

GUY AOKI SPEAKS AT THE SFV JACL 74th INSTALLATION

The 74th annual SFV JACL Installation was held on Sunday, January 24, 2016, at the beautiful Odyssey Restaurant in Granada Hills, CA. Event Chair, **Linda Tanaka**, welcomed guests as they arrived for the buffet lunch. Last year's Recognition Award honoree, **J.P. DeGuzman** was the master of ceremonies. **Reverend Patricia Usuki** presided over the *shokuzen gassho*.



The keynote speaker was **Guy Aoki** from Hilo, Hawaii, whose background in the media and activism inspired the gathering of more than fifty JACLers. He is the head and co-founder of Media Action Network for Asian American (MANAA) since 1992. He is also a columnist for the *Rafu Shimpo* for the past twenty four years. He brought a clip when he debated with Sarah Silverman after her satire was aired on Conan O'Brien. They appeared together on the August 22, 2001 episode of *Politically Incorrect*, along with host [Bill Maher](#). Aoki opined that such slurs should not be used in an off-the-cuff manner because it legitimized their use, and that use of the word "chink" was no better than the use of the word "[nigger](#)". Aoki, while acknowledging that [satire](#) was a legitimate practice, asserted that Silverman's execution of it was not successful because it ran the risk that people would assume she actually subscribed to the racist viewpoint of her character. He confronted Silverman by saying that she hurt millions of people with her slurs during the satire on jury duty. In addition, Mr. Aoki described several situations where Asian parts did not materialize when programs were casted.

The club honored **Harold Kameya** for his leadership and advocacy during his two year presidency. He said, "I am very proud that our SFV JACL board has NOT shied away from difficult issues such as Proposition 8 or LGBTQ issues, nor the Korean Comfort Women issue.

New President **Phil Shigekuni** (who served as president 41 years earlier) and his board members were installed by Downtown JACL representative, **George Kita**.

The Chapter recognition award went to the new 'chief', **Linda Tanaka**, who has contributed a lot since she joined in 2008.

As always a walk down memory lane with the PowerPoint produced by J.P. Deguzman demonstrated the diverse activities that the chapter participated in from civil rights, community involvement, and fun activities.

Article continued on page 3

UPCOMING EVENTS



COME JOIN US IN THE FUN AND ACTIVITIES

February 16

Third Tues. Movie Outing

February 20

Day of Remembrance

February 27

Tsunami Relief Fundraiser

March 15

Third Tues. Movie Outing

April 1

Lea Salonga at Northridge
Performing Arts

April 3

Garage Door Opener

April 19

Third Tues. Movie Outing

April 30

Manzanar Pilgrimage

May 15

East West Players – La Cage
Aux Folles

Questions or Comments?

Please email

kyoshino@verizon.net

or send comments to:

Nancy Gohata

14229 Carl Street

Arleta, CA 91331

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

January 21, 2016



To our San Fernando Valley JACL members:

This is my last President's message before turning the presidency over to Phil Shigekuni. Thank you Phil, and thanks to the board for your support and hard work in the past 2 years.

The presidency provided me with an interesting learning experience. It provided a soapbox for issues that I felt strongly about. Ideally, every member should feel equally empowered in voicing their thoughts. I recently heard a presidential candidate speak on the importance of standing up for others, especially the weak and vulnerable. We, having enjoyed many privileges in life, should take those words to heart.

I recall back in the 1950s that my parents mentioned the importance of education and the need to keep learning. Today, the need to keep up with technology, news and events in our rapidly changing world is very obvious!

Regarding the need to keep learning, I would like to start compiling a list of e-books that our JACL members have. Some Kindle e-books from Amazon have the feature where you could loan them out. You just need your friend's email address, and Amazon will send it out to that person. Note that while you have loaned your ebook out, you will not be able to read it on your computer. The great feature of loaning out your ebook via Amazon is that in 2 weeks, presto, your book is automatically retrieved, and is back in your possession! For more information, go to:

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/help/customer/display.html?nodeId=200549320>

Please send me ideas on how we can do other things differently in this changing world!

