

**PACIFIC CITIZEN HOLIDAY GREETINGS
FUNDRAISER**

Attention All Members!!!

We need your help! The Pacific Citizen Holiday Ad Fundraiser is our Chapter's main vehicle to raise monies for our programs. Thanks to the membership's generous support last year, we were able to sponsor programs that included:

Suzume no Gakkou
**Presentation of Perry Miyake's Play: *happa girl sushi bar after hour*
Katarou Histories Project
PSWD Internship**

We are asking all members to purchase a personal ad for the holiday issue. You can also help solicit ads from business places you frequent.

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

Mitzi Kushida (818) 360-6718 or bighisa@aol.com
Nancy Gohata (818) 899-4237 or yaiko16@verizon.net
Barbara Okita (818) 784-5128 or barbokt@aol.com
Marion Shigekuni (818) 893-1581 or pshig2000@yahoo.com

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

**Mitzi Kushida
11641 Porter Valley Drive
Northridge, CA 91326**

We thank you for your continued support.

**DEADLINE:
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2012**



**UPCOMING
EVENTS**



**COME JOIN US IN
THE FUN AND
ACTIVITIES**

October 13
Cowboy Versus Samurai

October 15
Third Tuesday Movie
Outing

October 19
CC Clean-up

November 17
Lil Tokyo Reporter

November 19
Third Tuesday Movie
Outing

December 14
Holiday Party

December 17
Third Tuesday Movie
Outing

**Questions or
Comments?**

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As a 28 year veteran of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD), I have recently received many inquiries from fellow Japanese Americans about Paul Tanaka, retired LASD Undersheriff, who is running for Sheriff in 2014. "You *must* support him, right? After all, he is a fellow JA." is a common comment I hear from people, or "Wouldn't it be great to have the first Japanese American ever as Sheriff!" My answer is always the same. Don't let race cloud your vision in deciding who is the best candidate for Sheriff. Look at their leadership, their character, their integrity as these are the qualities of a good Sheriff. If you believe Paul Tanaka has those qualities, then vote for him. If not, then don't vote for him. That is something personal and each of us must make our own decision.

I recall similar conversations I have had with others about Barack Obama, Senator Ted Lieu, Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, and many others. I am surprised at how many people put race before qualifications. That's not to say these individuals aren't qualified, only that some of the people I spoke to looked ONLY at their race and not at their qualifications. Is it more important to support a particular person because of his/her race rather than their abilities and qualifications? Is that not racial bias? Is it different to say "I like this guy because of his race" than to say "I dislike this guy because of his race"? Sure, the former sounds better, but aren't they both racial bias?

This topic is not so black and white (no pun intended). I have heard people say "It's not that I don't like my daughter dating a Hakujuin, but I wish she would date a Japanese guy." Is there anything wrong with that statement? How about, "I want to see more Asians in politics so they can represent our needs better." Anything wrong with that statement? Or maybe "This country was founded by Christians and should maintain its Christian roots."

Many of us may agree with some of the statements above, even if we don't openly say it. The point is that race DOES play into our decision-making even when we know it is wrong. I would like to think people would say, "I don't care who my daughter dates as long as they make her happy." and "I will vote for the person who best represents the needs of ALL people." and "This country was founded by Christians, but we should respect all religions equally." But that simply isn't reality and it is a sad reflection on us as human beings. Bias lives in all of us.

So who do I support in the Sheriff's race? Paul Tanaka has some good qualities and some bad qualities. So does Sheriff Lee Baca as well as each of the other candidates. In the end, I will vote for the person I believe has the greatest leadership skills, strong character and respect towards others, and integrity to do the right thing...always. Therefore, my vote goes to....you didn't really think I was going to tell you did you?



Sincerely,
Brian Moriguchi

PLEASE KEEP THIS DATE OPEN FOR OUR 72ND ANNUAL INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS LUNCHEON

Place: Odyssey Restaurant

Date: Sunday, January 19, 2014

Time: 11:30 am Social Hour 12:00 pm Lunch

Cost: \$35 per person

For reservation, please contact: Linda Tanaka at (805) 527-1224

We are very excited to have for our luncheon speaker, **David Ono from ABC Eyewitness News.** Further information will be available in the November newsletter.

KARL NOBUYUKI RETIRES FROM AADAP AFTER 40 YEARS

40 years ago **Karl Nobuyuki**, along with a few others, became concerned about drug use among young Asian Americans, particularly, Japanese Americans. Out of this concern was established AADAP, (Asian American Drug Abuse Program.)

Last month, at its annual meeting, held at a Korean restaurant in Korea Town, the AADAP Board recognized a few who had served over the years. Karl, as one of the founders, was given special recognition for his 40 years of service. I felt comfortable at this multi-racial gathering of about 120. Some of the awardees told inspiring stories of how AADAP had enabled them to recover from drug use.

