

TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic we will not be soliciting ads for the 2020 Pacific Citizens Holiday issue.

We understand the impact COVID 19 has had on your family and friends. This has been a challenging time for all of us.

The SFV JACL want you to know, we care about our members, supporters and our community. We hear your concerns as we will all work together to discover and adapt to our “new normal”.

This year the Chapter will be purchasing a one-page ad in the Pacific Citizen Newspaper. We are asking our members and supporters to contribute to this ad with one of the following:

- Words of support or condolences in recognizing or honoring those loved ones or friends who have passed away.
- Thanking those who volunteered their time and service during the pandemic,
- Expressing your appreciation for those who have reached out to help and support others.

We are **NOT** soliciting donations, only your words of encouragement and compassion to share with our members during this trying pandemic.

Please contact a member of our PC Holiday Issue Committee with your words of support, thanks, appreciation or condolences before the **OCTOBER 31st DEADLINE**:

Nancy Gohata / nancygohata@gmail.com / (818) 371-8013
Mitzi Kushida / mitzik99@gmail.com / (818) 360-6718
Marcia Mahony / msmahony2@gmail.com / (818) 669-0409
Barbara Okita / barbokit@aol.com / (818) 371-7029
Marion Shigekuni / pshig2000@verizon.net / (818) 893-1581

OR MAIL YOUR WORDS OF SUPPORT TO:

Nancy Gohata
14229 Carl St
Arleta, CA 91331

You can also contact us if you wish to continue to support our Chapter and the Pacific Citizen through your own ad or donation.

Thank you,
Nancy Takayama and PC Holiday Issue Committee



RACE RELATIONS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

Thanks to **Nancy Takayama**, we will have a Zoom meeting on Wednesday, October 14, from 7-8 pm. All Board members along with about 100 other JACL members will be invited to this Zoom event. The title of this presentation is "Race Relations and Law Enforcement." I will be interviewing **Brian Moriguchi**, a retired Los Angeles Sheriff. Participants will have an opportunity to ask questions of Brian via "chat" after his presentation. Unfortunately, we will not be able to accommodate members without email addresses. The deadline to attend this program is October 13th. We will be awarding gift certificate prizes, by drawing, to all who RSVP.

Brian retired from the Sheriff's Department in March of this year. He served for 34 years, retiring as a lieutenant. He was president of the Sheriff's Union, the Professional Peace Officer's Association, (PPOA) during his last ten years with the department. Early in his career he suffered racial discrimination from the officers over him. He filed a suit over these incidents and won, resulting in the formation of a Civilian Oversight Commission.

The link below is a column I did on Brian and his father, Bob in 2014.

<http://www.rafu.com/2014/02/senior-moments-bob-and-brian-moriguchi/>

Article submitted by Phil Shigekuni

Photos:

Brian and his father, Bob, in 2014.

Bob, mother, Aki and Brian celebrating Aki's 90th birthday.



Black Lives Matter — We Get It

Of course, black lives matter. With the rest of our country we are appalled at the killing of George Floyd for all to witness over national television. How encouraging it is to see so many whites, Latinos and Asians joining the black people in the crowd expressing their angry protest.

Surely, without the protests resulting in the changing of laws arising from the civil rights movement in the '60s we would not have gained redress for our wartime incarceration. President Obama, I am afraid, was correct when he said that too often, racial justice comes about only after such tragedies as the Floyd killing.

Witnessing the turmoil of the past several days caused me to think back about the black people I have known and our relationships with the black community. The polite term in my youth was "colored people." It was not until many years later after coming to terms with their identity, "Black Is Beautiful" became their slogan, making acceptable the term "black" in defining themselves. Before the war, we lived in L.A. on 36th Street next door to a black family. My divorced mother, my sister Evelyn, and I lived with our grandmother, our mother Lillian's mother. Grandma, Dorothy, was married to Dr. Miyamoto, a physician, who grew up in San Fernando.

We used to see a lot of Ocie Jones, a friendly black teenager who lived next door. He was at our home quite a lot. I remember the wonderful smell of cornbread cooking in their oven when walking by their house.

Grandma was very strict with Evelyn and me. One day, I pushed Evelyn off the front porch, breaking her arm. Grandma got so mad she tied me up and put me into a closet. Thinking back on the incident, it occurs to me this could have been traumatic. What saved the day for me was having Ocie opening the closet, looking in, and laughing, uncontrollably. Anything that funny could not be scary! I credit Ocie for keeping me from having trauma related to this incident.

