to question, "How can my story help

President's Message continued on page 14



CHILDREN'S JAPANESE CULTURAL FUN DAY

Children in Second through Fifth Grade

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2017 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

SFVJACC – SAKAGUCHI HALL

Children's Japanese Cultural Fund Day first began as Grandparents Day in 2002. The brain child of Board member, **Jami Tanihana**, it was a day for children to learn about their Japanese American heritage. We held it in September to coincide with the observance of Grandparents Day on the first Sunday after Labor Day. For other years it was held in the spring, and the title of this event went through several changes. When the Suzume no Gakkou summer program was revived, it took the place of this activity. Summer of 2016 ended Suzume no Gakkou and the children in the San Fernando Valley were introduced to Kizuna's Nikkei Discovery Camp, a one-week program that centered on building a foundation of Japanese American culture and heritage.

Since our JACL Chapter has always been involved with programs for children, we are bringing back Children's Japanese Cultural Day. Some of the activities include origami, taiko, soroban, Japanese singing and dancing, Go (Japanese Board Game), and Japanese Customs.

SEE FLYER IN THIS ISSUE

DOUGHBALL 2017!!!

The Dough Ball Booth was once again a crowd favorite, despite the 90 degree temps and a late starting crowd. The familiar beat of the taiko drums and the Bon Odori dancers helped liven the mood of the Dough-ballers. Judging from the amount of nickels, dimes and pennies collected this year, we can guess that many piggy banks were raided in anticipation of enjoying the thrill of playing DOUGH BALL.

The San Fernando Valley JACL Board would like to thank the many people who contributed to the success of our booth. Beginning with the men who assembled and dismantled our booth... **John Doomey, Yas Gohata, Harold Kameya, Bob Kobata, Steve Nishizaka, Kay Oda, Dennis Okita, and David Osako,**

A special thank-you to the new and the faithful volunteers who help keep the JACL booth a fundraising event.... **Sydney Arikawa, Jean Asuncion, JP DeGuzman, Kim Gohata, Kizuna Intern Dylan Han, Tomo Hattori, Shawn Iwaoka, Harold Kameya, Doreen Kawamoto, Bob Kobata, Dawn Kunihiro, Linda Kuratomi, Traci Kuratomi, Al & Mitzi Kushida, Harvey Negoro, Leslie Otsuki, Patty Takayama, Nancy Takayama, Jaymie Takeshita, Kara Tanaka, Linda Tanaka, Sharon Teramura, Michiko Tokunaga, Jaclyn Tomita, Cathy Uchida, Allie Yamada, and Karen Yoshino.**

The SFV JACL gratefully acknowledge all those who came to support us by playing Dough Ball. We'll see you again next year!

Article submitted by Marcia Mahony

Photo: Board members **JP de Guzman** and **Tomo Hattori** having fun manning the Doughball Booth.



GET INVOLVED!!



Restore the Dignity of the Japanese decedents of Ventura County

More than \$9,000 has been raised but more is needed.

The ultimate goal of the Ventura JACL chapter is to raise **\$27,000** to replace the chain link fence with wrought iron fencing to match what the city of Oxnard had done on two sides. The chapter would also like to purchase head stones that would replicate and match to previous photos what was used from the 1900's through 1960's. Any additional funds will be set aside for the continued maintenance of the cemetery.

\$12,000 will replace the markers, making them more permanent than what is currently on site. Right now, the wooden markers are simply placed in the ground (sandy soil) and with time, have eroded or sunk and now, about 20 markers were knocked down by a man on June 19, 2017. It will also be used to replace the broken chain link fence with another chain link fence so the cemetery is more secure from trespassers. The chapter would like to replace all 60 wooden markers.

https://www.gofundme.com/historic-oxnard-japanese-cemetery/share/donation/fb_dn_cpgndonationshare_r/170437948?pc=fb_dn_cpgndonationshare_r&rcid=r01-149903136967-2984b9800c6e4670

Checks to Ventura Chapter JACL may be sent to Ventura Chapter JACL
c/o Anne Chilcott, 2686 Velarde Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360.

