

## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF TULE LAKE

A couple of years ago, **Marion, Nancy Gohata** and I attended a panel presentation in Torrance dealing with the Tule Lake Camp and Segregation Center. It was most informative and thought provoking. Since then, some in our chapter have seen two plays by former Tule Lake internee, **Hiroshi Kashiwagi** concerning Tule Lake..

Hiroshi's son, **Soji** produced the plays. After one of the plays, Hiroshi answered questions from the audience. What I remembered most about Hiroshi was the pain in his voice in talking about the rejection he felt after the war in seeing, once again, his old friends who had been in other camps. This rejection was so deeply felt that when he attended UCLA, he deliberately chose non-JA friends.

In August I was invited to a meeting at JANM held by the officials of the National Park Service who convened the meeting to seek community involvement in establishing Tule Lake as a WWII Valor in the Pacific National Park. At the meeting, **Yukio Kawaratani** made an impassioned plea for a better understanding of the ordeal he and his family endured in Tule Lake.

What I found amazing was that President George Bush, in leaving office in 2008, proclaimed Tule Lake as a WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument. Included in this group of awardees were sites at Pearl Harbor and other historic battle sites in the islands west of Alaska. This designation was made despite the fact that Tule Lake was the site where families and individuals were sent who answered "no,no" to the infamous loyalty questions and/or chose to repatriate to Japan!

After he was involved in the dedication of the WWII Valor Monument in 2009, National JACL President, **Floyd Mori**, declared that we in the community need to hear from these people who endured Tule Lake.

Two members of our board were interned in Tule Lake. Nancy Gohata's family responded "no-no" to the questionnaire, and **Nancy Oda** was born there. When she was a student a UCLA, Nancy Oda wrote a major paper describing her family's experience in Tule Lake.

The two Nancy's are willing to participate in a program next year to educate our community. The time is long overdue for this to happen.

Article submitted by Phil Shigekuni

## UPCOMING EVENTS



## COME JOIN US IN THE FUN AND ACTIVITIES

### October 16

Third Tuesday Movie  
Outing

### October 28

"A Flicker in Eternity" The  
Life of Stanley Hayami  
Documentary Film by  
Sharon Yamato

### November 11

East West Player Outing  
"Tea, With Music"

### November 20

Third Tuesday Movie  
Outing

### December 8

Holiday Party

### December 15

Grateful Crane: / Saw  
Baachan Kissing Santa  
Claus

## Questions or Comments?

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

September, 2012



When I was a teenager attending school in the San Fernando Valley in the 1970s and 1980s, I experienced a modicum of bullying because of my race (yes, they picked on me because of my height, too!). I didn't give it much thought, but I do remember how it made me feel: angry, depressed, different & isolated. Today, bullying has gotten a lot of attention and, in particular, Asian bullying. Why? What makes Asians any different than other ethnic groups?

In 2009, the US Department of Education conducted a study on bullying and found that nearly one in three middle and high school students report being bullied. In that same study, 54% of Asian American teenagers were bullied in school, significantly higher than any other ethnic group: 38.4% for African-American, 34.3% for Hispanics and 31.3% for whites. Suicide rates and depression are on the rise as well for Asian youths. Statistics and numbers don't really tell the story. Let's put faces to this problem.

In December 2009, at a South Philadelphia high school, 26 Asian immigrant students were being bullied and physically assaulted sending 13 of them to the hospital. In 2011, 19-year-old **Danny Chen**, who was serving in the US Army in Afghanistan, apparently committed suicide after being bullied with racial slurs and physical attacks by his peers and supervisors. He often endured taunts including racial slurs like "gook" "chink" and "dragon lady." **Lance Corporal Harry Lew**, USMC, committed suicide after fellow marines physically assaulted him punching and stomping on his back and throwing sand in his face. Before taking his life, Lew wrote on his arm, *"may hate me now, but in the long run this was the right choice I'm sorry my mom deserves the truth."*

Some of the reasons Asian may be targeted for bullying could include the "nerd" stereotype and passiveness, obvious language differences or accents when speaking English, social awkwardness or even the trending anti-immigration sentiment in some parts of the US. These things are difficult to change, but there is another potential reason that can be changed. Many Asian parents place pressure on their kids to acclimate into society, often telling them to "suck it up" or "don't make waves." There is also a tendency (maybe it's cultural) for Asians in general to be quiet and hold their emotions inside rather than talk through issues or express one's emotions.