At the invitation of its president, **Mike Watanabe, Nancy Oda; Mitzi and Al Kushida; and Marion and Phil Shigekuni** attended the event. (To tell the truth: I asked Mike if we could attend.)

Nancy and I presented to Karl a beautiful congratulatory certificate produced by **Karen Yoshino**, our newsletter editor. Nancy told of how she has known Karl since they were in kindergarten at Maryknoll Elementary School in LA, and I told the audience about Karl's important role at the start of redress when Karl served as JACL's National Director.

In driving home we all agreed we were glad we were there to be with Karl and Sandy at this important event.
Article by Phil Shigekuni

Photo (L to R): Phil & Marion Shigekuni, Sandy & Karl Nobuyuki, Nancy Oda, Mitzi & Al Kushida



HOLIDAY CELEBRATION REINDEER GAMES

DATE: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2013

TIME: 5:30 PM Pot Luck Dinner followed by Arts & Crafts

PLACE: SFV JACC, Pioneer Building, Dr. Sanbo Sakaguchi Hall

POTLUCK DINNER – Bring a main dish and either a salad or dessert

GIFT EXCHANGE – Bring a new, wrapped gift \$10 maximum to exchange with someone

VISIT FROM SANTA – Gifts will be given to children 10 and under.

Please call **Nancy Gohata** to reserve a gift.

Deadline is December 7th. Also, advise if you are bringing a teenager to join in the games for prizes

OTHER FUN ACTIVITIES

Holiday Sing-along

Games for Young and Old

For further information and to RSVP

CONTACT: Patty Takayama at 818-899-7916 or pe.high.mtn@juno.com

Nancy Gohata at 818-899-4237 or yaiko16@verizon.net



STEEL MAGNOLIA BY EAST-WEST PLAYERS

East West players have taken on the classic stage play *Steel Magnolias* situated in a southern city. The Asian American cast has transcended the cultural implications and has depicted seamlessly the themes of love, intergenerational mother-daughter relationships, religion, and the cycle of life. Community and friendships become the sustaining forces in the lives of the characters.

By Eileen Furukawa and Hazel Isa

Some comments from attendees: **Harriet Nishizaka**, "The acting was so strong that it carried the play." **Dennis Okita**, "OK, good acting." **Helen Shimizu**, "I thought it was really good and terrific." **Evelyn Mitarai**, "I saw the movie and this play was with Asian actors; and I could relate to them."

Eileen Furukawa,
"Professional acting, initially you saw the Asian faces then it disappeared and just saw the actors/acting."
Hazel Isa, "Well directed and well done." **Yas Gohata**, "Nancy twisted my arm for 3 years and I finally attended."

Article submitted by
Mitzi Kushida



Photo (L to R): Helen Shimizu, Al & Mitzi Kushida, Nancy & Yas Gohata, Barbara & Dennis Okita, Evelyn Mitarai, Hazel Isa, Eileen Furukawa and Harriet Nishizaka

NAKANO NURSERY POTTED PLANT SALE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2013
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2013
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM



For many years Nakano Nursery has been donating plants to the Community Center and other organizations affiliated with the SFV JACC. Unfortunately, due to water rationing, the slow down in the economy, shift away from flowering plants, and the general obstacles faced by growers, the nursery is facing many challenges.

The SFV JACL and the SFV JACC would like to make a small effort to help Nakano Nursery and thank them for their many years of generosity.

We plan to continue selling potted plants the fourth Friday of every month (with the exception of December) at the Community Center. Please help us spread the word to family and friends. **Nakano Nursery is located at 9647 Noble Avenue, North Hills 91343. (818) 899-1989.**

**For more information, call Nancy Gohata at (818) 371-8013
or Lois Okui at (818) 892-3080**

KATAROU HISTORIES

This summer, the Japanese American Citizens League Pacific Southwest (JACL-PSW) District office is hosting Katarou Histories, a ten week dialogue-based program for all generations to foster a deeper understanding of identity, community and the importance of preserving oral histories in the San Fernando Valley's Japanese American community. This is the second summer the San Fernando Valley JACL chapter and the PSW District office have collaborated to encourage more community members to learn about the significance of sharing their stories and building community by enriching our collective knowledge. Through this experience, Miharū Okamura, a JACL intern helping to plan this program has expressed that, "Getting to work with people, who have experienced and gone through such difficult times has been a true eye opener... Not only have I gained experience with working with an intergenerational demographic, but also life experience getting to listen to their stories. Something that I have learned from this program is that, you're never too old or too young to inspire creation, aspiration and courage to the community." Katarou Histories offers a rare chance for Japanese Americans from multiple generations to not only share and be exposed to narratives that are often unheard, but to feel empowered to preserve their oral histories through creative outlets. The participants in Katarou Histories are currently working on their final projects to share their discoveries with the greater community on August 24th at 2 PM at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center (JACCC) Cultural Room in Little Tokyo. We encourage you all to join us for the inaugural celebration of our Katarou Histories program participants and their intergenerational collaborative efforts to empower the community and preserve our cultural, community and regional history.



