

SFVJACL Honors Three Local Students with Scholarships

The San Fernando Valley chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League is delighted to honor three bright college-bound students with chapter scholarships.

After much deliberation, the Scholarship Committee decided to recognize **Jensen Emi** (Granada Hills Charter), **Rane Morishige Kita** (West Ranch), and **Kishi Sugahara Strahl** (Valley Academy of Arts and Sciences). Each student's application burst with an impressive array of community service, academic achievement, and a sincere commitment to social justice, a cornerstone of our chapter.



Jensen, a relative of the noted Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee, **Frank**

Emi, has extensive experience with San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center Athletics and has distinguished herself as a scholar-athlete. Rane wrote passionately in his personal statement about the antidote to the recent wave of anti-Asian hate crimes: education. "Spending time at Manzanar and speaking with my grandfather were important learning experiences, but they also allowed me to see how we can educate others as a way to correct past mistakes and narratives." Meanwhile, Kishi's extracurricular and academic experience are beyond reproach. An AP and Decathlon Scholar she has also played important roles in fashion, theater, and student government organizations.

The committee that reviewed the outstanding applications included **May Wood, Nancy Takayama, Phil Shigekuni, and JP deGuzman**.

The SFVJACL was established in 1942 and the current scholarship program has been in existence for over 60 years. Recently the chapter decided to name its annual scholarship after a distinguished community members whose imprint on the SFV Japanese American community is indelible. The 2022 scholarship honors the **Sakaguchi** family, long-time pillars of the community who helped forge lasting institutions through their exceptional ethic of service, engagement, and philanthropy

Our Chapter Welcomes a Special New Member

Our new member is Duncan Ryuken Williams. He is a Soto Zen Buddhist Priest. and is currently a Professor of Religion and East Asian Languages at the University of Southern California. He has also authored the book "American Sutra: A Story of Faith and Freedom in the Second World War." It took him seventeen years to compile and write the story of how the people in Camp continued to worship their Buddhist religion. Japanese American National Museum currently has an insightful exhibit for us to see and learn from.



THE NETHERCUTT MUSEUM



Please join us for a guided tour of THE NETHERCUTT MUSEUM

Date: Saturday, August 27, 2022
Time: 1:30 pm
Location: 15151 Bledsoe St., Sylmar 91342
Fee: \$10.00 (free parking)

Masks Required

RESERVATION DEADLINE: AUGUST 23rd

Contact: Linda Tanaka (805) 527-1224

Located in Sylmar, the Nethercutt Collection includes over 250 American and European perfectly restored Automobiles, rare mechanical Musical Instruments, 18th and 19th Century French Furniture, a 1937 Canadian Pacific Locomotive and a 1912 Pullman Private Car. (Info on collection visit: nethercuttcollection.org)

INTERVIEW: Harold and Ellen Kamaya on their "New Life Style"



When I spoke to Harold and Ellen, the first thing they both shouted simultaneously was, "We love it here, it's like living in Hawaii, because of the diverse population and with a handful of Hawaii people here." The menu is also diverse with Chinese, Japanese and Filipino foods. Miso soup, congee, chashu pork and tofu with vegetables are standard items on the menu.

They took the big step and moved to Atherton Homes and are enjoying every minute of their new life style. Harold said, "Life is so much better than any of the senior living locations in the San Fernando Valley, The places we had visited are typically big buildings with long hallways

leading to rooms on both sides, like a hotel." Atherton is a combination of cottages, triplexes and apartments with open corridors. It is placed on 15 acre parcel of land and it resembles a small village.

If the Kamaya's stayed in the valley, they would have made up the 1% minority residents. At Atherton, they are part of the 50% of Asian Pacific Islander and other minority residents. There are people of many religions here, including Buddhists.

