

San Fernando Valley Japanese American Citizens League Newsletter December/January 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



There is much to read in this newsletter, so I will make this message short & enjoyable.

Happy Thanksgiving

Merry Christmas

Happy Bodhi Day

Hanukkah Sameach

Mele Kalikimaka

Feliz Navidad

Merii Kurisumasu

Happy New Years



Nancy Takayama

UPCOMING EVENTS



COME JOIN US IN THE FUN AND ACTIVITIES

December 11

Board Meeting Welcoming New Board Members

December 14

Holiday Musical Show The Grateful Crane

January 8

Board Meeting

January 21

Third Tuesday Movie Outing

January 26

JACL Installation

February 22

Down Memory Lane The Grateful Crane

Questions or Comments?

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





2019 Pacific Citizen Holiday Greetings

Season's Greetings to all our Pacific Citizen Holiday Issue advertisers! Your support of the SFV JACL's annual fundraiser will help fund our programs for 2019.

Thank you to the generosity of the following advertisers:

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CHURCHES / ORGANIZATIONS

Chatsworth West United Methodist Church • Nikkei Senior Gardens • SFV Ballroom Dance Class SFV Hongwanji Buddhist Temple • SFV JACC • SFV JACL • SFV Japanese Credit Union SFV Japanese Language Institute • SFV Meiji Sr. Citizens Club • SFV Taiko SGV API PFLAG • Sunrise Japanese Foursquare Church • Tuna Canyon Detention Station Valley Japanese Community Center

We also wish to thank the following monetary donors:

Richard Fujimoto & Paige Low • Kim Gohata & Paul Chan Yas & Nancy Gohata • Grace Honbo • Taro & Mary Ishimoto Paris Kariya • Dale Kadonaga • Dawn Kunihiro Al & Mitzi Kushida • Doreen Kushida & Jose Gonzalez Miles Kuwata & Rouxann Fujimoto • Leslie Otsuki Gary & Elaine Saito • Gary & Sandra Yamamoto • Karen Yoshino SAVE THE DATE

SFV JACL's 78th Annual Installation Luncheon

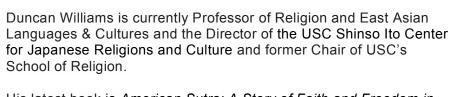


Knollwood Country Club 12024 Balboa Blvd, Granada Hills 91344

Social Hour: 11:30am Lunch: 12:00pm \$35.00 per person

Reservation Deadline: January 6, 2020





His latest book is American Sutra: A Story of Faith and Freedom in the Second World War, which got up to #3 on the LA Times

Bestseller List for Nonfiction. (Book available at Installation for \$30.)

Using newly translated sources and extensive interviews with survivors of the camps and veterans of the war, *American Sutra* reveals how the Japanese American community broadened our country's conception of religious freedom and forged a new American Buddhism.

For Reservations & Questions

Contact: Linda Tanaka Email: Ikitai@hotmail.com Ph: (805) 527-1224



The Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition

Fall Classic Luncheon: **The Legacy Project** Sunday, October 13, 2019

The QUIET CANNON in Montebello provided an appropriate and beautiful setting to honor the Descendants of "so called enemy aliens" who were incarcerated at the **Tuna Canyon Detention Station** under the **1798 Alien Enemies Act** signed by President John Adams and reissued in 1918. The Act continues to give the President of the United States the authority, in times of war, to arrest and confine without trials, aliens from enemy nations. Alien immigrant leaders from Japan, Germany, Italy and Japanese immigrants from Peru were arrested and sent to detention centers such as Tuna Canyon from December 07, 1941 to October 1943 without due process as alleged risks to our national security.

As we sat down to our assigned tables, the ceremonies softly opened with the video from the 2017 Legacy Project I by June Aochi Berk and Dr. Russell Endo and their team from the Japanese American National Museum. We heard personal stories from each of the descendants that bring us close to the context of the war hysteria prevalent in those dreadful times. The detainees had been rounded up immediately after the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1041. The voices and images of the descendants of the detainees began with Tom Ige telling us how their good life on Terminal island was disrupted when his father and other fishermen were arrested after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Yoshiko Hazama, daughter of Kotaro Ishimoto and David Scott, the grandson of the Merrill Scott, officer in charge of Tuna Canyon, shared heartbreaking stories from their loved ones. Yo told us that her father's hair had turned grey during his incarceration at Tuna Canyon. Many related stories of trekking up to the "boonies' of Tuna Canyon to visit their fathers and to endure standing 10 feet away, speaking through chain link fences topped with barbed wire.