By traci ishigo,
Program Coordinator,
JACL PSW District

Sitting (L to R): Ellen Kameya, Marion Shigekuni, Mabel Takimoto, traci ishigo, Nancy & Yas Gohata
Standing: Patty Takayama, Harold Kameya, Phil Shigekuni, John & Liz Doomey, Barbara & Dennis Okita, Shawn Iwaoka, Nancy Takayama

SUMI'S CORNER



Jack Yamashiro passed away from a heart attack on Monday, September 9, 2013. He had been in hospice care. A memorial service was scheduled for Saturday, September 28th at 11:00 AM at the Chatsworth Wet Methodist Church. His wife **Rose**, the sister of **Paul Tsuneishi**, is recovering nicely following pancreatic surgery. She resides at Nikkei Senior Gardens.

Caption: This summer, **Yas and Nancy Gohata** visited former board member **Ron Yoshida**, who now lives at the Sequoias, a senior living facility in San Francisco. Ron is an active member at the Sequoias - in charge of organizing Japanese Movie Night for the Nikkei residents.



MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORTANT TO OUR ORGANIZATION

PLEASE CONTINUE TO HELP RECRUIT NEW JACL MEMBERS

“Why should I join JACL?”

- To make a connection with the community
- Volunteerism
- Grassroots and activism for social justice
- A family tradition of continued involvement
- Stay current on Japanese American and Asian American issues
- Continue the JACL legacy for future generations
- JACL member benefits, i.e. insurance, credit union, scholarship, Pacific Citizen, programs, etc.
- Cultural events, social outings

A JACL application form is in this issue of the newsletter. For questions and more information email Nancy Gohata at yaiko16@verizon.net or call 1-818-899-4237.

CONGRATULATIONS JP DE GUZMAN AND CHRISTINA LEE

Board member and PhD Student at UCLA, **Jean-Paul deGuzman**, received JACL's **Minoru Yasui Memorial Scholarship (\$1000)**. A civil rights advocate and attorney, Minoru Yasui was one of the three Nisei who challenged the imprisonment of Japanese Americans during WWII. After the war, Mr. Yasui practiced law and served as legal counsel for dozens of community activities. In 1979, Mr. Yasui was appointed chair of the JACL Committee on Redress in which he traveled extensively around the country advocating for redress and reparations. Preference for this scholarship was given to students with a strong interest in Human Rights and Civil Rights.

Board member and graduate student at the University of Illinois Champagne Urbana, **Christina Lee** received JACL's **Kenji Kajiwara Memorial Scholarship (\$5000)**. This scholarship was established as a perpetual trust by Mrs. Chibako Kajiwara in memory of her husband. Mr. and Mrs. Kajiwara deeply believed in the value and necessity of higher education to discover, encourage and develop the inherent potential of our youth.





THIRD TUESDAY MOVIE OUTING



The eighteen movie goers in **August** were treated to a compelling and entertaining film – *Lee Daniels' The Butler*. *The Butler* is about Cecil Gaines (**Forest Whitaker**), a server at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue between 1957 and 1986. His story is loosely based on the life of Eugene Allen, a White House butler who died in 2010.

Cecil's life spans his boyhood in the brutally segregated South to the election of President Obama. Strong performances by Forest Whitaker and **Oprah Winfrey**, plus a star studded cast made for a more than entertaining outing.

This movie was dedicated to the men and women who helped change our nation's consciousness through the Civil Rights Movement. The struggle of the movement is shouldered by Cecil's son, Louis played by **David Oyelowo**, who also gives an outstanding performance. The strength of the movie focuses on the uneasy relationship between Cecil and Louis, whose opposing perspectives on the role of the black man in America creates a wall between them. The disturbing events of the Civil Rights Movement depicted in the film will dredge back powerful emotions for all of those who lived through the turbulent 60s.

Lee Daniels, who directed the Oscar nominated film, *Precious*, brought a memorable film to the screen.

