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San Jose JACL's 13th Annual Community Recognition Dinner

By Iris Lou



Vernon Hayashida



Adrienne (Reiko) Iwanaga



Stan Kawamata



Rich Saito

You're invited to San Jose JACL's 13th Annual Community Recognition Dinner - "**Kansha**" (gratitude) to be held on Saturday, November 5, 2016 at the Holiday Inn San Jose-Silicon Valley, 1350 North First Street, San Jose, a new venue for this year's event. Our Mistress of Ceremonies will be **Andrea Nakano**, KPIX CBS-5 sports anchor and reporter.

Please join us in celebrating and recognizing our four 2016 honorees: **Vernon Hayashida, Adrienne (Reiko) Iwanaga, Stan Kawamata, and Rich Saito.**

Tickets are priced individually at \$125, (\$115 for JACL members) or \$1,150 for a table of ten. The celebration begins at 5:00 pm with No Host Cocktails, a silent auction, quilt drawing and a drawing for a Hisashi Otsuka framed print, *Bridge of Love*.

A reservation form can be found on our website: www.sanjosejacl.org or requested from the San Jose JACL office: 408-292-1250.



Quilt Drawing at Community Recognition Dinner. 1 ticket for \$5.00, 3 tickets for \$10.00, 5 tickets for \$20.00



"Kansha"
Gratitude



Otsuka Print Drawing at Community Recognition Dinner. 1 ticket for \$5.00, 3 tickets for \$10.00, 5 tickets for \$20.00

Chapter Annual General Meeting on Friday, November 11th

By Tom Oshidari

San Jose JACL's Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday, November 11th. The event starts with a potluck mixer at 6:00 pm with the business meeting scheduled to start around 6:45 pm. A brief review of the year's activities and financials will be given and then the main order of business, the election of Board members to new, two-year terms, will be held. If you might be interested in helping set the direction of the Chapter as a Board member, contact the office or any officer for more information.

Since a quorum is required to have a valid election, it is important for members to attend this meeting, above all others. So come, reacquaint yourself with other members, enjoy some good food, and vote for your new (or renewing) Board members. Hope to see you there!

San Jose JACL Halloween Fun Night



Date: Monday, October 31, 2016
Time: 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Place: Issei Memorial Building
565 N. 5th Street
San Jose, CA 95112

Join us for Arts and Crafts/Games

If you are interested in volunteering for this fun evening, please contact: Marge Tsuji at the SJ JACL office at 408-295-1250 or Iris Lou at Inkyilou1452@yahoo.com. We would love to have you there!

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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.

47th National JACL Convention

By Neil Kozuma

The 47th National JACL Convention was held July 11th- July 14th at the Monte Carlo Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The JACL business session began Tuesday morning with a welcome message from outgoing National President **David Lin**. President Lin conveyed his appreciation of the work of the JACL staff. Highlights of President Lin's speech follows: "We have to figure out what we are going to do, we have a lot more to do; we had a recent change in leadership with the resignation of the Executive Director; we face difficult financial issues to resolve and we experienced a \$500,000 deficit in Fiscal Year 2015; and the expenses of the *Pacific Citizen* has been a challenge for many years." Following President Lin, the morning business session continued with reports from Interim Executive Director **Bill Yoshino**. He believes JACL can be a leader in education. VP of Membership **Toshi Abe** stated membership has decreased and is now at 9,374. National Youth Representative **Kenji Kuramitsu** stated there are 764 student members. VP of Public Affairs **Jeff Moy** highlighted discussions on internment camps in the 21st century, Syrian refugees, Black Lives Matter and LGBTQ issues.

As I listened to the reports from our National Officers, my thoughts reflected on a decreasing interest to the JACL as indicated by an annual decrease

in membership and growing affluence of Japanese Americans; financial survival of the JACL and staff positions; saving the 87 year old *Pacific Citizen* news service; and continuing the work of the JACL organization. What are your thoughts on where JACL should go, do next? Contact the San Jose JACL Chapter for your comments.

The morning continued with a panel discussion on "What's at Stake in the 2016 Election", moderated by **Secretary Norman Y. Mineta** and panel members: **Joe Liu**, AARP; **Nan Aron**, Alliance for Justice; **David Mermin**, Lake Research Partners; and **Tim Storey**, National Conference of State Legislatures. A brief part of the discussion was on the possibility of a change in the majority party in Congress and there may be new U.S. Supreme Court justice appointments.

