

## HOLIDAY PARTY

Save the date: **Saturday December 12, 2015** will be a time for your whole family, including grandkids, to have a GREAT time at the annual JACL Holiday Party!

This year the party starts at 5:00 PM!



### Here are some of the highlights:

- Theme: Mele Kalikimaka e Hau'oli Makahiki Hou!
- Our Suzume No Gakkou students and families have been invited!
- Our large buffet table will be set up for the usual delicious potluck dishes!
- Have your children exercise their creativity at our craft table!
- There will be singing and fun-filled intergenerational folk dancing!
- A surprise visit by Santa!
- Our great photo booth will be set up for memorable holiday photos!
- Does your child have an unwanted or out-grown toy? Bring it to the *Share-A-Toy table* where they might find another toy of interest!
- For the young kids, a candy-filled piñata!



### What to bring:

- A main dish for the potluck dinner, plus salad or dessert.
- A wrapped gift *with your child's name on it*, to be placed into Santa's bag. (Gifts should not exceed \$20.)
- Please RSVP to give us an idea of the expected attendance.

### What to expect:

- A GREAT TIME!



To RSVP or if you have any questions about the party, please call **Harold** or **Ellen Kameya**, 818-368-2008, or [hkameya@gmail.com](mailto:hkameya@gmail.com)



## UPCOMING EVENTS



### COME JOIN US IN THE FUN AND ACTIVITIES

#### October 20

Third Tuesday Movie  
Outing

#### November 15

Patty Takayama  
Book Party

#### November 17

Third Tuesday Movie  
Outing

#### December 12

Holiday Party

#### December

No Third Tuesday Movie  
Outing in December

#### January 24

Installation Luncheon

#### Board Meeting, second

Wednesday of each month

## 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 2015



My term as president of the SFV chapter is coming to an end. I would like to encourage people to step up and volunteer to be on our SFV JACL board, and to encourage others to consider serving as president. It has been a learning and a growth experience for me, and I encourage others to benefit as well!

I am convinced that our SFV chapter has the hardest working members of any JACL chapter. They make the job of the president much easier. I encourage people with no experience to join our board. New members are likely to ask “why?” or “why not?”, and they stimulate our thinking of the future.

I am grateful for JACL's open pipeline of communication with the national president, the executive director and district officers. The two national conventions I have attended have been rewarding and stimulating. The synergy present resulted in the percolation of new ideas, new directions, and new connections for all attendees.

I also appreciate the soapbox that comes with the office of president. As a person born and raised in Hawaii, I feel very strongly about the following statement:

The mainland Nisei have worked very hard to gain respect and honor for all Japanese Americans after the concentration camp experience. I see it as their legacy. Many sacrificed their lives for us in combat. On the other hand, I feel that the efforts of the *Japanese history revisionists (of the WWII Japanese Imperial Army)* promote a negative image of Japanese people to the rest of the world. In doing so, they tarnish the image of Japanese Americans, and dishonor all that Japanese Americans have worked and sacrificed for. Because of our special position in American history, I feel it is important that we speak out whenever we see injustices or misrepresentations made by those history revisionists.

The rising influence of the Asian Pacific Islander community is affecting our rapidly changing social and political environment. I feel that Japanese Americans, with our unique history, have a responsibility to play a leading role in our multicultural society. Our children and grandchildren need to learn and embrace our history in America. The need to educate and call to attention racial injustices will be an ongoing task for all of us, and indeed for all Americans!

Harold Kameya



## Help Us Reduce Postage and Visit Us Online

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

Visit us online at: <http://sfvjac1.weebly.com/> or [jac1.sfv@gmail.com](mailto:jac1.sfv@gmail.com)  
Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/sfvjac1>



## ONLY THE OAKS REMAIN

Three hundred guests that were community leaders and activists congregated for the Tuna Canyon Detention Station Traveling Exhibit fundraiser held on August 29, 2015, at the Nishi Hongwanji Betsuin Kaikan in Little Tokyo. Many descendants were moved by the photos and charts that depicted a lost time in their personal histories. The goal to raise funds to match a National Park Service grant was successfully met with a small reserve for the future memorial onsite.

The San Fernando Valley Japanese American Citizen League was a Silver sponsor of the event. **Nancy Gohata** represented the group by announcing the winners of the Sweepstakes in her own upbeat way.

**David Ono**, Channel 7 news anchor, was the master of ceremonies. Since Tuna Canyon is a relatively new discovery about World War II, there was a sense of urgency about this place located only a few miles away from the Los Angeles City Hall on the Verdugo Hills Golf Course. **Dr. William Lloyd Hitt** and **Minoru Tonai**, were honored for their decades of service to the community. Minoru Tonai's first-hand accounts of the war years described his role as the eldest son. Dr. Hitt's drive for Tuna Canyon to be an historic cultural site is legendary.

