

# Japanese American Citizens League San Jose Chapter

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# **OUTLOOK**

#### Highlights of the 2011 National Convention by Sharon Uyeda



The 42nd JACL National Convention was held in Los Angeles at the Renaissance Hollywood Hotel and Spa from July 7-10, 2011 with the theme: "jacl 2.0 making new waves". Our Chapter sent four representatives: **Tom Nishikawa** and I as delegates, **Carrie Kimura** as Youth Representative, and **Kristen Shiraki** as a Youth Booster.

The following are highlights of the Convention. Conventioneers walked to Madame Tussauds for the Welcome Reception on the rooftop of the wax museum. We were able to also mingle among and have photos taken with famous stars and personalities.

At the Awards Luncheon, three local community heroes: Alan

**Nishio**, **Traci Kato-Kiriyama**, and **Paul Osaki**, were presented with the Community Impact Award. A special treat at the luncheon, was an entertaining and educational performance titled, "Mottainai", by artist and activist, **Nobuko Miyamoto**.

There was a business session Friday with the "Power of Words" resolution, which was passed at the 2010 Convention, revisited. The goal of this resolution was to more accurately describe the Japanese American community's unjust incarceration during WWII and discourage the use of misleading euphemisms.

Saturday featured the 2011 Nikkei Conference, co-hosted by the JACL and the California Japanese American Community Leadership Council. There were a variety of workshops offered and I attended the one on Art and Culture and the other on Community Preservation. Among the presenters for the Art and Culture workshop was **Roy Hirabayashi**, who shared the evolution of San Jose Taiko and its importance not only among the JA community, but the greater community. Chapter board member, **Tamon Norimoto**, was one of the presenters for the Community Preservation workshop and he did a great job of sharing the work of the Japantown Community Congress of San Jose and its efforts of preserving San Jose's Japantown.

The Culmination Banquet honored three outstanding National AAPI leaders: **Lisa Hasegawa**, for her outspoken advocacy on issues of housing and community development for the Asian American and Pacific Islander community; **Lieutenant Daniel Choi**, for his passionate advocacy on behalf of the LGBT community; and **Father Vien The Nguyen**, for his ardent advocacy in responding to the devastating disasters of Katrina and the BP oil spill and for providing for the future well being of the Asian American community in the Gulf Coast. A heartwarming tribute was made to the late **Etsu Mineta Masaoka** and a surprise farewell tribute video was shown to thank current JACL National Executive Director, **Floyd Mori**, for his contributions to the JACL.

Next year's National Convention will be in Seattle, Washington, July 5-8, 2012. Be ready to "Inform, Transform, Perform."

#### President's Message by Leon Kimura



An interesting time for the JACL... The oldest and largest Asian American human and civil rights organization may be in the twilight of its life. If the National JACL budgets operational costs vs. revenues continues to remain unbalanced, our local chapters may need to implement a succession plan to essentially exist autonomously, or throw in the towel and

call it quits...

Shock and awe? Did that overly somber intro get your attention? Sorry to shock you, but I hope that you all are now ready to help preserve the JACL and its legacy of supporting the community and also doing what is right and just in our great nation! Of course we have made mistakes and missed opportunities, but these errors have granted us invaluable perspective. And we need the strength that comes from our National organization and network nurtured over the past 82 years. "In Unity there is Strength" and there are many opportunities to grow ever stronger.

So, you say, how do we do this? You can start by telling your story, our story, to family, relatives and friends. At your next family gathering say: "Hey, did you hear what that crazy Leon Kimura said about the JACL the other day?" and start a dialogue about why you joined the JACL, why you have felt that supporting the JACL has been a comfort throughout the years. Or if it has been because of a feeling of obligation, what was that initial favor(s) that the JACL did for you or your family that fuels this giri? And it is especially important to include the younger generations when discussing these roots so they understand that family history. Talk about relevancy and what you would like to see the JACL do for you and your family today. Scholarships, internships, cultural programs, exchange programs, etc. Then have someone get in touch with us to let us know your thoughts.