In **September**, our movie was *Short Term 12*. It's set in a short-term foster care facility with troubled and at-risk teens. The story centers around Grace (**Brie Larson**) who isn't a psychologist or a psychiatrist, but at twenty-five years old, is working as a supervisor at this home. Larson's portrayal of Grace is so authentic, we don't question her dedication to helping kids who have slipped through the cracks of the system. Director, **Destin Daniel Cretton**, who had worked in a similar facility, presents a very believable and compelling story. Grace is in a loving relationship with kindhearted co-worker Mason (**John Gallagher Jr.**), who is also a capable caretaker and has patiently waited for three years for Grace to share demons from her past that seem to keep her from trusting him. The arrival of a new resident, Jayden (**Kaitlyn Dever**) surfaces Grace's wounds from the past. A bond is formed as Grace recognizes Jayden's anti-social behavior with her own history of abuse. The acting is outstanding – this movie goer predicts we'll hear and see more of Brie Larson. One critic called this film a "gem", the epitome of independent films. It received a 99% rating at Rotten Tomatoes and the critics at KPCC concurred.

Senior (62+) specials at the Laemmle Encino

Mon-Thur \$4.50 (films starting before 6 PM)

Same price at the No Ho Laemmle on Wednesdays, before 6 PM

Please help us lower our postage cost?

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.

Dr. Sanbo Sukenobu Sakaguchi

July 13, 1917-May 24, 2013

Dr. Sakaguchi was a lifetime member of the JACL starting from his days in Milwaukee when he was a medical student. There are many stories of obstacles along his path but he was determined to be a healer. His journey is described in the book called, "Silent Scars of Healing Hands", by Naomi Hirahara and Gwen Jensen.

Because he was the third son, his mother wanted him to be a doctor and then build a Tuberculosis Hospital in Nagano, Japan. She reasoned that fresh air and good food would help cure tuberculosis. With the outbreak of WWII, he was already in his second year and continued as medical student at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

While studying to be a physician at Marquette University, the FBI followed him until a classmate told the agent to stop because Sanbo was a loyal American. He was classified 4C, an enemy alien, and was not inducted into the armed services and could not be an officer like his classmates after graduation. He did not receive free medical education like the others. Sanbo graduated in October 1943.

While visiting Manzanar Concentration Camp in the absence of Dr. Teiji Takahashi who treated Ear, Nose and Throat ailments, Dr. Sakaguchi worked four or five hours a day in a hospital that was not well equipped. One day, he performed ten tonsillectomies and operated on a young girl's appendicitis. After two weeks, he was boarding a bus to return to medical school. They stopped him and said, "Oh, you owe us \$21 for room and board for two weeks." He paid the sentries the \$21 rather than stay another day. During one month Sakaguchi traveled ten thousand miles from Milwaukee to Philadelphia to Los Angeles to Manzanar to pick up the ashes of his eldest sister, Chico, and to attend family funerals for his beloved father and brother, Obo who was a dentist.

He then interned at Milwaukee County General Hospital for a year and was a resident at Muirdale Sanitarium until 1949. He became a teacher assistant at Marquette in General and Thoracic Surgery from 1944-1947 then became an instructor in Surgical Anatomy. He was licensed in Wisconsin and California for the record. His name, *Sukenobu*, means miracle worker. His destiny was written at birth.

Sukenobu was born in Glendale, California on July 13, 1917, the third son of Shiichiro Sakaguchi and Hisaji Yugasaki Sakaguchi. His father was a *shoyu* entrepreneur in Japan and his mother was educated at Tsuda Women's College. She was an elementary school teacher seven years before her marriage and immigrating to America.

Both struggled mightily, to raise their seven children, all of whom attended a university and five became doctors or dentists. Having grown up on a farm located in North Hollywood, Sanbo experienced real work, picking weeds, spreading chicken manure, plowing, bunching onions, carrots, turnips, beets, and cutting heads of lettuce dealing with heat, dusty rain, and cold from dawn to dusk. He was an obedient child that grew up in a time when children listened to their parents and were not adversely influenced by the peers or television.

Sanbo was a very quiet and obedient child. A third grade teacher was concerned that he was too quiet for his own good and wrote a letter to his mother. The teacher actually wanted him to speak up more and not be so quiet. His mother kept the letter in her Bible for the next forty years as she thought it was a compliment being very traditional. Like other Nisei, he attended Japanese Language School for nine to ten years. He graduated from North Hollywood High School in 1935. He graduated from UCLA in 1939. In the 1990's, he and his wife were instrumental in the establishing the Nikkei Bruins.

In February 1950, he returned to California to start his practice. He married Kazuko, a girl he met after a chemistry class at UCLA. Together, they started a life of service. He became readily successful caring for patients and their families, and gradually the entire clan. He was then drafted on July 1953 since his status as an enemy alien was lifted and served in the army for two years. He furthered his skills as a bone surgeon while he was stationed at Madison General Hospital, Washington. He was promoted to Captain, U.S. Army while with the Army Medical Corp. returned to the San Fernando Valley in 1955.