A clip courtesy of "*Citizen Tanouye*" producers showed what Torrance High School students learned about the political shifts in California after Pearl Harbor, and the confinement of "enemy aliens" at Tuna Canyon. **Ruth Matsuo Brandt**, daughter of Sei Fujii, publisher of the *Kashu Mainichi*, told of her father's plight at Tuna Canyon produced by Brian Maeda. Mrs. Brandt and her daughter, Lucia, donated a framed photo of him in front of the newspaper office when it opened and a group photo for the traveling exhibit.

Music by the renowned *Hiroshima Band* members, **June Kuramoto**, **Dan Kuramoto**, and **Kimo Cornell**, added to senses. Tribute songs by **Franny McCarthney** and **Rob Narita** included "*What American Means to Me*" and "*Allegiance*" Their songs told of a strong belief in America's promise while connecting to emotional pain of the Tuna Canyon experience. **Nancy Teramura Hayata** danced in a traditional *kimono*, Japanese dress, that had symbolic gold cranes on a turquoise sky with red inner sleeves. June Kuramoto played "*One Thousand Cranes*" on the *koto*, a Japanese instrument with hopes for world peace.

More than one thousand Japanese, Germans, Italians and Japanese Peruvians were detained from December 1941-October 1943 until they were assigned to more permanent sites like Crystal City, Texas that was run by the Department of Justice. Coalition members exhibited newspaper clippings, historical events, and photos that will be part of a museum quality exhibit that the National Parks Service has selected for the 2015 grant year of the Japanese American Confinement Sites grant.

Several guests traveled as far as San Francisco like **Grace Shimizu**, an expert on Japanese taken from Peru. **Kristin Okimoto**, a strong advocate of the memorial, came from San Jose. She was interviewed by **Kaitlyn Tang**, a Peninsula High School student, who was interested in Ms. Okimoto's grandfather, Sanjiro Miyoshi. Ms. Okimoto recounted what happened to him as a Terminal Island fisherman on the eve of the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

The Manzanar Park Rangers were represented by Superintendent **Bernadette Johnson**, Supervisory Park Ranger **Alisa Broch**, and NPS Anthropologist **Jeff Burton** who visited Tuna Canyon and hiked in the heat then went on to visit Historic Wintersburg the day before the event.

Guests remarked that it was a true community event with Boy Scout Troop 738 setting up, and Troop 719 posting the colors, Nikkei Student Union volunteers from Cal State University Fullerton, University of California at Irvine, University of California in Los Angeles, Cal Poly Pomona, San Fernando Valley Team Mirai, SFV Angels, and the grandchildren of Board members working hard to make the event flow. It seems like the next generation will keep the torch burning.

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month at the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center.

Short clip: <http://www.sfvjacc.com/sfvjacc-newsletter.html> by Keith Matsushita

Article continued on page 4

Continued from **Only the Oaks Remain**

*The Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition is dedicated to education and to raising public awareness about the detention that was a violation of civil liberties and to the continuing struggle of all peoples. It plays a key role in the development of the Tuna Canyon Detention Station Memorial at 6433 La Tuna Canyon, Tujunga, CA 91402.*

*For more information, call (818) 935-2603 or check our web at <http://www.tunacanyon.org>. Donations will be accepted addressed to Tuna Canyon Detention Station (TCDSC) c/o 12953 Branford Street, Pacoima, CA 91331 or online.*

Editors Note: Article submitted by **Nancy Oda**, President of TCDS Coalition, whose vision and tireless energy was responsible for the financial success of this luncheon.

Photo (L to R):  
Ruth Matsuo Brandt (daughter of Sei Fuji),  
Nancy Oda, and David Ono



### **SAVE THE DATE**

#### **74<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS LUNCHEON**

Place: Odyssey Restaurant

Date: Sunday, January 24, 2016

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

Cost: \$35.00 per person

Our luncheon speaker will be **Guy Aoki**. Mr. Aoki is the head and co-founder of the Media Action Network for Asian Americans (MANAA) established in 1992. Mr. Aoki has been a tireless watchdog of the media for over twenty years and continues to point out the studio and networks' insensitivity to the Asian Americans in the film industry. Mr. Aoki was our luncheon speaker in 2000. We'll be eager to hear the status of Asian American filmmakers sixteen years later. Please plan to join us.

### **PACIFIC CITIZEN HOLIDAY ADS AND GREETINGS**

The deadline to turn in your holiday ads and greetings for the Pacific Citizen Holiday issue is **Wednesday, October 14, 2015**. If you have not turned in your ads to a Board member, please contact Marcia Mahony at [msmahony2@gmail.com](mailto:msmahony2@gmail.com) or call (818) 366-6182.

There was an error in the Pacific Citizen Ad below that appeared in the August/September issue of the newsletter. Please note for future reference.