Harold Kameya



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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>



As in past years, **Nancy Gohata**, included the audience in a participation game that involved our speaker. The audience had to match Guy Aoki's preference for Oscar contenders, Asian actors and actresses and TV shows.

It was great to see student member, **Keith Matsushita** and member **Kevin Tamaki** and his wife, **Uma Chopra**, attend our Chapter Installation for the first time. **George Kita** from the Downtown Chapter of the JACL also attended his first SFV Installation. When he arrived, he was informed that he would be officiating the installation of officers. We really appreciated his willingness to be a part of the program.

To culminate the luncheon, Phil Shigekuni led the audience with the singing of folk singer/activist Pete Seeger's song, *Where Have All the Flowers Gone*. Everyone went home with a door prize donated by the Chapter and Board.

Article submitted by: Nancy Oda

THANK YOU, ARIGATO, MAHALO

By Linda Tanaka

I would like to thank our members and friends for attending the 74th Installation Luncheon on January 24, 2016. It's always wonderful to see you and we appreciate your support. I am so grateful to the Board for helping to make the Installation Luncheon a success. **Marion Shigekuni** and **Mitzi Kushida** did an excellent job with the door prizes. Thanks to the slide show committee with **JP DeGuzman** (chair), **Nancy Takayama**, **Nancy Gohata**, **Marcia Mahony** and entertainment by Nancy Gohata (chair), **Phil Shigekuni**, **Evelyn Mitarai**, **Dennis Okita**, and **Al Kushida**. As always, JP was charming as MC and thanks to **Doreen Kawamoto** for graciously welcoming guests at the reception table. Marcia Mahony and Al Kushida were active photographers and **Nancy Oda** helped with publicity. Thanks to all the members who came early to help set up and organize the room.

At this time I want to also thank the Board for the Chapter Recognition Award. I feel I don't measure up to past recipients, but I thank you for this recognition. This is the first time I have ever received anything like this. I'm sure my sons will be impressed.



Barbara Okita presents Chapter Recognition Award to Linda Tanaka

LA CAGE AUX FOLLES

Tickets are still available for the Sunday, May 15th performance of *La Cage Aux Folles* at East West Players. In this most entertaining comedy, Georges is the suave owner of a glitzy drag club on the French Riviera. Partnered romantically with his high-strung star performer, Albin, they live a charmed life – until Georges's son, Jean-Michel, turns up with his fiancée. Cultures collide as Georges and Albin are introduced to Jean-Michel's fiancée and her ultra-conservative parents, and the strength of family and feather boas are tested in this jubilant musical that inspired the film, *The Birdcage*. Tickets are \$28. For ticket information contact **Nancy Gohata** at yaiko16@verizon.net. The deadline to order tickets is **February 26, 2016**.

JACL'S "MELE KALIKIMA" Holiday Party!

The theme for this year's JACL Holiday Party was "Mele Kalikimaka," which is Hawaiian for Merry Christmas! Besides our JACL families, an invitation was extended to the Suzume no Gakkou families. The party was held at our Community Center on Saturday, Dec. 12 at 5 PM.

This year, to keep things simple, we had parents with young children bring wrapped presents for our Santa to pass out. **Nancy Gohata** and **Valerie Kameya** assisted Santa in the process, and photographers **Nancy Takayama** and **Alayne Yonemoto** took precious photos of the smiling children and Santa! Alayne Yonemoto is president of the Torrance JACL chapter.

Kids found interesting items at the craft table, directed by **Roger, Evonne** and **Valerie Kameya**.

Thank you all for the delicious dishes, salads, desserts and drinks! We did a pretty good job of making all the 'ono kau-kau' on the potluck table disappear! **Marion Shigekuni, Mitzi Kushida, Nancy Oda, Linda Kuratomi** and **Linda Tanaka** and others managed to put some order into the huge array of dishes!