Harold and Ellen do not miss the household and gardening chores. Harold said, "It's liberating." Instead, they take part in the gentle outdoor exercise class 3 times a week. There is daily water exercises in a 4 ft. deep lap pool. They enjoy the 2-hour coffee. It provides a great time to meet people and chat with people who have had very interesting lives. They also enjoy time together, with common interests, activities and take walks around the 15 acre lot for an easy exercise. They feel quite safe at Atherton, both indoors and outdoors. "There's a daily wellness-check phone call that requires us to answer and press a button to indicate that we are well," said Harold. They discovered many restaurants nearby and Ellen said, "So many restaurants...so little time!" Harold said that his social skills have improved and Ellen has no problem with that.

What is special here is that, there are a couple of cottages that are rented out to visiting families for \$50.00 a night. Harold and Ellen are enjoying the good life and get to see their granddaughter every week. What a wonderful journey!!!

Submitted by Linda Tanaka

JACL CALENDAR

Aug 3 – 7th 2022 - 2022 JACL National Convention at Bally's Hotel, Las Vegas

Aug 25th, Thursday, 11:30 AM - SFV JACL Lunch at Big Jim's Restaurant
8950 Laurel Canyon Blvd, Sun Valley, CA

Aug 27th, Saturday, 1 PM - Nethercutt Museum Tour / 15151 Bledsoe St / Sylmar

Sept 24th, Saturday, 2 PM - Dan Taguchi's Big Band Music & Dance
SFV JACC / Sakaguchi Hall

Oct 15th - SFV JA Community Center Clean-up

Oct 29th - Movie Day

Reparations for Slavery

At a recent board meeting I expressed an interest in supporting HR 40 which has been introduced into the House of Representatives. This bill would start the process of providing some measure of compensation for slavery. I was encouraged to see Kathy Masaoka, of NCCR testify in support of the bill. I was also encouraged to receive from board member, Patty Takayama, an essay expressing her support for reparations.

In the news, recently, has been the story of Bruce Beach in So California, which was restored to a black family after being taken from them a century ago. I was inspired by the heroic effort put forth by LA County Councilwoman Janice Hahn to gain victory for this measure of justice.

The black community provided essential support in our community's decade-long battle for Redress. The evil of slavery occurred centuries ago. To achieve a measure of justice for it will be long and involved. As a civil rights organization we must join this battle. We will be hearing more about HR 40 after the coming election.

Submitted by Phil Shigekuni

Bruce's Beach Story:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bruce%27s_Beach

HR 40 Bill:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/40/text>

Masaoka's testimony on 2/16/21

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dyBf0hkzYw4>

2022 Los Angeles TANABATA Restarts



The pandemic brought the Tanabata Festival to a halt after it started 13 years ago. Yoshihito Yonezawa, born in Sendai, Miyagi Ken, founded the Los Angeles Tanabata Festival as part of Nisei Week. This year Nisei Week will be celebrated from August 13 through August 21st. The Nisei Week Parade, with people from our JA communities, businesses, community organizations, kenjikas, youth programs, Veterans, Grand Marshall, dignitaries, Nisei Week Queen and her Court, and other local organizations, will begin the celebration. Everyone is welcomed to dance and join the ODORI to be held on the final weekend.

The Los Angeles Tanabata Committee is proud to announce the theme for this year's theme is "*Fusion.*" *The positive blending together and bonding.* The Tanabata Committee has an office, room 405A, at the Japanese American Community Cultural Center. Supplies, kazari materials are available, and workshops are conducted on Saturdays and Sundays. We encourage old and new kazari makers to begin making their own kazari.

Additional information:

Facebook.com/TanabataLA

Instagram@tanabatafestivallosangeles

Submitted by Kiyo Fukumoto

Congratulations



Congratulations goes out to **Nancy and Kay Oda** who recently celebrated their **58th Anniversary** on **July 11th**. This adorable couple were high school sweethearts before tying the knot. They celebrated here in LA, but are now enjoying a relaxing vacation (58th honeymoon?) in Hawaii.