His sister, Dr. Mary Oda, shared the practice with him for more than forty eight years noted that he felt like he was going out to play as he enjoyed his work so much. In fact, Ralph Ahn says that for many years on cold and rainy nights; he would bring his medical bag ready to take care of young athletes for Bishop Alemany High School football. He loved the energy and bravery they possessed. He gave his skill freely to his community in the valley. He was a father figure to his patients and the boys at the school and was honored on their Hall of Fame.

He began his judo days at the San Fernando Valley Judo Club under Sego Murakami as a youngster. He enjoyed practicing and soon held the rank of brown belt but had to stop due to a dislocated shoulder. For many years he volunteered as team doctor for the SFV Judo Dojo ready to assist at the head table during the *Kohaku* Tournament held in the SFVJACC gym each February. Murakami Sensei admired his dedication to judo as he donated countless hours to the sport. In 1950, he started as the team physician for the SFV Judo Club; team physician for the California cadre in the National Judo Championship since 1963.

In 1984, he served as medical volunteer assigned to the Olympic Judo competition. He also served in France, Argentina, Portugal, and Egypt for national and international meets. He earned a well-deserved honorary degree of fourth degree black belt.

Sanbo was not all work but played hard with the Los Angeles Billfish Club and SFV Fishing Club. Photos of the big catches and his smile tell us of his fulfillment during his fishing adventures. He was president and team captain in the Hawaiian International Billfish Tournaments. Well into his senior years, he was an avid UCLA football and basketball fan. Kay and Sanbo Sakaguchi's name is on the UCLA Hall of Fame donor's wall. The couple's love of jazz and classical music led them to join the Asia America Symphony. They honored him as an Honorary Director. He especially enjoyed the music of David Benoit when he played "Cast Your Fate to the Wind".

On January 27, 2012, the main hall of the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center Nikkei Pioneer building was dedicated in his name. A bit shy, he did not attend but family members represented him in front of a grateful Senior Hot Meals audience. The City of Los Angeles Council District 7 honored Dr. Sakaguchi and Dr. Mary Oda on the community mural located in Pacoima.

Finally, Dr. Hafeez Parray and Aiko Ishimaru recounted stories about his work ethic, community based practice, and annual flu clinics at the SFVJACC. Representatives from the Asia America Symphony and Guild, Bishop Alemany High School football team, Boy Scout Troop 719, Japanese American Medical Association, Japanese American National Museum, Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, Little Tokyo Service Center and Budokan, Marquette University, SFV Fishing Club, SFV JACL, SFV Judo Club, SFV Japanese American Community Center, and UCLA Nikkei Bruins, and Theta Kappa Phi respectfully thanked him for his loyalty and generosity.

On August 25, 2013, the Southern California community gathered at the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center to pay tribute to Dr. Sanbo Sakaguchi, "who liked and loved what he did."

Article submitted by Dr. Andrew Thibodeaux



Short Story Contest

SFV JACL is co-sponsoring with the Little Tokyo Historical Society a short story contest. The cash award for the first place winner is \$1,000 and \$500 for second place. The theme for the fiction story is "Imagine Little Tokyo." The deadline for submission, of the maximum 2,500 word story, is January 31, 2014.

The fiction story must take place in Little Tokyo, contemporary, past or future. The purpose is to acquaint the writer and reader with the Little Tokyo neighborhood in Los Angeles. The winning stories will be published in the Rafu Shimpo.

Writers with far ranging, young and elderly experiences and perspectives are encouraged to submit stories. Anyone under 18 years of age should include your age along with your name and phone number. For contest details go online to: www.littletokyohs.org.

To better acquaint you with the Little Tokyo neighborhood a free walking tour and writing workshop will be held at the Little Tokyo branch of the Public Library, 203 S. Los Angeles, St., on Saturday, October 12, 2013 from 10:30am to 2pm. To R.S.V.P., email ybwatanabe@gmail.com, as space is limited.

Article submitted by Patty Takayama



Lil Tokyo Reporter

One of the most pinnacle civil rights leaders in the early 20th century. In 1932, Los Angeles, the film highlights the journey of Sei Fujii away from his political contributions, but into his interpersonal journey to defend and promote his deteriorating community during the Great Depression.

The film stars Chris Tashima, Eijiro Ozaki, Ikuma Ando, Keiko Agena, and Sewell Whitney.

Directed by Jeffrey Gee Chin.

