

**San Fernando Valley Japanese American Citizens League Newsletter
August/September 2020**



**PACIFIC CITIZEN
HOLIDAY GREETINGS
FUNDRAISER**

Attention All Members!

The deadline for the 2020 Holiday Issue of the Pacific Citizen will be in October. Please help the SFV JACL promote our annual Pacific Citizen Fundraiser by renewing or purchasing a personal ad in the Holiday Issue.

With the help of the JACL membership, affiliated businesses, family and friends, we were able to sponsor many programs in 2020. A few of the events were:

- Day of Remembrance at JANM
- Cherry Blossom Picnic with the Ventura JACL Chapter
- *Alternative Facts* - Movie by Jon Osaki
- 50th Anniversary Manzanar Pilgrimage
- Scholarship Awards @ SFVJACC Family Fun Day
- SFV Hongwanjji Buddhist Temple Obon
- Japanese American Roots for Children
- Dan Taguchi and his Big Band
- Terminal Island Field Trip
- Holiday Party
- SFVJACL Installation Luncheon

Your ad can be in the form of a personal holiday greeting, a congratulatory message, a business ad, or tribute to loved ones. You can also help solicit ads from businesses you frequent. Prices start at \$25 (business card size \$50.)

THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT YOUR GREETING IS: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2020

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

Mitzi Kushida (818) 360-6718 or mitzik99@gmail.com
Nancy Gohata (818) 371-8013 or nancygohata@gmail.com
Barbara Okita (818) 784-5128 or barbot@aol.com
Marion Shigekuni (818) 893-1581 or pshig2000@verizon.net
Marcia Mahony (818) 669-0409 or msmahony2@gmail.com

For monetary donations, please write a check to SFV JACL and send to:

**SFV JACL
12953 Branford St.
Pacoima, CA 91331**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

July 2020



The COVID-19 Test

On March 4th I returned from my trip from Japan. It has been close to five months since my return and I hadn't decided to take the Corona virus test. Mostly because I didn't know what it involved.

On Wednesday of last week, I decided to make an appointment. The following is my experience and the process of making the appointment, driving to the site and taking the test. It was relatively easy but expect to do some waiting, so grab a good book or friend.

I chose the online site run by the Los Angeles County.

<https://covid19.lacounty.gov/testing-sites-list/>

Once in the site, locate and select a location. Then select, "Make an Appointment". You will be asked several questions; name, email address, etc. Once you have responded to the questions and submit it, you will receive email with instructions to book your appointment.

Within the email there will be a link to select a date, time, add health insurance and other info. Once you have completed the questions and submit it you will be emailed a Confirmation Notice. **You MUST bring this confirmation notice with you.** *No Confirmation Notice, No Test.* Patty and I made the appointment for the first available day which was for Friday at the Hansen Dam Recreation Center between 2-2:30 PM.

Friday afternoon we got in line behind other cars around 2:15 PM. The line was about ¼ mile from the park entrance. The line was moving but it took about 15 minutes to get to the first booth letting us know to have our *confirmation notice on the dash*. From there the line curved around and around within the park with reminder signs and instructions along the way.

After about 40 minutes we finally reached the booth where a fully suited hazmat guy took our Confirmation Number. Then with a long stick grabber tool he passed two plastic bags through the 2" opening of my window. From there the next booth another person yelled out to us to see if we needed verbal instructions on how to administer the test. I said sure, even though I watched the video they sent me.

I removed the cotton swab and only handled the stick end. I swabbed both cheeks, roof of my mouth, under my tongue and between my lips and gums (about 20 seconds). I opened the glass tube and placed the cotton swab (swab end first) into the tube, shook it 3 times, then placed everything back in the bag. I drove to the next booth and another hazmat guy using his grabber tool took both bags. We were done by 3:20 PM. They told us it may take 3-5 business days to get the results.

The **next day** at 3:48 PM we received our results back. We both tested negative!

That's my experience. I took the test so I, my family and friends would now have some comfort.

My next experience will be at the Red Cross Blood Bank. There, I will discover if I have antibodies and if I do, I can donate plasma.

Do this for yourself and others. The test is FREE!



Nancy Takayama
President

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING A JACL MEMBER



Japanese and Japanese Americans have faced prejudice and discrimination in this country. The exclusion Act of 1924 stopped all immigration to the United States from Japan. Isseis could not own land, nor process for naturalization. They could not buy a home and they faced legal and social discrimination.