July must be a good month for marriages, as **Dennis and Barbara Okita** celebrated **Anniversary #53** on **July**





Dan Taguchi's



BIG Band Music

Saturday, Sept 24, 2022 at 2 PM

Tickets: \$15 / Dinner \$10

Come and enjoy the rhythm of the 40's sound
Kick up your heels and dare to swing dance

**Mail your check to: SFV JACL
12953 Branford Street / Pacoima, CA 91331**

For additional information or questions email

nancy at: nt.high.mtn@gmail.com or

Leave a message at: 818-899-7916

The Kizuna Summer Program Held at SFVCCC

Students, 2nd through 8th grade, joined the Kizuna staff for a week long program, July 11-15th, to learn about their Japanese American culture and heritage. The students enjoyed various activities such as *mochitsuki*, *Japanese calligraphy*, *family oral history* and *much more*. The program also focused on such values as gratitude, responsibility, team work, empathy and on incarceration. The participants wrote their hopes, wishes, and dreams on a *tanzaku*, (a strip of paper). The tanzaku messages were written to their parents, siblings, best friends, grandparents and others. We formed a large circle outside, and launched the helium filled balloons. The high flying balloons will assure their hopes, wishes, and dreams come "TRUE."

Submitted
by:
Kiyo
Fukumoto



JACL Luncheon at Lure Fish House, Porter Ranch

June 30, 2022

A dozen **SFV JACL members** joined by **Anne Chilcott** from **Ventura County JACL** met at the seafood restaurant in the newly open Porter Ranch Shopping Center. The dishes were fresh and flavorful with an assortment of appetizers that were big enough for entrées. The menu is extensive with oysters, lobsters, and other delights from the sea. I was eager to try various dishes, but decided on the refreshing shrimp ceviche instead of giving in to my enormous appetite. **Yas Gohata** and **Nancy Takayama** had crab cakes while his wife, **Nancy** held out for salmon tacos. I was trying to peek at the other orders that looked impressive. It looked like crispy fish and chips, salmon salads, and chowder. Our JACL members are foodies.



Lure Fish House provided a spacious private room in which we were able to chat comfortably and safely while enjoying the food and company. The servers were kind and gracious allowing us plenty of time to enjoy and even play a game.



Our fearless Program Chair, **Linda Tanaka** previously requested a **white elephant gift** for the 'end of meal' game. **Marcia Mahony** was first up to choose a gift that turned out to be a wooden manikin provided by **Nancy Gohata**. The game progressed politely until **Barbara Okita's** choice of hand towels brought by **Nancy Takayama** was taken. **Barbara** was able to choose a replacement of Ziplock sandwich bags and a room diffuser, but that gift was taken away. It was all in fun. The afternoon ended with Linda sharing a delicious **miyage** from **Hawaii**. The other members in attendance were **Al and Mitzi Kushida**, and **Geri Shiraki**.



Thank you, **Linda**, for arranging another successful outing.

Submitted by May Wood



Next Luncheon: Thursday, August 25th at 11:30 AM
BIG JIMS Family Restaurant / 8950 Laurel Canyon Blvd / Sun Valley



How Well Do You Know Your Board Members?

Answers to April 26th Luncheon Game at Stonehaus

- Who always drives in the slow lane for caution? (Kiyo Fukumoto)
- Who can play three musical instruments? (Barbara Okita)
- Who, of our board members, is super helpful with medical knowledge? (Marion Shigekuni)
- Who lived in Hawaii for more than ten years? (Not born there) (Nancy Takayama)
- Who started entertaining at the age of 10? (Nancy Gohata)
- Who was on the TV show Password? (Linda Tanaka)



"Chanpon"

The name for this column will be "**Chanpon**". According to the Kenkyusha Japanese English dictionary means "together". Please submit your thoughts, articles, photos with narrative and recipes to Patty Takayama at: pe.high.mtn@gmail.com



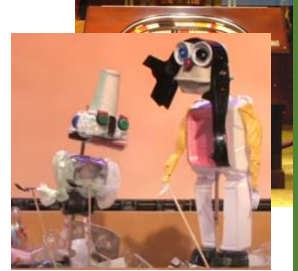
The word for this month is "**mottainai**"

which means wasteful. I'm sure you've heard your Obachan say that to you many times.

