

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE JACL OUTLOOK

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Annual Appreciation BBQ

by Christy Chung









On Friday, August 8, 2014, the San Jose JACL annual appreciation barbecue was held at the Issei Memorial Building to recognize the hard work of its volunteers over the past year. Festive tablecloths, flowers, and teacup centerpieces set the mood, and about sixty people enjoyed delicious food and good company under the sheltering trees in the backyard.

This year's event was special because it celebrated the success of the national convention hosted by the chapter in July. President **Leon Kimura** thanked chairperson **Wayne Tanda** and presented him with a framed print of the convention logo and a gift certificate. Wayne thanked the many people who spearheaded various efforts, and shared anecdotes about how each person's strengths contributed to the convention's overall





Thank you to the dynamic duo of **Iris Lou** and **Cindy Sugino**—who sure know how to throw a party—and the following people who pitched in:

• For bringing an abundance of wonderful dishes: Pam Yoshida (Chinese chicken salad), Evan Brand (ice), Leon Kimura (smoked salmon and crackers), Iris (namasu, cabbage ramen salad, and kalua pig), Tamon Norimoto (homegrown veggie dish), Terry Oshidari (soba salad and crescent rolls), Joyce Oyama (fruit salad), Sue Shigemasa (asparagus,

cookies, and two rice dishes), **Cindy Sugino** (California rolls), **Marge Tsuji** (chili and corn on the cob), **Sharon Uyeda** (potato salad and ika), and **Mark Yamamoto** (inari sushi).

• For grilling the chicken teriyaki (secret sauce is Yoshida's teriyaki sauce from Costco), asparagus, tri-tip, and sausages: **Tom Oshidari** and **Mark Yamamoto**.

For setting up and cleaning up: Cindy & Kelsey Sugino, Jay Fujihara, Sachi Mitusnaga, Terry & Tom Oshidari, Marge Tsuji, Mark Yamamoto, Iris: ou, and Leon Kimura.

President's Message by Leon Kimura



Please allow me to ramble... I suspect that Succession Planning is a topic that has been discussed at board meetings and retreats for a long while now at many organizations in our community. And I also suspect that many of these conversations are similar in that it has become increasingly difficult to secure a commitment from new members (or old) to participate in leadership roles on the Boards of Directors and/or as Officers. The excuses are many and they are varied

to fit the need...to rationalize. I suppose that you can always rationalize a greater need in your life than service to your community. Shouldn't your family come first? Do you wait until you are an empty nester before getting deeply involved? In the meantime you volunteer at a limited number of events throughout the year? Or donate much needed funds to worthy causes? So many ways to support the community...

So what prevents people from serving the community on governance boards? Meetings, opinions, having to talk, having to listen, idiots, experts, confrontations, rules, procedures, lack of procedures...sheesh...is it all worth it? Well, I just saw a room filled with over 500 of those who have told themselves YES, it is worth it. Perhaps they were not all on governing boards but I am sure that they all had a personal stake in supporting our community in some way, shape or form.

I am talking about the attendees at the Yu-Ai Kai 40th Anniversary Gala. Everyone, from our community icons such as **Norman Mineta, Mike Honda, Yosh Uchida, Jimi Yamaichi, Rinban Fujimoto, Ray and Lucy Matsumoto**, etc. throughout the remainder of over 500 of our community's staunchest supporters, all had one thing in common, and that was passion. Passion for the community and I believe, passion for supporting just causes.

So to get back to the question, I guess it should be: why do people **want** to serve the community on governance boards? Various aspects of camaraderie, curiosity, inspiration, social interaction, laughter, respect, entertainment, altruism, accomplishment, satisfaction, and passion come to mind.

Next month is our annual General Meeting and Elections where our Membership elects our next Board and then the Board elects new Officers. We could really use your participation at the meeting and if you have the passion, on the Board or even as our new President! Call me! But please do come and consider stepping up to a leading role in our community's future!

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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.

