

Saturday, July 8th, 6:10 PM



Japanese Heritage Night.
Special Events Package



FREE* Bus ride from SFVJACC to Dodger Stadium
Sponsored by SFV JACL

* almost free \$5 gratuity for driver

**If you need tickets,
Buy Dodger Heritage Package Tickets here:**

<https://www.mlb.com/dodgers/tickets/specials/japanese-heritage-night>

LIMITED Number of seats available. You must email or call to **RESERVE** your seat.
Contact **nancy takayama** at: (818) 899-7916 or email at: nt.high.mtn@gmail.com
\$5 will be collected to confirm seat.

4:15 PM – Arrive, park & check in at community center. Please park in southeast parking lot.

PHIL & MARION'S FAREWELL LUNCHEON

On May 10th, a special luncheon was held to say farewell to a very popular and much loved couple, Phil and Marion Shigekuni.

Phil and Marion have been residents of the San Fernando Valley for many decades. They were active participants in many organizations and clubs, including holding various positions of leadership in the San Fernando JACL and Chatsworth West United Methodist Church. Phil is also a contributing reporter for the Rafu Shimpo.

They have chosen to retire to a lovely retirement home in Fresno. Other family members also reside there. They hope to make periodic visits back to the valley.

A large group of friends attended the festive lunch. The food was plentiful and delicious; touching tributes from various organizations were given; and Phil leading the group in song was a classic gesture.

Phil and Marion will truly be missed, not only as leaders in serving the community, but as beloved friends who have touched many lives in a positive way.

Submitted by Wendy Hirota



Tamlyn Tomita presents

David Ono presents

Question 27, Question 28

By Chay Yew



53rd JACL National Convention: Rooted in Community! July 19-23, 2023 Little Tokyo, Los Angeles, CA!



Full Convention Registration

Includes:

Welcome Reception at Budokan
National Council Business Sessions
Friday & Saturday's Workshop & Plenaries
Film Series Screening at JANM Democracy Center
Tamlyn Tomita's Question 27, Question 28
Friday's Youth Luncheon
Ballroom Dancing with Asian Persuasion
Sayonara Gala at JACCC Plaza with Chef Akira
David Ono's "Defining Courage" Aratani Theater

FREE to Students & JACL Members

Community Day Pass

Includes:

National Council Business Sessions
Friday & Saturday's Workshop & Plenaries
Film Series Screening at JANM Democracy Center
Discount to Question 27, Questions 28
Discount to Friday's Youth Luncheon
Discount to Ballroom Dancing with Asian Persuasion
Discount to David Ono's Defining Courage

**Registration / Day Passes
Individual Meal Tickets
Virtual Registration
Available Online**

Register Here:

<https://jacl.org/2023-jacl-national-convention>

“DOUGH BALL” ROLLS AT OBON

After a 3 year hiatus, the San Fernando Valley JACL will once again be operating the Dough Ball Booth during the San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Church Obon.

The Obon will be held on **Saturday, June 24th, from 4:30 to 10 p.m. and Sunday, June 25th, from 4:30 to 9:00 p.m.**

The Obon will have exhibits, great food, games, odori and much more, so come and enjoy the day with family and friends.

We need VOLUNTEERS to help set up the booth on **Friday, June 23rd, at 10 a.m. and to work in the booth on Saturday and Sunday.**

Please get in touch with:

Kiyo Fukumoto, 626-483-2578 or Marcia Mahony 818-669-0409 for shift schedule and times, and to help set-up the booth.

Submitted by Kiyo Fukumoto



Bon Odori Practice



*Come to Practice, Learn
and Have Fun*

SFV HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

9450 Remick Ave, Pacoima
June 20th (Tues) and June 22nd (Thurs)
6:30 pm-8:00 pm, SFVHBT parking lot

VALLEY JAPANESE COMMUNITY CENTER

8850 Lankershim Blvd, Sun Valley
5/30, 6/02, 6/06, 6/09, and 6/13
Tues and Fri, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

2023 SFV JACL Events

June 23-24 - SFV Hongwanji Buddhist Temple Obon

July 19-23 - JACL National Convention – Little Tokyo

August 12 – 20 – Nisei Week Japanese Festival – Little Tokyo

SFV JACL Summer Gathering

September - Santa Anita Field Trip

October - Halloween Festivities

Pacific Citizen Holiday Issue Fundraiser Begins

SFVJA Community Center Clean-Up

STAMPING THE IREICHO

Recently, I went to the Japanese American National Museum (JANM) to stamp the Ireicho. The Ireicho is a book of names, sacred names, of individuals who were incarcerated in concentration camps during WW II. The book is inspired by the Japanese tradition of *Kakocho*, (literally, "The Book of the Past") a book a family keeps to remember their loved ones.