A panel discussion on the "Future of the *Pacific Citizen*" was moderated by President **David Lin** with panel members: **Bill Imada**, IW Group; **Gil Asakawa**, author and journalist; and **Jay Kim**, Asian American Advertising Federation. A few items discussed were on reducing the print to quarterly; publish as a newsletter; merger with *Rafu Shimpō*, and charge a small fee for the hardcopy.



National Council Session - Neil Kozuma and Sharon Uyeda

Next, a recap of the 2015-2016 budget and the presentation of the 2017-2018 budget was provided by National Secretary/Treasurer **Matthew Farrells**. According to Mr. Farrells, the 2015 deficit of \$490,000 was driven by a decrease in investment income; costs of the *Pacific Citizen*; decrease in grant funding, and unforeseen expenses. The 2017-2018 proposed budget makes significant changes by eliminating two staff positions and moving the *Pacific Citizen* office from Los Angeles to San Francisco.

The Tuesday business session adjourned and restarted Wednesday (July 13) morning with a Candidates Forum. Each candidate addressed the National Council with opening statements and followed with a Q & A. The Wednesday business session continued with a panel

(continued on page 4)

National JACL Convention (continued)

report on U.S.-Japan Relations and was moderated by Floyd Shimomura. Panel members were **Consul General Jun Yamada** and **Minister Takuya Sasayama**. Consul General Yamada recognized the importance of the JACL in raising issues and demonstrating leadership in promoting equity and justice. The JACL currently maintains a role with Japan with its Tohoku Disaster Relief Program; Tokyo JACL Chapter; and the Kakehashi Project.

The Wednesday Youth Awards Luncheon provided an opportunity for the JACL National Youth/Student Council to recognize an individual or organization that made strides in an unconventional field. The 2016 Vision Award was given to Black Lives Matter, Los Angeles Chapter.

Business continued immediately after the Youth Luncheon with a report from the Strategic Planning Committee. The goals of the committee are: social justice advocacy; development of leaders; educating the public on the Japanese American experience; using social media to support JACL; creating activities for young professionals; diversifying funding sources and increasing membership.

Resolutions were presented and voted upon. Resolution 1 acknowledged the civil rights violations forcefully imposed on Canadian citizens of Japanese descent during and after WWII by the Canadian government. It further resolved that the JACL encourage the retelling of the wartime plights of the Japanese



Newly Elected National Board

Canadians through teaching initiatives along with its own history in the context of a global stage. The resolution was adopted.

Resolution 2 sought additional funding for the Pacific Citizen by authorizing subject to concurrence of the National Board and determining an annual subscription fee not to exceed \$25.00. The resolution was adopted.

Resolution 3 was pulled from consideration.

Resolution 4 directed the JACL to call upon the legislative and executive branches of the US to recognize that blanket prohibitions of entry based on nationality and that exemptions to prohibitions based on religious or racial tests are at variance with American values, the US Constitution, and American foreign policy interests. The resolution was adopted.

Emergency Resolution 1 was to form a JACL Fiscal Oversight Committee that would review the budget, finance and contractual activities of the National JACL because of the unexpected \$509,193 deficit for Fiscal Year 2015. The emergency resolution was not adopted.

Emergency Resolution 2 sought to protect and preserve the entire Tule Lake Historical Site by supporting SB 2412, which would establish the Tule Lake National Historic Site and oppose HR 4387, which would establish the National Historic Site, but would require the National Park Service to consult with county, municipal and airstrip officials on impacts to the airstrip located in the middle of the historic site and prior to any expansion of the protected site. The emergency resolution was adopted.

Thursday, July 14th was the last business day. The election of National officers took place early in the morning. The National officers were announced after the ballots were counted. The 2016-2018 officers are National President: **Gary Mayeda**; VP of General Operations: **Michelle Amano**; VP of Public Affairs: **Jeffrey Moy**; VP of Planning and Development: **Matthew Farrells** and NY/SC Representative: **Kota Mizutani**.

