

2021 Keynote Address to CSUN Asian American Studies Graduates

On Sunday, May 23, 2021, our own SFV JACL board member **Jean-Paul R. Contreras DeGuzman** gave an amazing keynote address to the graduating class of the Asian American Studies Department at California State University, Northridge.

Before earning two Masters degrees (one in History and one in Asian American Studies) and a Ph.D. in History from UCLA; before his distinguished teaching appointments at CSU Long Beach, UC Santa Barbara, UCLA, and the Windward School; JP graduated with a B.A. Magna Cum Laude from CSUN's Asian American Studies Department.

Starting with the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 that occurred as he was beginning his Asian American Studies courses at CSUN, and recalling the connections he made then between those attacks and the Japanese American Incarceration during World War II that he was reading about, JP set the context of his far-reaching talk within the 20th century history of "brute American empire." These included, in his overview, the illegal overthrow of Hawaii and the American Philippine War in the 1890s and subsequent wars and occupations in Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos. From there, JP brought his focus to our present moment with the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the U.S. and global uprisings for black lives, and the mass shootings in Georgia on March 16, 2021 that included the killing of six Asian immigrant women.

The moral force of JP's central question to the students' "What does it mean to live in history?" resonates throughout these following excerpts from his address:

What does it mean to live in history? Not to study it, dissect it, analyze it, or, of course, deconstruct it. What does it mean to live in a moment where the reconfigurations of society shape the tenor and texture of your everyday life? A groundswell of consciousness raising among ourselves and the worlds around us has taken place, but what will you do with all that you have received in your years at CSUN to address this? How will you live in history?

JP concluded his remarks with this memorable and resounding call to Asian Americans to resist the Model Minority stereotype:

Article continued on Page 3

UPCOMING EVENTS



COME JOIN US IN THE FUN AND ACTIVITIES

October 13
Board Meeting

November 10
Board Meeting

December 4
JACL Christmas Party

December 8
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 Sunday, July 11th after the Greater Los Angeles Chapter meeting the GLA board and friends of Janet gathered to wish her well on her move to Illinois. I meet Janet more than a decade ago. She has always been so kind and welcoming each time we met at meetings or would run into each other at community events. We once traveled together and she was my room buddy at convention. Did you know she worked for the Secret Service? She has so many wonderful stories. She will still be in our lives. She promised to continue to Zoom in on the GLA meetings.



Janet Okubo was GLA president from 2005 through 2020. She was her own recording secretary writing the minutes for the nearly monthly executive board meetings. Janet assumed the responsibilities of treasurer from 2014 through 2020. GLA appreciates Janet's gracious leadership for many years and assuming the duties of three positions.

Synonyms for Gracious: kind, courteous, pleasant, polite, civil, well-mannered, tactful, benevolent, diplomatic, considerate, thoughtful, and friendly.

Janet was and is all of these.



Janet Okubo

Janet will be moving to Hampshire, Illinois end of summer to live with her son Perry and family. Perry is Janet's youngest of four sons. His wife is Joyce and children are Kyle (18) and Kira (17). Third son, David, lives in Hampshire, also, and has children Samantha, twins Jonathan and Jennifer. Second son, Michael, lives in Morrisville, NC. Oldest son, Charles, and wife Vicki live in Villa Park, IL and have four children.

All the best of health and happiness to Janet in the next chapter of her life.

Nancy Takayama, President



Quality Health Plans since 1965
1-800-400-6633

Is our solution to simply raise up those who “made it” as examples for the rest of us? Should we only aspire to material wealth and comfort? In the face of the violence that has robbed so many families of their precious elders do we reproduce the systems that have oppressed ourselves and others in the name of law, order, and safety? The history of Asian Americans begs us to consider another path. When we look to the historical actors of the past... [w]e see immigrants and their children, workers, students, and everyday individuals exercising their agency to craft a more equitable world, working within and across diverse communities. This political moment implores all of us to think creatively and act boldly, where revolutionary solidarity is the answer, perhaps the only answer.

Article by Tomo Hattori

In Memory of Allan Hideki Tokunaga

Allan Hideki Tokunaga, a long time SFV JACL AND JACC member and supporter, passed away July 13, 2021, after a 6-month battle with complications from the Coronavirus.