In this book, the Ireicho, we remember and honor the more than 125,000 men, women, and children who were confined in concentration camps and detention centers during the war. As part of honoring them, relatives and the public are invited to view and acknowledge the names in the Ireicho by placing a Japanese hanko (stamp) underneath the name of an individual in the book. The goal is to honor every person in the book with a stamp under their name.



If the goal of honoring the 125,000 names is not reached within this yearlong campaign (until September, 2023,) the Ireicho may be displayed at other locations until every individual is acknowledged.

I stamped the names of my father, mother, sister and myself.

Looking at the size of the Ireicho and seeing the pages and pages of names, brings the sad reality that each name is not just a name, but a person whose life was upended and forced into a concentration camp.

You do not have to be a relative of a former incarcerated to stamp and memorialize the names of relatives/friends, but you must make a reservation. Reservations are in 15 minute slots, and you may stamp up to six names. When you contact JANM to make your reservation, it is helpful to have the names and birth year of the people you want to stamp. In this way, it is much easier to find the name you want, as names are in order of birth year and then months within the year.

To make a reservation, Google **Japanese American National Museum** and click on Ireicho. Or click here:

<https://www.janm.org/exhibits/ireicho>

Submitted by Barbara Okita

RETURN TO MANZANAR

Hundreds of people, after four years absences due to COVID, gathered at the *Ireito* monument at the Manzanar Pilgrimage to reconnect and reflect on those who have passed. It was the 50th anniversary of the dedication of Manzanar as a state landmark. The energetic and enthusiastic taiko drummers from the UCLA Kyoto Taiko opened the festivities. Bruce Embrey, chair of the Manzanar Committee, expressed the emotional feeling and remembrance of his mother, Sue Embrey, and her legacy of establishing Manzanar as a place where people can come to learn and rekindle the desire to make sure we don't forget the past.

The keynote speakers were Manjusha Kulkarna, executive director of (cont'd)



(cont'd from page 4)

Stop AAPI Hate, and Art Hansen, Manzanar historian, author of "Manzanar Mosaic," and history professor at Cal State Fullerton. They reminded us of the importance of remembering our history as a part of preventing hate crimes and confronting the political divide facing this country today.



I was honored to join the banner carriers representing the ten concentration camps, Tule Lake, Manzanar, Minidoka, Topaz, Poston, Gila, Heart Mountain, Amachi, Rowher, and Jerome as we marched to the memorial monument to place flowers on the altar. Many people formed a large circle of dancers who joined in doing the "Tanko Bushi."

Many college students and others joined "Manzanar At Dusk," at the Lone Pine High School gymnasium. The inter-generational gathering provides people the opportunity to share feelings, thoughts, concerns, and hopes during the group discussions. The groups discussions, open mike testimonials by participants, inspired, encouraged, and assured me that the future of this country is in good strong competent hands.

When the attendees were asked, "who is here at Manzanar for the first time?" I looked and a saw about a third of the hands go up. I remember when my daughter, Carrie and son, Ty were teenager, and they join us for a family outing to Manzanar. They saw the camp and learned about what happened at Manzanar. They especially liked the picnic obento made by their grandmother. So, I invite you and your family to join us for the next annual Manzanar Pilgrimage.

Submitted by Kiyo Fukumoto

CLEANING UP LITTLE TOKYO



On a bright sunny Saturday morning, over 400 volunteers, seniors, parents, and children, joined in making Little Tokyo a cleaner and nicer place to visit. The enthusiastic group of seniors, students, parents, and children, gathered at the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center.

Wearing their green "Sparkle" bandana, the helpers armed themselves with brooms, shovels, scrappers, cleaning supplies, and graffiti removers. They marched to all parts of Little Tokyo to scrub, sweep, and wash the face of Little Tokyo. Groups of friends, family members, and other supporters happily worked while talking and laughing together.

My grandchildren, Hailey and Connor, pulled a wagon with water and lemonade for the hard workers and thirsty helpers.

The attendees were treated to musubi, Torpedo sandwiches, chips, and desserts, and they sat under the shade of a canopy to enjoy their meal with friendly conversation. The volunteers stayed waiting for their raffle ticket number to be called. Almost all the tickets were winners.

It was uplifting to see so many people take pride in their community. Please plan to come out and join us next year for Little Tokyo "Sparkle."

Submitted by Kiyo Fukumoto



SFV VETERANS HONORED



The SFVJACC held its Veterans Memorial Day Service on Sunday, May 28, 2023 at the Center's Dr. Sanbo Sakaguchi Hall. The Service was well-attended by family and friends to honor the Veterans of the San Fernando Valley.