Ventura County JACL is a 501c(3) non-profit organization.

Article submitted by Nancy Oda

CORRECTION

In the June/July Newsletter, there was an error in the address of **Village Florist**, one of our Pacific Citizen Holiday Ad supporter. Here is the correct information.

VILLAGE FLORIST is located at 17818 Chatsworth Street in Granada Hills, CA 91344.

Phone: (818) 832-7770 or (818) 389-1248, www.villagefloristla.com.

BRUYERES – THE NISEI’S FIELD OF HONOR

In 1947, the grateful but still ravaged City of Bruyères, France built near Hill 555 a simple stone monument in honor of the Americans of Japanese descent who in October 1944 liberated their city from the German invaders. This historically important monument is now showing the effects of its age, exposure to the weather and occasional vandalism. Friends and family of the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team seek to renew the monument and add a new memorial element in memory of all those who fought and sacrificed in this heroic effort.

The City of Bruyères is seeking donations for this project. Every penny collected will be used to reimburse the City of Bruyères. The goal to renew the monument is \$35,000. The rededication ceremony is scheduled for October 15, 2017.

Board Member, **Michiko Tokunaga**, single-handedly took on this project to raise funds to renew the monument. Donating Asian Buffet gift cards, Michiko held a raffle that raised \$135 towards this project.

You may go to hill555.org to donate on line. Checks payable to Hill 555 may also be sent Hill 555 Project, 827 Crestwater Lane, Sacramento, CA 95831.

TELLING OUR STORIES

There are only three more “Telling Our Story” summer 2017 classes. Write your memoir and share your stories. Learn to craft your stories with a beginning middle and end in a safe supportive environment. Here’s your chance to record your fond memories, to laugh and listen to other stories that might bring to mind some common experiences.

The best part of attending *Tim Toyama’s “Telling Our Stories”* class is being able to share your experiences in your stories with fellow Nikkei writers who have had similar or related experiences. It is an exciting participatory way to learn contemporary Japanese American history.

Come visit and join the class. The last three classes meet Saturday, July 29th, August 5th and 12th at 2-4pm in the conference room at SFV JACC.

Email me, Patty Takayama, at: pe.high.mtn@juno.com or leave me a phone message at: 818-899-7916, if you are interested in attending the class. I will get back to you with the writing topic for the next class.

Article submitted by Patty Takayama

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>



MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORANT TO OUR ORGANIZATION

How many years have you been a member of the JACL? Did you know that the national JACL office could not save the date that you joined JACL, when the software system was changed in the 1990s? Please email, call or text me the year that you joined our chapter (or a prior chapter). We would like to create our own database with that important information. President Phil Shigekuni noted that the number of years of membership on his Auto Club card provides a sense of pride. Similarly, he felt that the number of years of JACL membership should be a source of pride of your support of civil rights and our community.

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

Akemi Lucas, Student/Youth Member
Lauren Watanabe, Student/Youth Member
Dean Caudill, Student/Youth Member
Olivia Mazzucato, Student/Youth Member
Seira Narita, Student/Youth Member
Nova Weng, Student/Youth Member



A big "Thank You" to those who renewed their memberships during the same reporting period:

Peggy Kurihara
Leslie Otsuki
Andrew Thibodeaux
Laurie Shigekuni Gong
Akemi Yano

Finally, a huge "Thank You" to **Ikuyo Sakaguchi** who changed her membership category from a Thousand Club Spouse to a Thousand Club member!

Article submitted by Membership Chair: Harold Kameya

IN MEMORIUM

Last month, we lost one of JACL'S great supporters, **ERNIE JANE MASAKO NISHII** to ALS. With her captivating smile, she traveled from Orange County to be at many of our activities. She displayed her unique artwork at many events throughout the community, including drawings, prints, ceramics and more. Her artwork always communicated her thoughts and feelings, especially of the experiences that the Japanese endured during the days incarcerated in camp. Ernie also assisted our Suzume no Gakkou classes as an art teacher.