We stayed in touch with Ocie after returning to L.A. after the war. Which brings me to another recollection: The war had just ended, and a lot of anti-"Jap" expressions were very common. Returning to South Central L.A., or Seinan, as we called it, I do not remember being harassed by any of the black boys in the neighborhood, and I don't remember any of my friends having any trouble as well.

Evelyn and I attended Foshay Junior High, located at Exposition Boulevard and Western Avenue. Because restrictive housing covenants prevented the selling of any home to a non-white south of Exposition, the Asians and blacks lived north of Exposition. Foshay had a majority of white students, and we all seemed to get along.

Men of my age who settled in the San Fernando Valley after the war told me of having to band together to keep from being attacked by white boys.

When I was hired at a San Fernando Valley High School in 1959, aside from a couple of Latino gym teachers, I was the only non-white staff on the faculty. In the 35 years I worked at that school as a counselor, an attempt was made to integrate the valley schools by busing in black students from the "inner city." It was hoped that doing this would bring about mutual understanding between the races. It was a noble idea, and the results were mixed. .

The Rafu recently recounted the story of Meg Shimatsu, a woman who for the past eight years been in need of a kidney transplant. *Rafu* reporter J.K. Yamamoto wrote of how she was living out of her car, and has sought funds from GoFundMe. About a year ago, a black woman, Michelle White, appeared to provide low-cost housing for Meg and four other women at an apartment in Pasadena. Meg tells me Michelle is a retired ACLU attorney, and lives in the same apartment building as the women she is helping.

Our WWII incarceration has shown us the worst of racial discrimination. It is good to stand with black people to look back at how our paths have crossed as we unite to work together for racial justice.

Article submitted by Phil Shigekuni

IN MEMORY

Our Chapter is saddened by the loss of four chapter members: **Harriet Nishizaka** on December 7, 2019, **Sumi Yamaguchi**, February 4, 2020, **Doreen Kawamoto**, May 22, 2020, and **Bob Kobata**, August 18, 2020.

Harriet served as gracious host for many Chapter Board Meeting Socials. Her late husband, John, served as Chapter president. Sumi served many years as our Board secretary, and Doreen, as our representative to the SFV Coordinating Council. Bob was remembered as a regular supporter of Chapter activities, transporting fellow members in his van to our installations and other activities. We will surely miss them all.

Article submitted by Phil Shigekuni



We will always remember these wonderful ladies who served on our JACL Board. Here they are greeting guests for our 1997 JACL Installation Luncheon. From left to right, Doreen Kawamoto, Sumi Yamaguchi and Harriet Nishizaka.

Photo: Bob Kobata was an avid fisherman. Here he is with one of his prize winning catches.



IN MEMORY OF BOB KOBATA

Bob was truly one of a kind. He was a person who had learned well the virtues of boy scouting and provided a wonderful role model for Matt and Tim. He was always ready to be of help in any situation. Not only did he provide rides for people in his van, he made a step stool to help Dick and others get in and out of his van. Living close to the church, and as trustee, he was frequently called upon to come there to take care of various maintenance issues. He was always willing. I never heard Bob complain about providing this on behalf of our church. At Christmas, it was Bob who, each year, climbed a ladder to put the star up in front of our church. For our rummage sales, it was Bob who hauled the clothing racks and hangers out of the storage containers, and worked in other areas to make the event a success. After his fishing trips to San Diego, he would package his catch and generously invite church members to the church to pick the fish up. Each year, for many, many years, Bob headed the Mother's Day Breakfast honoring our church's mothers. Bob demonstrated the best of living a faithful, Christian life. We will surely miss our dear Bob.

Article submitted by Phil Shigekuni

ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES 10: HISTORY OF ASIAN AMERICANS

Although, our lives have been sadly disrupted by COVID 19, this situation gave me the opportunity to attend Board member, **Dr. Jean-Paul Contreras de Guzman's** Summer Session via ZOOM. This two hour UCLA Asian American Studies class began on June 23rd, meeting twice a week for five weeks. The class began with Covid 19 and addressed the Black Lives Matter cause. Then moved to Asian studies which began with the early migration of Chinese Laborers and the Race Riot of 1885. The course included Filipino migration that began as early as 1587 in California. The class continued with the Mass Incarceration of Japanese Americans in Concentration Camps during WWII and then with the new Asian American Migration of the 1960's. The course contested the Model Minority Myth that had consequences for the Asian Community. The most emotional session of this class came when students were asked, "what would you say to your family when they make racist comments about the Black Community." Each student faced the camera, telling their family member how hurtful their comments were, not only to the group they're attacking, but how much it hurt them to hear these words coming from a family member.