Helen Ota as the Master of Ceremonies formally opened the luncheon thanking us as supporters of the Tuna Canyon Legacy Project. Ms. Ota is the Director for the Downtown LA JACCC as well as a performing member of the Grateful Crane Ensemble. Led by Ernie Nishii we observed a moment of silence in memory of Marc Stirdivant (1948 -2019) who was a founding member of the Tuna Canyon Detention Coalition, and grant writer for the traveling museum, Only the Oaks Remain. Derek Yee, the great-grandson of detainee, Tsuruhiko Abe, provided the Blessing. His great-grandfather was a leader and founder of Koyasan Buddhist Temple who was rounded up as an alleged enemy alien.

Yo Hazama, Nancy Gohata, Mitzi and Al Kushida, Phil and Marion Shigekuni, Marcia Mahony, Linda Tanaka and I sat together at our table enjoying a prime rib plate. We found a tabletop place card at our table for detainee, Masamitsu Iwaoka who turned out to be the grandfather of our JACL President and Luncheon Committee Chair, Nancy Takayama and her sister, Patty Takayama. Sitting at another table were Patty Nishimura and her sister Elaine who were descendants of Ichimatsu Noda, another detainee and a Koyasan Temple founder. Isabelle Miyata, Harvey Negoro, Linda Kuratomi and friends were also in attendance. Liz and John Doomey and family and friends were seated at another table.

After lunch we were called to attention by the pounding rhythms of the Taiko Drummer, Walter Nishinaka. We enjoyed the presentation "Letters for Our Grandchildren" written and narrated by Soji Kashiwagi and the cast of the Grateful Crane Ensemble, Susan Ioka (Chika Sugino), Darrell Kunitomi (Kenzo Sugino), Kurt Kuniyoshi (Arthur and Paul Sugino) and Helen Ota (Ayako Sugino). Many of us were in tears listening to the emotionally powerful qualities of the letters written by the Sugino Family. Nancy Oda provided closing remarks and introduced her Luncheon Committee Nancy Takayama, June Berk, Nancy Hayata, Donna Sugimoto and Sue Wong. She provided roses to a surviving member of the Sugino family and the descendants of the Tuna Canyon Detention Center Detainees.

Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition continued on page 5

Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition continued from page 4

The unveiling of **the Legacy Project** asks us to ... illuminate the once dark corners ... to give a better understanding of the present and ... as a call to action for the future ... It reflects the quote from philosopher, Jorge Santayana: Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it. We are... compelled to learn from our mistakes and stand ... strong against ... injustice.

Article submitted by May Wood



Photo (Back Row L-R): Harvey Negoro, John Doomey, Robert Miyata, Al Kushida, Yo Hazama (hidden), Nancy Gohata, Marion & Phil Shigekuni, Denise Tanaka, & Margaret Takimoto (Front Row L-R): Mitzi Kushida, Isabelle Miyata, Marcia Mahony, Linda Tanaka, Tom Ige, Liz Doomey, May Wood, Kay Yamada



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HOW CAN WE HELP GROW OUR JACL MEMBERSHIP?

The National Membership Committee of the JACL is starting a campaign to increase membership for regular/individual, student/youth, couple/family, and Lifetime Memberships. I will share the new National programs as they are initiated by the National Membership Committee.

Just to give you a perspective of the JACL nationally, over 8 thousand members are spread across the United States from Alaska to New York, and many smaller chapters are scattered throughout our nation. There are forty seven active chapters that continue to serve their communities to join in the fight for civil rights and equal justices for all.

Currently, the San Fernando Valley JACL has 132 regular members with eleven youth members. Our members may wish to become a *Premium Member*. \$200 membership qualifies you for the *Thousand Club*, \$350 for the *Century Club*, and \$1000 for the *Millennium Club*. Life Memberships include *Thousand Club Life* for \$3000 or *Century Club Life* for \$5000.

We hope you will join us in encouraging other friends and family to contribute and to participate in the many programs and family activities we have planned for the coming year. You are invited to join us for the "HOLIDAY MUSICAL SHOW," with songs by the *Grateful Crane Ensemble* on Saturday, December 14th, at 2pm. All children, teenagers, *gichans and bachans*, and happy adults are welcomed to celebrate the *HOLIDAY SEASON*.