Shinto memorial services were held at the Norwalk Japanese American Community Center, where approx. 200 friends shared stories of Ernie's free spirit. We will miss Ernie dearly. Our deepest condolence to Nancy Oda, sister of Ernie, and Kay Oda.

HISTORY REVISITED – “HOLD THESE TRUTHS”

Who knew the Pasadena Playhouse was really a time machine? On June 17, a group of SFVJACL members was transported back in space and time by the masterful one-man monologue journey of actor **Ryun Yu** as he spoke the words so eloquently and sometimes poignantly written by playwright **Jeanne Sakata**.

“*Hold These Truths*” is a captivating story based on the real life experiences of Gordon Hirabayashi. Ryun uses accent, dialect, verbiage, diction, and mime to capture discussions and dialogues between Gordon and the many individuals throughout his life who shape and color his world. The stage was sparsely adorned but with clever lighting and strategic movement, the audience was informed about each phase of Gordon’s life; his interactions, challenges, struggles, losses and personal victories. Although the story spans the years 1920 to 1980, the subject matter is eerily current and important. The play touched on issues of race, gender, personal freedoms, liberty, and justice. While Gordon Hirabayashi’s story took place in the middle of the last century, the topics and concerns still seem relevant and vital today.

At the conclusion of the play, Pasadena Playhouse Community Organizer, Gerlie Collado moderated a panel discussion between the audience and Los Angeles Superior Court **Judge Ernie Hiroshige**, SFVJACL member and JANM docent, **Mas Yamashita**, and Actor Ryun Yu. At the crux of the questions and answers was a cautionary warning about how the events from the 1940’s might not be all that far removed from our current political, racial, and ethnic climate. This drove home the sentiment that what Gordon Hirabayashi did in the 1940’s is still relevant and pertinent to us today and not just part of history.

Following the play a group of us walked a short distance and enjoyed a nice dinner at *Sushi of Naples* where we dined, shared our impressions of the play, and enjoyed the camaraderie of each other’s company. While we came from different perspectives and life experiences, we all agreed we had just witnessed something exceptional in Jeanne Sakata’s play “*Hold These Truths*” and in Ryun Yu’s portrayal of Gordon Hirabayashi.

Article submitted
by Jean Taguchi

Photo (L-R):
Mas Yamashita,
Jeanne Sakata,
Judge Ernest Hiroshige



Community Corner

Best wishes go to Board Member, **JP de Guzman** who will be teaching at Windward School. Windward School is an independent school in the Mar Vista neighborhood. It serves students in Grades 7-12. JP will be teaching AP US History and 8th grade. Class begins the end of August. We all know JP will be a Super Teacher!!.

Congratulations to lucky **Norma Jean Yamashita** who had the winning 1st Prize ticket at the SFVJACC Family Day Picnic held on Saturday, June 10, 2017. The picnic returned to the Community Center this year. This event involves the different organizations that our part of the SFV Coordinating Council. Our Chapter has always helped serve hot dogs and hamburgers at this annual CC Picnic.



Do you want to feel like a hipster or millennial and not be left behind? Then, you must venture out of the SFV. Try the **ediBOL** restaurant which has been written and featured in many articles in Southern California. Recently, **Dr Bo and Iku Sakaguchi** with friends visited and enjoyed the array of unique but flavorful items on the menu which were developed and tested by owner and chef, **Andrea Uyeda**. She is Iku's niece and has a wide and interesting background; she graduated from Princeton then followed her heart and spent 15 years at the popular Border Grill restaurant in Los Angeles, learning the food industry. Two years ago, she was ready: selected the up and coming Los Angeles Art District location, designed a high tech interior, created interesting but tasty dishes served in BOLs (bowls), including her signature dish, Miso Peanut Ramen. The attendees all agreed to return for more. She was on GUY FIERI's TV show *Drive-in and Dives* in July. **ediBOL** 300 S. Santa Fe Ave Unit Q Los Angeles, 90012, (213)292-6466 www.ediBOL.com@ediBOLeats.