**JEROME B. KAMEI, D. D. S.** - Holy Cross Medical Plaza  
11550 Indian Hills Road, Suite 290, Mission Hills, CA 91345  
(818) 361-7780



## CONGRATULATIONS MARCIA MAHONY!

Board members gathered at Buon Gusto Ristorante on August 6, 2015 to celebrate Board member, **Marcia Mahony's** retirement from NBC Universal after 40 years of service, as Vice President of Business Affairs in the motion picture division. She enjoyed her job thoroughly and called it "Dream Work". Marcia, along with her friends, will leave for Europe soon for a well-deserved vacation.

For the past six years, Marcia has been coordinating our Obon Doughball Booth schedules and created our Chapter's history books, (please view the attractive books at our annual installation luncheon). This year, she will serve as the chairperson of our annual fundraiser, the *Pacific Citizen Holiday Issue* advertising and donations. She brings with her a wide array of managerial experiences; and she's *friendly*.

Marcia is one of three children of Tom and Sachi (deceased) Doi, who were both long time chapter board members. She was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota and spent her childhood days in Rochester, New York. She has two children and one grandson, Vetea. Vetea is an all around athlete who keeps Grandmother Marcia busy driving to various practices and events. Happy Retirement and Best Wishes to the new chair of the *Pacific Citizen Holiday Issue* Fundraiser.



Article submitted by: Mitzi Kushida

## MEET AND GREET WITH MADISON VILLANUEVA

On Monday, August 10, 2015 a group of JACL Board members met with our Local Leaders Intern **Madison Villanueva**. We were all quite impressed with Ms. Villanueva. She will be going into her Junior year at UC Santa Barbara with Sociology and Asian Studies as her major. She is even fortunate enough to have taken a course from our own Board member, **JP DeGuzman** up at UCSB. Madison was also a recipient of a 2015 scholarship from the SFVJACL.

Board member and PSWD Program Coordinator, **traci ishigo** and Madison talked about the Local Leaders Program and gave us an update on their activities. She has participated in several workshops and seminars to sharpen her leadership skills.

Madison is originally from the Philippines and shared with our group that one of her passions is working with the undocumented people in the United States. She understands first hand the difficulties of being undocumented and is fortunate enough to have the necessary paperwork to legally go to college. She attended Van Nuys High School and still resides in the San Fernando Valley. She is active in ASPIRE-LA which is an immigrant advocacy group for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

She is enjoying the Local Leaders program and will be returning back to UCSB in September. Her schedule is school Monday to Thursday and she is back for the weekend. She is helping to take care of her mother who is very ill.

She is looking forward to using her newly acquired leadership skills and working with her new friends at the SFVJACL.

We look forward to seeing Madison at our JACL events and are hoping she will be able to present a workshop on the issues of those who are undocumented.

Article submitted by:

Linda Keiko Kuratomi

Photo (Back): Linda Keiko Kuratomi, Paul Jonokuchi, Mitzi Kushida, Harold Kameya, Phil Shigekuni  
Seated (L to R): Nancy Takayama, Nancy Oda, Madison Villanueva, traci ishigo, Marion Shigekuni



## SUZUME NO GAKKOU 2015 SUMMER CAMP

At 8:30 A.M., **Principal Paul Jonokuch** promptly said, “Ichi, ni, san!” Kids, teachers, and parents started rhythmically moving together to a traditional Japanese style exercise beat to get their intellectual and emotional juices going. But this year, it was different because we added the Discovery Camp that took youngsters going into the seventh and eighth grade. There was excitement in the air!

Thank you to the Japanese Language Institute for the use of their classrooms and to the Community Center for allowing us to have space for the whole week. Also, parents, thank you for taking a turn and bringing delicious snack then on Friday, you shared food for the memorable banquet and stuffed goodie bags.

Japanese language was taught by **Jaymie Takeshta** whose games made learning fun. **Nancy Oda** and **Jenna Matsushita** engaged kids with stories like “The Last Kappa of Old Japan”. It was selected because of its dual meaning of “Mottainai” or recycle, reduce, and reuse or the cucumber snacks wrapped in sea weed. Campers even made *kokeshi* from recycled materials and wrote haiku poems about nature. That was rewritten on art boards that **Ruth Shinbashi** brought. Further, Paul Jonokuchi provided hands on carpentry experience when kids could make napkin holders from scraps or wrapping Japanese paper around ordinary tissue boxes.

Because we had such a talented group that was able to learn a script, sing songs that **Nancy Gohata** taught, and perform, all the children participated by acting, singing, and producing the play called “Momotaro,” revamped by **Priscilla Mui**. **Jill Clever** was assistant producer. Since the time was extended, campers were introduced to author/illustrator, **Sunny Seki**, who brought copies of his newest book called, *The Kokeshi Doll from Fukushima*. Other days, there was rehearsal.