The 2017-2018 JACL Budget presented on Tuesday was up for a vote on Thursday. The proposed budget to eliminate two JACL staff positions and move the Pa-

cific Citizen was not acceptable to many National Council members. An ad hoc group worked to find a solution to saving staff and the moving of the *Pacific Citizen*. An amended 2017-2018 budget was proposed. The amendment would: increase the distribution from the Legacy Fund from 4% to 5%; request chapters and districts to donate back its Legacy Fund distributions for 2017 and 2018; implement a national fund raising campaign with a goal of \$17,000 in 2017; increase the membership dues in 2018; and implement a \$17.00 annual fee for a hardcopy of the *Pacific Citizen*. The amended budget was adopted by a vote of 74 ayes and 7 nays.

The Awards Luncheon provided an opportunity to announce the 2016 George Inagaki Chapter Citizenship Award. The recognition went to the Seattle JACL Chapter for its tireless work in civil and

social rights advocacy. Legacy Grants were also announced.

The Sayonara Dinner provided an opportunity to recognize three JACL members with the Ruby Pin: **Larry Oda** (54 years of service), **Floyd Shimomura** (43 years of service), and **Ken Inouye** (36 years of service). The 2014-2016 Japanese Americans of the Biennium were also awarded. In the area of Education and Humanities: **Carole Hayashino**, President and Executive Director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii; Business/Industry/Technology: **Delphine Hirasuna**, author of *The Art of Gaman: Arts and Crafts from the Japanese American Internment Camps*; Arts/Literature/Communication: **Dan Kuramoto** and **June Kuramoto**, founders of the jazz ensemble, Hiroshima.

The 2017 JACL National Convention will be held in Washington, D.C. with the opportunity to



Sayonara Banquet - Back: Sharon Uyeda, Neil Kozuma, Bill Tashima. Front: Henry Uyeda and Norman Mineta

view the Smithsonian exhibition, which will commemorate the 75th Anniversary of Executive Order 9066 and feature artifacts from the incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII. The JACL has been collaborating with the Smithsonian Institute on the exhibition. More information will be forthcoming.

Successful Anne Namba Trunk Show

by Sharon Uyeda

Anne Namba, fashion designer from Honolulu, Hawaii visited San Jose on Sunday, August 7th and brought a variety of her designs and fashions to the Issei Memorial Building. She introduced her latest design titled "Wings", which she is wearing in the photograph. She also brought pieces from her annual sale, so shoppers were able to purchase items for 50% off! The chapter received a very generous donation from the day's sales. I purchased several pieces and ordered a top in the new "Wings" motif. Come to the Community Recognition Dinner on November 5th and you'll see me wearing one of Anne's beautiful designs.



San Jose JACL Hosts BAAPALS' 8th Annual Intern Mixer

By Andrea Hyde and Monica Tong

On Thursday, July 21st, San Jose JACL hosted the Bay Area Asian Pacific American Legislative Staffers' (BAAPALS) 8th Annual Summer Intern Mixer at the Issei Memorial Building.

BAAPALS (pronounced Bay-Pals) is a network of current and former legislative staffers from all levels of government in the Bay Area. BAAPALS has two distinct missions: to promote staff recruitment/development of Asian Pacific American Legislative Staffers and to increase knowledge of Asian Pacific Islander communities and issues. To reach these goals, BAAPALS is a volunteer-based organization that plans events for its members to expand personal interests, promote community service, and encourage professional development.

BAAPALS hosts a successful Summer Intern Series each year.



For 2016, the Intern Series included panels titled "Internships 101: Maximizing Your Experience," "Life as a Staffer," and "Career Speed Dating" where interns had the opportunity to get to know professionals in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors in a fun and fast-paced environment. Our Summer Intern Series concludes with the Summer Intern Mixer at the Issei Memorial Building. The event supports the personal and professional development of

young people by encouraging their involvement in the political pipeline.

This year's mixer was attended by over 75 people. Guests were able to meet new people, network, and enjoy appetizers. The mixer was a great success! BAAPALS would like to thank our generous sponsors and San Jose JACL for their continued partnership.

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Jemma Jio Receives National JACL Scholarship

by Sharon Uyeda

The San Jose JACL was notified that Chapter student member, **Jemma Jio**, is the recipient of the Paul and Katherine Ohtaki Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$2,000. Congratulations, Jemma!

Jemma graduated in June from Prospect H.S. and is the daughter of **Gary Jio** and **JoAnn Okabe Kubo**. She is attending San Diego State University and is a psychology major. From an early age, Jemma was seen helping at the annual scholarship luncheons. I recall a time when she was about five or six years old and she was helping sweep the floor with an over-sized broom

as a part of the luncheon clean-up! She also helped at the annual Community Recognition Dinner, selling drawing tickets, setting up for the dinner and drawing the winning tickets for the various drawings.