So how does that help? Hopefully, all those that join in this discussion will see that the JACL represents a value added to their lives and that of their families such as providing health insurance when none was otherwise available, providing a place to get support when nobody would listen or speak on their behalf, or pursue redress and reparations, etc. And therefore, they may choose to join, or you can help them join and/or upgrade your own membership to a higher level to help offset the attrition of our declining membership. (And for those enrolled in the old San Jose Chapter Only-Seniors membership, please be aware that none of this money goes to National JACL.)

For any organization, members are its lifeblood and additional members will help to stop that ebbing of our strength and ability to serve our community effectively. So that's a start. Next stop, Asian Pacific American coalition building and restaurant reviews for a good place to get a twilight burger.

# OUTLOOK is published on a quarterly basis by the San Jose JACL

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Email: sanjosejacl@sbcglobal.net Website: www.sanjosejacl.org National JACL: www.jacl.org Health Trust: www.jaclhealth.org\* (800) 400-6633

\* Must be member of National JACL

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The San Jose JACL Board meets on the second Friday of each month at 6:30 p.m., at the Issei Memorial Building. Meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome. Come and help shape San Jose JACL's future.

#### **Honorary Advisory Board**

Honorable Mike Honda
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Fmr U.S. Secretary of Commerce

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### **Youth at National Convention**



[From L to R: Kurt Ikeda, Yu-Jen Kao, Kota Mizutani, Carrie Kimura & Kristen Shiraki]

Photo courtesy of Kurt Ikeda

### Nikkei Matsuri by Tom & Sue Shigemasa

This year's festival was blessed with great weather and great volunteers.

As usual, **Kellie Takagi** was exceptional in her work getting the volunteers scheduled and the booth setup. It is because of her efforts that we effortlessly passed the health department's checks. Without all the efforts expended by our volunteers, we would not have been able to accomplish all that we did.

Luckily for us we had many happy and willing volunteers working with us. This made for a very, very pleasant day. With **Tamon Norimoto**, **Ron Okumura**, **Cindy Sugino**, and **Ron Shimada** manning the woks, the ika was fried to perfection. The many student volunteers along with **Kelsey Sugino**, **Iris Lou**, **Lei Shigemasa** and others kept the production line in the back moving along.

**Kellie Takagi** made sure the booth operated efficiently and the students were assigned accordingly. Some of them even entered the deep confines of the Ika costume and braved the crowds.

We wish to thank all the volunteers for all their efforts to make this a success. We also wish to acknowledge and express our appreciation to **Earl and Mark Santo** (of Santo Market) for allowing us to use their facility and for delivering the ika to the kitchen - it lightened our work and we sincerely appreciate it. I wish to thank those working on the Nikkei Matsuri committee for all the work they do to organize this festival so well.

#### 3rd Annual BAAPALS Summer Intern Mixer 2011 by Stephanie Fong & Anthony Lin



The Bay Area Asian Pacific American Legislative Staffers (BAAPALS) hosted their 3rd annual Summer Intern Mixer on Thursday, July 28, 2011 at the Issei Memorial Building. This year's Summer Intern Mixer gathered young leaders interning at various government offices and nonprofit organizations. Interns had an opportunity to meet and network with elected officials, staffers, nonprofit leaders and other professionals from the community. Overall, BAAPALS welcomed over 150 interns, students, staffers, and professional leaders from nonprofit, government, legal, and private organizations. The Summer Intern Mixer was the perfect way to end a successful summer intern series of panels and field trips. The Summer Intern Series was designed to connect interns with one another and with BAAPALS members to

enhance their summer experience. We were thrilled to continue providing another summer of valuable information and advice for student interns.



The Summer Intern Mixer program began with event organizers telling the history of BAAPALS highlighting their primary goals to build a strong political pipeline for the local Asian American Pacific Islander community. BAAPALS was honored to have Campbell Councilmember **Evan Low** as the keynote speaker for the night. Evan gave encouraging remarks to the young people in attendance about his personal experiences as well as the importance of mentorship, political activism and community service. Students and professionals alike were extremely engaged and enthusiastic about becoming more involved in the community and doing their parts to make a difference. The young people asked many great questions and were comfortable and eager to meet new people.