Japanese Americans were considered the enemy of the United States after the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, and 120,000 Japanese Americans were ordered into ten concentration camps for the duration of WWII.

The Japanese American Citizens League is a national organization whose ongoing mission is to secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry. Our organization stands with the leaders of Black Lives Matter. The leaders and members of the JACL also work to promote cultural, educational and social values and preserve the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American community.

As of July 24, 2020, we face a critical national health pandemic with a record breaking death of 4,213 in Los Angeles County from COVID-19. With President Trump referring to the coronavirus as the "Chinese Virus" or more ungraciously, "Kung Flu", anti-Asian sentiment has raised its ugly head. The importance of a Civil Rights Organization is more important than ever. Please help us encourage family and friends to consider being a member. An application form can be found in this issue. We are most grateful.

Article submitted by Kiyo Fukumoto

THE JACL APPLAUDS THE PASSING OF THE NO BAN ACT IN THE HOUSE

On July 22, 2020, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 2486, the National Origin-Based Anti-Discrimination Act, or NO BAN ACT that was first introduced by Rep. Judy Chu (D-Ca) in April 2019. The passing of this historic bill would put an end to the Administration's Muslim Ban and prevent future bans that discriminate on the basis of religion. It would repeal the asylum ban and remove the additional restrictions on refugees. The passage of the NO BAN ACT serves as a direct repudiation of the racist immigration policies of this administration.

In 2017, JACL submitted an amicus brief to the Supreme Court in opposition of the Muslim Ban, citing that the xenophobic rationale for the ban mimics the case that was made for mass incarceration of Japanese Americans in World War II. Throughout history minority communities have been branded as threats to national security and subsequently discriminated upon through laws that separate families and further make these communities targets of hate. This legislation will correct the error when the Supreme Court upheld the Muslim Ban on the same faulty logic with which the Korematsu case was wrongfully decided.

We now call upon the Senate to pass Senator Chris Coons' (D-DE) companion bill and establish that we as a nation do not and will not discriminate on the basis of religion.



NURSERY DRIVE-THRU PROJECT

On Tuesday, May 6th the SFV JACL sponsored a “Drive Thru” event at the SFV Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, distributing **free** vegetable plants from **North Hills Nursery (Cathy & Yosh Nakano)** and Face Masks donated by and made by **Kaori Hall**.

The volunteers on this day included: **John Doomey, Yas & Nancy Gohata, Kaori Hall, Linda Kuratomi, Al & Mitzi Kushida, Marcia Mahony, Marion & Phil Shigekuni, and Patty & Nancy Takayama**, all wearing masks to protect the community and others.

This event was to set an example to show all, that we as community members, understand and know what it will take to come out from our home safely and begin to establish our “new Norm”. We need to adapt to new practices so we may protect our family and friends and begin to move forward with our lives. Returning to work and socializing can be done safely. **Wear your face mask, wash your hands, carry hand sanitizers and practice social distancing.**

THANK YOU to everyone who came out. I believe the best part of this Drive Thru was being able to see, chat and know that our friends are healthy and safe.

This event was not intended to be a fundraiser, but to raise awareness. Through the amazing generosity of our supporters who came out and participated in our Drive Thru, we received over \$2000 that we donated back to our sponsors and community.

A Big Huge Mahalo to all our donors and volunteers. Great Job Everyone!!!

Article submitted by: Nancy Takayama



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Let's Learn About Asian American History

Every summer I teach Asian American Studies 10: Introduction to Asian American History at UCLA. Due to the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 crisis UCLA has moved instruction online. But an unanticipated consequence has been that I've been able to open my classroom to JACL friends. I'm so delighted that some of my "students" have included Nancy Takayama, Patty Takayama, Mitzi and Al Kushida, Nancy Gohata, Harold Kameya, Priscilla and Ken Mui, and Phil Shigkeuni who also gave a guest presentation at the end of the course. Another guest lecturer was Asian American Movement activist and *Rafu Shimpo* columnist Mary Uyematsu Kao, who just published *'Rockin' The Boat: Flashbacks of the 1970's Asian Movement*, which is available from the UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press.

Instead of a midterm and final exam, I require students to identify a family artifact, contextualize it within scholarly literature, and then contribute to a grassroots digital archive of Asian American history. Some artifacts are generations old and have traveled from distant shores. They range from photographs to passports and from kitchen items to jewelry. Since archives are historically exclusionary, it's vital to create alternative or "subaltern" repositories of knowledge and so I invite you to learn more about Asian American history by going to <https://uclaas10digitalarchive.wordpress.com/>.