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LGBT History Month Programs: by Christy Chung

In celebration of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender History Month (LGBT History Month), the Japanese American Museum of San Jose and the San Jose JACL have coordinated two programs on

Sunday, October 19.

1:00 PM at JAMsj (535 North Fifth Street, San Jose): RSVP at inky1lou1452@yahoo.com

Queer Compulsions: Race, Nation, and Sexuality in the Affairs of Yone Noguchi

Featuring **Dr. Amy Sueyoshi**, Associate Dean of the College of Ethnic Studies at San Francisco State University This talk will unveil Noguchi's interracial and same-sex affairs to assert that Asian Americans found romantic fulfillment even within reportedly anti-Japanese and heteronormative California.



3:00 PM at the Issei Memorial Building (565 North Fifth Street, San Jose): RSVP at PublicPrograms@JAMS.org

Looking for Jiro Onuma: Queer Perspectives on Wartime Incarceration

Featuring **Dr. Tina Takemoto**, artist and associate professor of visual studies at California College of the Arts in San Francisco

This talk and film screening will explore the hidden dimensions

same-sex intimacy and queer sexuality for Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II.

Dr. Tina Takemoto





Image from Gentleman's Gaman

New Mineta Fellow Hails from San Jose: by Leon Kimura

San Jose JACL member, **Korinne Sugasawara** is new 2014-2015 Norman Y. Mineta Fellow in Washington D.C.! Korinne attended the JACL Youth Summit held at the Issei Memorial Building and then became involved with the Chapter including volunteering to coordinate public interest events. She began the development work for an LGBT forum but then received the exciting news that she was the successful candidate requiring her to leave mid-September for her one-year fellowship. The D.C. office is currently busy with the Gala planning and therefore Korinne has learned to cover many aspects of the office operations very quickly.

I had the opportunity to meet with Korinne and fellow JACLer **Paul Uyehara** over dinner while attending the Advancing Justice Conference. It was readily apparent that Korinne was up for the assignment and will be both flexible and capable in meeting the needs of the D.C. office! The year should pass quickly and we hope to see her back here in San Jose where her experience and insights can benefit our local JACL efforts.



Paul, Korinne, Leon at Lincoln Restaurant

Reminder: 2015 Affordable Care Act Enrollment Opens Nov. 15th



If you bought a private health insurance plan through the Marketplace in 2014, you can renew your current plan or enroll in a different plan for 2015. You can do this between November 15, 2014 and February 15, 2015. Learn more at https://www.healthcare.gov

Asian Americans Advancing Justice by Leon Kimura

This year, the 6th Annual Advancing Justice Conference was held in Washington D.C. and again I had the honor of being sponsored through a stipend from the Asian Law Alliance's Walter H. Coulter Foundation grant. **Sue Van**, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Coulter Foundation focused much of her discussion upon the need for convergence of the AAPI and other communities for unified strength and the importance of youth in the future of everything that we are working towards. (Remember that she was the driving force behind the 2010 Census to ensure that the AAPI community was counted to give us "19 Million and Rising" and then followed up in 2012 to get out the AAPI vote and secure us a "seat at the table" given the realization that the nascent voting clout of the AAPI's has grown with a vengeance.)

So Sue Van's game plan is shaping up nicely for the AAPI's and for America in general. At one point, she was even considering shutting down the Coulter Foundation but realized that the AAPI community has historically not gotten its fair share of corporate funding. Something less than 150 AAPI Community Based Organizations have received funding, and therefore, she is now committing to a ten-year window to provide funding to the AAPI community! She wants the AAPI community to realize the American Dream, which includes giving back through means such as partnerships.

A side note is that the Coulter Foundation has never funded the JACL in the past, but this year, they sent a representative to the 2014 National Convention here in San Jose who was duly impressed with the programs and organization, with a special notice of the programs and involvement of the youth. Therefore, they may fund the National JACL next year along with the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA). They were also appreciative of the collaboration between the JACL and OCA. And Sue Van did indicate that this would be a trial funding and that the JACL would need to perform well to maintain that funding commitment. It will be interesting to see the strings attached to a funding proposal. I suspect youth development, further partnerships with the Muslim community and new expansions into Sikh collaborations will ensue.