Throughout our country, we have seen significant new changes in the political landscape. BAAPALS continues to support a network of young leaders committed to creating positive changes in the greater community. Now more than ever do we need to build bridges across generations of leadership within the greater Asian American Pacific Islander community and to strengthen our network. BAAPALS remains at the forefront of such efforts to develop a network of leaders that reflects the diversity of our community.

#### BAAPALS would like to thank...

Our Co-Hosts: Hon. Mike Honda, Hon. Anna Eshoo, Hon. Zoe Lofgren, Hon. Barbara Lee, Hon. John Chiang, Hon. Paul Fong, Hon. Margaret Abe-Koga, Hon. Evan Low, Hon. Ash Kalra, Hon. Kansen Chu, Hon. Sam Liccardo, Hon. Madison Nguyen, Hon. Gilbert Wong, Hon. Kris Wang, Hon. Sue Chan, Hon. David Lim, Hon. Otto Lee, Hon. Randy Okamura, Hon. Rod Hsiao, Hon. Steve Ngo, Hon. Buu Thai, Hon. Keith Nguyen, Hon. Michael Chang, Hon. Garrett Yee

Our Co-Sponsors: San Jose Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI), Asian Pacific American Leadership Institute (APALI), Vision New America (VNA), Asian Law Alliance (ALA), Asian American Donor Program (AADP), Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Silicon Valley, Asian Pacific Islander Justice Coalition, Japanese Consulate, Japanese Community Congress' Nikkei Community Interns Program

Individuals who generously donated raffle prizes: Hon. Margaret Abe-Koga, Hon. Ash Kalra, Hon. Otto Lee Our disc jockey for the evening: Chairman Blau

#### 60th Anniversary of the Peace Treaty with Japan by Leon Kimura

The 60th anniversary of the signing of the San Francisco Peace Treaty and the Japan-US Security Treaty of 1951 was celebrated on September 8<sup>th</sup> at ceremonies hosted by the Consul General of Japan **Hiroshi Inomata** in San Francisco. **Neil Kozuma**, VP of Civil Liberties and I were privileged to attend the dignified ceremony where diplomatic speeches were made reinforcing the peace and friendship between our two nations including statements from Secretary of State **Hillary Rodham Clinton** and **Koichiro Gemba**, Minister of Foreign of Affairs for Japan read to over two hundred guests. M.C. duties were ably performed by **Michio Harada**, Assistant Consul General (and also a San Jose Japantown Lions Club member).

Then history repeated itself when the 15th Grand Master of the Urasenke Japanese tea ceremony school, **Dr. Genshitsu Sen**, returned 60 years to the day to the same room in the Presidio of San Francisco where the security treaty was signed by then Prime Minister **Shigeru Yoshida**. He then performed with painstaking precision the 450-year old formal tea ceremony as he once did as a young man, to again help bond our international friendship.

Later that evening, **Inomata-san** hosted 170 guests at a reception in the official residence. **George Schultz**, former U.S. Secretary of State, delivered the keynote speech including personal reminisces. After the speeches a delicious buffet dinner was enjoyed by all and rounded out a wonderful celebration of history, tradition and good will.

#### 2011 Appreciation BBQ by Tom Nishisaka

The San Jose JACL hosted our annual Appreciation BBQ on August 5, 2011 in our beautiful I.M.B. backyard. This BBQ is an occasion when the Chapter can thank our many volunteers who contributed countless hours during the year. Board member and Chef, **Tamon Norimoto**, was at his best again barbecuing his tri-tip, marinated chicken and sausage. With board members bringing salads, fruits, and other delicious dishes, there was a variety of foods to enjoy. Some "trade secret" recipes were discussed and given away. We also had some store bought goodies disguised as home-made. There was a good turn-out, so don't forget to join us next year.