Our dear long-time board member **Sumi Yamaguchi** has sold her home and moved to an assisted living facility in San Jose to be closer to her family. Her address: 1420 Curci Drive #215, San Jose, CA 95126. Phone: 408-320-1395.

2017 JACL PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISTRICT AWARDS LUNCHEON

MU × SU × BI

- Ties that Bind Us -

WEAVING
THE THREADS
OF COMMUNITY



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August 26
Saturday
11:30am

Quiet Cannon
901 Via San Clemente
Montebello, CA 90640

www.jaclpsw.org
(213) 626 4471



Bridging Communities Fundraising Iftar, June 15, 2017

Japanese American Cultural and Community Center (JACCC)

The SFV JACL sponsored a table at the Bridging Communities Fundraising Iftar on June 15, 2017 at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center (JACCC) in Little Tokyo. Attendees from our chapter included **Nancy Takayama, Tomo Hattori** and **David Osako**. “Iftar” means “breaking fast” and is a celebration that marks the end of the month of Ramadan; Muslim worshippers return to regular eating with a meal of some traditional foods. The event was hosted by #VigilantLove, Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress (NCR), Muslim Student Association (MSA) West, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), and the JACL Pacific Southwest District (PSW).

After opening remarks by #VigilantLove coordinators **traci ishigo** and **Sahar Pirzada**, Masters of Ceremonies **Amna Akhtar** and **Alex Kanegawa** introduced the program. Amna Akhtar is a senior at CSU Long Beach majoring in Health Care Administration and Vice President of Muslim Student Association (MSA) West. Alex Kanegawa, a fifth generation Japanese American, is a recent USC graduate in Policy, Planning & Development with an emphasis in Sustainable Planning. Alex helps run the Tuesday Night Café open mic series under the Tuesday Night Project and is a program director of Kizuna’s high school leadership track.

The purpose of the evening was to raise funds for the Bridging Communities Solidarity Arts Fellowship. The Bridging Communities Fellowship promotes opportunities for young Muslim and Japanese American leaders to build understanding, consciousness, and solidarity amongst the two communities. The fellowship’s six-month program helps young leaders develop new cultures of solidarity and resistance in this time of war.

The speakers of the evening were **Ameena Mirza Qazi, Shakeel Syed, and Zawar Jafri**. Ms. Qazi is Executive Director of the Los Angeles Chapter of the National Lawyer’s Guild and former Deputy Executive Director and Staff Attorney for the Council on American-Islamic Relations Greater Los Angeles Chapter (CAIR-LA). Mr. Syed is Executive Director of Orange County Communities Organized for Responsible Development (OCCORD) and former Executive Director of the Islamic Shura Council of Southern California. Mr. Jafri is a UCLA graduate in Political Science and a current graduate student of theology at Harvard University specializing in Islamic Studies.

After reflections on the past year that included a video with scenes from the recent Manzanar Pilgrimage, we were treated to a performance of “Instructions.” “Instructions” is a performance piece conceived by **traci kato-kiriyama** co-created with **Kathy Masaoka, Sahar Pirzada** and **traci ishigo**. The performance was a creative, oppositional, and affirmative revision and rewriting of the text of Executive Order 9066. It was also performed in April at the 75th anniversary of E.O. 9066 at the Manzanar Pilgrimage.

The evening included an opportunity for guests to participate in “Haikus for Solidarity.” Guests were invited to write short haikus or other messages on squares of cloth provided at each table to express solidarity and other affirmative emotions of the occasion. These messages were then displayed on the side of the banquet room. Mr. Syed delivered remarks about Ramadan and Mr. Jafri sang a beautiful Call to Prayer. Muslim devotees and friends retreated to a space in the Japanese garden adjoining the banquet hall to perform the Maghrib (fourth daily) prayer and we all enjoyed the breaking of the fast together.