At the photo booth, Nancy Takayama, **Patty Takayama** and Alayne Yonemoto did a great job of setting up the props for the lovely color photos of children and families! The Christmas tree was awesome as usual!

For folk dancing, Nancy Gohata first called only children for the folk dancing. She then asked them to find an adult partner. It worked out very well! Young and old had a great time!

Thank you to **Barbara Nakastu, Evelyn Mitarai**, and **Al Kushida** for joining **Phil Shigekuni** and Nancy G. in providing accompaniment for the group singing. Thanks to Linda Tanaka, the children enjoyed learning to dance to the song 'Mele Kalikimaka'!

We had **Stan Rivera** from Hawaii serve as Santa, who related very well with the children. His background includes being a professional photographer and a professional chef. He thanked me for the opportunity as it warmed his heart! To show his appreciation, he produced a DVD slide show, with music, using the 94 photos that he took at the party. Please see me to view it. Thank you, Santa Stan!

Mitzi's Toy Exchange Table was new for this year, and it was a hit! The children's faces lit up for their turn to choose a toy! Mitzi's daughter **Doreen Gonzalez** and **Marcia Mahony** assisted in directing the children at the table. There were a few unclaimed toys at the end, so children who did not bring a toy received a chance to get one. And, when there were still some unclaimed toys at the end, children were encouraged to reclaim any leftover toys. We ended up with an empty toy table! Thanks Mitzi!

Thank you to **Dennis Okita, Al Kushida, Jose Gonzales**, plus Phil and others for taking down the tables near the stage, and stacking up all of those chairs! Thanks to **Sumi Yamaguchi**, who did a great job staffing the registration table and directing people to the gift stacks. Special thanks to **Bert Inouye** who ran the audio equipment!

The party ended by 8:30 PM. Arigato! Mahalo! All of your hard work was greatly appreciated!

Article submitted by Harold
and Ellen Kameya

Yas and Nancy Gohata with their
grandchildren.



2016 DAY OF REMEMBRANCE SET FOR FEBRUARY 20

“Is It 1942 Again? Overcoming Our Fears and Upholding Constitutional Rights for All” is the theme of the 2016 Los Angeles Day of Remembrance program, which will take place on Saturday, February 20th from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Japanese American National Museum, 100 N. Central Avenue in Little Tokyo.

This year’s theme recognizes the importance of addressing the recent upsurge in anti-Muslim and anti-refugee sentiment spurred by the terrorist events in Paris and San Bernardino and exacerbated by public leaders calling for actions that scapegoat Muslim Americans and refugees, similar to what happened to Japanese Americans during World War II.

“Given the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II, and having been the target of rampant racism, Japanese Americans have a unique legacy and an urgent responsibility to recall and share the devastating effects and long-term impacts of such treatment,” stated **Kay Ochi**, Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress co-chair and DOR committee member.

Complete article in the January 20, 2016 issue of the Rafu Shimpō.

“VIGILANT LOVE” – VIGIL OPPOSING ISLAMOPHOBIA

On December 10, shortly after Donald Trump made his remark advocating banning immigration of Muslims into this country, a community vigil was organized and staged in Little Tokyo. Also included in the event was mourning over the killings in San Bernardino. The event started in the courtyard of the JA Cultural and Community Center with a group of approximately 100, which included community leaders, Buddhist priests, Muslim clergy, Singh clergy and Christian ministers.

After a few speeches calling for religious tolerance and understanding, the group with candles in place, proceeded to march, behind a banner, through the Village Plaza to the front of the JA National Museum. At the start of the march, **Nancy Gohata** and **Phil Shigekuni** led the procession in the civil rights anthem, “We Shall Overcome”.

At the museum, JANM President, **Greg Kimura**, spoke of the significance of the vigil taking place on the site where, 73 years earlier, Japanese Americans boarded buses taking them to an internment camp at the Santa Anita Racetrack.

The approximately 350 attending formed a peace sign at the conclusion of the event.