My Dad, **Tom Doi**, served in the MIS division during WWII. He passed away last December, and this was my first time at the Service. As **Jennifer Hamamoto**, Mistress of Ceremony, read the roll call of 168 deceased Veterans, family members in attendance placed a flower on the memorial table in their honor.

Representatives from 18 community organizations also presented a floral tribute. **David Honjio** concluded this portion of the program by playing Taps on his bugle.

Helen Ota was the Guest Speaker. Many of us know Helen as a performer and most recently as a singer in The Back in the Day

Band, a Grateful Crane musical ensemble that performed at the CC last week. Helen discussed her involvement with the Go For Broke exhibition at JANM and her experience meeting and interviewing Los Angeles Japanese American Veterans and their family members.

I remember how proud my Dad looked in June 2012 as he sat among the other 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and Military Intelligence Service Veterans at the Go For Broke Monument in Little Tokyo. They were being honored for their sacrifice and bravery at the L.A. Regional Congressional Gold Medal Celebration. A bronze replica of the Gold Medal was presented to each Veteran or surviving family member. It was one of my Dad's proudest possessions.



Thank you to the SFVJACC for sponsoring this remembrance Service for all our SFV Veterans.

Submitted by Marcia Mahony

SFVJACC Coordinating Council - Notes of Interest

SFVJACC Nisei Week Queen Candidate is **Kaili Inouye**. She is 23 years old and a graduate of UCSD with a Bachelor of Science degree in Science and a Master's degree in Colorectal Cancer. She enjoys running, swimming, and paddleboarding.

The Meiji Club is having BINGO every/other month after Friday hot meal.

The next one will be in June 9th

Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition Luncheon is September 23, 2023, 12:30pm at Friendship Hall, Los Angeles.

Obon Odori practice at SFV Hongwanji Buddhist Temple and Valley Japanese Community Center. (see dates and times in this newsletter)

"Chanpon"

The name for this column will be "**Chanpon**". According to the Kenkyusha Japanese English dictionary means "together". Please submit your thoughts, articles, photos with narrative and recipes to Patty Takayama at: pe.high.mtn@gmail.com

Chanpon – OBON

OBON - Summer is Obon season. It is an annual Japanese holiday that commemorates and remembers deceased ancestors. It is believed that the spirits of the deceased ancestors return to visit their relatives. Like the Day of the Dead in other cultures.

Traditionally in Japan, *Obon* is celebrated in July or August. Although, Nisei Week festivities commence at the end of July and continue through mid-August in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles, the rest of Southern California adjusts their festival calendar from mid-June to the end of August to adapt to the local temperatures and to avoid duplication of the schedules of various Buddhist temples. In the San Fernando Valley, the Valley Japanese American community center in Sun Valley, schedules their Obon the week prior to the SFVJACC, presently, in mid-June to avoid the hottest temperatures during the summer months. Despite the Buddhist connection to the Obon festivities, Christian and other non-affiliated religious persons participate in the festivities.

Bon is the lantern festival in Japan, where a *chochin* (lantern) is placed outside the doorway of the house to guide ancestors home. The lantern is also sent off on a waterway or into the air to return to the spirit world. Along with the festival activities, *odori* (traditional Japanese) dance practice precedes the festival where dancing, food vendors and game vendors prepare for a festive party atmosphere for the weekend. Favorite festival foods include: *Okonomiyaki*, (savory pancakes), *takoyaki* (octopus balls), *Yakitori* (chicken skewers), *Kintoki* (sweet shaved ice) and *Dango*, (sweet dumplings). In addition to the game booths, there are ikebana, bonsai and arts and crafts exhibits, among other activities, such as Bingo and Dough ball.

If you miss the Obon, closest to your home, you can find another Obon the following weekend, in the south bay or San Gabriel Valley or in Orange County. Check the Obon schedules in the Rafu Shimpō.

Submitted by Patricia Takayama

Save the Date Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition Biennial Luncheon

In honor of the
Japanese, German, and Italian immigrants, and
Japanese taken from Peru and others
and their families during World War II.