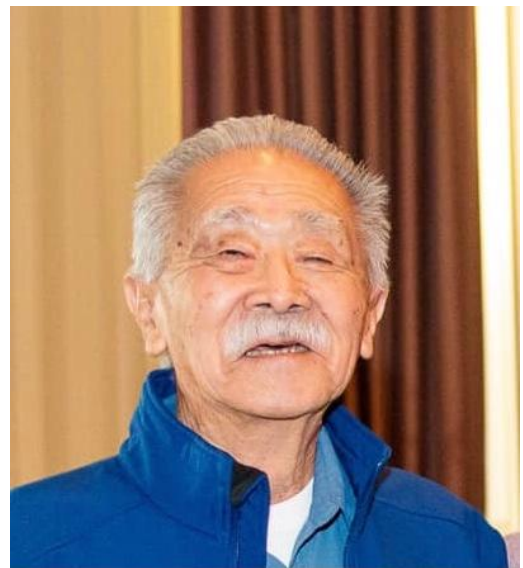
Allan was born on February 03, 1943, at the Manzanar Relocation Camp during World War II. The Tokunaga Family was taken to Tule Lake as his father was a NO-NO Boy. After WWII, the Tokunaga Family settled in Burbank and later to San Fernando where Allan attended school. He was also a student at the SFV Gakuen in the city of San Fernando.

In 1966, Allan was drafted into the Army where he served honorably in the Signal Corps during the Vietnam Conflict. He was a proud American and a proud Japanese American. He resumed his schooling and attended Los Angeles Valley College where he majored in the Arts. In 1971, Allan started his business, Tri-Arts Silk Screening which began with the printing of shirts, “I SURVIVED THE SYLMAR EARTHQUAKE”. 2021 was the 50th Anniversary of Tri-Arts.

He leaves behind his three siblings, Michiko Kus, May Wood and Tom Tokunaga and six nephews, Matthew, William, Jeffrey, Eric, Bradley (Maria), John and a niece, Kristen (Bruce).

Tri-Arts Silk Screening will continue with Kristen and Bruce at the helm.

Article submitted by May Wood



YOU CAN SUPPORT JACL IN DIFFERENT WAYS!

You are helping the JACL with your regular sustaining membership, where a portion goes to National, and our Chapter receives a part. I would like to share some other ways to help our JACL efforts.

The following are other categories of membership you may want to consider.

Thousand Club - \$200 - The member will make a more significant annual contribution to our Chapter and National programs of the organization.

Century Club - \$350 - An annual donation to support our Chapter and National

Life Membership Categories

Thousand Club Life - \$3000 - A lump sum to establish a lifetime membership

Century Club Life - \$5000 - A one-time lifetime membership



We would like to encourage Chapter members to purchase a thirty-dollar Youth membership, younger than 25 years old and are a student who is currently enrolled in a college, trade school or university to begin learning about the JACL.

If a youngster or student cannot afford the fee, our Chapter will pay for the membership. Please complete the membership application and write in **San Fernando Valley JACL** for the Membership Dues section. We will pay National for the membership. Please encourage our Youth to join. They will receive the *Pacific Citizen* newsletter and can find additional information on the JACL website.

As the political climate changes in this nation, it is essential to support and help all civil rights and human rights organizations.

Submitted by Kiyo Fukumoto – Membership Chair

In Memory of Tomiko Hamamoto Nakata

Tomiko Nakata was born on October 19, 1918 and lived to the age of 102 years old, two months short of age 103. History tells us that President Woodrow Wilson in 1918 proposed world peace to end WWI. Tomiko survived the Great Depression, WWII and experienced both the 1971 and 1994 Earthquakes in the San Fernando Valley. She married Kenneth Nakata and together they operated a service station in Sun Valley, CA. She gave friendly service to all her customers. They had three children, Nancy Gohata (Yas), Sam Nakata (Rumiko) and George Nakata (Janie). Tomiko was the grandmother to Karen Yoshino, Kim Gohata (Paul), Lauren and Ricky Nakata, Jonathan Nakata and Kenneth Nakata (Jill). She was a great-grandmother to Davis and Taylor Yoshino, Kenyon and Kendall Gohata-Chan, grandchildren of Yas and Nancy and Cole and Chase Nakata, grandchildren of Sam and Rumiko. Her wonderful life of love, compassion and caring will always be with her family and friends. Her three children were at her bedside when Tomiko Hamamoto Nakata passed away peacefully.

Article submitted by Mitzi Kushida



Tom Doi 100 Years Young

On Thursday, August 19th, a group SFV JACL board members, Tom's son Tommy and friends joined together via Zoom to celebrate Tom Doi's 100th Birthday. Tom looked great wearing his shirt that proudly proclaimed "100, How Sweet It Is". He is at Hollenbeck Palms and said he had already had several celebrations, including birthday cake. He had many well wishers holding up signs and banners for him on this call.