Luckily, I was just auditing the class. I was impressed with the quality of the students' assignments and I think it would have taken me long evenings to complete them.

Article
submitted
by
Nancy
Gohata



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CHEER COMMITTEE: GAMBATTE

SFV JACL sends their best wishes and deepest regards to two members of our Board, **Nancy Oda**, and **Dennis Okita** as they recover from their respective medical procedures. We offer a LION'S ROAR to pray for their good health.

Nancy Oda quietly continues to work diligently on behalf of the SFV JACL, SFV JACC and Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition while battling cancer and the effects of chemotherapy. Nancy is recuperating at home after her recent surgery.

Dennis Okita, our SFV JACL Treasurer worked tirelessly keeping SFV JACL solvent. He has guided our Chapter to effectively use our economic resources. He continues his recovery at home after surgery. To paraphrase a classical Waka poetry:

It was a hot summer, during a difficult and global pandemic.
Yet a gentle breeze flowed quietly through the land,
Spreading the fragrance of the blue rosemary,
Strengthening the spirit and resolve for harmony.

We wish to send our condolences to the families of **Bob Kobata** and **Mark Nakamura** who passed away this summer. They were active in the Japanese American Community and their churches. Bob was a member of the JACL.

Article submitted by May Wood



Manzanar Committee

The Manzanar Committee will have a monthly newsletter. You can go to:

<https://mailchi.mp/2d4ddf1de543/september-newsletter-2605442>

to check out their first issue.

To subscribe and receive the newsletter monthly, send your request and email address to:
info@manzanarcommittee.org

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You can greatly help our chapter by getting the Chapter newsletter via email.

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San Fernando Valley
JACL
Civil Rights • Justice

Article submitted by Kiyō Fukumoto

By: Patty Takayama



END OF SUMMER PARTY

The JACL Board end of summer party for 2020 was canceled due to the L.A. county restriction against gathering in groups larger than 10 persons during the corona virus pandemic.

In its place, president, **Nancy Takayama** hosted a virtual “Game Night” activity for board members. On Tuesday, August 25th at 4pm several board members signed on to Zoom to join the fun. The members who joined in the “Game Night” fun were: **Marcia Mahoney, Al and Mitzi Kushida, Barbara and Dennis Okita, Kiyo Fukumoto, Marion and Phil Shigekuni, May Wood, Nancy Gohata, Patty Takayama** and the host, **Nancy Takayama**. A couple of technically challenged stragglers joined late: **Linda Tanaka** and a few participants who had not yet printed their game cards.

After thirty minutes, of partaking in our home cooked meals and chatting, Nancy announced the instructions for the first round of game one of Scattagories. The objective was to list five items beginning with a selected letter in a designated category. For each item not duplicated, by any other player the player received one point. The party with the most points after a few rounds was the winner. The second game required each participant to identify the common item from the 1950s – 1960s in a photo that Nancy presented. There were twelve items all together. The average player was able to identify about one half the items. However, the winner, the youngest player in the group, identified all twelve. The winners of Scattagories were **Linda Tanaka** and the “Remember When” game with 12 correct answers was **May Tokunaga Wood**.

It was a fun albeit, virtual end of summer party, Just the kind of socializing that offers some face time with friends who are enduring isolation together.

Article submitted by
Patty Takayama



KIZUNA VIRTUAL SHOWDOWN

For the first time, SFVJACL Board members: Nancy Gohata, Barbara Okita, Patty and President Nancy Takayama, and Linda Tanaka will be competing in this year’s Kizuna Virtual Showdown on Saturday, September 26, 2020 from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM.

Virtual Showdown is a **trivia night** where scouring the internet is not only allowed, it’s necessary!
Wish us Luck!!!



UNPACKING ANTI-BLACKNESS

As recent protests respond to the tragic news of the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and many others who have made headlines due to police and vigilante violence, what about the sentiment of anti-Blackness in the homes and communities of non-Black people? Whether it be derogatory words and beliefs about Black people, or implicit bias and unspoken distrust, non-Black communities of color and white people can often perpetuate and be complicit in the racism that threatens the lives and well-being of Black people. At the same time, there has been a legacy of solidarity to work in joint struggle against racism amongst Black people and other communities. Unfortunately, this history is often overlooked as well, and many Americans do not have the opportunity to be inspired and grateful for the leadership of Black movements, and their effects in advancing social justice for everyone. In order to deeper understand, unpack and undo anti-Blackness in ourselves, our families and communities, and uplift a legacy of solidarity, many people are gathering over Zoom for a three-part community workshop series.