And there is so much still to be done... Following are some snippets from the convention: America is still legislating fear; there are 26 States adopting laws against the Muslim faith; the immigration and naturalization laws are still used to discriminate; immigration is a racial justice issue; youth and students can make a change - Dreamers; actions against the gay, Muslim, Sikh communities are actions against us all; and she always gets the final word... "The 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act and we are still putting out wildfires instead of celebrating the anniversary." ~ Sue Van



SJJACL Reminds you to register to VOTE!!



Please Remember to Register to Vote by Monday, October 20th!

A major focus of the JACL is to support American Democracy and its most important right, the right to vote! The Asian American Pacific Islander community is growing along with the voice and representation rightfully due to these American citizens. Help keep the community protected and strong by standing up to be counted as a registered voter. Weigh in on issues that impact you and your family and friends.

To ensure you are eligible to vote, please register by the **Monday, October 20th deadline** through online registration at RegisterToVote.ca.gov or go to the "Rock the Vote" widget on our district website (www.jacl-ncwnp.org) so we can count the number of new registered voters attributed to the JACL efforts. Of course, you can always go to your local post office or DMV office for a registration form.

You're Invited! Chapter Potluck and Meeting on Nov. 14 By Tom Oshidari

San Jose JACL's Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday, November 14th. The event will start at 6:00 pm with a potluck mixer, with the business meeting scheduled to start around 6:45 pm. The main order of business is to elect Board Members for a new two-year term. Since a quorum of the membership is required in order to have a valid election, it is important for members to attend this meeting. A regular Board meeting will be held following the General Meeting. Look forward to seeing you there!

The Big Read By Leon Kimura

The Palo Alto Children's Theatre (PACT) Production Manager, Mr. Lane Pianta, contacted our Chapter with hopes of partnering in an educational project with regional students by having various high schools participate in a "Big Read" project. This year, the participants will read "When The Emperor Was Divine" by Julie Otsuka and learn about the story of a Japanese-American family that is split up and incarcerated during WWII America. It is hoped that lessons of social justice will resonate in the student's creative responses, in the medium of their choice, as assisted by teaching artists from PACT. These responses will be shared with the general public to facilitate discussions of the novel at 10 separate public sessions throughout the region. We hope that San Jose can host up to 4 of these sessions and also partner with the Japanese American Museum of San Jose (JAMsj) to showcase their outstanding collections and barracks replication.

Richard Yamaguchi from the San Jose JACL Nikkei Social Club and I have joined the PACT Programming Advisory Committee to pursue further partnerships with other like-minded arts and community service organizations and individuals. Discussions with **Joyce Yamamoto** at JAMsj already resulted in contacting **Lynne Yamaichi** (Lotus Preschool) regarding her connections with San Jose High School and the local educational community. We provided a copy of the JACL Curriculum Guide and the Power of Words Handbook to help guide **Lane** in his foray into the world of the WWII incarceration of Japanese Americans.

We all hope that the collaborative efforts will benefit everyone and the teachers will be able to fit the novel into their current teaching curriculum and allow the Big Read project to proceed. And if successful, look for more on the results next year as the creative responses unfold. If we are lucky, some of the students will become engaged in the Japantown community to the degree that they actively participate in its future successes. One can only hope. ;)

Check out Our New Membership Flyer and Form (will be posted to our Facebook page)

JACL membership flyer at: http://tinyurl.com/mwzgylc

Microsoft Publisher file is also available at: http://tinyurl.com/pnjq9tn

Response to EO9066: by Judy Niizawa

A Members Perspective

We're all familiar visually with the INSTRUCTIONS to All Persons of Japanese Ancestry posters that were posted as orders to Japanese Americans after President Roosevelt signed EO9066. For parts of Santa Clara County, the Men's Gymnasium at 4th and San Carlos Streets on the San Jose State College campus was where permits for movements were issued during May 23 to 30, 1942.