Thanks to **Carolyn Sanwo**, the Heritage book sale was open for three days so that children could further build their home library. Kids could get a discount by using the \$10 coupon donated by the late Dr. Mary Oda

This year’s Thursday field trip was a visit to Little Tokyo via the metro. The kids learned about heroes like Chiune Sugihara who signed travel visas that facilitated the escape of more than 6,000 Jews during World War 2, on Weller Street, they viewed a replica of the space shuttle challenger that Astronaut Col. Ellison Onizuka rode that exploded. They went into the James Irvine garden located at the Japanese American Cultural Community Center. One camper remarked how peaceful it was. It gently calmed the most active. The finale was the on stage experience to sing the song at the East West Playhouse. They sounded great!

On Friday, guest artist, **Nobuko Miyamoto** taught the campers how to dance to “One Thousand Cranes” in the gym. Her vision was to bring children from all over the city to dance later in the summer at the Japanese Cultural and Community Center in memory of *Sadako*, a child who perished from the aftereffects of the Hiroshima bombing.

Special thanks to **Mitzi Kushida**, who took care of registration, then was head snack chair along with **Marion Shigekuni**, **Karen Yoshino** and **Kim Gohata**.

The week culminated with a traditional pot luck of delicious entrees and the presentation of the play, *Momotaro-san*, with scenery and costumes. Six Japanese children songs were integrated into the play. **Saeko Nakamori**, added new lyrics to *Nakayoshi Komichi*, to tell the story of *Momotaro-san*. The childrens’ performance was outstanding- parents and guests were impressed that they had only three days to accomplish this assignment.

**Paul Matsushita**, director of Kizuna, Nikkei Discovery Camp, introduced the students from the Discovery Camp. The middle school youngsters related their week’s experiences and shared their favorite activity

**Linda Tanaka** and **Nancy Oda** were co-chairs of Suzume no Gakkou. **Roy Sugahara** was chief photographer. **Marcia Mahony** was in charge of name tags. Suzume no Gakkou worked hand in hand with Kizuna’s Discovery Camp to make the program age appropriate and FUN!

Article submitted by: Nancy Oda

## Continued from SUZUME NO GAKKOU 2015 SUMMER 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.



Suzume no Gakkou's field trip to the Japanese American National Museum. Students, teachers, parents, grandparents and chaperones rode the metro to Little Tokyo



### MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORANT TO OUR ORGANIZATION

If you were to go online to register to become a member of the JACL, you'll find the regular membership for an individual is \$60. The San Fernando Valley Chapter adds an additional \$7 to the individual membership, the National couple membership is \$105, SFV is \$110, and student membership is \$25 for both National and our chapter. Part of the extra \$7 for regular membership and the extra \$5 for couples goes to being a part of the Pacific Southwest District. The rest the chapter uses for the bi-monthly mailing of the newsletter, other correspondences, and incidental chapter expenses.

Our vision is to provide cultural awareness and a commitment to civil rights. We hope to attract people who will support our efforts. We encourage our membership to help introduce our chapter to family and friends to become part of the San Fernando Valley JACL.



## Shadows for Peace, for the Sake of the Children, the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Experience

We have connections with Hiroshima/Nagasaki to many in our community as many of our forbearers originated from Hiroshima. In discussing our program, our Community Center President, **Paul Jonokuchi** revealed to me that his grandfather had perished in the A Bombing of Hiroshima.

I was eleven when the bomb was dropped and just coming out of camp, I was in no position to question the reasons given by my country for the dropping of the bomb. Kibei, **Wataru Namba**, Hiroshima survivor spoke, revealing his shocking experience surviving in the aftermath of the bombing. **Kikuko Otake** told of her experience as a child in Hiroshima, barely escaping the blast, while losing her father.

Keynote speaker was **Dr. John Cobb**, who was born in Japan of Methodist missionary parents. His childhood was spent in Hiroshima before moving to the US in 1940. He returned to Japan as a member of the US occupation force, and subsequently served as professor of theology at the Claremont School of Theology until his retirement in 1990. He has six honorary Doctor of Philosophy degrees, and has written over 50 books. With this background what he had to say surely had to be taken seriously. He started by saying after the bombs were dropped in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, he became very emotionally affected and ran a fever for several days. Dr. Cobb said that in total war all in this country are guilty. Although we are not able to make choices made by the government for good or ill, when we pay our taxes, we are complicit. The climate of total war makes for extreme positions taken, making no provision for compromise. The US demanded unconditional surrender. Being badly defeated, Japan desperately sought to surrender but were denied because according to our terms the emperor had to suffer consequences. Dr. Cobb said allowing the emperor to not be prosecuted would have resulted in an honorable surrender and made unnecessary the dropping of the bombs. As history recorded, Japan's surrender finally came with its emperor maintaining his position.