Entertainment by
Akira Tana
Tuna Canyon Descendent,
Jazz Musician
and Leader of the group "Otonowa"

September 23, 2023
12:30 PM

Friendship Auditorium
3201 Riverside Drive
Los Angeles, California 90027
In Griffith Park



TUNACANYON.ORG



THE BEAUTY OF THIS OAK GROVE BELIES A TRAGIC HISTORY. AT THE BEGINNING OF WORLD WAR II, THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TURNED CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS CAMP P-223 INTO THE TUNA CANYON DETENTION STATION BY ENCLOSING IT WITH BARBED WIRE AND POSTING ARMED GUARDS. FROM DECEMBER 1941 TO OCTOBER 1943, JAPANESE, GERMAN, AND ITALIAN IMMIGRANTS, JAPANESE TAKEN FROM PERU, AND OTHERS WERE IMPRISONED HERE IN VIOLATION OF THEIR CIVIL LIBERTIES. ON JUNE 25, 2013, THE LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL DESIGNATED THIS SITE AS A LOS ANGELES HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT. THE OAKS, AS WITNESSES TO HISTORY, COMPEL US TO LEARN FROM OUR NATION'S MISTAKES AND STAND STRONG AGAINST PREJUDICE, WARTIME HYSTERIA, AND INJUSTICE.

2023 WOMEN of the YEAR LUNCHEON

Sunday, May 07, 2023, Quiet Cannon

The sun rose high in a bright blue sky above the hills of Montebello to celebrate and honor inspirational women leaders from all walks of life.

The Japanese Women's Society of Southern California and the Downtown Los Angeles Japanese American Citizens League (DTLA JACL) have recognized the achievements of Japanese American Women since 1963. The 2023 honorees are Kyuka Kanesaka, (AKA Yukari Kanesaka), Matsutoyo Sato, Fumiyo Stark and Margaret Nitta Takimoto.



Sixty-five members of the SFV JACC, SFV JACL, SFV ATHLETICS, and friends and family joined in supporting our hometown heroine.

Among the four women to be honored is Margaret Nitta Takimoto who was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley to Emiko and Kenji Nitta. With her siblings, Eugene, Dianne, and Teri, she played in the dusty streets of small town, San Fernando when there were no freeways. She sat at the feet of Issei and Nisei parents who wanted to establish a strong Japanese American Community among the orange groves, farms, and chicken ranches in the San Fernando Valley. The Japanese American Pioneers such as her parents had the vision to create a place where Japanese Americans could gather and feel pride in their community, culture, and language. Their dreams became a reality when the pioneers moved the Japanese Language School, Judo Dojo, and meeting rooms from the City of San Fernando to the property in Pacoima. There was plenty of room to grow and set down roots.

After graduating from UCLA with a degree in Microbiology, Margaret, her husband, Dick, and her children Jamie and Curtis became active at the SFV JACC. Margaret stepped up to the plate and took the visions of the pioneers even higher. Her mother-in-law, Mabel Miyamoto Takimoto was a career woman as well and encouraged the family endeavors to allow the Japanese American community to thrive.

Like so many women of her generation, Margaret chose to continue her work in her field while raising her daughter, Jamie, and her son, Curtis. While at Northridge Hospital Medical Center (NHMC), she became a licensed Clinical Laboratory Scientist overseeing PCR testing and developing a phlebotomy training program to improve the onsite services at NHMC. Margaret is a woman who balanced her career while becoming a parent representative for her children's basketball teams, a Commissioner for the SFV JACC Athletics, and creating the Pee Wee Clinic with the participation of high school age coaches. Her giving spirit continued as she became the Scholarship Chair for Athletics, started a ZUMBA class for parents, somehow slipped in a role as Co-Chair of the SFV JACC Future Planning Committee (FPC), and finally accepted a role as Board Member of The Rising Stars Leadership Program based in Little Tokyo.

Her son, Curtis spoke of his mother as a tireless worker who despite the rigors of work and family, enjoyed travel. If she thought his plans were doable, she was ready to go. She has a can-do spirit that refuses to stop. When she was struck by a terrible illness in 1991, she relearned her life skills and continued to charge ahead of the pack. Margaret was never one to let her family, friends, or community down.

A child of Kibei Nisei Japanese American Pioneers, Margaret extends her parents' vision, hopes and dreams further into a future that will reinforce a strong foundation for generations to come. Bring it on. Submitted by May Wood



SONGS FOR A SANSEI

Featuring - BACK IN THE DAY BAND

SONGS FOR A SANSEI CONCERT

was held on Saturday, May 20, 2023 at the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center. It



was enjoyed by over one hundred attendees who clapped, tapped their toes and danced to the music and singing of the BACK IN THE DAY BAND. This concert took us down memory lane with music from the 60's and 70's and brought smiles to our faces of our youth and happy days. It was time to forget our troubles and to sing and dance. "It's going to be a lot of fun," said Soji Kashiwagi, Executive Director of Grateful Crane and it was. A special tribute to the late Johnny Ishibashi, a local San Fernando based hair stylist who was a great big fan of Grateful Crane was honored.

