



"Mitzi made my mask."
Marion Shigekuni



"Marion said I talk too much."
Phil Shigekuni.



"Living in difficult times."
Mitzi Kushida.



"The new outdoor norm."
Al Kushida



"May all beings be happy
and well."
Nancy Gohata.



"Added benefit of wearing a mask....
wrinkles disappear."
Marcia Mahony



"Go Bruins."
Linda Kuratomi



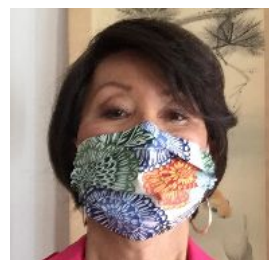
"My niece made me a
Hawaiian mask."
Geri Shiraki



"Which do you like more....
my new hair or mask?"
Patty Takayama



"Shikataganai, Gambarimasu."
Kiyo Fukumoto



"The new norm look!"
Linda Tanaka



"Thankful for wonderful friends
who have been so caring."
Barbara Okita



"Panda love #HATEISAVIRUS"
Nancy Oda



"Stronger together."
Nancy & Arielle Oda



"A ninja warrior staying strong."
Michiko Kus



"Heavily medicated."
May Wood

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May 2020



Adapting to the “New Normal”

Last week my sister-in-law and brother, Kathy & Duane, stopped by to dropped off some recently baked chocolate chip cookies and face masks that Kathy’s sister made for us. It was really great to see them and actually have an in-person conversation.

We had our conversation outside. I stood in my driveway and they stood on the sidewalk with the gate between us. I did not wear a face mask because I kept my distance from the gate. They originally got out of the car with their masks on but since we stood more than six feet away, they took their masks off. We chatted and laughed a lot, exchanging mishaps and lifestyle adjustments. As they got ready to leave, we exchanged air hugs and wished each other a safe and healthy day.

It felt really strange not to be able to give them a hug. It was surely needed because of our concern and love for each during this time of isolation. But now we had to learn or find a new way to express our concerns and show that we cared. For me growing up in a non-touchy-feely family, I learned from my European friends to feel comfortable with hugging. It was showing how we cared without words. Getting my parents to adapt was weird but after years they not only adapted, they initialed the hug before I could (yes, I was shocked). Hugging became a new family norm.

Now that hugs are no longer acceptable and you can’t see that smile behind those masks, we have to find another way to express ourselves and adapt to a new normal while staying acceptably safe.

What will be our “new normal”?

- It will be saying, “I am wearing this mask (or keeping my distance) because I care about keeping you, your family and friends safe.
- Use words to remind people that “behind this masking I am smiling”.
- Laugh out loud.
- Practice air hugs
- Carrying and using hand sanitizer
- Remembering social distancing

This is just a short list. As we begin the first stages of re-opening, let’s set examples, learn new ways and be teachers of adapting to a new cultural.



“Can you see it? I’m smiling.”

Nancy Takayama
President



REMEMBERING DOREEN KAWAMOTO



“Doreen was a dedicated member of our Chapter. She was JACL’s Representative to the SFVJACC Coordinating Council for two decades. I will dearly miss her ever pleasant and smiling face.”

--Mitzi Kushida

“For years Doreen was efficient as our representative to the Coordinating Council. She was always the first one at our Board meetings. I always told her that when I grow up, I want to be like her, active and enjoying line dancing.”

--Linda Tanaka

“Doreen always enjoyed participating in the Doughball booth at the Obon, often volunteering for multiple shifts.”

--Marcia Mahony

“Doreen Kawamoto will be sadly missed. She rarely missed attending Chapter activities. I am so grateful to have known Doreen.”

--Nancy Gohata

“I’ll miss her subtle humor and good cheer. Every time I saw her at a JACL event, she always asked how I was doing, how school was, and what my mom was up to. She cared so much about all of us. How lucky we all are that she was a part of our lives.”

--JP de Guzman

“We could always depend on Doreen to help us at our JACL and Community Center functions. She knew most of the people who attended the events and she had a friendly comment for the person she was talking too. She always asked me how my family was doing. She will be missed.” (

--Linda Kuratomi

“Doreen was always very willing to help at any of the JACL functions and with a very nice smile.”

-- Marion & Phil Shigekuni



BRIDGING COMMUNITIES IFTAR ON ZOOM

On the evening of May 14th, 2020, over 170 people gathered online over Zoom for Vigilant Love's 5th Annual Bridging Communities Iftar. Last year, the event hosted over 375 people from Muslim and Japanese American backgrounds, as well as many other communities, at Nishi Hongwanji's Kaikan gymnasium for a creative and reflective program.