How the Japanese population living in Santa Clara County, which numbered just under 4,000 according to data provided by Supervisor **Cortese's** office, actually responded to the military orders issued out of the San Francisco Presidio, I realized I had never known. So just last month, survivors of that period who could give first- hand accounts were sought out at the 4th Street Bowling alley. The new information was put together with other contacts made over the years as to how their families had reacted. Years ago I recalled talking with the late **Ruth Hashimoto**, who administered the order at San Jose State because she was bilingual. In 1951, she was elected the first female San Jose JACL president.

What I found out lately was not what we often picture in our minds of people lining up with their luggage and filing into a building waiting for rides out of town. Rather, Santa Clara County Japanese Americans responded in their own individual ways.

The first response was to try to relocate to the area beyond the exclusion zone. Families in San Jose, including the **Nakamura**, **Murotsune**, **Takeda**, and **Morita families** had understood that Central California was beyond the zone. The Nakamura Family moved to Utah. The unfortunate results were that the Nakamura's still ended up in the Topaz WRA, and the other families who had moved to Selma and Sanger, CA had to still go to the Santa Anita Racetrack Assembly center, and then to Gila River, AZ or to Heart Mountain, Wyoming WRA. My own aunt and uncle, another example, left Pescadero to live where our family was near Turlock, but all thirteen **Niizawa's** ended up in the Merced Fairgrounds, then in the Amache, Colorado WRA.

Frank Shimada, now age 96, remembered first hand what he did as the eldest of 12 children living in Santa Clara. He recalls that the only towns that registered at San Jose State were Palo Alto, Mt. View, Santa Clara, and San Jose. Gilroy, he said, reported to the Salinas Assembly Center, and the other towns were required to go to the Pomona Fair Grounds after boarding a train in San Jose at the train station which was at that time at First and San Pedro Streets.

Shimada said he and his friend from Mt. View simply parked their car on San Carlos and entered the gym to get their family permits. Only a representative of the family was required to appear. The Shimada family then reported to the train station and was transported to Santa Anita Race Track on Memorial Day where they remained until the camp was built, and were then transported to Heart Mountain, Wyoming on Labor Day, 1942. Shimada later volunteered for the 442nd as a member of I Co.

Those I spoke to in their upper 70's and 80's have no recollection of being evacuated. **Perry Dobashi** did remember that his family owned two businesses, one in Gilroy, and one in San Jose. They evacuated with the San Jose families.

Others who came to live in San Jose after the camps closed, such as the **Ikeda** and **Hashiguchi** Family, reported to the Fairgrounds in Salinas and Placer respectively, but don't recall personally the process. Salinas accounts were told to me by my late partner, **Rudy Tokiwa**, who had been sent home to CA from Japan in 1939 because a major conflict was already in the air. Tokiwa spoke Japanese and served as one of the assistant cooks at the Salinas assembly center. He told me how the school bus would go by with fellow students waving. Tokiwa later volunteered out of Poston to serve in the $442^{\rm nd}$ K Co.

Yosh Uchida, for whom the Men's Gym has been named in his honor as Yoshihiro Uchida Hall, was training in the biological sciences and was employed as a lab technician when he was drafted into the Army. He served returning veterans stateside in a hospital, but then, his daughter Janice told me, that at this point, she and her mom had nowhere to go, so they joined others in a WRA camp. They were in Southern California at the time. He completed his degree at SJS and has been there continuously since 1946.

Another veteran who served stateside in the hospital setting was the late **Pat Itatani**, who was a well-known photographer and gentleman orchardist in Santa Clara Valley. He told me that taking x-rays of returning injured veterans was very difficult.