Article submitted by Kiyo Fukumoto, Membership Chair



SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2020 2:00 PM SFV JACC – 12953 BRANFORD STREET, PACOIMA 91331

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE WITH THE GRATEFUL CRANE SINGING YOUR FAVORITE SONGS OF THE 50s AND 60s GRATEFUL CRANE
ENSEMBLE
PERFORMING OUT OF GRATITUDE

For more information contact Nancy Takayama at nt.high.mtn@gmail.com

2019 PSW JACL DISTRICT AWARDS LUNCHEON

TORRANCE MARRIOTT October 26, 2019

Under sunny skies and balmy California breezes, **SFV JACL** attended the **PSW JACL Awards Luncheon** to support our SFV JACL Chapter Honoree, **Marcia Mahony**. SFV JACL was a proud sponsor of the PSW JACL Awards Luncheon along with 14 other Chapters (including one from Arizona), organizations, businesses and individuals. **Lane Nishikawa** and **Doug Urata** served as Co-MCs for the event.

We participated in fundraising activities buying raffle tickets and bidding on a silent auction hoping to win one of the great items donated by JACL members. Our own **Marion and Phil Shigekuni** donated a beautiful still life artwork from their collection.

Entertainment was provided by Keiki or the youth from Halu Heila Keali I o Nalani Dance School with charm, joy and energy that supported the OHANA and ALOHA spirit of the luncheon. Carol Kawamoto, PSW District Governor presented a surprise Sapphire JACL pin to Doug Urata for his greatly appreciated efforts on behalf of JACL. The Torrance Mayor welcomed us all to his city, noting that Torrance has been engaged in Sister City activities with Kashiwa, Chiba, Japan for over 40 years.

The other Honorees were: **JACL Service Award Winner, Marissa Kitagawa**, former Program Associate and Director of PSW who spoke of how she became interested in the JACL as a college student. JACL taught her to speak up against injustice and to advocate for others who may not be able to speak for themselves.

The Community Partnership Award went to the JACCC, Japanese American Cultural and Community Center with Alma De La Cruz, new President of JACCC accepting the award. Community Service Award winner, Mario Reyes who is the Rafu Shimpo Photo Editor was introduced by a short biographical video. Mario commented that he was more comfortable behind the camera and promptly placed a smiley face mask in front of his face to respond to a request to smile more.

The COURAGE AWARD was given to Lisa Bartlett, current Orange County Supervisor and former Assemblywoman and Mayor of Dana Point. Ms. Bartlett had the audacity to speak against supporting a Republican colleague who had major issues she could not ignore. San Diego JACL Chapter honoree, Sidney Shiroma established his own College Textbook Publishing Company. His work with JACL included Chairing the Scholarship Selection Committee as well as serving on other committees. SELANOCO honoree, Patti Hirahara worked with the Smithsonian Museum of National History and in her hometown of Anaheim to preserve and honor the legacy of Japanese Americans. Ventura County JACL Chapter honoree, Ken Nakano graduated from Cal Poly with a degree in Horticulture and has been active in preserving the Japanese Cemetery and the restoration of the cemetery site. Ken was born on the way to Incarceration at Manzanar. His mother and Ken were hospitalized at the Los Angeles County Hospital and became separated from the rest of the family until mother and child were ready to travel to the Prison Camp.

SFV JACL HONOREE, Marcia Mahony was unable to attend due to the recent Porter Ranch Fire that forced her to evacuate with her family. Marcia has good Karma as many of her colleagues in JACL characterized her as kind, caring, supportive, efficient, wise and I will add she is essential to the smooth running of our local SFV JACL CHAPTER. Marcia was born in Minnesota and grew up in New York with her parents, **Tom and Sachi Doi**. She moved to California and worked at Universal Studios in the Law Department and Business Affairs Department for 35 years. She continues to use her

2019 PSW JACL DISTRICT AWARDS LUNCHEON continued on page 8

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professionalism as a dependable and tireless volunteer at her church and her grandson's high school. She is JACL Chair for the Dough Ball Booth at the SFV Hongwanji Temple OBON and runs a gentle, but tight ship for the two-day event. Marcia also is the Chair for the annual PSW Holiday Issue Ads Fundraiser. Under her leadership, SFVJACL is now the District's Top Selling Chapter for the PSW Holiday Issue Fundraiser.

Lane Nishikawa provided a clip of "League of Dreams – 90 Years of Highlights of the JACL". Tracy Ishigo, a former JACL staff member and current Violent Love leader, reminded the gathering about the Solidarity Arts Fellowship and how we were "Bridging Communities".

Article submitted by May Wood



Photo:

(Standing L-R): Kiyo Fukumoto, Barbara Okita, May Wood, Lisa Bartlett, Nancy Oda, Mitzi & Al

Kushida - Missing: President: Nancy Takayama

(Seated L-R): Nancy Gohata, Marion & Phil Shigekuni, Patty Takayama

BOARD MEMBER, KIYO FUKUMOTO'S SPECIAL TRIP TO OKINAWA

A friend recommended me to casting director, **Keita Kumano**, who was working on a film, titled "Orphaned". I was interviewed, read part of the script, and most surprisingly, was selected to play the grandfather.