Since 2001 Grateful Crane Ensemble has been to preserve the American Japanese history and traditions through education, music and theater.



The members of the band are very impressive. Helen H. Ota is not only a wonderful singer but also a comedic performer with Cold Tofu Improv, where she served as its Artistic Director for 19 years. She also co-founded YES and PRODUCTIONS and performed in the musical produced by her and husband, Mike Palma.

Brian Yamamoto is a member of several local bands and he can be seen singing with Elemental Funk, Kokoro, Endless Summer, The Ronin Stones, Back in the Day and live at the Disneyland Resort with Jimmy Ng.

Dave Iwataki (Keyboard) is a composer/musician and he has created "The Healing Drums", "J-Town/Bronzeville Suite" and "Barbed Wire and Hip Hop." He also did theater work with Grateful Crane, The Robey Theater and for East West Players. Dave is also tours with several singers and is a documentary composer for PBS and composer for the Watase Arts Center at the Japanese American National Museum.

Danny Yamamoto (Drums) is a drummer, percussionist, Taiko player and one of the founding members of the Asian American jazz group Hiroshima. Danny has also worked with East/West Players, Nobuko Miyamoto, Kinnara Taiko and the Grateful Crane Ensemble.



Derrick Murdock (Bass) is an American Bassist, Composer and Producer. Derrick has performed and/or recorded with many famous

artists, such as Sheena-Easton, Michael Bolton, BB King, Chuck Berry, Natalie Cole to mention a few.

With wonderful music from the singers and musicians the dance floor was filled with dancers having a good time. The concert ended with an early bento dinner from Sushi Dragon and everyone left smiling. Submitted by Linda Tanaka

2023 SFV JACL & SFVJACC Scholarship Award Dinner

The SFV JACL and SFV JACC joined together to honor our 2023 Senior High School Recipients on May 03, 2023, in Sakaguchi Hall with a celebratory Hawaiian style dinner catered by Rutt's Catering. The award ceremony was attended by the parents and friends of the students. The SFV JACL Scholarship Committee are May Wood, Marcia Mahony, Barbara Okita, JP de Guzman, and Nancy Takayama.

The SFV **JACC 2023 Scholarship** winners are **Jordan Lac**, *Dr. Sanbo Sakaguchi Scholarship*; **Xander Rhee and Wesley Ishida**, *Mrs. Kay Kazuko Furuta Sakaguchi Scholarship*; **Hana Chiba, Samantha Nakano, and Enzo Kato**, *Mrs. Lily Sakaguchi Thibodeau Scholarship*; **Troy Kadonaga and Andy Okazaki**, *Daniel Nagasawa, MD Scholarship*.



The Japanese American Citizens League is our nation's oldest and largest Asian American/Pacific Islander Civil Rights Organization. The JACL's goal is to foster good citizenship and civic participation. The SFV JACL, which was chartered in 1942, has continued to provide scholarships for students of merit who will continue our legacy and dedication toward combating prejudice and bigotry. We are dedicated to defending the civil rights of all peoples and making a more just society through advocacy and education.

We are proud to announce the **SFV JACL'S 2023 Freshman Scholarship** recipients: **Troy Kenji Kadonaga and Rebecca Junko Yonemura**.



Troy Kadonaga is a senior at Chatsworth Charter High School who ranked first in his class of 347 seniors with a 4.5 grade point average. He's a scholar/athlete in baseball and basketball in high school and at the SFV JACC and the Sun Valley JACC serving as a scorekeeper, coach, and referee. He served as YBA President and was a member of the Rising Stars Leadership Program. He became personally connected by his greater participation in the JA community organizations as he found his place within the community. He realized that his ancestors suffered when they were relocated to camps like Manzanar, Tule Lake and Poston. In his own words, Troy has voiced his support of the

Japanese American Legacy to honor and preserve our rich Japanese American history while educating and embracing the emerging new generations. He is the SPAM MUSUBI – the perfect mix of Japanese and American. Troy will be attending USC in the Fall as a Trojan. His parents are Craig and Jennifer Kadonaga who have participated in SFV JACL, SFV JACC Athletics and the Rising Stars.

Rebecca Yonemura is a member of the senior class from El Camino Real Charter High School with a 4.1 grade point average. She has performed in Nihon buyo, Classical Japanese Dance since she was three years old. She is a member of the award winning El Camino Real Marching Band. She demonstrated her understanding of the Japanese American Experience and Legacy by relating the family memories of the WWII camps. She wrote of the heaviness of the old trunk which contained her great aunt's skirt. Rebecca's lyricism and emotional response gave us a window reliving those horrid days as
(cont'd)





(cont'd from page 9)

Japanese Americans were taken from their homes and lost their businesses. Those memories served as the impetus forward to action by preserving our JA heritage as a student and volunteer in the JA community through the Kizuna Program, Girl Scouts, The Giving Spirit, and performing Nihon Buyo at the Keiro Retirement Home. Rebecca will be attending UC Santa Barbara as a proud Gaucho.