Article submitted by Tomo Hattori with material from the Bridging Communities Fundraising Iftar event pamphlet.



2017 KIZUNA SUMMER CAMP

Kizuna's 2017 Summer Camp, held at the SFVJACC from June 19-23, 2017, was a huge success! Camp had roughly 48 campers, from ages 2nd grade to 8th grade, and about 25 college and high school aged camp counselors. A large majority of the campers were from SFVJACL chapter's Suzume no Gakkou program. Activities included bento-making, learning about the cultural value kansha (gratitude/appreciation), undokai, makizushi, and Chinese chicken salad. Students also had the opportunity to plan their very own Camp Matsuri, with each small group of students planning and hosting their own carnival booth. We also took the Metro to Little Tokyo for our field trip, where elementary students visited the Japanese American National Museum and the middle school students visited the Go For Broke National Education's exhibit. Friday was our annual Culmination program for the parents, which included a community potluck! Thank you very much to the SFVJACC for hosting our program and to SFVJACL's passing of the torch to Kizuna, and entrusting us to work with the SFV families.

Article submitted by: Paul Matsushima, Program Manager



Congratulations to our Scholarship Winners!

The Scholarship Committee is delighted to report that we have selected five outstanding students to receive awards from our chapter for 2017. Through their campus, community, and scholastic contributions, one graduating high school senior and four undergraduate students have demonstrated their commitment to the principles for which our chapter has fought. Our committee was incredibly impressed by both the level of extra-curricular engagement of these students as well as their intellectual strength and curiosity.

Seira Narita (Dr. Sanbo and Mrs. Kay Sakaguchi Graduating High School Scholarship). Ms. Narita is a talented student who received high marks from the committee for her community and campus service, which includes student government and acting. Her recommenders spoke of her dedication, work ethic, and ambition. Ms. Narita penned a strong personal statement explaining how representation remains a key site of civil rights struggles for Asian Americans. She has been accepted by UC Davis to study animal biology and is awaiting other admissions decisions.

Nova Weng (Dr. Sanbo and Mrs. Kay Sakaguchi Undergraduate Scholarship). Ms. Weng recently moved to LA from Massachusetts to attend UCLA where she recently finished her first year. She is a highly motivated student and artist who described how her personal experiences as the daughter of a single mother has shaped her drive. She wrote a superior writing sample that discussed the politics of immigration as they relate to so called "anchor babies." As a campus leader, UC Higher Education Advocate, and delegate to the international Warwick Economic Summit in the UK, Ms. Weng has illustrated how her interests in issues of access, diversity, and justice have motivated her to take action in various venues. Lastly, she is a talented artist who uses the visual medium to convey her varied interests. Her artwork can be viewed at: <https://www.instagram.com/avonxnova/> and is included in this newsletter.

Kara Tanaka (Dr. Sanbo and Mrs. Kay Sakaguchi Undergraduate Scholarship). Ms. Tanaka is an exemplary student and active member of our community having participated in our JACL Chapter as well as other well-known organizations such as Rising Stars. Kara is immersed in her studies at Santa Clara University and her writing and campus activism demonstrated the best of what our chapter represents: a commitment to civil rights for a variety of groups. She is well versed in LGBT issues and Asian American/African American relationships. Kara received our first Sakaguchi High School Scholarship in 2015.

Olivia Mazzucato (Dr. Sanbo and Mrs. Kay Sakaguchi Undergraduate Scholarship). Ms. Mazzucato, who will begin her second year at UCLA in the fall, composed a stirring personal essay about her great-great-grandfather, an Issei leader in Hawai'i arrested by the FBI after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and how his story, and countless others relating to the discrimination against Asian Americans, serve as a powerful call for Asian Americans today to fight against injustice. Olivia is a talented writer having contributed several articles to the *Daily Bruin*, UCLA's campus newspaper. Her supervisor noted that in a span of just a few months she rose from a contributor to a full-fledged reporter and will likely be appointed to a staff position.