Dr. Cobb called comparing the attack at Pearl Harbor as justification for the A bombing, nonsense. President Theodore Roosevelt called Japanese "honorary Aryans", which encouraged their military actions. President Franklin Roosevelt expected a Japanese attack somewhere in the Pacific. Their attack at Pearl Harbor was like any other military attack, made without warning. To compare this attack with the bombing of innocent civilians is wrong.

Dr. Cobb concluded his powerful address by asking what we can do to counter our war-like nature. He proposed that if we spent 100<sup>th</sup> of our energies studying peace as we do spend in making war, this would be a good start.

Studying Hiroshima/Nagasaki can cause us to look at ourselves and begin to care more about peace.

**Nancy Gohata** and I concluded our program by leading the gathering in singing "Let There Be Peace on Earth" (Second Verse)

"Let Peace begin with me, let this be the moment now,  
"With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow.  
"To take each moment, and live each moment in  
peace eternally,  
"Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me."

Article submitted by: Phil Shigekuni



Photo (L to R): Standing: Richard Fukuhara, Wataru Namba, Dr. John Cobb, Dickson Yagi, Phil Shigekuni, Nancy Takayama  
Back: Paul Jonokuchi, Robert Horsting, Harold Kameya



## SIX WEDDINGS AND A DRESS, MORE THAN 1,000 WORDS

The screening of “SIX WEDDINGS AND A DRESS” and “MORE THAN 1,000 WORDS” produced by **Steve Nagano** was held at the Altadena Presbyterian Church on Saturday, September 12, 2015. **Phil** and Marion **Shigekuni** and I attended the event and thoroughly enjoyed it.

“SIX WEDDING AND A DRESS”, is a story about a wedding dress sewn for **Chiyomi Ogawa** when she married her husband in the Manzanar internment camp. The dress was sewn by her aunt who had packed a large piece of lace when she and her family were sent to Manzanar. The satin fabric for the wedding dress was ordered from the Montgomery Ward catalogue.

After the war, five other women who were interned and later relocated to Pasadena wore the dress. After the video there was an interesting Q&R with Chiyomi and Steve Nagano. The dress was on display in the library with the wedding photographs of the six brides.

“MORE THAN 1,000 WORDS” was a profile of Rafu Shimpō photographer **Mario G. Reyes**. Mario worked for the Rafu Shimpō for twenty-two years. He devoted his life recording the history of the Japanese community with his camera. He was raised in East Los Angeles amongst the Japanese and spent his time in what he referred to as J-Town. He states that he knows more about the history of the Japanese American culture in Los Angeles than his own Hispanic heritage. Both documentaries were excellent.

Article submitted by: Linda Tanaka

Photo: Marion Shigekuni with Chiyomi Ogawa and the wedding dress



## END-OF-SUMMER BOARD PARTY

We gathered together on a hot August night to celebrate our end-of-summer Board Party that was graciously hosted by **Linda Tanaka**. The party provided us with a moment to relax, reflect on all the activities and programs that our Chapter has promoted the first half of the year, eat yummy food and enjoy great company.

Many of our board members moved to California in their early teens from Hawaii, so the group conversation started out with Obake tales of Hawaiian superstitions and myths. As the evening progressed, we discovered each of us had stories to share about our youth. By the end of the night, we realized that despite the differences in our background, we all share the desire to contribute to the Japanese American community and the JACL.

We look forward to the next half of the year, beginning with our Chapter's primary fundraiser, the PACIFIC CITIZEN HOLIDAY ISSUE ADS.

Article submitted by:  
Marcia Mahony

Photo(L to R): Standing: Nancy Takayama, Yas Gohata, Barbara Okita, Marcia Mahony, Doreen Kawamoto, traci ishigo, Geri Shiraki, Nancy Oda, Nancy Gohata  
Seated: Kay Oda, Linda Tanaka, Al Kushida, Harold Kameya, Mitzi Kushida, Ellen Kameva



## CHINGLISH

Seventeen JACLers were fortunate to attend a preview performance of The East West Players' production of David Henry Hwang's "Chinglish" on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>.

The play unfolds as Daniel, a Cleveland businessman, is trying to land a contract in China for his signage company. He struggles with the language and translators as he tries to negotiate a deal with government officials. The Chinese translators are inept, which results in some hilarious translations. And, to complicate matters, the English consultant/translator that Daniel hires is not all that he appears to be. Daniel soon becomes attracted to Xi Yan, an attractive female bureaucrat who can help him land a contract. Daniel discovers there's more than a language barrier preventing him from getting the deal. The play delves deeper into the cultural differences between the Chinese and Americans on business relationships, romance and marriage.