I spoke to a friend of mine, **Dan Puder**, who founded My Life, My Power, a program to help youths combat bullying through various means including self esteem, self-empowerment and body image. He also has a unique approach to dealing with bullies utilizing education and realization from the victims' perspectives instead of just punishment. Dan told me that communication is critical in dealing with kids today. "They are a different generation and are programmed differently", said Dan. "Parents need to adjust to how life is today for their kids instead of looking at how they handled things when they were kids."

I am certainly not implying that anyone is not parenting correctly or that your kids suffer from depression and thoughts of suicide. But I do believe bullying is a serious problem and I do believe we can help our kids deal with it. So take some time to talk to your teenagers and let them know they can come talk to you about anything. Talk to them about bullying. Let them know there are resources they can utilize if they are not comfortable talking to you. Believe me, they are experiencing bullying whether they talk about it or not. I know I did. I know I never talked about it as a kid.

Sincerely,  
Brian Moriguchi

## KATAROU HISTORIES CULMINATION

The Katarou Histories class celebrated its Culmination program at the SFV JACC, Thursday, August 23, 2012. Class members ranged in age from 15 years, high school teenagers, college students to adult professionals, and a few retired members of the community, including 80 plus year, **Tom Serizawa**. The other participants were **Alyssa Himeno, Kristen Himeno, Brandon Isa, Hawk Kuwata, Evelyn Mitarai, Isabelle Miyata, Les Nakashima, Paige Negoro, Nancy Oda, Kylie Rosero-Ozawa, Ariane Sadanaga, Kevin Sato, Grace Serizawa, Patricia Takayama, Kara Tanaka, and Janet Yamamoto**.

The 10 week, multi-generational program forged friendships between young and older Nikkei while playing games, writing poetry, and working in groups to learn about individual talents and common history to create a winning team. By looking at personal experiences from an Asian identity perspective, class members were able to reflect on their own experiences as political. By sharing stories, the group came to see the value and need to preserve the history of Japanese Americans in the San Fernando Valley.

The final program featured two films and an exhibit of events and organizations as they developed in the San Fernando Valley. The subject of the films included interviews with persons about the Obon festivals and the history of San Fernando Aces baseball team and athletics organized in conjunction with the SFV JA community center. The films provided a means of viewing the impact of regular and continuous activity as a thread that creates a Japanese American historical connection to the SFV and the community center.

The third project was an exhibit that showed the history of the SFV JA Community Center, its expansion and how it came to be the anchor for a Japanese American Village. The collection of photos show only a few of the extensive activities and organizations that utilize the center, including the hot meal programs, girls and boys basketball, hula and line dancing, mah jong, hana fuda, bridge and poker just to name a few of the organizations that use the community center regularly. The exhibit will be on display in the foyer of the Pioneer Center beginning October 2012.

The Katarou Histories class was a pilot program by the PSW JACL staff, **Marissa Kitazawa** and **Eri Kameyama** with intern **Molly Serizawa**. The effort to collect and preserve SFV Japanese American history is expected to continue. Oral interviews, photos and documents will be collected and eventually a resource center established at the community center by volunteers. **Nancy Takayama**, whose previous collaboration with CSUN to collect oral interviews acted as the moving force to bring the Katarou Histories Program to the SFV JA Community. Plans are currently under discussion to develop a program for next year to continue the development of a Japanese American History Preservation Project with volunteers and possibly interns.

Article submitted by  
Patricia Takayama





## THIRD TUESDAY MOVIE OUTING



In August, our movie was *The Bourne Legacy*. New hero Aaron Cross played by **Jeremy Renner** from the 2010 Academy Award Winning Film, *The Hurt Locker*, takes us on this thrilling, action packed spy journey. Field agent Cross is a subject in an ultra-secret program called Outcome, which aims to chemically increase physical and cognitive capabilities. Cross, along with five other agents, are part of a highly secretive CIA program that has been compromised and needs to be shut down. Five agents are killed, but Cross survives. His only ally is Dr. Martha Shearing, (**Rachel Weisz**) who has been helping create the programs' enhancing drugs. For the remainder of the film, we tensely watch Cross and Shearing outsmart their former bosses to survive, ending in a quintessential chase scene through the streets of Manila.