Dean Caudill (SFVJACL Chapter Scholarship). Mr. Caudill has accrued many accomplishments as an undergraduate student at UC Berkeley, notably his selection as a member of the university's Marching Band. He is also an active student and volunteer at the San Fernando Valley Japanese Language Institute and composed a thoughtful essay about the often untold history of California's water wars of the early 20th century.

Congratulations to our Scholarship Winners! continued from page 11

Our chapter will honor and celebrate these talented youth at our **August 9th board meeting at 6:30PM**. Light refreshments will be served and all are welcome to meet and get to know the awardees.

The Dr. Sanbo and Mrs. Kay Sakaguchi Scholarship, funded by a longtime chapter member and supporter, is named in honor of two pillars of the Japanese American community in the San Fernando Valley and beyond. It specifically awards students with interests in issues of civil rights and social justice.

Some of the “Sakaguchi Alumni” include **Jenny Chhea** (‘15) who is currently an intern with the United Nations Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials, which is investigating the atrocities committed during the Cambodian Genocide. Jenny graduated from UCLA and will earn her law degree from UC Berkeley in 2019. **Ariel Imamoto** (‘15) went to on intern with the Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition and was instrumental in bringing the *Only the Oaks Remain* exhibition to life. She is a student leader with CSU Fullerton’s Nikkei Student Union. Meanwhile, **Madison Villanueva** (‘15), who was our previous chapter intern, recently graduated from UC Santa Barbara. **Jennifer Kajiki** (‘16) is continuing her education in nursing.

Article Submitted by:

Jean-Paul deGuzman, chair, on behalf of the scholarship committee

**The Japanese American Cultural and Community Center,
Thirty-Seventh Anniversary Celebration and Awards Dinner: Itadakimasu! Celebrating
Our Culinary Community,
Saturday, June 17, 2017, Hyatt Regency Long Beach**

Along with my wife **Dr. Ranita Chatterjee**, I was honored to represent the SFV JACL at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center’s Thirty-Seventh Anniversary Celebration and Awards Dinner: Itadakimasu! Celebrating Our Culinary Community on Saturday, June 17, 2017 the Hyatt Regency Long Beach. Also seated at our table were **June Berk, Kay and Nancy Oda, Bruce Embrey and Vickie Perez, Danny and Yumi Okazaki, and Denise Tanaka**. Our table represented the SFV JACL, the Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition (TCDSC), the Manzanar Committee, and the SFV JACC.

The annual Pacific Pioneer Awards of the evening went to Suntory Holdings Ltd. and to the Japanese Restaurant Association of America (JRA). The Suntory Group is a global consumer packaged goods producer and distributor of brewed teas, bottled water, carbonated drinks, ready to drink coffee, energy drinks, wellness products, premium spirits, beer and wine. It was founded as a family-owned business in 1899 in Osaka, Japan.

The Japanese Restaurant Association of America (JRA) was established in California in 1999 to help Japanese establishments throughout Little Tokyo and the greater Los Angeles area understand the various laws and regulations of related to immigration, alcoholic beverage control, the Labor Board and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. The JRA has since added specialized committees to educate its members on advancement of culinary techniques, restaurant management, and food safety management and to provide resources for legal, financial and health care issues.

Awards Dinner continued on page 13

The Community Spirit Awards this year went to **Beth Fujishige, Evelyn Yoshimura, and Dr. Kanji Sahara**. Beth Fujishige is on the Board of Directors of the Orange County Buddhist Church and is a Board Member of the JACL DC Chapter. She is a former Undergraduate Administrative Vice President at UCLA. Evelyn Yoshimura was born in Denver after her family were released from the Poston, Arizona concentration camp and grew up in Los Angeles' Crenshaw District. She works at the Little Tokyo Service Center to bring stakeholders together to maintain community control over the rapid gentrification of Little Tokyo. She fought for Ethnic Studies at university campuses in the 1960s, protested redevelopment in the 1970s, fought against U.S. support of South African apartheid in the 1980s, and fought for Japanese American Redress leading to the Redress Bill of 1987.