When asked what was the key to his longevity, he said having a strong immune system. He could not stress enough how important this is to keeping healthy. He said he read a book and has researched this topic and encourages everyone to keep a strong immune system. He said he could probably live another 100 years if he keeps his strong.

We all sang happy birthday to him on zoom. And as a special treat Evelyn Mitarai sang him a beautiful version of Happy Birthday.

We all wish Tom a very happy birthday and hope to be able to celebrate in person and to have cake with him next year.

Article submitted by Linda Kuratomi



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://sfvjac1.weebly.com/> or jac1.sfv@gmail.com

Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/sfvjac1>



LINE DANCING

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon on April 18th, 2021, we had the privilege of enjoying a program that involved mental, physical, and musical challenges for all ages. **MARCIA MAHONY and BARBARA OKITA** presented a **Line Dancing** session for all skill levels from the two-left-feet people to some very accomplished participants.

Here are some comments:

"Thank you to Marcia and Barbara for a fun Line Dancing lesson. I enjoyed the music and learning the steps. I haven't line danced since the last time you did a session at the Temple. You both did a fantastic job explaining all the steps and leading us! -Joanne Tokeshi

"Yes, it was a lot of fun! I liked Al's comment! 'Line Dancing is a good challenge, mentally and physically!' And fun too." -Carolyn Sanwo

"Thank you so much. I had to leave early...I hope you do it again." -Margarete Allen

"So much fun! Thank you Marcia and Barbara for your great instruction." -Judy Matsuzaki

"Harvey and I really enjoyed the line dancing taught by Marcia and Barbara this past Sunday. We are looking forward to the next Zoom line dancing class.!" -Isabelle Miyata

"This was my first virtual experience in Line Dancing. I want to do it again. ThANK YOU! Ms Marcia and Ms Barbara." -Kai Gonzalez

Article submitted by Mitzi Kushida

Beatrice and JP

Jean Paul De Guzman, JP as we call him, our handsome, long time eligible bachelor has decided to get hitched. JP chose **Beatrice Contreras**, a beautiful and charming young lady. They exchanged their wedding vows in a private ceremony, followed by a celebration with family and friends in Santa Barbara where they initially met. How romantic is that? Congratulations, Best Wishes and welcome to our Chapter Beatrice Contreras De Guzman!





**In Memory of
Sandra Kimiko Nobuyuki**



It saddens us to let you know that Sandra Kimiko Nobuyuki passed away just recently. She served on the SFVJACL scholarship committee for many years. She taught at San Jose Elementary for forty years. She leaves behind her loving husband, Karl, sister, Pat Donato, and many relatives and friends.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LANA KOBAYASHI & FAMILY

Recipient of the PAUL and KATHERINE OTAKI 2021 FRESHMAN NATIONAL JACL SCHOLARSHIP

Lana Kobayashi was chosen to continue the legacy of excellence for our 2021 SFV JACL SCHOLARSHIP Awardees.

Lana graduated from El Camino Real Charter High School with an excellent academic record as shown by her membership in the National Honor Society for two years. She has been a member of the California Scholarship Federation for four years. Lana was an active member of her student body. She became a member of the Student Council, culminating in her position as Student Body President. Lana was a member of the Varsity Tennis Team which won the CIF Championship for two years. She became a member supporting Peace for Child Soldiers in the Congo; founded the Japan Club to support foreign exchange students; became a coordinator for Recycling for Research for Leukemia. Amazingly, she found time to participate in our SFV JACC RISING STARS Youth Leadership Program. On top of this, she joined the JACL Kizuna Program. In her time off, she also volunteered to serve as a guide and translator for students from Kumamoto and the Touhoku regions which had suffered from tsunamis and earthquakes.

In her scholarship application, she wrote of her passion for racial justice which was energized by her engagement with the SFV JACL and her membership in the SFV JACC RISING STARS. She discussed the importance of diminishing microaggressions with the use of SIX DEGREES OF EXPANSION. Lana is changing the world SIX PEOPLE AT A TIME. IMAGINE! Those SIX will engage with SIX more people and so on...and so on...

She currently attends UCLA with a major in International Relations and perhaps will become a future Secretary General of the United Nations. Gambare, Lana!

Article submitted by May Wood



Filipino American History Month is in October. You might have some questions, so here are some answers:

Wait, why is there Filipino American History Month? What about Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month in May?