It was gratifying to see Pacific Southwest District Director, **Stephanie Nitahara**, and staff members, **traci ishigo**, and **Nancy Takayama** play important roles in organizing and staging this significant event.

Article submitted by
Phil Shigekuni



Board member and PSWD Program Coordinator, traci ishigo helped organize the Candlelight Vigil.

SUZUME NO GAKKOU PASSES ON THE TORCH TO KIZUNA IN 2017

SUZUME NO GAKKOU/NIKKEI DISCOVERY CAMP

JUNE 13-17, 2016

MONDAY-FRIDAY - 9AM – 5PM

Back in 1994, the SFV JACL Chapter sponsored a two-week summer cultural camp called Suzume no Gakkou. A new generation with thirst for knowledge and exploration of their Japanese ancestry, brought about a new one-week Suzume no Gakkou cultural program in 2011. This year will be the last session of Suzume no Gakkou under the leadership of Chairpersons **Linda Tanaka** and **Nancy Oda**. In the afternoon, the Suzume no Gakkou students will join Nikkei Discovery Camp.

Editor's Note: Suzume no Gakkou began in 1981, with staff members **Nancy Gohata**, **Mitzi Kushida**, **Harriet Nishizaka**, and **Miye Yoshida**. In 2011, with the encouragement of **Nancy Oda** and grandchildren in mind, we decided to revive the program. For the past five years, Suzume no Gakkou was staffed by all senior citizens, with the exception of Jaymie Takeshita. So it shouldn't come as a surprise that we are ready for retirement. 2016 will be the last year of Suzume no Gakkou. Luckily, we have partnered with Kizuna, so our Valley youngsters in grades 2-8 will be able to participate in the Nikkei Discovery Camp at the SFVJACC starting in 2017.



OPENING SALE

Only through the month of January, take advantage of Nikkei Discovery Camp's opening sale with our lowest prices for the year!

\$198 *per student*

REGISTER NOW!

COMMUNITY CORNER

Congratulations to Board Member, **Paul Jonokuchi** who was installed as President of the SFV Japanese Community Center on January 9, 2016. This is the sixth time he has accepted this position.

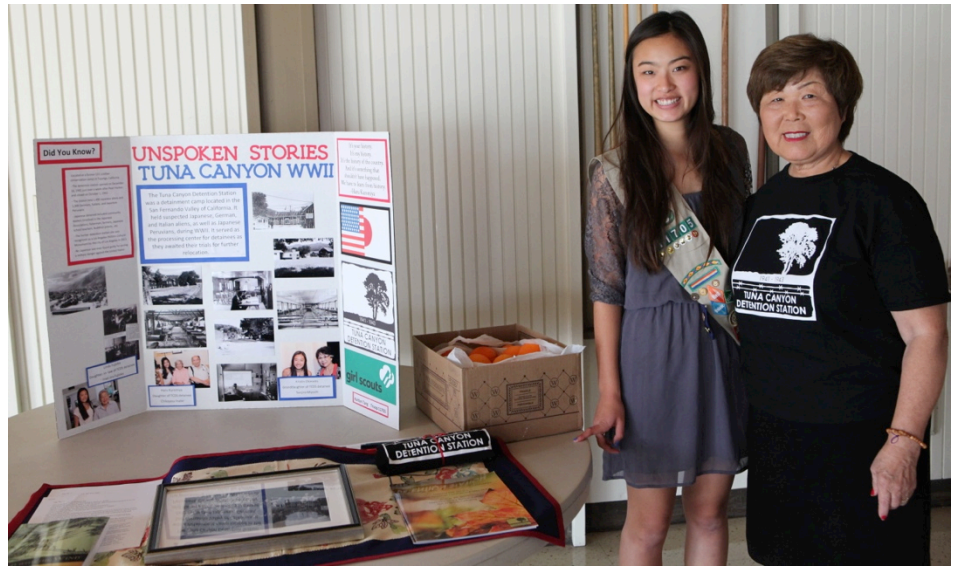
Congratulations to Board Member, **Nancy Oda**, who will be serving her third year as the SFV Coordinating Council President.

