

NEW YEAR RESOLUTION

This year the SFVJACL is happy to announce that **Dan Mayeda** will be the installation speaker on January 20, 2019. We will celebrate the new year at:

Knollwood Country Club located at

12040 Balboa Blvd

Granada Hills, CA 91344

Social half hour: 11:30

Lunch: 12:00

Tickets are \$35 each.

Contact: litai@hotmail.com

We're asking you to join us as we fight for civil rights and social justice today.

Dan's story is typical of Tuna Canyon Detention Station detainees. His grandfather, a community leader, was taken from his home in Coronado, California, leaving his family stranded. **Kunitomo Mayeda** sewed money into a jacket trying to look out for the family. Dan has thought about the impact of wartime internment on the Mayeda family. Proving that you're American and loyal resulted in Uncle Al's congressional Medal of Honor while Dan's father, Ray, served as a member of the Military Intelligence Service. missed receiving his CMH by one day. Their courage and influence prepared him for his success today as a lawyer and Professor at UCLA.

As a sansei, Dan asks, "Could this happen again?"

Recently the Los Angeles City Councilmembers Monica Rodriguez and David Ryu announced a resolution to commemorate the unjust arrests of Japanese, German, and Italian aliens, and Japanese taken from Peru, and others, during World War II.

SFVJACL stood tall during the Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition's successful bid at City Hall for one acre that was challenged last year and continues to support the traveling exhibit and Legacy Project that interviews descendants like Dan.

Article submitted by Nancy Oda



Installation Speaker Dan Mayeda

UPCOMING EVENTS



COME JOIN US IN THE FUN AND ACTIVITIES

December 9

Holiday Party

Januray 15

Third Tues. Movie Outing

January 20

Installation Luncheon

February 16

Day of Remembrance JANM

February 19

Third Tues. Movie Outing

March 2

Cherry Blossom Picnic

March 19

Third Tuesday Movie
Outing

March 30

Alternative Facts
(Film by Jon Osaki)

Questions or Comments?

Please email

kyoshino@verizon.net

or send comments to:

Nancy Gohata

14229 Carl Street

Arleta, CA 91331

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – GIVING THANKS



This past Thanksgiving my sister, Patty and I didn't participate in the family & friends gathering that most people had. Mainly, because she and I were not feeling well and we thought it best not to expose others to our unknown illness. We were invited to a longtime friend of our family's Thanksgiving dinner and fully intended to feast on turkey, stuffing, mash potatoes, enjoy conversation and meeting new friends. Since the decision not to go happened that morning I called our friend and made sure that the pumpkin pie and Fugetsu-do box we were going to bring made it to the dinner. She was kind enough to swing by and pickup the desserts. On her way home from the dinner she stopped back by and brought us dinner with all the fixings and dessert. Yummy!

That night, as I was sitting eating my Thanksgiving dinner, I wondered why I should be thankful. Just this past year, I have observed so many people who have given their time and generous support that personally affected me. They have asked for nothing in return and regardless of the long hours and labor their smiles were endless.

I am thankful and honored to know these people who have touched my heart. I am thankful to these people who share their lives and experiences. I am thankful that I will be able to continue to see them next year. I am thankful that I am blessed to have generous and kind friends.

To all the SFV JACL family and friends I am grateful and thankful for your kindness and for being part of our family.

AND I am very THANKFUL that I got Thanksgiving leftovers!!

Nancy Takayama



SFV JACC Clean-up Day

There's the Dodger Dog and the world famous Pink's Hot Dog. But, have you tried the SFV JACL Dog? The build-your-own hotdog bar was a big hit at the Community Center Clean-Up Day on Saturday, October 6th.

As the volunteers were busy cleaning and polishing the CC grounds, the JACL crew were cooking and prepping the hot dogs with all the fixin's. When volunteers took their much-deserved break, they were treated to a lunch of hotdogs, salad, chips, cookies and water.

Special thanks to **Marion Shigekuni**, who got the kitchen crew organized and started. A round of applause to the following kitchen support crew who helped prep and distribute lunch: **Linda Kuratomi, Phil Shigekuni, Linda Tanaka, Harvey Negoro, Marcia Mahony, Kay Oda, Nancy Oda, Kiyo Fukumoto, Evelyn Mitarai, Jaclyn Tomita and Shane Grimes.**





2018 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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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

We also wish to thank the following monetary donors:

*Richard Fujimoto & Leslie Anne Sheedy • Kim Gohata & Paul Chan
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REMEMBERING MIYE

A few days after celebrating her 90th birthday, **MIYE YOSHIDA** passed away in Stockton, California. She was an ardent person and lived her life to the fullest. Miye was a long time member and supporter of our chapter in myriad of ways, especially when her husband Ron was our chapter president in the 1960s. For our Obon fund raiser, she wore her head scarf and stirred the sugar to make cotton candy, as the sugar blew on her face and hair. Such was life to make a few dollars for our chapter.