The day before leaving Naha, Okinawa for Tokyo and to my final destination, Los Angeles, I began reflecting on this very special week filled with wonderful memories. After being selected to play *Daniel*, by Keita Kumano, I felt extremely honored. I thought I knew what filming making was like, but, I wasn't even close to understanding what it took to build a story and tell it on the big screen. I now appreciate and admire the time and effort that goes into making even a short fifteenminute film. Here are some of my thought and some of the things I learned during the week of filming.

I remember, my daughter, Carrie, telling me — "Dad — be in the moment". So I tried to remember my lines and at the same time, I tried to be me. I played a grumpy old man, blind and in a wheelchair, trying to find a missing part of his life. Kayesha McNeill, who played Sayaka, was a great support. She helped me a lot. I just hope I was able to help her. In fact, the entire crew worked as a team and supported each other like a family. I learned the cameraman, Mr. Yamasaki, was highly respected and they used the word, *umami*, which means famous. The producer, Kei Chikaura and his wife, Minho were there with us, too. Minho was on the set and helped me with my glasses, my lines, my cough medication and all the little things I needed to do and remember my part. later. We traveled to many different locations to film scenes and sometimes, out of sequence. We even made up lines on the spot. Two days, we started at 6:30 a.m. and went to about 10:00 pm. It was all good busy. One of the things we all enjoyed was eating. Breakfast, lunch and dinner were usually bento style, but we also had Japanese, Chinese, Thai and other meals with an Okinawan twist. Foods included: sharkburgers, bitter melon dishes, Okinawan soba (their national dish), large spam musubi, noodle dishes, mixed vegetables, soups, meat cuts and many more. I got a lesson on Okinawan cuisine at every meal and I really, really liked most of it.

The story of the film was built around Keita's relationship with his own randfather, who served as a Japanese soldier in China. His elderly grandfather reached out to Keita and told him about his experiences. It seems his grandfather was consumed with not knowing who he shot, a man or a woman. It had taken Keita fifteen years to put this story together. That's one of the reasons, I want to do whatever I could do to tell his story.

This experience, like the Japanese phrase - *ichigo-ichie*, "one life" and "a one-time encounter" will stay with me for a long time. This film making experience in some ways changed some of my

feelings and the way I think about people and life.

Photo: Kiyo and the Film Crew





IMAGINE LI'L TOKYO

The Little Tokyo Historical Society announced the short story writing contest – "Imagine Little Tokyo" and is seeking submissions of fiction short stories in three categories: youth (18 yrs and under), adult English and Japanese language.

The winners will be awarded a monetary prize in the amount of \$500 in each category. The winning stories will be published in the Rafu Shimpo and on the Discover Nikkei website. The deadline is January 31, 2020.

The short story committee will be specifically looking for stories that capture the spirit and sense of Little Tokyo in the past, present or future.

For more information and guidelines, visit www.littletokyohs.org.

Article submitted by Patty Takayama

THANK YOU, KEI INOUE

Kei Inoue is our resident chef for the Senior Lunch Program here at the SFV JACC. She serves a light lunch on Tuesdays and a Hot Meal on Fridays. Her talent in preparing and serving the delicious meals. Along with her bright eyes and smile, Kei is a master in the kitchen. Recently, some of our Chapter members enjoyed watching and helping her prepare one of the most popular dishes at the Friday Senior Lunch, *Oyako Donburi*. What a gastronomical treat! Thank you **Kei and Burt Inoue** for always being there and for your dedication to the SFV JACC.

Article submitted by Mitzi Kushida



Photo (L-R): Laurie Shigekuni, Marion Shigekuni, Marcia Mahony, Kei Inoue, May Wood, Linda Kuratomi, Mitzi Kushida

SFV JACL SERVES HOT DOGS AT THE CC CLEAN-UPS

In a morning filled with smoke from the Saddleridge Fire, several of the SFV JACL Board Members served up hot dogs (with and without chili), veggies, chips and cookies to the hard workers who came out to clean our Community Center.

Thank you to Nancy Oda who provided all the items for the lunch and a big thank you to Nancy Gohata, Mitzi and Al Kushida, Nancy Oda, Marion and Phil Shigekuni, Linda Tanaka and May Wood. We cooked, served lunch and cleaned up the kitchen. The big debate of the day was how do we heat the hot dogs - boiled or baked, we baked them and the buns - heated or cold, we heated them. We received many "thank yous" for the meal and no complaints, so the SFV JACL Board did its part to help support the Community Center.