Having lived through lean times after returning from camp, where things were not easily obtainable,

except through mail order catalogues, everyone saved and recycled everything. Scraps of cardboard and braided cloth could be turned into indoor slippers.

Discarded pieces of wood could and were made into chairs, dressers and tables. Camp life encouraged people to be resourceful.



Watch Great Leaps "Mottainai" video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TrMLqbxLOE0>

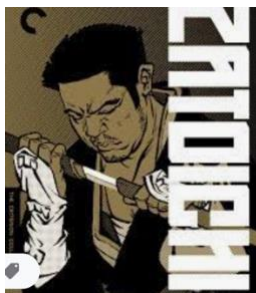


Great Leap / Nobuko Miyamoto

The newest environmental music video from Great Leap, featuring music by Nobuko, directed & edited by Dan Kwong.

Donate to Great Leap: www.greatleap.org

You know you're a San Fernando Valley Japanese American



when you used to spend your Saturday nights at the SFV JA Community Center with your grandparents watching samurai films: The Seven Samurai, Hidden Fortress and Zatoichi, the blind swordsman.

Remember, in the early 1960s both sides of the community center doors slid open to let in the cool summer breeze, and children could be heard playing outside in the courtyard, too restless to watch the movies they did not understand or

subtitles they could not read.

Back in the 1950s and '60s Japanese language films were only available for viewing at a theater downtown, in Little Tokyo. After the community center opened, it was one of the first activities that drew families to congregate and enjoy the company of their Japanese American neighbors who were spread out all over the valley.



DID YOU HEAR?

- Sumi:** "Have you heard about the increase in the number of violent attacks against Asians lately?"
- Yone:** "Yes, I saw the news about the Chinese couple who were attacked and robbed by two masked men in the parking lot in front of the 99 Ranch Market. "
- Sumi:** "That's right. I heard about another Asian woman who, apparently, was on her way to her car. She was assaulted on the street by a man in broad daylight."
- Yone:** "What happened to her?"
- Sumi:** "Well, luckily she was carrying her car keys."
- Yone:** "So, did she scratch his face?"
- Sumi:** "No. She had one of those car key holders with an alarm, like the ones the SFV JACL gave out last year at the plant give away."
- Yone:** "So, what happened?"
- Sumi:** "She pulled the alarm device and the screeching sound startled the attacker and people turned to see what was happening. He got so flustered; the attacker ran away."
- Yone:** "Really?"
- Sumi:** "Yeah. A few people ran toward her and the attacker fled."
- Yone:** "Wow. That's great! I better make sure I carry my alarm key chain too."



For elderly



Who's Who on the SFV JACL Board

SFV JACL Board of Directors

President	Nancy Takayama	Recording Secretary	Barbara Okita
Treasurer	May Wood	Program & Installation Chair	Linda Tanaka
Scholarship Chair	J.P. deGuzman	Civil Rights Chair	Phil Shigekuni
Membership Chair	Kiyo Fukumoto	Holiday Party Chair	Patty Takayama
Cheer Chair	Mitzi Kushida	Pacific Citizen Chair	Marcia Mahony
Publicity	Kyoko Oda	Recognition	Marian Shigekuni
		Correspondence Secretary	Geri Shiraki

At Large Members

Nancy Gohata / Tomo Hattori / Jaclyn Tomita
Mabel Takimoto / Jami Tanihara

Friends of the Board

Linda Kuratomi / Harold Kameya
Isabelle Miyata / Harvey Negoro



2022 JOKUN RECOGNITION COMMUNITY LUNCHEON ORDER OF THE RISING SUN

Sunday, June 5, 2022

It was a late spring morning that shined the sun's rays on the representatives from diverse organizations in Southern California. The **Japanese Chamber of Commerce Foundation (JCCF)** welcomed over 300 guests to the **Quiet Cannon** in Monterey Park to honor, **ABC 7 Eyewitness News Anchor, David Ono**, and **Nikkei Federation's Bryan Takeda** as the **Fall 2021 Jokun Honorees**. The two men demonstrate their passions in their fields with their outstanding achievements in bridging United States and Japan relations.