Response to EO9066: (Continued)

Lawson Sakai was a veteran who resided in Gilroy for many years following WW II, but who was also originally from Southern California. He told me that his family evacuated (on their own), and went to Colorado. Colorado's governor allowed Japanese Americans to live as free residents, so the Sakai family was able to continue farming and they were unique in belonging to Christian Church whose members were mainly not Japanese Americans. Sakai did eventually volunteer for service in the 442nd with E Co.

Whereas we do see images of lines and lines of folks being transported, in San Jose, it appears that families did choose their ways of departure in hopes of avoiding camps, but regretfully ended up in camps nevertheless. Fortunately, there was a Nihonmachi to return to, but for many there were no homes to return to, and as such, the Buddhist temple became one of the hostels where folks from other areas lived. The Nikkei population increased greatly in Santa Clara Valley after WW II because it was a relatively open area. However, Sunnyvale did pass an exclusion resolution as late as 1945 in attempting to keep the return of Japanese Americans and housing covenants blatantly kept minorities from buying homes in Sunnyvale. The resolution of 1945 was rescinded in 1987 when discovered by yours truly reading about veterans returning from Europe.

There was hidden conflict in the Sunnyvale resolution and the actions of land owners such as **Driscoll Brothers**, **D'Arrigo Bros**, and **the Ryder's** who recruited Japanese Americans and hired their entire families to become sharecroppers living again in barrack like homes. In a survey that the Peninsula Redress Committee conducted in 1981 in preparation for the Presidential Commission Hearings, the average length of time resettlement took was 10 years. So, the time loss was far beyond February, 1942-1946. For the most, the reinstatement took until 1955-1956.

As the late Rinban K. Tokunaga used to lead the sangha with: "Hard is it to be born into human life......"

Welcome New and Returning Members to San Jose JACL by Iris Lou

Please welcome our new member, **Don Kuwabara** to our San Jose JACL Chapter.

We would like to thank the following members for renewing their membership:

Dave Cortese, Arthur and Chris Honda, Mary Imai, Gary Jio, Jemma Jio, Larry Kubo, Marc Kurose, Sachi and Wayne Mitsunaga, Thomas Nishisaka, Betsy Oka,, M Oyama, Leslie Parks, Earl and Helen Santo, Tad and Fumiko Sawamura, Carol Setoguchi, Tom and Sue Shigemasa, Alma Shiomoto, Ernest Torigoe, Kazuo Utsunomiya, Lillian Uyeda, Robert Yamanaga, and Joe Yasutake.

Let's keep on adding more new members to our organization!

I would like to thank **Caroline Kurimoto** and **Marge Tsuji** for keeping the membership records updated and sending out renewals for San Jose JACL. I wouldn't be able to do this without them.

We are constantly adding events to our calendar and I hope to meet you at one of our events such as: "Looking for Jiro Onuma: Queer Perspectives on Wartime Incarceration" presented by **Tina Takemoto**, **PhD** in celebration of LGBT History Month on October 19, 2014, Chevy's Dine Out on October 2nd, Halloween event on October 31st or any fun planned event we may be holding.

We apologize for any omissions. If you have any suggestions, changes to your membership, or would like to be removed from the email send out, please email me at Inky1lou1452@yahoo.com.

Join JACL For Our Monthly Dine Out

July Dine-Out Fun-Raiser: Fish's Wild By Tom Oshidari

On July 24th San Jose JACL had a dine-out day at Fish's Wild in West San Jose. Present around the appointed 6:30 pm social hour were Robin Ohara, Julie and Javee Soloquin and their son Dylan, Margie and Joyce Oyama, Linda Kuromi, Sharon and Henry Uyeda, Terry and Tom Oshidari, and Iris Lou. Reported to have been there earlier were Marge Tsuji, Gene and Louise Kinoshita, and Jon Oshidari and family. Also, coming for lunch and dinner were Gary Jio, JoAnne Okabe-Kubo and their daughter Jemma. Since our eventual payout from Fish's Wild was over a hundred dollars, there must have been other participants of which we are unaware. So thanks to all who participated, and thank you, Fish's Wild!