The highlight of the evening was the Community Spirit Award for our own Dr. Kanji Sahara. Kanji was born in Hiroshima and came to Los Angeles when he was a half-year old. During World War II, his family was incarcerated in Santa Anita, Jerome, and Rohwer. His family resettled in Chicago in 1945. He received a BS in Electrical Engineering from Illinois Institute of Technology and a PhD from Northwestern University. Kanji worked for General Dynamics in Pomona and was an Engineering Supervisor. He and wife **Jane (Sakata)** raised **Richard** and **Judy** in Claremont. He was President of the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center.

After retirement, Kanji and Jane moved to Torrance. He has been leading the Sing-A-Long at the Gardena Adult Day Care Center with his ukulele for 16 years. He received the Gardena Volunteer of the Year Award in 2013. Kanji belongs to GLA JACL, NCCR, Manzanar Committee, Faith UMC and is a JANM docent. He was Project Director of the Tuna Canyon Traveling Exhibit.

The Master of Ceremonies of the evening was **traci kato-kiriyama**, Director and Co-Founder of the Tuesday Night Project. traci is also currently Teaching Artist-in-Residence for Grand Park and Arts & Culture Consultant for NeighborWorks America. The entertainers of the evening were the **Grateful Crane Ensemble, Linda Igarashi**, and the 37th Anniversary Band comprised of **Scott Nagatani, Danny Yamamoto, Taiji Miyagawa, and Keiko Kawashima**.

The musical entertainment of the evening was utterly delightful and Ms. kato-kiriyama's mastery of the evening was deft and uplifting. Kanji as well as JACC President **Leslie Ito** graced our table with visits after dinner and the whole evening was a complete success.

Article submitted by Tomo Hattori

With material from the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center

Thirty-Seventh Anniversary Celebration and Awards Dinner website: <http://www.jaccc.org/anniversary-celebration-and-awards-dinner/>



President's Message Photo

Laurie Shigekuni, Marion Shigekuni and Phil Shigekuni at the the 48th National JACL Convention that was held in Washington, D.C. on July 6-9, 2017.

someone else?" [(Moderator: **Jeffrey Moy** (Vice President for Public Affairs, JACL). Panelists: Zaki Barzinji, **Nisha Ramachandran** (Policy and Operations Manager, National Council of Asian Pacific Americans), **Heather Skrabak** (Associate Director of Policy and Advocacy, Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations)].

I attended the workshop on AAPI's Portrayal in the Media and Arts, led by **Rob Buscher**, the Festival Director of the Philadelphia Asian America Film Festival. **Rick Shiomi**, playwright and director, was one of the 3 panelists. There was an informative and stimulating discussion about Asians in the media and we got to see two films, "*Tadaima*", and "*Good Luck Soup*" by **Matthew Hashiguchi**. Google "*Good Luck Soup* world channel" before August 7, 2017 and you can see *Good Luck Soup*.

Konrad Aderer's film, "*Resistance at Tule Lake*" has been released in San Francisco and Los Angeles. There will be a showing in New York on Wednesday, July 19th, and it will be presented on PBS, probably during May as part of Asian History month. Next year at the National Convention in Philadelphia, the film may be shown.

Awards were presented at the Sayonara dinner to **Joan Bernstein** and the late **Angus Christian Macbeth**. Both of them were instrumental in the success of the Commission of Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, which wrote "Personal Justice Denied". Speeches were given by **Gary Mayeda**, JACL National President and the **Honorable Norman Y. Mineta**, presenting the President's awards. **Mike Honda** was presented with another award for his service to the community. We shared a table with **Gil Asakawa**, Editorial Board Chair for the P.C., his wife **Erin Yoshimura**, **Eric**, the son-in-law of **Kenneth Inouye** and Eric's 5 year old daughter Grace. Kenneth Inouye stopped by our table and warmly greeted my parents and I and thanked my parents for their involvement in the community.