When:

Sunday, November 17, 2013 2 PM
Q & A and refreshments after film

Where:

San Fernando Valley Japanese
American Community Center
12953 Branford Street
Pacoima, CA 91331
Dr. Sanbo Sakaguchi Hall

Tickets

Donation \$5
May be purchased from any
JACL Board Member or

Contact:

pe.high.mtn@juno.com
nt.high.mtn@juno.com
yaiko16@verizon.net
(818) 899-7916

JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION

From July 24th to July 27th, the generous San Fernando Valley Japanese American Citizens League board sponsored me to represent their chapter at this year's JACL National Convention in Washington D.C. As a new hire in this organization, it was thrilling for me to have the opportunity to learn more about the JACL on a national level. My experiences at the national convention exceeded my expectations, as I genuinely grew a greater appreciation for celebrating this year's 25th anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 and more than a decade of fighting to win redress.

At convention, I felt so grateful to be a member of the younger generation in attendance, because the stories that were shared by redress community leaders such as **John Tateishi** and **Norman Mineta** are so important to learn. Even in our own local communities, I wish that more youth had the opportunity to learn from humble and passionate social justice Nikkei advocates, such as **Phil Shikeguni**, who was honored during the JACL Legacy Luncheon for his hardworking leadership during the redress movement. After learning more about the collective efforts of our community to win redress when it once seemed impossible, it was a significant moment to walk through the National Archives and see the original signed documents of Executive Order 9066 and the 1988 Civil Liberties Act side by side for the first time in history.

In addition to commemorating our community's victory, I was proud that our national organization was lobbying legislators about the need for comprehensive immigration reform, as well having the attendees dialogue on critical issues such as racial profiling, the loss of Trayvon Martin and the disturbing acquittal of George Zimmerman. While the current immigration debates and conversations on racial profiling can appear distant from Japanese American experiences, I would argue that the correlations between anti-Japanese racism, exclusion, xenophobia and anti-black racism are intimately tied together by similar roots of injustice. As a young social justice Nikkei advocate myself, I would like to encourage that Japanese Americans have an important responsibility to contextualize the injustices that our community has faced to the struggles that multiple marginalized communities endure today.

Article submitted by traci ishigo

DONATIONS

We would like to acknowledge the generous monetary donations made to our Chapter by members and friends.

Donations were made to our Chapter in memory of **Dr. Sanbo Sakaguchi** by members **Beverly and Clifford Oyama** and Beverly's mother, **Setsuko Tanaka**, who shared how grateful she is for being under Dr. Sanbo's care for so many years.



We also received a very generous donation from **Tamlyn Tomita**.



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KOREAN COMFORT WOMEN AND THE JACL BOARD

The issue of the Comfort Woman Sculpture at the Glendale Library was first discussed at the August meeting of the JACL board. **Nancy Takayama, Harold Kameya, Kathy Masaoka** and other members of the NCRR and Manzanar Committee had been in attendance at the unveiling ceremony on July 30th.

After some discussion, the decision was made to study the issue and to have further discussion at the September meeting. Before the September meeting, links to several youtube clips and articles were sent out to board members for their study.

At the September JACL board meeting, Kathy Masaoka spoke on her involvement in the Comfort Women issue. She was among the speakers in the unveiling ceremonies on July 30th and she had asked the JAs in the audience to stand behind her in a show of support.

For those of you who are not familiar with the comfort women issue, I urge you to go to youtube.com and type into the search block: The Butterflies: flying high with hope, 20 years of history & Halmonies' peace. The 25 minute documentary will provide you with essential information.

You will learn of the 20 year long weekly demonstrations in Seoul in front of the Japan embassy. One former comfort woman passionately screamed out: Who do I have: A husband? A child? I have NO ONE! Japan, Bring me back to when I was 15!

The Butterflies documentary also mentions the year 2000 investigation by the UN Commission on Human Rights, and its recommendations which were adopted by the UN. In 2007, the US House of Representatives passed bill HR121, sponsored by Mike Honda. The bill was supportive of the claims against Japan by the comfort women. That bill inspired similar resolutions to be passed in Canada, the Netherlands and the European Union.

To conclude the discussion, **Phil Shigekuni**, our Civil Rights chairperson, wanted to have the board pass a resolution that supports the Glendale Library sculpture and endorses House Bill HR121 by **Rep. Mike Honda**. President **Brian Moriguchi** stated that it was important, as a civil rights organization, to take a position supporting the comfort women and their need for a full apology and financial reparations. Additionally, we should contact the OCA, Organization of Chinese Americans and any Korean civil rights groups to see if a joint statement might be an appropriate action to take. Lastly, the Korean Comfort Women issue was a reminder of the continued abuse and sexual slavery of women today.

I invite you to provide us feedback of your opinions and thoughts. As with any controversial issue, we do not think as a single collective mind. I can also provide you with additional links for further study.