Miye worked at UCLA in the research labs, taught for LAUSD as a teacher and librarian. In the late 1970s, she was one of the original four teachers for our Suzume no Gakkou summer program at SFV JACC. Her artistic and creative talents produced our culmination play, *Momotaro*, which was presented and enthusiastically received by the SFV JACC picnic audience. Miye's curiosity and adventurous heart lead her and Ron to travel extensively, including a visit to Olduvai Gorge where Dr and May Leakey unearthed a skull, one of the oldest and most important evolutions of mankind in the Ngorongoro Conservation area, Serengeti-Tanzania, Africa.

We send our deep condolence to her children Ron, Douglas, and Karen and family. She will be missed dearly.



MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORANT TO OUR ORGANIZATION

Thank you to renewing members for the last monthly reporting period, Oct. 21-Nov. 20th. (Note: When a new report is received from our national JACL office, it renders the previous report inaccessible, so I missed noting the renewals for the previous month's report. My apologies!) Thanks to the following members who renewed their membership in October/November.



Bob Goka, Larry & Wendy Hirota, Roger & Linda Itaya, Betty Kobata, George & Barbara Nakatsu, Elaine Saito, Mark & Raquel Shimizu, and Karen Yoshino.

Article submitted by Harold Kameya

DONATIONS

We received a generous Kodon Gaishi from the children of the late **Chieko Iida**. Beside this donation, the family also supported the Pacific Citizen Holiday Ad Fundraiser by placing an ad **In Memory of Chieko Iida**. Thank you **Lorraine & Keith, Douglas & Christine, Bryan & Jeanette, Calvin, and Robert & Diana**.

Long time members, **Stan and Masako Watanabe**, enjoy keeping up with our Chapter's activities by reading the newsletter in hard copy form. As specifically stated, their very generous donation will be used for postage only, which has sky rocketed in the recent years. Our sincere appreciation to Masako and Stan for your thoughtfulness.



Article submitted by Mitzi Kushida

YONSEI EYES – SEEING WITH NEW EYES

More than 150 people came to the San Fernando Valley Community Center to enjoy the films “Yonsei Eyes,” and a short film “My Dog Teny.” The attendees were greeted by Nancy Takayama, JACL Chapter President. Nancy Oda, event organizer, introduced the film maker, Jon Osaki. He explained how he became interested in making documentary films. He wanted to show personal and family perspectives of how the War and subsequent confinement into isolated camps affected their lives. “Yonsei Eyes” shares his family’s experience of visiting Tule Lake, a concentration camp in Northern California. It showed the reactions of his teenage children, fourth generation, and their experience of seeing Tule Lake and hearing about what happened there. I know his son wrote a “rap” of his thoughts, but I’m sorry but my limited understanding of rapper language and an old age hearing problem, I can not share with you what was stated in the “rap.” It was, however, nice to see a Japanese young person rapping. Jon took the time to provide a real life experience for his kids, and it seemed like a enjoyable and meaningful family outing. Jon plans to continue making films, and we should applaud and support his efforts.

A short film, “My Dog Teny,” based on a book by Yoshito Wayne Osaka, the filmmakers, father, was also shown. It told a story of young boy being separated from his friend and playmate dog, Teny, because he could not take pets to their assigned relocation camp. After the war, the young man went to college, got a job and raised a family, but always yearned for a dog. His family surprised him by presenting him with a young dog that looked just like Teny II. A love of a pet dog is very special for it provides “unconditional love” which helps people better understand and appreciate their lives.

After the film presentations, the tables and chairs were rearranged by all attendees, volunteers, JACLers, so the *oishi* bento could be served with tea, juice and water. JACL provided enough cookies and pastries for a small army. The event provided the opportunity for attendees to visit old friends and to make new ones. If you measure the success of an event by the number of smiling and happy faces, I think it was a very successful event.

Article submitted by
Kiyo Fukumoto

Photo: Front Row (L-R):
Jon Osaki, Nancy Oda,
Marion Shigekuni,
Linda Tanaka,
Michiko Tokunaga Kus,
Phil Shigekuni.
Back Row (L-R):
Kiyo Fukumoto,
Nancy Takayama,
Marcia Mahony,
Nancy Gohata,
Patty Takayama



VALLEY OF THE HEART

What happened to Japanese American farms during World War II? What was the impact of the forced removal of Japanese Americans on their friends and neighbors? Through a fascinating story that wove together a Japanese American family and a Mexican American family in the wartime San Francisco Bay area, renowned playwright **Luis Valdez** (of *Zoot Suit* fame) answered those questions. In *Valley of the Heart*, which JACL members and friends recently saw at the Mark Taper Forum. Valdez tells the story of the Yamaguchi and Montaño families whose lives were intertwined by land, labor, and love.