Her parents are Kathie and Vern Yonemura. Her grandparents Wallace and Mae Arakawa were lifelong supporters of the JACL.

SFV JACL will sponsor our students when they attend the 2023 NATIONAL JACL Convention in DTLT as well as pay for the 2024 SFV JACL Youth Membership.

Submitted by May Wood



The Griffith Park WWII Internment Camp Memorial Friendship Auditorium In Griffith Park

As a sign of the times, on April 20, 2023, **Nithya Raman, District 4 Representative** from the City of Los Angeles dedicated a **Memorial Plaque** to recognize the unlawful incarceration of immigrants without due process during WW II. It was the first time that that the park has publicly recognized this history.

Kyoko Nancy Oda, President of Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition and a **SFV JACC and JACL Board Member** spoke at the event. Her father was incarcerated without due process at Tuna Canyon. Kyoko is the author of ***Only the Oaks Remain***, a book about Tuna Canyon and ***Tule Lake Stockade Diary*** transcription. Other speakers were **Kathy Masaoka**, family member of interned prisoner; **Jimmy Kim**, Dept of Rec. & Parks; **John Esaki**, V.P. of JANM; **Linda Barth**, Travel Town Historian; **Sigrid Toye**, family member of interned prisoner; and **Phil Leirness**, Past Pres. of LA Breakfast Club Foundation.

The Griffith Park site was originally constructed as a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp within the park called Camp Riverside. The Army secured the site prior to the attack at Pearl



Harbor on December 7, 1941 so it could hold Issei "enemy aliens" who were picked up by the FBI in various counties and detained for a period of time before being transferred to other camps.

By July 14, 1942, Griffith Park Alien Detention Camp became a POW Processing Station for Japanese, Germans, and Italian prisoners and was eventually closed on August 3, 1943.



Submitted by May Woo

Our Move to Fairwinds, Fresno



Marion and I have moved to "Fairwinds", a retirement community in Fresno. We have been here for about a month. After having lived in the San Fernando Valley for over 60 years, the move has been difficult, for many reasons. The main one has been, of course, having to leave the friends we have made in the Valley and elsewhere in Southern Cal.

So, why Fresno, and not someplace closer? Two big reasons have to do with our two sisters who live here. Ann, Marion's eldest remaining sister, retired from Fowler, a farming community close to Fresno, and my older sister, Evie who moved from her home in Van Nuys, about 6 months ago.

Also, Chiz, Evie's friend from high school had arrived a short time earlier.

Fairwinds is home to a few JA's and other Asians, many of whom were formerly local to the Fresno area. Sister Ann, has been a great help in showing us around and introducing us to many of the residents. Her son, Don, is a recently retired Kaiser physician who has been very helpful in making our Kaiser transfers.

A few activities have been made available. Marion and I have enjoyed a daily exercise class, taught by Cheryl, an enthusiastic young woman. At the moment, Marion is at a group making dog blankets to be distributed at a local dog shelter.

Laurie, our older daughter, lives in San Francisco, and has stopped by with her husband, Stan, to visit and take us to our former home in Northridge, which is about three and a half hours away. My sister's son, Chris, and his wife, Terry, live in Mariposa. They drive an hour and a half to visit.

We are fortunate to have found a church which we like. The United Japanese Christian Church (UJCC), in Clovis, where we have been welcomed by Pastor Akiko Miyake-Stoner.

Our daughters, Laurie and Julie, have worked hard to get us settled at Fairwinds, and we are forever grateful, however leaving the San Fernando Valley has not without a lot of pain. We look forward to the next few days when we will be visiting old friends from the community center and our church.

Submitted by Phil Shigekuni



Keiro no Hi
FESTIVAL

Hosted by: **Keiro** 

Sunday, September 17, 2023
Japanese American National
Museum (JANM)
Little Tokyo

SAVE THE DATE!

Imagine Little Tokyo Short Story Winners

The Little Tokyo Historical Society announced the winners of the “Imagine Little Tokyo Short Story contest winners at its celebration on Saturday, May 20th, 2023. The theme of the short stories includes activities centered in Little Tokyo. The idea is to remind people what makes Little Tokyo live in our hearts and memories. However, the subject of the stories can also include what a futuristic version of Little Tokyo with flying cars might look like. After all, Little Tokyo is a microcosm of a living, breathing, evolving Japanese American community.