Article submitted by Linda Kuratomi



(L-R): Linda Kuratomi, Nancy Gohata, Linda Tanaka, Mitzi Kushida, May Wood, Marion Shigekuni

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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/gmail.com/sfvjacl Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/sfvjacl

National Pilgrimage to Close the Camps

Japanese Americans from across the country will gather next spring in Washington, D.C. on June 5-7, 2020 for a "National Pilgrimage to Close the Camps." We plan to bring 125,000 paper cranes, or tsuru, as expressions of solidarity with immigrant and refugee communities that are under attack today. The 125,000 cranes represent the members of our community who were rounded up and incarcerated in U.S. concentration camps during World War II, including both Japanese Americans and Japanese Latin Americans.

125,000 paper cranes to DC in June 2020 for Tsuru for Solidarity's



Standing on the moral authority of our own unjust incarceration, the protest will demand that no matter where someone came from or how they arrived to the United States, they be treated with dignity and respect. We will stand with immigrant communities to condemn the policies that dehumanize them, including ICE detention; jailing and separation of parents, families and children; and the Muslim ban.

The planning is being led by Tsuru for Solidarity, a nonviolent, direct action project of Japanese American social justice advocates. "We expect this to be the largest gathering of Nikkei since World War II, when we were forcibly removed from our homes and incarcerated in U.S. concentration camps," said Mike Ishii, one of the lead organizers.

Fold-ins: We invite supporters to organize local "Tsuru Fold-Ins" to bring tsuru to Washington, D.C., or mail them to us by May 1, 2020. Details, including where to send tsuru, are available on our website: www.tsuruforsolidarity.org/tsuru-resources.

Fundraising: We are actively raising funds to help cover the substantial costs of the caravan, protest, and healing circles. Our goal is to raise \$125,000 in individual contributions: one dollar for each member of our community who was rounded up and incarcerated during World War II. To reach this goal, we ask that 1,000 people step forward to contribute at least \$125.

Our fiscal sponsor, Densho, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, so all donations are tax-deductible. Please visit https://tsuruforsolidarity.org/give for more information and to contribute.

Sign the "Close the Camps" Petition: We will gather signatures of survivors, descendants, and friends and deliver them to the White House when we arrive in DC in June. bit.ly/closethecampspetition

Program: The three-day program in Washington, DC will include:

- Friday, June 5: A Japanese American community gathering and preparation for the following day's march and rally.
- Saturday, June 6: A mass public solidarity march and rally, led by World War II camp survivors and descendants, with paper cranes and taiko drumming. This event will be open to the public.
- Sunday, June 7: Cross-community, intergenerational "Healing Circles for Change." These small-group sessions will build solidarity across communities and promote healing through sharing personal stories of incarceration and detention. They will be organized by Dr. Satsuki Ina, an expert on intergenerational trauma. Participation will be limited to those who register in advance.

Additionally, in the days preceding the D.C. program, a caravan of buses will leave from Los Angeles and other locations. These buses will carry a smaller group of activists to World War II concentration camp sites and present-day immigrant detention sites, where they will join in solidarity with local activists who are leading efforts to shut down these sites. The caravan will then join the larger group in Washington, D.C. We are also working to schedule meetings with members of Congress while the caravan is en route.

For updates and registration information: Please sign up on our email list (opt in on our website, www.tsuruforsolidarity.org).

2020 SFVJACL PROGRAM OF EVENTS

JANUARY 19 ANNUAL INSTALLATION LUNCHEON

FEBRUARY 22..... THE GRATEFUL CRANE SONGS OF THE 50s & 60s

MARCH BALBOA PARK PICNIC

MARCH 14 LANE NISHIKAWA'S FILM – OUR LOST YEARS

APRIL 25 51st MANZANAR PILGRIMAGE

JUNE 28-29 SFVHBT OBON FESTIVAL

JULY (TBA) FILM FESTIVAL

AUGUST 22..... ANNUAL SUMMER PARTY

OCTOBER (TBA) GENE AUTRY MUSEUM

NOVEMBER (TBA) EAST WEST PLAYERS

DECEMBER 12 HOLIDAY EVENT



OUR CHAPTER HAS ALSO PLANNED THE FOLLOWING EVENTS MONTH AND DATES ARE STILL PENDING

AN OUTING TO THE GIBBON CONSERVATION CENTER IN SANTA CLARITA ROCK'N ROLL CONCERT









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

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