San Fernando Valley JACL was represented by President **Nancy Takayama** and Treasurer **May Wood** who enjoyed the company of **Kitty Sankey, Mr. and Mrs. Kumamoto** and **Ken Inouye** from **SELANOCO** at their table.

David Ono, winner of the **Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette** is the Evening Anchor for **ABC7 Eyewitness News**. He shows his dedication to our Japanese American community by producing the award-

winning documentaries such as "**Unknown Warriors of World War II**" which featured the Japanese American soldiers from the **442nd and 100th Battalion** in Europe which won **three Emmy Awards** and the **Edward R. Murrow Award** in 2010. In the 2014 documentary "**The Legacy of Heart Mountain**" which used secretly taken photographs of the internment camp, **Ono** won **four more Emmys** and the **Edward R. Murrow Award**.

In 2011, he reported on the **earthquake and tsunami** that **devastated Tohoku**. He continued to support efforts to provide help on the reconstruction efforts in that area. In 2021, **David Ono** served as a moderator for the **10th Anniversary Memorial for Tohoku**.

Ono also created reports on the **70th and 75th Anniversaries** of the **Hiroshima atomic bombing** which also won **Emmys**.

Bryan Takeda, the honoree who received the **Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays** has been active in the Japanese community for over thirty years. He joined the **Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute** in 1986 and served as its president working to expand the cultural program with Japanese archery, taiko, karate and ikebana programs. In 2016, he founded the **Mirai Nihongo Gakuin**.

Takeda also established the **Nikkei Federation** strengthening the friendship and goodwill between Japan and the United States. Currently the **Nikkei Federation** supports **seventeen** community organizations in **Los Angeles** and **Orange Counties**. Bryan Takeda created the **Nikkei Federation Rising Star Youth Leadership Program** to encourage continuing participation of the next generation of high school students with community organizations throughout Southern California. Our **SFV JACC Rising Star Youth Leadership Program** sponsored by **Margaret Takimoto** has provided outstanding leadership skills to our high school students.

Bryan Takeda initiated the **Pasadena-Mishima Friendship Youth Exchange Program** in 2002 which gave opportunities for the younger generation to engage in friendship and goodwill between the two cities.

He served as **Program Director for the U.S.– Japan Council** and helped raise contributions of over \$1 million dollars for the **Tohoku - Great East Japan Earthquake**.

We send our congratulations to both men for their contributions to the Japanese American Community. Submitted by May Wood

San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple



2022 Obon

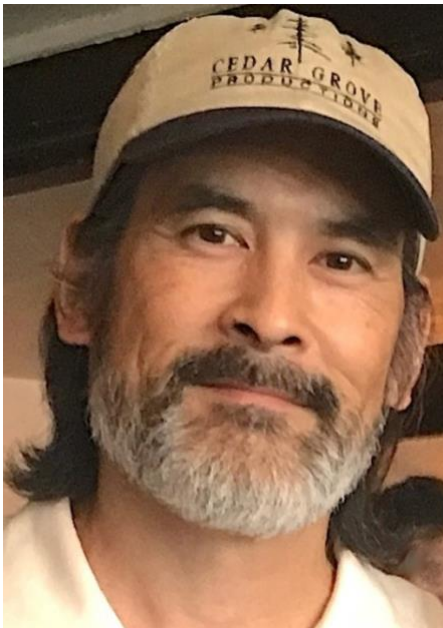
Letter from the Editor

I would like to thank everyone who worked on this issue. I did not realize the work and effort it took to publish a newsletter. Nancy Gohata published our newsletter for years and years with her daughter, Karen Yoshino. Nancy Takayama, our fearless leader organizes the articles and the wonderful writers were so patient with my bothersome calls. Thank you, Phil, Barbara, Kiyo, May, JP, Patty for your articles and photos. Your work is greatly appreciated.