Although a quarter of the dialogue is in Mandarin, supertitles were projected on the stage wall above the actors to aid in translation. This was a bit distracting since it took our attention away from terrific performances by a superb cast. Daniel was played by Matthew Jaeger, the beautiful Xi was played by Kara Wang and the amusing Official Cai was played by Ben Wang.

Article submitted by: Marcia Mahony

Photo (LtoR) Seated: Mitzi Kushida, Nancy Gohata, Ellen Kameya, Linda Tanaka, Marcia Mahony, Sumi Yamaguchi, Nancy Oda

Standing: Eileen Furukawa, Yas Gohata, Hazel Isa, Doreen Kawamoto, Harold Kameya, Marion & Phil Shigekuni, Helen Shimizu, Evelyn Mitarai, Al Kushida



On Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, the Oxnard Public Library presented "Japanese-American Heroes of WWII", a documentary about the Japanese-American 442<sup>nd</sup> battalion and segments from the documentary "Legacy of Heart Mountain", both by filmmakers **David Ono** and **Jeff MacIntyre**. A panel discussion followed with **Dr. Lily Tamai**, the Curator of History at JANM and WWII veterans **Tom Doi** (former SFVJACL President and Treasurer) and **Ted Wakai**. The MIS vets participated in an informative Q and A that ended in a standing ovation from the packed audience.



Photo (L-R): Tom Doi, Jeff MacIntyre, Ted Wakai, Dr. Lily Tamai

## COMMUNITY CORNER

The Board sent a speedy recovery messages to **Harriet Nishizaka, Patty Takayama, and Sumi Yamaguchi**. All three ladies are getting back to the their regular busy schedule.

### The Winter of Melancholy

Patricia E. Takayama

A COLLECTION OF  
SEVENTEEN  
SHORT STORIES

### Book Party Celebration !!

Join in the celebration to commemorate the publication of Patty Takayama's long awaited collection of short stories drawn from interviews of Japanese American women.

The gathering of friends, family,  
food, drinks and story telling  
will be held

Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
From 2pm - 4pm

San Fernando Valley Japanese American  
Community Center  
Pioneer Building's Sakaguchi Hall  
12953 Branford Street / Pacoima, CA 91331

The event is free

Book sales with be handled by Carolyn  
Sanwo's, Heritage Source

For more information contact:  
Patty at: 818-899-7916



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## AKEMI KUSHIDA ARZOUMAN AND MOLLY SERIZAWA WIN JACL NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Student member, **Akemi Kushida Arzouman**, is the recipient of the *Dr. Kiyoshi Sonoda Memorial Scholarship*. Mrs. Mitsu Sonoda established this scholarship in honor and memory of her husband, Dr. Kiyoshi Sonoda, who was a graduate of the University of Southern California School of Dentistry. Dr. Sonoda established a successful dental practice in Los Angeles and was a devoted member of JACL. Beginning in 1945, he was one of the first life members of JACL's One Thousand Club and served as president of the West Los Angeles JACL Chapter. Through this scholarship, the Sonoda Family legacy assists students in realizing their educational and professional dreams.

Student member, **Molly Serizawa** is the recipient of the *Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship*. This scholarship was established by the estate of the late Henry and Chiyo Kuwahara. Mr. Kuwahara, a resident of Los Angeles was a well-know investment and securities broker in Little Tokyo. The Kuwaharas believed in the value of education and wished to support and inspire the youth of our community. The legacy of Henry and Chiyo Kuwahara reaches far beyond their lifetimes to help students today achieve their educational aspirations.

Photo: Left: Molly Serizawa  
Right: Akemi Kushida Arzouman



## VENTURA INDOOR SUMMER PICNIC

Saturday, September 5, 2015 was a lovely day in Camarillo (cooler than the Valley) for the Ventura Indoor Summer Picnic. **Phil and Marion Shigekuni**, and I attended the pot luck luncheon and had a wonderful time. It was the Shigekuni's first attendance and we were early and eager to see everyone. It was fun to meet old friends and make new ones.

As usual, we had a delicious array of dishes. Then, we played bingo and Marion said Phil never wins anything....well, he won twice, so did Marion and I. Marion made an announcement about the "BIG BAND CONCERT" and tried to sell tickets

(boy! what a trooper). We went home with new Ventura JACL t-shirts, prizes, and a full stomach. Boy, were we happy!! Everyone won a prize and left for home with a smile.

Article submitted by Linda Tanaka

Photo (L to R): Seated: Marion & Phil Shigekuni, Ken Nakano (Ventura JACL)  
Standing: Joanne Nakano (Ventura JACL), Linda Tanaka





## A SWINGING BIG BAND CONCERT

Thanks to **Dr. Bo Sakaguchi** and **Roy Imazu, Dan Taguchi** and his eighteen piece band came for an encore performance and entertained the “70 somethings” or maybe “80 somethings” on Sunday, September 27, 2015 at the SFVJACC. More than 150 people enjoyed songs made famous by Frank Sinatra, Count Basie, and Glenn Miller.