Throughout the conference, one of the continual themes was identity and the question of what it is that binds us together as Japanese Americans. Those acts of thoughtfulness towards others, for the building up of other people, are one of the characteristics I see in my Mom. With the exception of **Joan Bernstein**, the award recipients were male. It was particularly striking for me at Ambassador Sasae's home. All the presenters and recipients were male, however, everybody was thanking their wives.

I do not think we should underestimate the power of Japanese women. With my own mother as an example, I think that one of the strengths of Japanese American society is the loving self-sacrifice of Japanese women.

My Mom has been encouraged by the presence of the JACL National Youth Council participants and she yearns for young persons to be involved in the JACL. There was an opportunity at the Sayonara ball to make a donation to the NY/SC, and of course, she gave.

Good things are happening around the country. Chapters are speaking out for the rights of Muslims, finding ways to support the arts, finding ways of sharing our stories, talking about the ties that bind us together and ways to build bridges to stop the spread of hate and violence. Intergenerational activities are happening like a mentorship program with the NY/SC.

So for all you young people out there... sign up for the JACL! Consider making a trip to Philadelphia for the National Convention next year. There is room for intergenerational "interconnectivity" in the Valley. I was extremely lucky to go to the conference this past year. That Japanese banquet was one of the best ones I've ever been to. The attendees are smart and interesting. Find an old-timer to hang around with so you can meet other old-timers. That's what my Mom and Dad did for me.

Being at the convention made me proud to be Japanese American, grateful to be present at the convention, and thankful for the many friends that my family and my parents have through membership with the San Fernando Valley JACL!.

Laurie Shigekuni, Esq. is the principal attorney of Laurie Shigekuni & Associates, an Estate Planning, Trust Administration, Medi-Cal Long Term Care and Probate law office with its primary office in San Francisco and satellite office in Pasadena. She grew up in the San Fernando Valley and graduated from Granada Hills High in 1979. www.calestateplanning.com, 800-417-5250, contact@calestateplanning.com

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Children's Cultural Day

Saturday, September 9th, 1:00-4:00 pm
(Registration begins at 12:30 pm)

Welcome Children 2nd Grade to 5th Grade!

Please join us at the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center for an afternoon of fun and games.

Pre-Registration begins Monday, August 14 th :	\$20. per family
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Please write check to **SFV JACL** and send to:
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The great tragedies of Hiroshima & Nagasaki teach us that peace must be sought at all costs in these tense times of uncertainty. Today, for the women & children of Fukushima, the ongoing nuclear disaster is especially perilous. Let's support their courage and perseverance as they demand human rights, quality healthcare, respect for the land, just reparations, and an end to nuclear energy, weapons and wars.

Michiko Kato

A Fukushima
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shares her
personal
account of
tragedy,
courage &
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San Fernando Valley Japanese American Citizens League

Membership Application

Annual Membership Categories

Regular/Individual - \$67

Regular sustaining members of the organization

Couple/Family - \$110

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

Youth/Student - \$25

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

Thousand Club - \$200

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

Century Club - \$350

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

Millennium Club - \$1000

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

Life Membership Categories

Thousand Club Life \$3000

Members pay a lump sum to establish a lifetime membership

Century Club Life - \$5000

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

🍏 New Member

🍏 Renewing Membership

🍏 Gift Membership

Annual Membership

🍏 Regular/Individual - \$67.00

🍏 Thousand Club - \$200.00

🍏 Century Club - \$350.00

🍏 Couple/Family - \$110.00

🍏 Thousand Club Spouse - \$32.00

🍏 Cent. Club Spouse - \$32.00

🍏 Youth/Students - \$25.00

🍏 Millennium Club - \$1000.00

Life Membership (one-time payment)

🍏 Thousand Club Life - \$3000.00

🍏 Century Club Life - \$5000.00

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San Fernando Valley

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Japanese American Citizens League

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