It wasn't the easiest plot to follow, but references to the original Bourne series motivated this moviegoer to see the Jason Bourne trilogy again.

Our September movie was *Sleepwalk With Me*. *Sleepwalk With Me* is an autobiographically inspired fictional film by stand-up comedian, **Mike Birbiglia**. Birbiglia, as Matt Pardamiglio, takes us on his journey as a struggling stand-up comedian who's caught in a stale eight-year relationship, and wild spurts of severe sleepwalking. There's plenty of laughs as Matt stumbles along trying to make it as a comedian. We're also frustrated at times with his self-deprecating and indecisive personality, but sympathetic to the pressure he's under from a gruff, no-nonsense father and his own lack of direction.

The film received an 86% rating from Rotten Tomatoes and we found the movie quite entertaining. On a personal note, in the film, Matt, seeks the help of sleep disorder expert, **Dr. William Charles Dement**. Dr. Dement played himself in the movie. He is a pioneering U.S. sleep researcher and founder of the Sleep Research Center, the world's first sleep laboratory at Stanford University. Dr. Dement was a mentor to **Dr. Clete Kushida**, nephew of JACL members, **Al** and **Mitzi Kushida**. Dr. Kushida now directs the sleep Research Center at Stanford University.



Please keep this date open for our  
**71<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL  
INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS LUNCHEON**

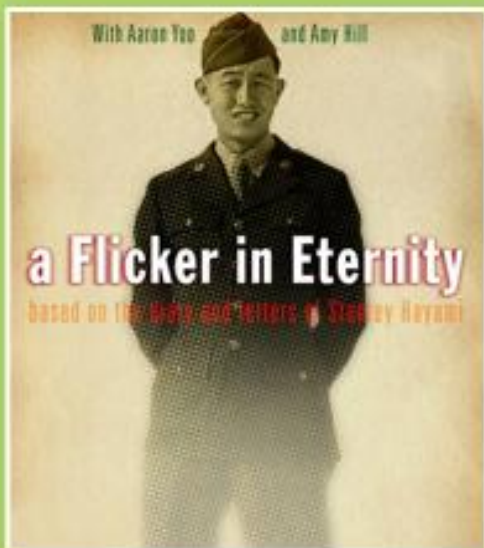
Place: Odyssey Restaurant  
Date: Sunday, January 20, 2013  
Time: 11:30 am Social Hour 12:00 pm Lunch  
Cost: \$36.00 per person

Further information will be available in the November newsletter. We are planning a dynamic program to celebrate the New Year. We are pleased to **have Don T. Nakanishi, Ph.D.**, is Professor Emeritus (1994-2009) and the former Director of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center as our guest speaker. The board has an exciting program of events for the coming year. We look forward to seeing all of you.



# A FLICKER IN ETERNITY & OUT OF INFAMY: MICHI NISHIURA WEGLYN FILM SCREENING

The San Fernando Valley JACL invites you to a special screening of *A Flicker in Eternity* and *Out of Infamy: Michi Nishiura Weglyn*.



Directed by Ann Kaneko & Sharon Yamato, *A Flicker in Eternity* is based on the true story of Stanley Hayami, a Japanese American teenager caught between his dream of becoming an artist and his duty to his country during WWII. Blending drawings from Stanley's diary and letters, this coming-of-age tale chronicles his life behind barbed wire and as a member of the 442nd regimental Combat Team.

*Out of Infamy: Michi Nishiura Weglyn* chronicles the life of Michi Nishiura Weglyn, a prominent civil rights leaders. Directed by Sharon Yamato and Nancy Kapitanoff, the film shows how Michi gave up a successful career in entertainment to write *Years of Infamy: The Untold Story of America's Concentration Camps*, with factual evidence of governmental misconduct in the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II.



**When:** Sunday, October 28, 2012

**Where:** 12953 Brandford Street, Pacoima, CA 91311

**Time:** 2 pm

**Suggested Donation:** \$5 for tickets

\$10 bento will be available (Order by October 22, 2012)

**For tickets and additional information, please contact:**

**Nancy Gohata (818) 899-4237 or yaiko16@verizon.net**

## MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORTANT TO OUR ORGANIZATION



We welcome new members **Marsha Aizumi, Dr. Mark Shimizu, Emi Suyehiro, and Allan Tokunaga.**

This month **Linda Keiko Kuratomi** shares why she joined JACL and why it's important to be a member.