#### IMB Clean-up Day by Leon Kimura

It takes a lot of hands to maintain a 101 year-old building and grounds. Fortunately, on September 17<sup>th</sup>, <u>over 35 volunteers</u> swarmed the Issei Memorial Building site washing windows, sanitizing the kitchen and bathrooms, painting railings and parking lot stripes, waxing and polishing furniture and monuments, dusting bookshelves, trimming landscaping, sweeping leaves, raking and leveling seating area grounds and otherwise taking care of this historic property. The IMB tenants helped clean including: <u>San Jose Taiko</u>, <u>Contemporary Asian Theatre Scene</u> and the <u>San Jose JACL</u>. In addition, we were pleased to have major support from youthful representatives of the <u>Asian Pacific Islander Justice Coalition</u> and Vision New America.

The workers were kept fed and hydrated throughout the day by **Sue Shigemasa** and **Joyce Oyama** who brought sandwiches, chips, vegetables, desserts and drinks for all. Many thanks to everyone who worked together for a day of camaraderie, team work and results for the benefit of our community!

### Green Lightning in J-town by Leon Kimura

Early Sunday morning September 25<sup>th</sup>, an hour or so after midnight, the neighborhood around the Issei Memorial Building experienced what sounded like lightning. In reality, it was a healthy and huge branch breaking off the back side of the old fir tree growing at the front of the parking lot. Fortunately, nobody was parked in the first 3 spaces, otherwise their cars could have been smashed or damaged. The branch was about 3 feet in diameter and as it fell, all branches beneath it also came down and some blocked the parking lot driveway. **Eric Morita** heard it fall and said: "Since it was late at night, it was very quiet, until there was



a loud (and long) cracking noise." It woke residents throughout the neighborhood.

Roy Hirabayashi discovered the tree limb Sunday morning and sent out an e-notice. By the afternoon, Neil Kozuma was already on-site with two chain saws to start some clean-up, but it was painfully apparent that we would need a much bigger chainsaw to tackle that job! He was able to at least cut enough branches to clear the driveway but we would need to hire a crew to get the rest of the job done.

**Tom Oshidari** followed up with the City Arborists Office requesting a review of the remaining tree to determine if it is in danger of now toppling into street since some very substantial branches are now leveraging the tree in that direction. It could easily crush any car parked in the street or any pedestrian walking along the sidewalk. Should the review require us to trim or cut down the remaining tree, the cost will be substantial but necessary, and would be borne by the San Jose JACL as owner/caretaker of this historic property.

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **General Meeting:**

The annual San Jose JACL General Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Issei Memorial Building. Please join us at our potluck mixer and for the election of the 2012 Officers and Board of Directors.

#### **BOO!**

State of Grace Tattoo is bringing Halloween back to the IMB this year! Please join us from 3-5pm for a fun filled Halloween Party with games, crafts and of course tattoos (kids only please!). This event is co-sponsored by SJ JACL and San Jose CYS. Immediately following the Halloween Party is the SJ Taiko's Halloween in Japantown at 5:00pm with a safety presentation by SJPD Sgt. Gene Ito..

Hope to see you there!



Who: You are invited!\*

What: Free ~ Member Benefit, All about Medicare Seminar

Where: Issei Memorial Building – 565 N. Fifth Street, San Jose

When: Monday, November 14, 2011, 6:30 p.m.

Why: As we approach the age of 65 we know that this thing called Medicare will soon be available

to us. But what is it and how do we take advantage of this opportunity?

This educational talk will cover:

What is Medicare?

How much does Medicare cost?

When can I get it?

What are my out-of-pocket costs?

How can I cover the gaps in Medicare?

What about drug coverage?

Are there penalties if I don't enroll?

How does the cost of Medicare compare with regular insurance?

\*Limited seating. Please call (408) 295-1250 and leave your name and phone number to reserve your spot. You need not be a member to attend but members will receive priority admittance if full.