The two protagonists, Thelma, a Nisei, and Benjamin, a second-generation Mexican American, fall in love under pressing, if not forbidden, circumstances. Interracial marriage is illegal. Benjamin's family are sharecroppers on Thelma's family's farm. And, Thelma is betrothed to a young Nisei named Calvin Sakamoto. Despite all of this, Thelma and Benjamin eloped just as the Yamaguchi clan, like all other local Japanese Americans, were banished to desolate camps. In their absence, Benjamin manages the farm while his siblings dedicate their lives to the war effort. Meanwhile, locked away at Heart Mountain, WY, Thelma gives birth to a son as the audience learns more about the corrosive debates between the so-called "No-No Boys" (led by Calvin) and those who saw them as traitors. Despite the distance and pangs of death (the Yamaguchi patriarch, after suffering isolation in an FBI camp and a subsequent stroke, passes away and Benjamin's younger brother is killed in action), Thelma and Benjamin reunite to build a family. While tackling common motifs in Japanese American artistic productions such as cultural hybridity, intergenerational strife, and shifting conceptions of loyalty, the show forcefully celebrates how the interconnectedness of the two families—Asian and Latino—was a harbinger of demographic change to come in California.

Afterwards, we dined well at Hop Li in Chinatown with plenty of food for thought - having enjoyed such a moving play.

Article submitted by: JP de Guzman

NOTE: *Valley of the Heart* will be at the Mark Taper Forum until December 9, 2018.



Photo (L-R): Trudy & Ken Miya, Emi Hino, Mas Yamashita, Norma Jean Yamashita, Mitzi Kushida, Al Kushida, Beatrice Contreras, Barbara Okita, JP de Guzman, Patty Takayama, Yas Gohata, Marcia Mahony, Nancy Gohata, Amy Niwa, Jean Ishibashi, Dennis Okita. Couching in front of Amy Niwa is Janet Hosokawa.

Note: The unidentified person behind Nancy, was a theater-goer who couldn't get passed our group so Yas invited her to be in the photo. Her friend, behind Marcia, decided to hide.

OKAERI 2018

The Okaeri 2018 LGBTQ gathering was held at the Japanese National Museum on Nov. 16 and 17. Over 250 people attended.

A mini-film fest was held on Friday night. A 10 minute documentary called "*A Love Letter*" was shown which included our JACL member Marsha Aizumi and her family. You can view this moving video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Ref3nkUitE>

Our JACL Chapter was one of the many sponsors of this biennial event started in 2014. Each succeeding event has surpassed expectations. Okaeri (welcome back home) has been a welcome addition to the API LGBTQ community in Southern California. Being the only such event in the nation, we have had attendees from the east coast, Washington state, northern California and Hawaii.

For the first time, we had a workshop conducted in Japanese. About 30 people were in attendance! Our Board member, **traci ishigo** conducted one of the plenary panels. Also attending from our Chapter were **Nancy Gohata, Betty Kobata, Harold & Ellen Kameya**, and **Phil & Marion Shigekuni**.

The religion workshop was well attended. Buddhists discussed how to make known that their temples were accepting and affirming to their members. Christians discussed how doctrinal beliefs need to be reconciled to the fact that sexual orientation is not a choice, and the participation of the West LA UMC and Faith UMC were examples by their participation.

The Okaeri event has a facebook page: Okaeri 2018: A Nikkei LGBTQ Gathering
Jeri Okamoto-Tanaka of the WLA UMC led a "Telling Our Stories" writing workshop. She mentioned a quotation from holocaust survivor **Viktor E. Frankl** which all of our JACL members might appreciate: "The meaning of life is to give life meaning."

Article submitted by Harold Kameya

Photo: Standing (L-R):
Ellen Kameya, Valerie &
Lauren Kameya, Harold
Kameya, Nancy Gohata
Seated (L-R): Aileen
Toshiyuki, Betty Kobata,
Marion Shigekuni, Phil
Shigekuni



2018 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The Scholarship Committee is delighted to award scholarships to the following students: **Shaun Tanaka, Davis Yoshino, Jennifer Choi-Nakama, and Seira Narita** who will receive their awards shortly.

Please keep an eye out in future newsletters for bios and photos.