PASSING THE TORCH TO THE NEXT GENERATION

The Greater Los Angeles Chapter started 2016 with the installation of **Janet Okubo** as president with **Michelle Yamashiro**, Governor of the Pacific Southwest, presiding. The main topic was the Tuna Canyon Detention Station. The featured speaker at Merit Park on Sunday, January 17 was **Kaitlyn Tang**, a sophomore at Peninsula High School. She is the granddaughter of **Kanji Sahara**, who helped her video **Kristin Okimoto**, **Haru Kuromiya**, and **Linda Fujioka**, who are family members of the Tuna Canyon detainees. She is scheduled to do her presentation at Vista Grande Elementary School and at Girl Scout meetings in Los Angeles as part of her work to qualify for the Gold Award. Her father, Ben Tang, provided assistance with the projector while Nancy Takayama brought the screen.

Nancy Oda, President of the Tuna Canyon Detention Station, joined her with an update on the Traveling Exhibit that is sponsored by the National Park Service Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) grant. Her focus was to develop a sense of place and the people who were detained. The diaries of Reverend Daisho Tana and Sasabune Sasaki revealed much about the raw emotion and the democratic environment created by Merrill Scott, the officer in charge and the ability of the Japanese people to endure imprisonment starting on the night of December 7, 1941. A question and answer period followed the talks.

Tuna Canyon is located 12 miles from the Los Angeles City Hall off of the 210 freeway at the Verdugo Hills Golf Course. Board members brought delicious *oshogatsu* lunch.



Kaitlyn Tang and Nancy Oda

Article submitted by Nancy Oda

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS

Our chapter is most grateful for the generous monetary donation from **FLORA TERAMURA** in honor of her granddaughter **Kara Tanaka** who received our SFV JACL Scholarship. We wish Kara much success in pursuing her educational goals. Thank you Grandmother Flora.

Wally and May Arakawa continues to supplement our mailing expense with their generous monetary donation. They enjoy reading the hard copy version of our chapter's Newsletter. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

The **BALLROOM DANCE CLASS** donated a very generous sum. We sincerely appreciate your kind thoughts. Superb dancers, **Roger and Linda Itaya**, are the instructors and many of our chapter members along with community friends are enjoying and getting good exercise dancing. They meet every Tuesday evenings between 7-9 PM at the SFV JACC Sakaguchi Hall.

MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORANT TO OUR ORGANIZATION

A belated welcome to **Dr. Tomo Hattori**, who joined our Chapter back in August of 2015. Tomo is an Assistant Professor at CSUN in the Asian American Studies Department. He has been a friend of our Chapter for many years and served on a panel exploring the Asian American Community at our SFV Japanese American Community Center in May of 2014. We are also excited that Tomo is serving on the 2016 Board of Directors. We apologize for this very tardy welcome!

Welcome to new members **Hideko and Ronald Hamamoto**. Ronald M. Hamamoto Landscape has been a supporter of the Pacific Citizen Holiday Fundraiser from the beginning of our Chapter's involvement in 2007. We are most appreciative.

We need your help! Together with Board members, let's make that extra effort to recruit new members. We are an active Chapter and we have participated in a variety of programs that included civil rights and cultural identity issues. We have also supported youth programs which included scholarships and internships. Please contact Nancy Gohata at yaiko16@verizon.net with suggestions and ideas that may increase our membership.

Information About the National JACL Credit Union

I'm a relative newcomer to the JACL, and I was not aware of the services of the National JACL Credit Union that was established in 1943. I learned of the JACL CU by attending the national conventions in San Jose and Las Vegas.

I feel that all members should be made aware of the advantages of joining the National JACL Credit Union. Here's what the National JACL credit union sent to me:

What can you expect from "banking" at the National JACL Credit Union?