D

### Northeastern Japan Earthquake and Tsunami-Damages

The latest statistics from Tokyo are as follows:

1. Damages

(1) Victims: (2) Housing:

Dead: 16,103 Complete collapse: 110,826

Missing: 4,763 Half collapse: 134, 379
Total: 20,869 (missing and dead) Part collapse: 502, 478

2. Economic impact

Estimates of Directs Damage to facilities and infrastructure: \$195-395 billion

Fisheries: \$13 billion Agriculture: \$9.3 billion

(60,000 acres farming lands are damaged)

3 Tourism: tourist from oversea

March: 50.3 % down / April 62.5% down / May 50.4% down

4. Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plants (stay away zone)

12.5 miles exclusion zone (Japanese government)

50 miles from the nuclear power plants (State Department, US)

\*TEPCO is still cooling down the plants.

5. Our efforts for the earthquake relief

Our office: \$1,932,643.49 Red Cross: about \$130 billion

Emergency Budget (Japanese government): 50 billion dollars Evacuees: 307,022(one week after) / 73,249 (As of Sept 22)

Live in temporary housing: 95,540 (as of Sept. 22)

Temporary housing (government prepared): 123,007 (as of Sept 22)





This is the latest information received from the Japanese government and TEPCO (Tokyo Electronic Power Company) through the Consul General of Japan San Francisco office.

So much help is still needed. To donate, please contact Direct Relief International at:

http://dri.convio.net/japanrelief or call 1-800-676-1638.

Thank you!

## NCI Intern Testimonials by Kyle Ichikawa & Alex Lim

#### Kyle Ichikawa:

I entered NCI knowing very little about the internship, and even less about the three remaining Japantowns. At first, I expected to learn as much as I could about JA culture, a topic that has intrigued me since I entered college and eventually led me to find out about this internship. However, my experience interning in San Jose Japantown has far exceeded this expectation. The unique way that the internship is set up in San Jose, with each week focused on a different aspect of the community, exposed me to the many sides and perspectives of San Jose Japantown and gave me room to choose what I wanted to focus on and truly made it MY experience. In addition to meeting some of the most talented and kindhearted individuals who provide the backbone to this distinct community, NCI has given me the opportunity to befriend many other students who have similar ideals as myself. As many others before me, San Jose Japantown has given me so much over these past few weeks, and I realize how important it is to give back to this place I can now call my home.

#### Alex Lim:

I initially came into this internship thinking it would be a fun experience. I thought I'd learn a thing or two and meet some new people. And hey, the scholarship looked pretty nice too. What I didn't realize was just how far this internship would exceed my expectations. NCI has been one of the best experiences I have had, hands down. Meeting the other interns and seeing how well we all clicked was really cool. I definitely formed new friendships that I'll keep with me when I go back to school. Being placed at San Jose's Japantown, I have developed a new appreciation for the community. Through this internship, I have been able to connect with many shop owners and community leaders, which has added immensely to the overall experience. Not only have I gained new friendships but fond memories as well. One of the primary objectives of NCI is to get us to come back and give back to the community. I would have to say that this internship has inspired me to do just that. And yeah, it was pretty fun too.

#### Congressional Gold Medal Ceremonies by Leon Kimura

The Congressional Gold Medal (CGM) will be bestowed on the U.S. Army's 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT) and the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) on November 2<sup>nd</sup> for their extraordinary accomplishments in World War II. The National Veterans Network has been designated as the entity to plan and execute the Congressional Gold Medal Presentation and related events in Washington, D.C. Written confirmation of attendance has already been received by 1,250 honorees who will attend the ceremony, and of these guests, all living veterans will receive a free CGM replica due to the generous sponsorship of Cole Chemicals.

For more info, call 800-856-6138, e-mail: asknvn@team-psa.com or go to:

https://www.teampsa.com/nationalveteransnetwork/home.asp.

A local ceremony is also being planned in San Jose for those veterans and family who are unable to attend in Washington D.C. or missed the August deadline to participate. The Japanese American Museum of San Jose (JAMsj), in conjunction with Congressional Representatives Zoe Lofgren, Mike Honda and Anna Eshoo, the San Jose JACL, and local VFW Post 9970, are planning a local ceremony in San Jose, CA. This event will be for local veterans and their families and is being planned for sometime early next year just as quickly as the second round of replica medals can be produced.

Please help us to locate: veterans of the 100th, 442nd or MIS and their families, as well as widows of veterans and their families.