On a side note, there is a need to educate younger non-JA reporters and the Korean population about the various segments of our Japanese American population, as well as the JA history during WWII. To illustrate (note: the bolding is mine):

Christina Villacorte of The Daily News wrote: Over the objections of dozens of **Japanese-Americans** who crowded City Hall chambers, the Glendale City Council voted Tuesday to install a controversial memorial at Glendale Central Park honoring "comfort women" –

The Rafu Shimpo in its coverage used "Japanese nationals" or "Japanese nationalists" to describe the dissenters.

When I asked for information from a member of a Korean committee involved with the sculpture, his cautious response included the following words:

"...It is a great pleasure for us to see a **Japanese** organization supporting this issue. This is very rare and I want to get a little bit more information...." In my response to him, I delineated the various segments of the Nikkei population in the US (which included the Shin Issei), and I made sure to mention that since many of the JA's (or their parents) were imprisoned by the US government during WWII, we are especially sensitive to the civil rights of each individual.

Article submitted by Harold Kameya

Honoring the Struggle for Redress 25 Years Later: The PSW District Awards Luncheon

On September 21, 2013 members of JACL chapters from across the Pacific Southwest District – that stretches from San Diego to Arizona to Ventura – assembled in Long Beach to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act and honor the everyday leaders who brought the movement for redress and reparations to fruition. Over twenty JACLers represented the San Fernando Valley chapter as we celebrated our longtime civil rights chair **Phil Shigekuni**.

Able MC-ed by **Doug Urata and Linda Hara**, stalwart PSW Governor **Ken Inouye** opened the event. California State Assemblyman **Al Muratsuchi** provided an insightful speech that emphasized how the redress movement serves as a unique example of how everyday citizens can change the course of history through the political process. JACL National President **David Lin** connected the legacy of the redress movement to the contemporary JACL. He shared with us the startling statistic that the PSW rosters currently include 900 lapsed members, yet noted this provides us with a rich opportunity to revitalize our membership. After a tasty lunch, we eagerly participated in a “dessert dash,” an innovative donation drive where yours truly served as our table’s “runner” to stake our claim in a chocolate cake.

The main program began with a stirring compilation of testimonies from the Commission on Wartime Internment and Relocation of Citizens (CWIRC). Chapter president **Brian Moriguchi** took the stage and recognized the presence of **Dr. Mary Sakaguchi Oda** who was an important force in eliciting Japanese Americans to testify before the CWIRC. Brian also introduced Phil, who many of our readers know him as our past president, tireless redress educator and advocate, and our indefatigable civil rights conscience. In his acceptance speech, Phil spoke about joining the redress campaign early on because it was a cause he believed in and connected that struggle to the rich history of larger civil and women’s rights movements. He also highlighted the collaborative spirit of the redress movement and acknowledged the countless JACL chapter members who wrote letters to their representatives and generated public support. We also enjoyed brief speeches from the other awardees including **Harry Kajihara, Harry Kawahara, and George Wakiji. Joseph Allman, Sue Kunitomi Embry, Jun Fukushima, Mas Inoshita, Hiroshi Kamei, Marleen Kawahara, Gary Maeda, Meriko Mori, Clarence Nishizu, Kitty Sankey, and Patty Sookdet** were also recognized for their contributions to redress and the JACL. We also paid tribute to those who have recently passed from this world including former PSW Regional Director **John Saito, Sr.** and the legendary Nisei journalist **Harry Honda**.

Following recognition of the awardees, Ken presented special Governor’s Awards and our dynamic board member, PSW programs coordinator, and former UCI student body president **traci ishigo** introduced the audience to the bright JACL Collegiate Asian Pacific Islander Interns who are doing fine work with local progressive API organizations such as Asian Americans Advancing Justice and the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance. She also screened a short video capturing the experiences of this year’s Katarou Histories, an innovative multi-generational public history project that was based out of the San Fernando Valley and the South Bay. It was deeply exciting to see the work of the interns, who will take on the mantle of Asian American activism established generations ago, as well as the Katarou participants who have excavated important, but long buried, histories.

The afternoon concluded with a detailed keynote address by **Grant Ujifusa** who explained the intricate negotiations that were necessary to build legislative support for redress. Although he shared the stories of the well-known Japanese American congressional icons – Matsunaga, Inouye, and Matsui, among others – his narrative of Sgt. Kaz Masuda was perhaps the most interesting. Masuda was a Nisei from Fountain Valley who joined the 442 Battalion and died in combat. Denied burial in his hometown, he was posthumously honored with the Distinguished Cross and a ceremony that included a young officer named Ronald Reagan. Masuda’s sister accepted the honor in the place of their mother who was rightly critical of

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their wartime treatment. Four decades later that young officer had been elected president and his opposition to redress was well known. However, using his connections as an editor, Ujifusa was able to pass along a letter from Masuda's other sister to Reagan. Her appeal not only jogged the president's memory but also changed his opinion on redress. This enlightening story revealed the power of individuals and their histories.