The short story contest includes three categories: Japanese language adult short stories, adult English language short stories, and Youth English language short stories. The winner for each category is awarded \$1000.

The Youth category winner, in her story, “One Thousand Cranes,” is Jocelyn Doan, a sophomore at Walton High School in Georgia. She loves to read and write poems and novels of all genres. Jocelyn’s story “One Thousand Cranes,” was read at the celebration by Mika Kyo and can be found on Discover Nikkei. <https://discovernikkei.org/en/journal/2023/5/21/one-thousand-cranes/>

Youth category contestants range in age from 8 to 18 years of age. Among the 15 finalists were: one 8 year old, one 12 year old, three 13 year old and one 14 year old.

Honorable Mention Youth category - two stories were awarded honorable mention status. They are: “Unlocking Memories” by Madeline Thach and “Ba-chan” By Zoe Lerdworatawee.

Adult English category winner - DC Palter’s story, “The Last Days of the Dandy Lion” is the winner of adult English language category. His winning story was read to the audience by actor Greg Watanabe. DC is the author of the mystery novel, “To Kill a Unicorn, about a Japanese hacker investigating a sinister Silicon Valley startup. He’s also the author of “Colloquial Kansai Japanese culture. He lives in Mar Vista with his wife, Satsuki, an ikebana artist and tea ceremony teacher.

Honorable Mention, English Adult winner: Alison Ozawa Sanders’ story “Aftershocks” was awarded honorable mention.

2023 Japanese Language – winning story is “Color” by Miho Hirayama. Her story was read by Mayumi Saco

2023 Honorable Mention Japanese Language winning story is: “Why not? Little Tokyo!” by, Kosuke Kaburagi

Submitted by Patricia Takayama



SENIOR HOT MEAL MENU

June 2023

MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED AT 11:45 AM • NO TAKEOUTS

June 2 - Chicken Stir Fry

June 9 - Beef Stew

June 16 - Fish

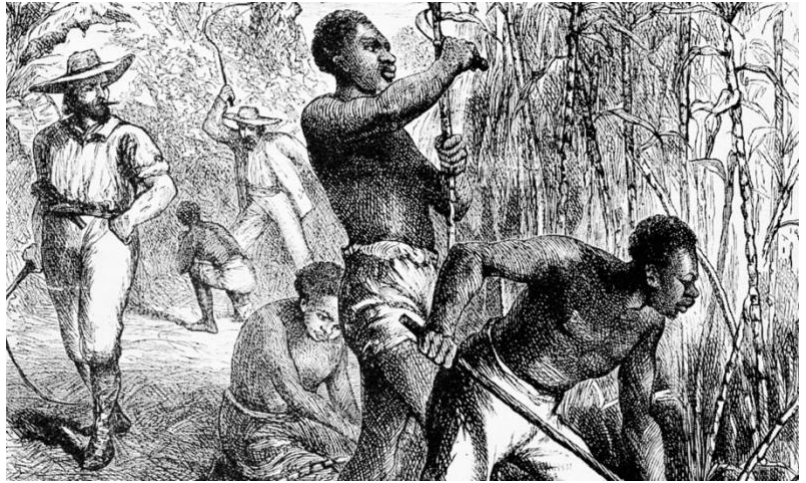
June 23 - No lunch
(Obon)

June 30 - Cabbage Roll

Slavery in America - Part One

Slavery is as old as war. When tribes attacked each other, they either killed or maimed their enemies or they took them as slaves. Centuries later organized military groups, in an attempt to be more civilized, challenged individual strong men to battle for entertainment.

Slaves were brought to America long before the revolutionary war or the Declaration of Independence. The U.S. Constitution never addressed the issue of slavery or freedom from colonial powers. The status of slaves was never under consideration until the Civil War.



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Slaves were viewed as capital, as property who produced wealth. Much like indentured servants, passage was paid for in exchange for contract labor upon arrival in America. The difference between indentured servitude vs. slavery is that indentured servants were restored to freedom upon fulfillment of their contract. Whereas, slaves never regained their freedom, unless, they could buy their way out or escaped.

It wasn't until the South lost the Civil War and the 13th Amendment of the Constitution emancipated slaves and declared slavery unlawful. Former slaves were declared freed and men were given the rights of citizenship. But it was the 14th Amendment that ensured voting rights to former slaves.