Submitted by Jean-Paul deGuzman

Ucla

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Sadly, we did not have any applicants for the 2020 National and Local JACL Scholarships.

Please be on the alert for the **National and Local JACL Scholarship Program** which will be available again for the 2021 Graduating High School Seniors.

The new scholarship applications should be available online on the **National JACL site in November of 2020**. SFV JACL uses the same application but has different deadlines. There are also other applications available on the NATIONAL JACL Website.



JP DeGuzman and Beatrice Contreras became husband and wife on March 29, 2020. We wish the best to the happy couple!!

CHEER COMMITTEE NEWS



We hope everyone is keeping healthy and safe during the CoVid19 Crisis. **Michiko Kus** sent several cards wishing a speedy recovery to **Dennis Okita, Nancy Oda, May Arakawa and Ikuyo Sakaguchi**. Our thoughts and good vibes are with their families as well during these difficult times.

Nancy Takayama continues to provide support for all of us during these unusual times by keeping us abreast of programs of interest in the Asian Community and delivering Produce Boxes from **Yasukochi Farms**.

A special message of appreciation to **Ikuyo Sakaguchi, Tamlyn Tomita and Daniel Blinkoff** for their generosity to our SFV JACL Chapter.

A ZOOM VISIT WITH TOM DOI AND IKU SAKAGUCHI

On July 23, we had a friendly zoom chat with former board president, **Tom Doi**, presently residing at Hollenbeck Palms in Boyle Heights and **Iku Sakaguchi**. On hand were, **Yas and Nancy Gohata, Al and Mitzi Kushida**, daughter **Marcia Mahony**, and **Phil and Marion Shigekuni**. Also participating was **Nancy Takayama** who zoom- hosted the meeting. If you would like to participate in future meetings, please contact

Nancy Takayama.

nt.high.mtn@juno.com.

Photo: Top (L-R): Iku Sakaguchi, Nancy Takayama, Al & Mitzi Kushida
Middle (L-R): Marcia Mahony, Nancy & Yas Gohata, Tom Doi with caregiver
Bottom: Phil & Marion Shigekuni



ANNOUNCEMENTS

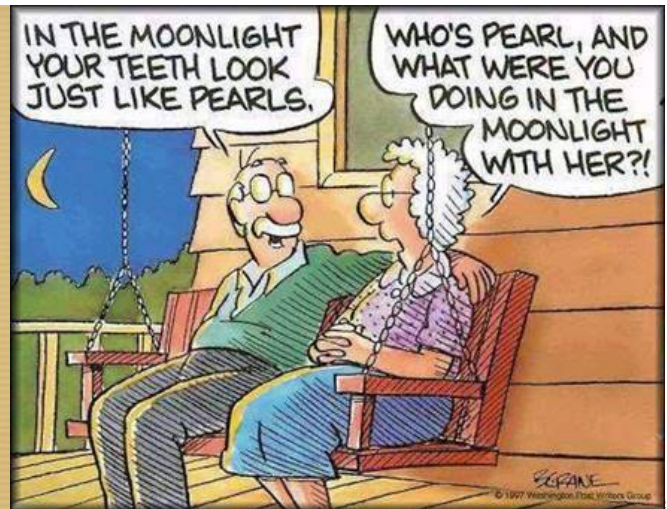
The family of **Doreen Kawamoto**, while expressing thanks for the many notes of condolences, have decided to not schedule any memorial celebration of Doreen's life.

Another former board member, **Sumi Yamaguchi**, who passed away early this year will be remembered with a virtual commemorative program. The date for this program will be announced closer to the time it will be offered. Please send any photos or written remembrances to Phil Shigekuni at pshig2000@gmail.com. 818 893 1581

LEVITY DURING COVID-19



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Thanks, Grandma!



"FREE HAMMOCKS, all over town. It's like a miracle!"

**THANKS TO THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY WHO SUPPORTED OUR
PACIFIC CITIZEN HOLIDAY ISSUE FUNDRAISER**

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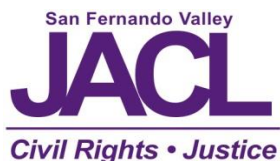
You can greatly help our chapter by getting the Chapter newsletter via email.

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>





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**

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

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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>



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