For more information or to download a form for the San Jose event, visit the Japanese American Museum of San Jose website at:

JAMsj.org

# Honoring Issei and Nisei American soldiers who proudly served in the United States **Armed Forces in the following wars:**

Spanish – American

World War I

World War II

Korean War

Vietnam War



Judy Niizawa, President San Jose JACL - 1980 & 1981



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Sally Chau	N	Iris Lou	N	Chris Torrecampo	N
Yurika Chiba	С	Alvin Ly	N	Paulina Tran	С
Racheal Dao	N	Brian Ly	N	Jennifer Truang	N
Cynthia Diaz	С	Mark Manaos	N	Wisa Uemura	С
Danielle Dinh	N	David Mishima	С	Henry Uyeda	D
Van Dinh	С	Aron Murai	N	Sharon Uyeda	D, N
Derreck Doan	N	Cat Nguyen	С	Ervin Vicendo	N
Linnea Edholm	N	Tandra Nguyen	N	Anthony Vo	N
Stephanie Fong	N	Jennifer Nishisaka	D	Victoria Vu	N
Wayland Fong	С	Tom Nishisaka	C, D, N	<b>Beverly Wong</b>	С
Ken Furukawa	С	Geoff Noone	С	Craig Wong	С
Joan Furusho	N	<b>Tamon Norimoto</b>	N	Kenneth Wong	С
Yukiko Hatanaka	N	Steven Nose	C, N	Joyce Yamamoto	С
Duke Hou	С	Tom Oshidari	C, D, N	Judy Yasutake	D
Steven Hy	N	Joyce Oyama	C, D, N		
Cathy Hyde	N	Margie Oyama	С	<u>Legend</u> :	
Franco Imperial	С	Kyongwon Pak	N	C - Clean Up Day	
Reiko Itamura	С	Bea Pangilinan	С	D - Dinner Mailing	Night
Jennifer Jin	С	Linda Pham	N	N - Nikkei Matsuri	
Rabiah Khalid	С	Betty Saito	N		
Leon Kimura	C, D, N	Ken Sakamoto	N	Donors:	
Anna Ko	С	Lei Shigemasa	N -		
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Nancy Le	N	Ron Shimada	N	Tamon Norimoto	
Tai Le	N	Parul Singh	С	Shirley & Terry Ota	
Anthony Lin	С	Cindy Sugino	N	Henry Sasaki	
Christie Lin	С	Kelsey Sugino	N	Richard & Barbara Tan	aka
Ellen Lin	С	Meg Suzuki	С	Wayne & Diane Tanda	
Pamela Lopez	N	Kellie Takagi	N	Tetsuko Zaima	

# **Jumpstart JACL**

Enclosed in this Outlook issue is a letter from the Northern California Western Nevada Pacific District of the

JACL regarding the financial state of National JACL. There may need to be a concerted effort to overhaul the operations of our National organization and each Chapter is assisting in this effort to collect some jumpstart money to help get things rolling. Please take a moment to consider this need. All Jumpstart contributions sent to the Chapter will be forwarded to National.

Thank you!



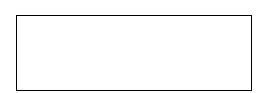


# Japanese American Citizens League San Jose Chapter

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## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Please remember San Jose JACL in your charitable giving



# **Calendar of Events**

October								
1	IMB Open House @ Spirit of Japantown							
14	Board Meeting							
15	Recognition Dinner							
24	API Justice Coalition Police Academy							
26-27	Taiko Rhythm Spirit Concert							
26-28	Advancing Justice Conference							
29	CYS 50th Anniversary							
30	CAIR Banquet							
31	Halloween @ IMB							
November								
2	Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony							
10	General Meeting & Elections							
28	API Justice Coalition Meeting							
December								
9	Board Meeting							
TBD	Mochitsuki							
TBD	Bonen Kai							
TBD	Soba Party							

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	January							F	February						March					
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	
31																				
	October						November						December							
Su	Мо					Sa	Su			We		Fr	Sa	Su	_		We		Fr	Sa
						1			1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
30	31																			