LITTLE TOKYO COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND

On November 14, 2018, **Bill Watanabe** and **Lisa Hasegawa**, whose roots are in the San Fernando Valley, presented the Little Tokyo Community Impact Fund that hopes to raise \$10 million, to the thirteen SFVJACL Board members present.

He was advocating for community investment in Little Tokyo since ownership has control over the types of businesses and services. For example, **Brian Kito**, whose manju business, is the 100+ year old Fugestudo on First Street. He does not own the land although he tried to make an offer. The fund will enable JAs to make an offer that might be interesting to the owner. Brian's son will be a third generation mochiya san (mochi maker). This type of business tradition would be more meaningful than the three shoe shops nearby although they are popular. Without ownership it's possible that the historic and cultural Japanese town as we know it will become extinct.

Bill is seeking a full \$10,000 and hopes to secure 50 pledges soon. He had 35 pledges so far with some individuals buying more than one share with their grandchildren in mind. The SFVJACL Board of Directors unanimously approved the pledge to support this critical issue.

Article by Nancy Oda

Photo (L-R): Nancy Takayama,
Bill Watanabe, Lisa Hasegawa



Before our October Board Meeting, **Kei Inoue**, SFVJACC Hot Meal Director, gave a cooking demonstrated to some of the members. We were treated to her delicious *Miso Nasubi* and *Kombu Maki*.

Pictured to her right is Board Member, **Mitzi Kushida**, who coordinated this special event.



LIGHTS, CAMERA, SOCIAL ACTION PSW DISTRICT AWARDS

The 2018 JACL PSW District Awards Luncheon was held on Saturday, September 29th at the Torrance Marriott Redondo Beach. Our San Fernando Valley Chapter was a Bronze Table Sponsor and aptly named table number 1. Our table was seated by **Kiyo Fukumoto, Nancy & Yas Gohata, Shunji Hosozawa, Linda Kuratomi, Linda Tanaka, Betti & Roger Tamaki, and Sandra & Gary Yamamoto.**

It was really nice to meet and spend time with our chapter members.

We had an excellent view of the speakers, films and awardees.

The awardee of the PSW Visionary Award was **Lane Nishikawa** who has put together several films including a documentary about the Internment Camps featuring comments from **Phil Shigekuni** and one that showed the thoughts and actions of **traci ishigo** and a representative from Cair, leading a protest of the Muslim travel ban at Los Angeles International Airport. Their group is called Vigilant Love and the film is called Two Strong Women. His next project will be about the JACL called "A League of Dreams".

Al Muratsuchi, Congressman in the California State Assembly spoke. He pointed out he is currently the only Asian American in the California Legislator.

The Dr. Ted T. Namba Fellow was awarded Matt Weisbly

Chapter awards went to: Ryan Takahiro Yoshikawa – SELANOCO

Marisa Orozco – Greater Los Angeles

Jon Yokoyama – San Diego

Nancy Nix – Downtown LA

Community impact award went to Visual Communications, a company who's mission is to develop and support the voices of Asian Americans and Pacific Islander filmmakers and media artists who empower communities and challenge perspectives.

A delicious meal and good time was had by all who attended.

Article submitted by Linda Kurtomi

Photo: Seated (L-R): Nancy Gohata, Linda Tanaka, Roger Tamaki, Bettie Tamaki

Standing (L-R): Gary & Sandra Yamamoto, Yas Gohata (adding ears or horns), Shunji Hosozawa, Kiyo Fukumoto, Linda Kuratomi.



2019 SFV JACL PROGRAM

January 20	SFV JACL Installation Luncheon
February 16	Day of Remembrance at JANM
March 2	Cherry Blossom Picnic with Ventura JACL Chapter
March 30	<i>Alternative Facts</i> (Film by Jon Osaki)
April 27	50 th Anniversary Manzanar Pilgrimage
May 18	Scholarship Awards at JACC Family Day
June 1	Film Festival of Short Documentaries
June 29-30	SFV Hongwanji Buddhist Temple Obon
August 14	Pacific Citizen Holiday Issue Fundraiser Begins
September 7	Japanese American Roots for Children
September 28	Dan Taguchi's Big Band Concert
October 5	SFV JACC Clean Up `
October 19	Terminal Island Field Trip
December 14	Holiday Party
January 19, 2020	SFV JACL Installation Luncheon



2nd WEDNESDAY MONTHLY BOARD MEETING AT 7:00 PM

THIRD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH MOVIE OUTING (Except in June & December)

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Please go to kyoshino@verizon.net and register your e-mail address

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San Fernando Valley Japanese American Citizens League



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

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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.

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San Fernando Valley

JACL

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