Every year, Vigilant Love hosts an "Iftar", which is the meal that breaks the fast at sunset during the Muslim Holy month of Ramadan. The annual Bridging Communities Iftar invites many organizations and individuals committed to social justice to gather together to build relationships, as well as highlight the organization's solidarity efforts to support those impacted by Islamophobia and xenophobic racism. This year, due to the Covid-19, Vigilant Love (VL) carried on the tradition for the first time online for a lively program with moving poetry performances from VL's Solidarity Arts Fellowship 2020 cohort, inspiring messages from community leaders who spoke about the long legacy of solidarity building after 9/11, "breakout room" discussions to foster new connections, and wise words about spiritual health during Ramadan and the challenging circumstances of the pandemic.

The program also introduced Vigilant Love's newest campaign called #ServicesNotSurveillance, which addresses the risks of federal surveillance programs called "Countering Violent Extremism" (CVE) and "Targeted Violence Terrorism Prevention" (TVTP) in the mental health and social service field. Vigilant Love and many other community partners oppose CVE and TVTP programs due to its reliance on racial profiling, the risks to safety and confidentiality it imposes in supposedly safe spaces such as community based counseling programs, and how it predominantly targets Muslim, Black, brown and refugee communities.

As a small nonprofit organization dedicated to creating spaces for connection and grassroots movement to protect the safety of communities impacted by Islamophobia, Vigilant Love depends on donations and unpredictable grant funding to empower the organization's mission. If you would like to learn more about Vigilant Love's programs and campaigns, as well as donate to support, please visit www.vigilantlove.org.



Article submitted by traci ishigo

MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORTANT TO OUR ORGANIZATION



As we stay at home, wear face masks and follow social distance procedures, the San Fernando Valley JACL hope you and our loved ones are safe and well. Life goes on, good or bad, and we have to prepare for the new normal, whatever that means. Since most of us have greater personal time, as the Membership Chair, I thought I would encourage members whose membership has lapsed to renew their membership and encourage others to join us. Board members are planning to contact their friends and neighbors to solicit membership.

To join or renew online go to: <http://www.jacl.org/member>.

Article submitted by Kiyo Fukumoto, Membership Chair

NANCY ODA TO RECEIVE KUNSHO FROM JAPANESE GOVERNMENT

On April 29, 2020, the Government of Japan announced, JACL Board member, **Nancy Oda** as one of the recipients of its Spring 2020 Decorations. From the jurisdiction of the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles, Nancy will receive “The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays, for contributing to enhancing the social welfare of Japanese American society and promoting the friendly relationship between Japan and the United States.

For over 40 years since 1978, Nancy has been an active member of the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center. She served as its president in 2011-2013 and has continued to serve as the SFVJA Coordinating Council President. The Great East Japan Earthquake occurred the year Nancy was president of the SFVJACC. She mobilized the Center and its organizations and youth groups in a major disaster relief fundraising effort that raised \$110,000 over one year. In 2016, Nancy helped organize a fifth anniversary fundraising event to benefit orphans in Japan.

In June 2013, due to persistent actions by a group of advocates led by Nancy and other community leaders, the City of Los Angeles designated the former Tuna Canyon Detention Station a Historic Cultural Monument. She and the coalition had relentlessly sought recognition of the site where 2,000 Japanese, German, and Italian immigrants and Japanese taken from Peru were detained during World War II. In 2014, due to her stature in the community as a Tule Lake survivor and longtime leader at SFVJACC, Nancy was designated the first president of the Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition, a new nonprofit formed to preserve the history of Tuna Canyon. Under Nancy’s leadership, the coalition developed a traveling exhibition that received funding through the U.S. National Park Service Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant, entitled “Only the Oaks Remain”. The exhibit tells the story of the detainees of Tuna Canyon through photos, diaries, letters, and interviews, and has been shown at 12 locations throughout the West Coast. Due to Nancy’s strong leadership and the publicity and advocacy efforts of the coalition, in 2018 the City of Los Angeles installed street signs at the site of the former detention station, providing visible homage to a chapter of Los Angeles history that prior to the coalition’s formation was largely unknown.

Motivated by a desire to teach the younger generations the history of Japanese American incarceration, Nancy has been a speaker at UCLA, CSU Northridge and CSU Long Beach, in addition to local high schools.

This most prestigious award recognizes individuals who have made distinguished achievements in international relations, promotion of Japanese culture, advancements in their field, development in welfare or preservation of the environment. Other notable past honorees include Soichiro Honda, Hank Aaron, Gustav Eiffel, John McCain, and this year, includes Bill Gates.

Article taken from the Rafu Shimpo, May 2, 2020.



HAROLD'S HUMOR

(Thanks to Harold Kameya for providing these pictures)



Zoom meeting,
audio only



Zoom meeting
with video



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The following business who supported our Pacific Citizen Holiday Issued Fundraiser will help us provide programs for our community in 2019.
We are extremely grateful for their generosity.

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