This 3-part workshop is organized by Vigilant Love, in partnership with the Palestinian Youth Movement LA-OC-IE, Nikkei Progressives, the American Friends Service Committee LA – Roots 4 Peace, and Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation – LA. The community workshop series is designed to be a supportive strategy and practice space that features teach-ins from a variety of perspectives, small group reflection spaces, practices, and resources for ongoing resistance. In the first workshop on September 4th, the “teach-ins” or presentations discussed a number of topics, and opened with a vigil ceremony to honor lives lost. Community organizer, **Yazan Za3Za3** at Vigilant Love, provided a framing of how anti-Black racism cannot be conflated with other forms of racism against non-Black communities of color, due to how white supremacy impacts communities differently. This also included a historical perspective of police violence that continues today, and how the police were originally created to serve as slave patrols when enslaved Black people tried to run away or resist. Another presentation by **Celine Qussiny** of the Palestinian Youth Movement discussed Zionism - the settler colonial movement that aims to establish a Jewish state on the ruins and ethnic cleansing of Palestinian people - and how joint struggle is essential since Zionism relies heavily on the tools of white supremacy and anti-Blackness to sustain itself. **Kathy Masaoka** of Nikkei Progressives discussed how Asian Americans are often all grouped together and seen as “forever the foreigner”, making the acceptance of Asian communities conditional in America which is evident by recent anti-Asian discrimination related to Covid-19. She also discussed how the model minority myth has been used as a wedge between communities of color, and that Asian Americans have learned from the struggles of Black power movements to begin organizing, including the Redress and Reparations movement for Japanese Americans. Kathy encouraged the need for Asian Americans and non-Black people to support the campaigns for reparations for American descendants of slavery today. **eli tizcareño** of AFSC Roots 4 Peace presented on how Spain’s creation and colonization of the Americas made possible the hierarchies privileging Christian/White supremacy, which enabled anti-Black and Islamophobic rhetoric to be transported to the Americas. eli also discussed how Latinx and Black communities are not mutually exclusive, and that Latinx people are of mixed ancestry, including people of the African diaspora. And finally, **Sahar Pirzada** of Vigilant Love provided an Islamic grounding for challenging anti-Blackness, describing how Satan’s first sin was being too prideful, and that this sin parallels the sin of white supremacy, or a belief in superiority based on physical differences. Sahar also discussed how Islamic Liberation theology allows Muslims to interpret the word of God revealed to the Prophet as a guide in practicing towards liberation for all. Attendees were all encouraged to reflect on their own ways of undermining anti-Blackness and white supremacy through their actions, internal reflections and conversations.