Filipino Americans historically (and today) have been racialized differently than East Asian Americans. Due to Spanish and American colonizations, in many ways Filipinos share greater affinity with Latino populations (think culture, religion, language). Also, whereas many East Asian Americans have been stereotyped as model minorities, Filipinos have been stereotyped as underachieving or deviant, much like other Southeast Asian Americans. This separate month highlights the unique ways in which Filipinos often don't fit in with the conventional definition of "Asian American." Lastly, it's celebrated in October to commemorate the first Filipinos who landed on the shores that are now the US: sailors in the Manila Galleon trade who landed in Morro Bay on 18 October 1587.

Why is it *history* month, not *heritage* month?

The organizers of Filipino American History Month used the word *history*, to denote inherently politicized and dynamic issues of immigration, community-building, and activism in Filipino American communities as opposed to *heritage*, which is often seen as monolithic and unchanging. Rather than talking about the food that Filipinos eat, the organizers thought it more effective to talk about, for example, the struggles of Filipino American farm workers and what those stories tell us about racism and exploitation or organizing and solidarity.

I've seen people say Filipino and Pilipino. What's the deal with that?

In the 1960s, young Filipino American activists used **Pilipino** to denote how people in the Philippines refer to themselves, arguing that **F** is a vestige of the Spanish colonial alphabet. Many today also use **Pilipino** or "Pinoy" a more colloquial term. You might also see **Filipina** or **Pilipina** to refer to Filipino women. Many younger activists reject the inherently gendered use of **Filipina** and **Filipino** and have adopted **Filipinx** or **Pilipinx** or even **Filipinon** because many ethnic groups in the Philippines end in -non (e.g., people from the province of Aklan are known as Aklanon).

Why are there so many Filipino nurses!?

Filipinos are not predisposed to become nurses. Rather, after the US conquered the Philippines in a genocidal war in the late 1890s they justified their colonization by, among other things, bringing American medicine to the archipelago and opening scores of medical and nursing schools. By the 1950s and 1960s the US witnessed a massive nursing shortage in highly urban and very rural areas. This time period coincided with the liberalization of immigration law that allowed for skilled professionals to come to the US and, later, sponsor their families. Seeking a cheap labor source American hospitals jumped at the opportunity to recruit Filipino nurses.

Article continued on Page 9

Who are some noteworthy Filipino Americans I can look up to learn more?

Carlos Bulosan, an author who wrote *America is in the Heart*, a very John Steinbeck-esque story of Filipinos during the Great Depression. Thelma Garcia-Bucholdt, the first Filipina American legislator and a civil rights leader. Larry Itliong and Philip Vera Cruz, two of the Filipino American founders of the United Farm Workers Movement. Vicky Manalo Draves, an Olympic swimmer. Royal Morales, a community organizer who helped develop many community and neighborhood based programs to meet the needs of LA's Filipino Americans.

Did you know that both the Attorney General of California (Rob Bonta, a Democrat) and the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court (Tani Cantil-Sakauye, a Republican) are both Filipino American?

Where can I learn more?

The Filipino American National Historical Society Instagram page has many short, yet informative stories: https://www.instagram.com/fanhs_national/. The LAPL also has a very concise blogpost about the history of LA's Filipino Americans: <https://bit.ly/3DNPnYg>.

Is there a Filipinotown I can visit?

Yes, it's known as Historic Filipinotown and is located west of Little Tokyo. Unlike Little Tokyo, the vast majority of buildings are gone due to urban development and the fact the pre-WWII community was largely a "bachelor society." But, you can visit a beautiful mural and Filipino American WWII veteran's monument at Unidad Park, 1660 Beverly Boulevard, Los Angeles. The mural covers major figures in both Filipino American and Philippine History.

Where can I try Filipino American food?

There are many exciting new restaurants (often with outdoor seating) that feature dishes shaped by both traditional Filipino cuisine and the culinary landscape of multicultural LA.

- SFV: Ninong's Desserts and Bakery (pick up only): <https://www.ninongsdessertlab.com/>
- Oi Asian Fusion: <https://www.oiasianfusion.com/canogaparkmenu>
- Downtown: Lasita: <http://www.lasita-la.com/>
- Park's Finest: <https://www.theparksfinest.com/>

There are also several small eateries in or adjacent to Filipino grocery stores like Seafood City (Northridge, Panorama City) that serve more traditional food.



bwc29165174 Barewalls

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: _____/_____/_____
(Month / Year) Security Code: _____

Name (as it appears on card): _____

Please send this form to:

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>



14229 Carl Street
Arleta, CA 91331