- Best VISA Platinum Card. Not only do we have a low 9.9% APR rate but it's a fixed rate, comes with rewards and has no hidden or annual fees.
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- We pay dividends on our Checking accounts.
- Our marketing budget is spent paying members for referrals.
- We participate in the Shared Branching Network which gives our members the ability to do their banking at over 5000 branch locations.
- We're just a phone call away 800-544-8828.

See us at www.jaclcu.com

Article submitted by Harold Kameya

KATHY OTSUKI

KATHY OTSUKI (89) passed away on December 26, 2015. Her last residence was The Gardena Retirement Center. Kathy was a talented lady and enjoyed many forms of arts and craft: Japanese doll making, Bonsai, re-stringing jewelry, and for many years, she made JACL's Christmas party table decorations with **Micki Nakagiri**.

Alongside her husband **HARRY OTSUKI**, SFV JACL chapter President 1963, she diligently supported all of the chapter's activities. She was a hard worker at the Chapter's Obon Festival booth preparing teriyaki sticks, making cotton candy and working in the Doughball booth. (Sounds familiar.)

Kathy is survived by her son **Ron and Sue Priervin**, daughters **Dawn Kunihiro**, **Leslie Otsuki** and granddaughter **Ashley Kunihiro**. We will miss Kathy dearly. Her daughter Leslie is a member of our chapter. If you wish to contact Leslie, please write to this newsletter, c/o Nancy Gohata at yaiko16@verizon.net and we will forward your message.

Article submitted by: Mitzi Kushida

JAPAN'S EARTHQUAKE TSUNAMI RELIEF 5TH ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISER And Disaster Preparedness Fair FEBRUARY 27, 2016 11:30-2:30 pm

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By: Kyle Otsuki

SFV JACL and GRATEFUL CRANE ENSEMBLE

Presents

A new play by Soji Kashiwagi

Come LAUGH and REMINISCE

"Garage Door Opener"

Growing up Sansei: Japanese American upbringing

Just the mention of a "JA Dysfunctional Family Play" has brought smiles and laughter from Baby Boomer Sansei who grew up in a uniquely JA family environment. Why is this so? What is it about growing up Sansei and family dysfunction that brings immediate recognition from those who were there to experience it?

In the play, we meet Glenn and Sharon Tanaka, a Sansei brother and sister faced with the daunting task of cleaning out their parents' garage and house after they passed away. As they sift through dozens of empty tofu containers, kamaboko boards and broccoli rubber bands, Glenn and Sharon begin to uncover items from their past that they knew nothing about, and in the process, begin to gain a better understanding of their parents--and themselves--by the items their mom and dad left behind.

Sunday, April 3, 2016 – 2 PM

SFV JACC – Sakaguchi Hall

Ticket Donation: \$15

Bento: \$10



See any JACL Board members for tickets or Contact: Nancy or Patty Takayama at: nt.high.mtn@gmail.com or (818) 899-7916

SAVE THIS DATE: Saturday, March 26, 2016

"The Times of Our Lives"



Grateful Crane Ensemble
PRESENTS

"THE TIMES OF OUR LIVES"

8th Annual Fundraising Dinner & Silent Auction

Saturday, March 26, 2016 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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Scott Nagatani, Musical Director

Thanks to the following businesses who supported our Pacific Citizen Holiday Issue fundraiser.

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San Fernando Valley Japanese American Citizens League Membership Application

Annual 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

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 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

🍏 New Member

🍏 Renewing Membership

🍏 Gift Membership

Annual Membership

🍏 Regular/Individual - \$67.00

🍏 Thousand Club - \$200.00

🍏 Century Club - \$350.00

🍏 Couple/Family - \$110.00

🍏 Thousand Club Spouse - \$32.00

🍏 Cent. Club Spouse - \$32.00

🍏 Youth/Students - \$25.00

🍏 Millennium Club - \$1000.00

Life Membership (one-time payment)

🍏 Thousand Club Life - \$3000.00

🍏 Century Club Life - \$5000.00

Member Information

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JACL Chapter

San Fernando Valley

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Year of Birth _____

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