Toes were tapping to “Don’t Sit Under the Apple Tree”, or swooning to “My Funny Valentine”. Other favorites were the “Moonlight Serenade” by Glenn Miller. The lineup also included Cole Porter’s “Just One of Those Things”. The songs were so ageless that even Stevie Wonder recorded “For Once in My Life” originally sung by Frank Sinatra.

Two of Dan Taguchi’s students were especially welcomed. They were **Sam Morgan** and **Nina Kasuya** (vocalist) from his class of 2009. Current students were also in the audience. Dan thanked his parents on behalf of himself and the band for buying instruments, paying for music lessons, and their support.

“Don’t Fence Me In” was a poignant reminder of our incarceration during the war years.

Finally, the darkened room was the setting for “In the Mood”, a hit that was on the charts for thirteen weeks in 1940 that was once played by Glenn Miller. “Bobby soxers” (dancers) included **Nancy Gohata, Tommy Uyeda, Dave & Sally Ogawa, Bill Keasberry, Evelyn Mitarai, and Tom Nishimura.**

Board members that helped Nancy Gohata, chair, were **Sumi Yamaguchi, Nancy Takayama, Harold Kameya, Doreen Kawamoto, Mitzi & Al Kushida, Phil and Marion Shigekuni. Isabelle Miyata, Harvey Negoro, and Linda Kuratomi** pitched in too. It was a fun afternoon to go down memory lane with friends and family. Thank you to Dan Taguchi and his friends for keeping music education alive.

Article submitted by: Nancy Oda

Photo(L-R): Nancy Oda, Nancy Gohata, Marion Shigekuni, Nina Kasuya, Mitzi Kushida, Dan Taguchi, Doreen Kawamoto, Nancy Takayama, Sumi Yamaguchi, Phil Shigekuni.



SFVJACL and SFVJACC Members attend Nisei Week Luncheon with SFVJACC Queen, Kelsey Nakaji Kwong.

Photo(L to R): Kenji & Kyoko Watanabe, Mabel Takimoto, Kelsey, Paul Jonokuchi, Nancy & Kay Oda, Hitomi & Toji Hashimoto, and Ken Inaba

# Emerging Leaders: Rising Up for Justice

## Pacific Southwest District's Annual Awards Luncheon

### Honorees



**Betty Hung** is Asian Americans Advancing Justice - LA's Policy Director. She started her career at Advancing Justice - LA in 1997 as a member of the legal team that litigated the groundbreaking El Monte Thai and Latino garment worker case and rejoined the organization in February 2012.



**Kizuna's** mission is to build a vibrant Nikkei community by creating an empowering culture, engaging and igniting Japanese American and building collective identity  
Co-Founders: Kristin Fukushima, Sen Sugano, Stacy Toyota  
Executive Director: Craig Ishii



**Sean Miura** is a writer and performer. He is the member of Little Tokyo Roots, head producer/lead curator of Little Tokyo's free performing arts series Tuesday Night Café

**Saturday, November 21, 2015**  
**11:30 AM Registration / Noon Program**  
**Individual Tickets: \$125**

Mail check and make payable to: **SFV JACL**  
12953 Branford St. / Pacoima, CA 91331

**Quiet Cannon – Montebello**  
**901 Via San Clemente, Montebello, CA 90640**

For more information visit: [www.jaclpsw.org](http://www.jaclpsw.org)  
or email [info@jaclpsw.org](mailto:info@jaclpsw.org)

SFV JACL and SFVJACC PRESENTS...

# Let's Swing!



**SATURDAY**  
**October 24, 2015**  
**7:30–11:30 PM**

**SFVJACC**  
**12953 BRANFORD STREET, PACOIMA 91331**  
**TICKETS \$13.00**

**MUSIC BY**  
**DJ MIKE**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 818 899–1989**



Peepers Creepers!

JACL-PSWD is dying to invite you to...

A Benefit Dance



# Halloween Costume Dance Party

Saturday, October 31, 2015

Costume prizes,  
Door Prizes, and  
Opportunity Drawings

Featuring live dance music by

**Kokoro**

SPONSOR TABLE: \$600 / Table of 10  
RESERVED TABLE: \$500 / Table of 10  
INDIVIDUAL TICKETS: \$50 per person

**GARDENA ELKS LODGE**  
1735 West 162nd Street  
Gardena, CA 90247

Doors Open from 7:30 until the Midnight Hour...

Learn the "THRILLER" Dance, Mingle with your Fellow  
Ghouls & Goblins, Enjoy Halloween Party Foods & Treats, and  
Have a Devilish Good Time!!!