I joined the JACL for many reasons. When I graduated high school, I was given a scholarship by the SFV JACL. I know many of the organization's members through associations at the SFV Community Center and the SFV Buddhist Temple. I knew the organization was instrumental in getting reparation for the Japanese Americans who were displaced to relocation camps during WWII and because my daughter, Traci, received several scholarships from the JACL. Traci became a member of JACL in 2005, so she started receiving the Pacific Citizen newspaper. I would find myself looking over the articles and I became interested in what the organization was doing. I decided to join because I am now at a place in my life where I can do more to try and give back to the community. The members whom I have met are caring, intelligent and know how to want to "make a difference."



On a very hot August 12<sup>th</sup>, JACL Board Member gathered to give a hearty send off celebration to **Christina Lee**. She has moved to pursue a M.A. in Urban Planning at the University of Illinois Champagne Urbana. We dined at the Pho So 1 restaurant in Van Nuys. We enjoyed Vietnamese cuisine consisting of spring rolls, Pho (noodles), Bun Thit Nuong Chai Gio (BBQ pork and crispy egg rolls over vermicelli), Vietnamese iced coffee (ca phe sua da) and iced tea. The food was tasty and the company was excellent as we learned more about Christina's plans for the near

future. It was good spending

time with the Board Members in a casual environment where we could all get to know each other better. Christina and JP left for Illinois the following Saturday.

We all wish her luck in her studies and appreciate her artistic talent and the support and hard work she has given to our chapter. We all look forward to seeing her when she is here on her school breaks.

Article submitted by Linda Kuratomi.

Photo: Back row (L-R) Keiko Kuratomi, Patty Takayama, Nancy Takayama, JP DeGuzman, Front row (L-R) Doreen Kawamo, Mabel Takimoto, Christina Lee



## THE BOARD CELEBRATES WITH AN END-OF-SUMMER PARTY

What better way to thank the Board for all our hard work during the year than throwing ourselves a party. On September 8<sup>th</sup>, the JACL Board held a party in the spacious backyard of **Nancy and Kay Oda's** beautiful home. In keeping with our Japanese theme this year, we all got a chance to "play" on the taiko drums as **Paul Jonokuchi** and **Barbara Okita** tried to teach us how to hold the bachi (sticks) and keep the taiko beat. **Linda Tanaka**, **Nancy Gohata** and **Barbara Okita** led us in Tanko Bushi, as I struggled with my 2 left feet.

The potluck dinner was one of the highlights of the evening as we indulged in the tastiest specialties of our Board members. Kay Oda's rib-eye steak was grilled to perfection and the best that I've ever had. Melts in your mouth like butter!

After dinner, guest **David Sumida** shared his experiences in the US Navy while he was stationed in Yokohama when the 2011 earthquake and tsunami struck. The Naval base provided much needed support after the devastation. We ended the evening with karaoke, both American and Japanese songs. **Nobuko Jonokuchi** and **Phil Shigekuni** entertained us with their solo selections as the rest of us joined in the group songs and tried to stay in key.

The Board gives a grateful round of applause to our wonderful hosts Nancy and Kay Oda!

Article submitted by Marcia Mahony



Photo: Back row (L-R) Nancy Gohata, Geri Shiraki, Marcia Mahony, Al Kushida, Sumi Yamaguchi, Kay Oda, Dennis Okita, Barbara Okita, Phil Shigekuni, Nancy Oda, David Sumida  
Front row (L-R) Linda Tanaka, Paul Jonokuchi, Keiko Kuratomi w/Lukie, Mitzi Kushida, Marion Shigekuni

## 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](mailto:kyoshino@verizon.net) and register your e-mail address.





# **SFV JACL HOLIDAY PARTY**



**Come join the holiday festivities! Fun for all!**

**Date: Saturday, December 8, 2012**

**Time: 5:30 p.m.**

**Place: SFV Japanese American Community Center  
2953 Branford Street  
Pacoima, CA 91331**

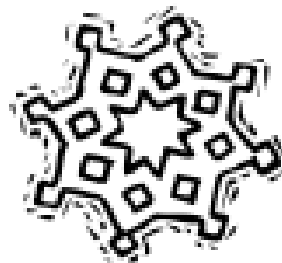
**POTLUCK DINNER - Bring a main dish and either a salad or a dessert to share.**