Arigato gozaimasu - Linda

JACL Pacific Southwest District to present “Lil Tokyo Reporter” Documentary at the 2022 JACL National Convention in Las Vegas, Aug 5th

CHRIS TASHIMA



Actor | Director | Writer

Academy Award Winner for Live Action Short Film, “*Visa and Virtue*”. The historical drama inspired by Holocaust rescuer Chiune ‘Sempo’ Sugihara. Chris also directed, screen played & acted in “*Day of Independence*” and appeared in “*Under the Blood Red Sun*”.

KEIKO AGENA



Actor

Best known for her role in “*Gilmore Girls*” where she played Lane Kim and appeared in FOX’s crime drama “*Prodigal Son*” and AMC’s “*Better Call Saul*” Keiko received the Best Female Actor award in the *Amy Awards* which honors Asian and Asian-Americans achievement in film or television

JEFFREY CHIN

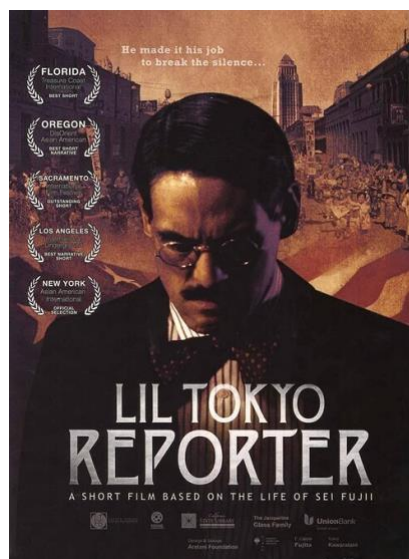


Director

Jeffrey is a commercial and feature film director. His mission is to share the untold stories of immigrant pioneers who came to the US. He collaborated with Director John Singleton working on television shows “*Billions*” (Showtime) and “*Snowfall*” (FX)
In 2021, he completed his first feature film “*Mosagallu*”

A Short Film Based on the Life of Sei Fujii

The film was inspired by the True Story of Civil Rights Leader Sei Fujii, publisher of *The Kashu Mainichi* (California Daily News), who made amazing contributions to the Japanese American community. Fujii, a USC Law School graduate, was denied citizenship and a law license because he was born in Japan.



He teamed with civil rights attorney J. Marion Wright to provide legal assistance to Japanese individuals and the community for four decades. Their most significant legal achievements included a 1928 U.S. Supreme Court case that permitted construction of the Los Angeles Japanese Hospital and the 1952 California Supreme Court case that overturned the California Alien Land Law, which prohibited aliens ineligible for citizenship from owning property.

San Fernando Valley Japanese American Citizens League



Membership Application

Membership Categories

Regular/Individual - \$67

Regular sustaining members of the organization

Couple/Family - \$110

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

Youth/Student - \$30

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

Thousand Club - \$200

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

Century Club - \$350

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

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

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

Millennium Club - \$1000

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

Life Membership Categories

Thousand Club Life - \$3000

Members who pay a lump sum to establish a lifetime membership

Century Club Life - \$5000

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

Pacific Citizen Newspaper

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

☐ **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 for free

☐ **New Membership** ☐ **Renewing – Member ID:** _____ ☐ **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 mail this form to:

JACL Membership

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 \$ _____

Or JOIN or RENEW Online: <http://www.jacl.org/member> Questions: mbr@jacl.org



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Pacoima, CA. 91331-3019