The PSW luncheon brought together friends, old and new, bound by a shared belief in civil rights and recognition of the hard-fought struggle to unearth and redress the tragedies of World War II. Indeed, all of us – whether we are civil rights veterans, college interns, and everyone in between – can build upon the rich legacy of the redress movement to imagine and put into place to a more equitable society.

Article submitted by
Jean-Paul de Guzman

Photo on right:

Standing (L to R): Mitizi Kushida, traci ishigo, Iku Sakaguchi, Harriet Nishizaka, Al Kushida, Phil Shigekuni, Dr. Mary Oda, JP de Guzman, Patty Takayama, Sumi Yamaguchi, Yas Gohata, Wendy Hirota, Betty Kobata

Kneeling: Dr. Bo Sakaguchi, Norma Jean Yamashita, Brian Moriguchi, Marion Shigekuni, Nancy Gohata, Linda Tanaka, Nancy Takayama



Photo on left:

Seated (L to R): Sumi Yamaguchi, JP de Guzman, Wendy Hirota, Betty Kobata, Susan Degracia, Don Uyeshima

Standing: Linda Tanaka, Norma Jean Yamashita, Marion & Phil Shigekuni, Nancy & Yas Gohata

Photo on right:

Seated (L to R): Iku Sakaguchi, Mitzi Kushida, Harriet Nishizaka, Dr. Mary Oda

Standing: Al Kushida, Marion & Phil Shigekuni, Patty Takayama, Nancy Oda, Brian Moriguchi, Dr. Bo Sakaguchi



ELECTION OF 2014 BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The following members have been nominated by the Nominations Committee to serve on the 2014 San Fernando Valley Chapter JACL Board of Governors.

BALLOT

If you wish to vote for the entire slate listed below, place an "X" on the line below.

I wish to vote for the entire slate below _____

Otherwise, place an "X" after each name for whom you wish to vote, plus any write-in names.

(Note: Write-ins must have the consent of nominees.)

De Guzman, JP _____

Shiraki, Geri _____

Gohata, Nancy _____

Takayama, Nancy _____

Jonokuchi, Paul _____

Takayama, Patty _____

Kameya, Harold _____

Takimoto, Mabel _____

Kawamoto, Doreen _____

Tanaka, Linda _____

Kushida, Mitzi _____

Tanihana, Jami _____

Lee, Christina _____

Tokunaga, Michiko _____

Mahony, Marcia _____

Yamaguchi, Sumi _____

Moriguchi, Brian _____

Yoshino, Karen _____

Oda, Nancy _____

Okita, Barbara _____

Okita, Dennis _____

Send to:

Shigekuni, Marion _____

Barbara Okita

Shigekuni, Phil _____

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Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

San Fernando Valley Japanese American Citizens League

Membership Application

Membership Categories

Regular/Individual

Regular sustaining members of the organization

Couple/Family

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

Youth/Student

Members 25 years of age or younger or students currently enrolled in a college, trade school, or university.

1000 Club

A membership category where members make a larger annual contribution to their chapter and national programs of the organization

1000 Club Life

Members who pay a lump sum to establish a lifetime membership

1000 Club or Century Club Spouse

Spouse or partner of a JACL 1000 Club or Century Club member

Century Club

An exclusive membership category where members make a larger annual contribution to their chapter and national programs of the organization

Century Club Life

An exclusive membership category where members pay a lump sum to establish a lifetime membership

☐ **New Member**

☐ **Renewing Membership**

☐ **Gift Membership**

☐ Regular/Individual - \$67.00

☐ 1000 Club Individual - \$100.00

☐ Century Club - \$175.00

☐ Couple/Family - \$110.00

☐ 1000 Club Spouse - \$32.00

☐ Century Club Spouse - \$32.00

☐ Youth/Students - \$25.00

☐ 1000 Club Life - \$3000.00

☐ Century Club Life - \$5000.00

Member Information

Member ID: _____ (renewals only)

First Name

Last Name

Street Address

City

State

Zip Code

Phone

Email

Payment Method

☐ **Check**

Please make checks payable to:

Japanese American Citizens League

☐ **Credit Card**

☐ Visa

☐ MasterCard

☐ American Express

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

(Month / Year)

Send the completed application along with your payment via U.S. mail to: **JACL Membership**
P.O. Box 45397

San Francisco, CA 94145-0397

Or join Online: <http://www.jacl.org/member> → →PSWDC → →San Fernando Valley