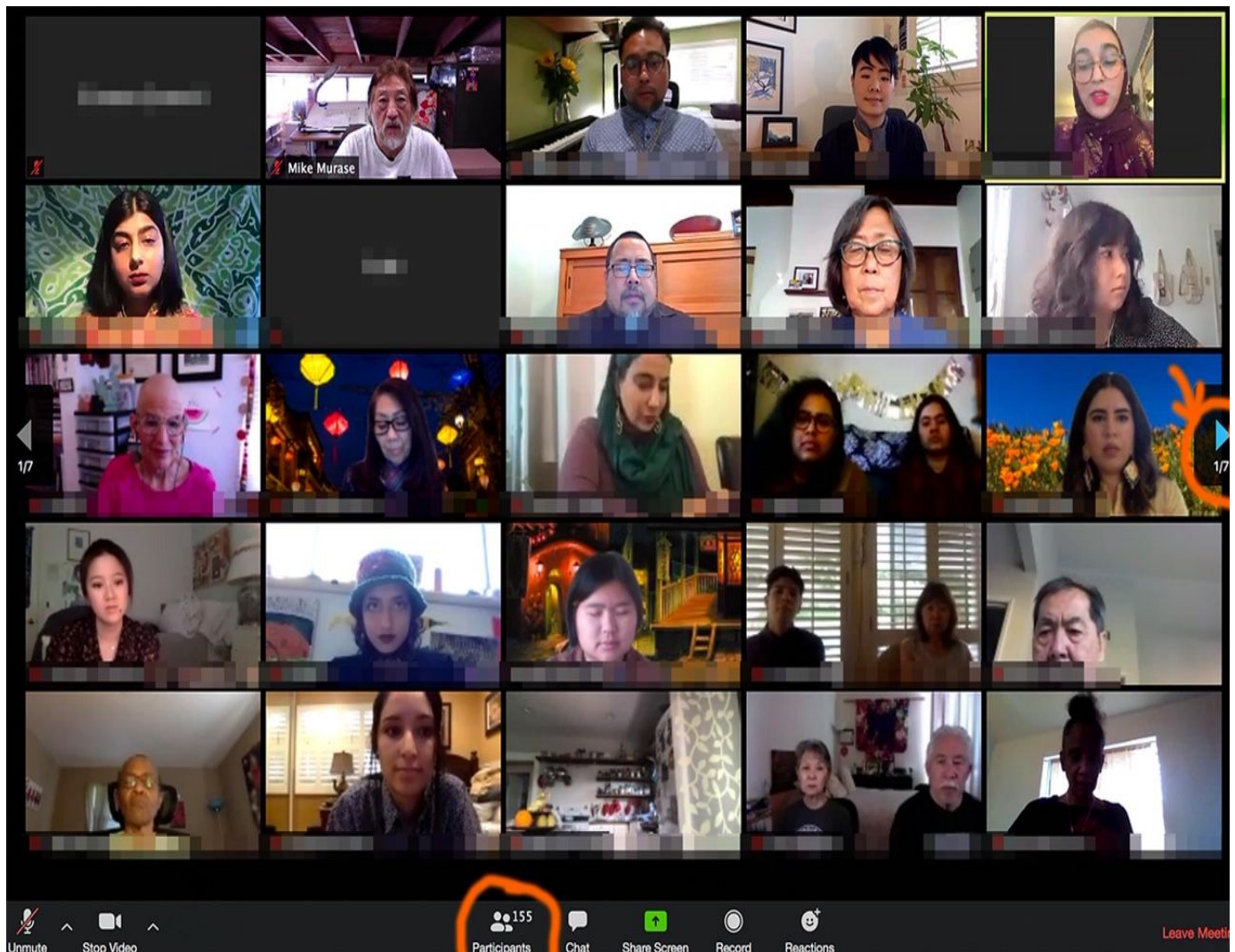
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Part two of this series took place on Friday, September 18th, and Part three will take place on October 2nd. The following series focus on transformative justice, relational organizing, and socio-emotional considerations of the triggers, defenses, needs and boundaries that may arise when addressing anti-Blackness amongst friends and family, as well as space for individuals to practice and plan their continued commitments to undo anti-Blackness in their families and communities beyond the workshop series. For more information or to make a donation to support the workshops, please visit bit.ly/VLUAB3 and join the email listserv for future workshop series at www.vigilantlove.org!

Article submitted by traci ishigo

Here are a few of the participants. One of the organizers, traci ishigo, is the third person in the top row.



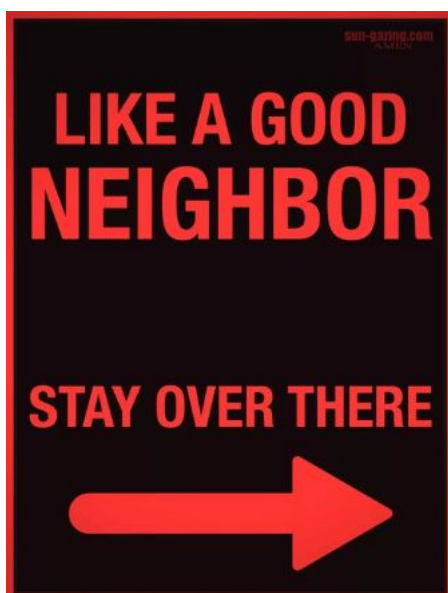
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Good boy staying safe and taking pawcautions... 😊



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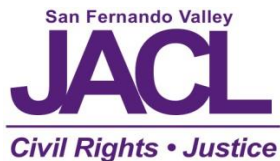
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San Fernando Valley Japanese American Citizens League

Membership Application

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

Thousand Club Spouse or Century Club Spouse - \$32

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

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 who 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

Pacific Citizen Newspaper

The 2016 JACL National Council approved a resolution and budget amendment assessing a \$17 surcharge on memberships receiving the print edition of the Pacific Citizens beginning January 1, 2017. Digital subscriptions do not incur additional fees.

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☐ **No**, I will not pay an additional surcharge and will receive the digital version via email.

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