PRE-SALE ONLY - NO TICKETS  
WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR  
RESERVE TICKETS BY: OCTOBER 25th, SUNDAY!

Info: Nancy Takayama: [ntakayama@jacldsw.org](mailto:ntakayama@jacldsw.org)  
Carol Tanita: [cntanita@mail.com](mailto:cntanita@mail.com)  
Wayne Nagao: [wnagao@msn.com](mailto:wnagao@msn.com)

JACL-Pacific Southwest District is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, Federal Tax ID# 95-3869078

Please submit RSVP Tear-off form with Payment by Friday, October 25, 2015

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Required e-mail for Confirmation: \_\_\_\_\_

_____ \$600 Table(s) of 10	\$ _____
_____ \$500 Table(s) of 10	\$ _____
_____ Individuals: \$50 Advance	\$ _____
_____ Cannot Attend but Glad to Donate	\$ _____
_____ Total Amounts Enclosed	\$ _____

One Check Only per table.

Make check payable to:

JACL - PSWD

RETURN ADDRESS:

JACL-PSWD - Dance  
c/o Wayne Nagao  
122 Monterey Blvd.  
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254

\*Table Guests: Print Names in Back

JACL-Pacific Southwest District is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, Federal Tax ID# 95-3869078

**THANKS TO CHURCH, TEMPLE, AND ORGANIZATIONS IN OUR  
COMMUNITY WHO SUPPORTED OUR  
PACIFIC CITIZEN HOLIDAY ISSUE FUNDRAISER**

**VALLEY JAPANESE  
COMMUNITY CENTER, INC.**  
8850 Lankershim Blvd.  
Sun Valley, CA 91352

**NIKKEI VILLAGE, INC.**  
9551 Laurel Canyon Blvd.  
Pacoima, CA 91331  
(818) 897-7571

**CHATSWORTH WEST UNITED.  
METHODIST CHURCH.**  
10824 Topanga Canyon Blvd.  
Chatsworth, CA 91331  
(818) 341-1270

**SAN FERNANDO VALLEY JAPANESE  
AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER**  
12953 Branford Street  
Pacoima, CA 91331  
818) 899-1989

**SAN FERNANDO VALLEY  
JAPANESE CREDIT UNION**  
**Mayko Martinez**  
(818) 362-0680  
FAX: (818) 367-8894

**SAN FERNANDO VALLEY  
HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE**  
9450 Remick Avenue  
Pacoima, CA 91331  
(818) 899-4030, (818) 899-0447 FAX  
Email: sfvhtbtds@yahoo.com

**MEIJI SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB**  
12953 Branford Street.  
Pacoima, CA 91331

**NIKKEI SENIOR GARDENS**  
Assisted Living – Memory Support  
9221 Arleta Avenue  
Arleta, CA 91331  
(818) 899-1000 \* [www.NikkeiSeniorGardens.com](http://www.NikkeiSeniorGardens.com)

**SAN GABRIEL VALLEY  
ASIAN-PACIFIC ISLANDER PFLAG**  
Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays  
**Marsha Aizumi** (626) 695-9073 [maizumi888@gmail.com](mailto:maizumi888@gmail.com)  
**Harold & Ellen Kameya** (818) 368-2008 [hkameya@gmail.com](mailto:hkameya@gmail.com)  
[www.sgvipflag.tumblr.com](http://www.sgvipflag.tumblr.com), facebook/sgvipflag  
[sgvipflag@gmail.com](mailto:sgvipflag@gmail.com)

**BALLROOM DANCE CLASS**  
SFVJACC 12953 Branford Street  
Pacoima CA 91331  
**Beginners Welcomed**  
Contact: Barbara Okita  
[barbokt@aol.com](mailto:barbokt@aol.com) or (818) 784-5128

**SUNRISE FOURSQUARE CHURCH**  
**Pastors Paul Iwata and Haruko Iwata**  
14705 Wyandotte Street  
Van Nuys, CA 91405  
(818) 782-8738

**Only the Oaks Remain**  
**Tuna Canyon Detention Center**  
Dec. 8, 1941-Oct. 1943  
[www.tunacanyon.org](http://www.tunacanyon.org)  
Contact: [nancyoda64@gmail.com](mailto:nancyoda64@gmail.com)





# 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

Member ID: \_\_\_\_\_ (renewals only)

**JACL Chapter**

**San Fernando Valley**

**First Name**

**Last Name**

**Street Address**

**City**

**State**

**Zip Code**

**Email**

**Gender**

**Phone**

**Year of Birth**

**Payment Method:** 🍏 **Check**

🍏 **Credit Card**

Please make checks payable to:  
Express

🍏 **Visa**

🍏 **MasterCard**

🍏 **American**

**Japanese American Citizens League**

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> → **Membership** → **Join/Renew** → (select membership category)