Despite the passage of the 13th amendment emancipation proclamation and the equal rights provided under the 14th amendment, forms of economic slavery did not disappear. According to Douglas A. Blackmon, in his book, *"Slavery by Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to WWII"* slavery in America did not end with the Civil War. He asserts that slavery persisted into the 20th century until WWII in the form of convict- leasing, sharecropping and peonage. He focuses on the beginnings of industrial slavery, cheap labor secured through convict-leasing to industrial corporations like U.S. Steel, mines, lumber camps, plantations, and other private enterprises.

Civil War Amendments

13th Amendment (1865): Bans slavery in the United States

14th Amendment (1868): Grants citizenship to all persons born or naturalized in US. Also, government cannot deny anyone equal protection of the law.

15th Amendment (1870): The right to vote shall not be denied based on race.

White dominated Southern state legislatures passed Black Codes, intended to criminalize black life, to restrict economic independence of blacks and provide pretexts for jail terms. Blacks were often unable to pay even small fees and were sentenced to labor as a result: convicts were leased to companies used for forced labor.

Former Georgia governor, amassed great wealth based on his use of convict labor in his Dade Coal Company mines and other enterprises from

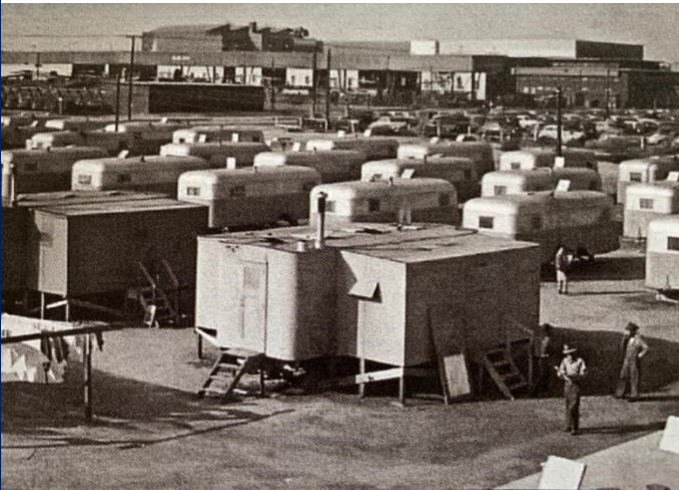
1874-1894. In the early 20th century federal prosecutors attempted to prosecute parties under laws against debt bondage. However, such efforts received little support nationally, and none in the south, which had disenfranchised blacks from the political system. In the north, attention was focused on immigration for cheap labor and WWI. The convict leasing system finally ended with World War II when attention was focused on racial issues because of the need for national unity and the mobilization of the military.

Submitted by – Patricia Takayama

Winona Trailer Camp in Burbank after 1945

The War Relocation Authority established the trailer camp to provide for the acute housing need of the Japanese American returning from the concentration camps. There was little incentive to leave the camps without housing or employment beyond the barbed wires. With over 70,000 incarcerated remaining, the WRA decided to return the incarcerated back to their point of origin.

My family joined 158 other families and was assigned to army barracks on Pico Boulevard in West Los Angeles. In November, Winona 1945, some 500 Japanese Americans from Heart Mountain moved to Winona trailer camp (Winona and Hollywood Way) in Burbank. The Federal Public Housing Authority (FPHA) charged \$15/month to \$20/month based on the number of family members. Larger families were able to rent apartments in barracks. Due to the rush to establish the trailer camp, plumbing, amenities, lighting, toilets, and washing facilities were slow in being installed. The condition at the trailer camp was considered even less favorable than in the concentration camps. The trailers were cramped with little room, a separate building for toilets, central washing facilities, no central kitchen, a dirt playground for children, and poor lighting. It was hot in the summer with constant loud airplane noise.



I started going to school at George Washington Elementary School and walked with friends from the trailer camp to school by following the railroad tracks. Since I didn't speak English, just Japanese, I had difficulties in class and often spent time sitting outside of the classroom. I always knew my mother was not going to school to talk to my teacher because she didn't speak English either. I remember walking home with my friends, and we would stop at a large transformer surrounded by a wire fence covered with a huge climbing rose bush. We would peel off a few large thorns and place them on our noses and play "rhinoceros."

When Winona closed in November 1947, the JA population held steady at about 1,000. Many people were able to rent and buy homes in the Sun Valley and San Fernando Valley neighborhoods. The growth continued with the establishment of the Community Centers, Japanese Language Schools, Christian and Buddhist churches, youth athletics programs, programs for seniors, and traditional cultural and ethnic activities and programs. The Japanese culture and its traditions, and its spirit lives on in each succeeding generation.

Submitted by Kiyo Fukumoto



— SFVJACC —

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San Fernando Valley Japanese American Citizens League



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