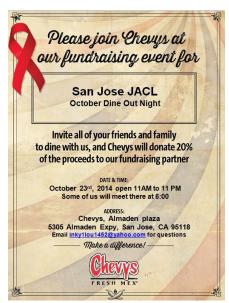
September Dine Out by Iris Lou

There's nothing like a delicious combo plate and good company to banish a case of the Mondays! Another successful Dine Out was held on September 29 at **Ono Hawaiian BBQ**, located at 1706 Oakland Rd #10 in San Jose. Thanks to the over twenty JACL members and friends who came out and enjoyed the fun, bright atmosphere and onolicious food. Join us at future Dine Outs.

October 23rd, Chevy's Dine Out Night:

Present this Flyer before ordering





November 18th, Giorgio's Dine Out Night: Present Below Flyer before ordering



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2014 San Jose Board Retreat: by Evan Brand

On September 6th, your SJ JACL board members bravely convened at 10 A.M. on Saturday morning for their board retreat. This annual event presents an opportunity for the board to assess its performance over the past year, reexamine its mission and goals, and plan new and exciting activities. One key takeaway is the chapter's renewed focus on tackling social justice issues and engaging with youth. To that end, October will feature Dr. Tina Takemoto's research and art projects exploring Japanese same-sex relations inside incarceration camps during WWII. An additional LGBT event is tentatively slated for the summer of 2015. Other top priorities for the coming year include: developing new community relationships, increasing communication with our advocates, and reinvigorating our membership. Members and supporters can get involved by attending our monthly dine out fundraisers, participating at Halloween in JapanTown at the IMB, or helping to make our newly-launched family fun nights a success.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS & DONORS!

Volunteers:		Jimi Yamaichi	Н	
Aaron Oshidari	F	JoAnn Okabe-Kubo B,F		
Allan Kawafuch	r B	Jon Oshidari	F	
Berdi Oshidari	В	Jon Debendetto	В	
	В	Joyce Iwasaki	В	
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Cindy Sugino	B,H,O	Julie, Javee Soloquin		
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Cristina Diaz	0	Kay Utsumi	В	
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Emi Tsutsumi	В,Н	Laura Kinoshita	В	
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Gary Jio	B,F	Lily Kawafuchi	В	
Gene Kinoshita	F	Linda Kuromi	F,H	
Gordon Koo	В	Louise Kinoshita	F	
Henry Uyeda	$_{\rm B,H,F}$	Lucy Matsumoto	В	
Iris Lou	B,H,O,F	Mae Miller	В	
Jackie Murahashi B		Marge Tsuji	B,F	
Jan Cougill	В	9 9	,	
Janice Hara	В	Margie Oyama	B,H,F	
Jay Fujihara	В	Mark Yamamoto	В	
Jean Yamaguchi		Milo Yoshino	В	
Jean Izumi	В		_	
Jeanne Nakano	В	Neil Kozuma	O	

Pam Yoshida	В			
Ray Matsumoto	В			
Reiko Yoshino	В			
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-H - Ono Hawaiian BBQ F— Fishes Wild B - Appreciation BBQ O - Outlook

ANNOUNCEMENTS



October 19th:

Jiro Onuma LGBT event

October 23rd:

Chevy's Dine Out Night

October 31st:

Join us for a Family Fun Night and Halloween Party (<-see Flyer)

November 18th

Giorgio's Italian Restaurant in San Jose



Japanese American Citizens League San Jose Chapter

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Calendar of Events

October

LGBT History Month Programs
 Chevy's Dine Out Night
 Halloween 'Family Fun Night'

November

14 General Meeting, Pot Luck & Elections18 Giorgio's Italian Restaurant in San Jose

December

TBD—check out our Facebook page for updates here: Search "San Jose JACL" in Facebook.

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.