**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.  
The deadline is Dec. 1st**



**OTHER FUN ACTIVITIES**  
**Crafts**  
**Holiday Sing-along**  
**Games for Young and Old**



**For further information and to RSVP**

**Patty Takayama (818)899-7916 -pe.high.mtn@juno.com**

**Nancy Gohata (818)899-4237 - yaiko16@verizon.net**

**Marion Shigekuni (818) 893-1581 - pshig2000@verizon.net**

**Marcia Mahony (818)749-7734 - marcia.mahony@nbcuni.com**



**Come sing with us!!**

Grateful Crane Ensemble  
Presents

## **"I Saw Baachan Kissing Santa Claus"**



## **I SAW Baachan KISSING SANTA CLAUS**

Baachan, Santa and the Grateful Crane Family will be on hand to sing all your holiday favorites. Join us for an afternoon filled with great music, fun for the entire family and plenty of holiday cheer.

**Save This Date**

**Saturday, December 15, 2012 at 2 pm**

**at the SFV Japanese Community Center**

**Candy Canes for the kids (big kids too)**

**\$25 / adults - \$15 / kids 12 & under – children 5 & under / FREE**

**For information: [ntakayama@jacldsw.org](mailto:ntakayama@jacldsw.org) Or [pe.high.mtn@juno.com](mailto:pe.high.mtn@juno.com)**

**VISIT US ONLINE!**

**<http://sites.google.com/site/sfvjacl/>**

*Make sure to bookmark us to learn more about...*

- Our board members and board meetings
- Editorials and opinions on civil rights and other contemporary events
- Upcoming community events
- Scholarship opportunities

## ELECTION OF 2013 BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The following members have been nominated by the Nominations Committee to serve on the 2013 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
Gohata, Nancy \_\_\_\_\_  
Ishigo, Traci \_\_\_\_\_  
Jonokuchi, Paul \_\_\_\_\_  
Kameya, Harold \_\_\_\_\_  
Kawamoto, Doreen \_\_\_\_\_  
Kushida, Mitzi \_\_\_\_\_  
Lee, Christina \_\_\_\_\_  
Mahony, Marcia \_\_\_\_\_  
Moriguchi, Brian \_\_\_\_\_  
Oda, Nancy \_\_\_\_\_  
Okita, Barbara \_\_\_\_\_  
Okita, Dennis \_\_\_\_\_  
Shigekuni, Marion \_\_\_\_\_  
Shigekuni, Phil \_\_\_\_\_

Shiraki, Geri \_\_\_\_\_  
Takayama, Nancy \_\_\_\_\_  
Takayama, Patty \_\_\_\_\_  
Takimoto, Mabel \_\_\_\_\_  
Tanaka, Linda \_\_\_\_\_  
Tanihana, Jami \_\_\_\_\_  
Tokunaga, Michiko \_\_\_\_\_  
Uyehara, Sam \_\_\_\_\_  
Yamaguchi, Sumi \_\_\_\_\_  
Yamamoto, Tak \_\_\_\_\_  
Yoshino, Karen \_\_\_\_\_

Send to:

Barbara Okita  
13343 Magnolia Blvd.  
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

### SUMI'S CORNER



Board member, **Doreen Kawamoto** had hip replacement surgery on August 8, 2012. After spending two days in the hospital, she spent two weeks in rehab. She is now recuperating at her daughter's home.

**Mary Ishimoto's** mother, Ida Takeuchi, passed away on Monday, September 10, 2012 at the age of 97. We send condolences to Mary and her family. Mary's father, Rits Takeuchi, will be celebrating his 100th birthday in December.



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# 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**

- ☐ Regular/Individual - \$67.00
- ☐ Couple/Family - \$110.00
- ☐ Youth/Students - \$25.00

#### ☐ **Renewing Membership**

- ☐ 1000 Club Individual - \$100.00
- ☐ 1000 Club Spouse - \$32.00
- ☐ 1000 Club Life - \$3000.00

#### ☐ **Gift Membership**

- ☐ Century Club - \$175.00
- ☐ Century Club Spouse - \$32.00
- ☐ 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