Jemma's father, Gary, is a past local scholarship recipient. In 1972, he received the William K. Yamamoto Scholarship and has given back to the Chapter by being a photographer at various events and serving on the scholarship selection committee. The Chapter is grateful to both Gary and Jemma for their volunteerism. Domo Arigato Gozaimashita!



*Issei Memorial Building
San Jose, California*

Issei Memorial Building Renovation Update

By Tom Oshidari

If you drive or walk by the Issei Memorial Building (IMB) at night, you can't help but notice the brightly lit parking lot and front walkway, quite a change from the formerly dimly lit premises. This is one of the more visible upgrades of the roughly \$80,000 spent on the IMB renovation so far. The bulk of the effort included replacing dry-rotted paneling and railing components, resurfacing the balconies, complete exterior painting, and new window treatments for the conference room. As can be expected for a building last renovated over 30 years ago, the IMB has many needs. Renovation efforts will continue on an ongoing basis.

Save the Date

Celebrate 88

Long Life Celebration of NCWNP District's 88 years

Saturday, April 22, 2017

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Crow Canyon Country Club - San Ramon, CA

Silent auction proceeds to benefit the Norman Mineta Legacy Project

AACI Better Together Annual Fundraiser Dinner

by Leon Kimura

This year, the San Jose Chapter of the JACL partnered with previous Chapter Board member and current Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI) Board member, **Christy Chung**, in supporting the annual fundraiser. With over 400 in attendance, **Sharon and Henry Uyeda, Neil Kozuma, Joyce and Margie Oyama, Susan and Raymond Yuen, Tom and Berdi Oshidari**, and I filled a table pre-purchased by Christy (thank you Christy!) and then we donated back to AACI during the live contributions portion of the auction program! Everybody wins! At the end of the evening, it was reported that over \$51,000 was raised. Over \$20,000 came from those who bid on the six live auction packages including trips to Disneyland, New Orleans, Fairmont Hotel of your choice, shopping spree in New York and even a dinner for 6 prepared by NBC's **Lance Lew** along with



Back: Berdi Oshidari, Leon Kimura, Sharon Uyeda, Susan Yuen, Neil Kozuma, Tom Oshidari. Front: Henry Uyeda, Margie Oyama, Joyce Oyama

fortunes and feng shuei by Master **Ming Xu!**

The evening's Better Together honorees included **Dr. Dao Nguyen** as the Health Care Trailblazer for all his support for the health care aspects of community service, **Roy and PJ Hirabayashi** as the Community Trailblazers for their infusion of taiko into the psyche of the human spirit of our community, and **William "Bill" Yee** as the Gordon N. Chan Leadership Award honoree for his long-term devotion and service to the well being of the Health Center and over 600 women needing health care in the Every Woman Counts program. Truly a deserving group of honorees!

AACI plays such a pivotal role in providing integrated health and wellness services to the AAPI community. They sincerely provide full service from their

leadership role in advocating for the community's needs and then providing the actual services tailored to those needs. AACI does so much but some real examples of improved services are: providing pediatric services; striving for bi-lingual staff instead of translators to serve their clients in 14 different native tongues such as by recently adding Mandarin, Burmese, Hindi, Kannada and Tamil; locating strategically by opening an East Side Family Justice Center; and introducing an on-line safe chat service for domestic violence survivors.

A Saturday evening led by a truly great Master of Ceremonies- **Mike Inouye**, entertainment by San Jose Taiko, inspirational stories and speeches, good company and happy moments of meeting old and new friends, made September 10th a night to remember!

Appreciation Barbecue

By Iris Lou

The San Jose JACL Appreciation BBQ was held on Friday, August 19, 2016 with 40 people who enjoyed the beautiful and serene setting of the Issei Memorial Building backyard. Co-President **Tom Oshidari** welcomed and thanked everyone for the support and help provided throughout the year.

Thank you to our Co-President **Sharon Uyeda** who took on the task of organizing our BBQ and to the following people who pitched in:

For bringing the wide range of delicious dishes: **Debbie and Pete Anderson** (figs, zucchini casserole and a dessert), **Leon Kimura** (ice), **Iris Lou** (Chinese chicken salad), **Stacy Oshidari** (fresh strawberry pie), **Terry Oshidari** (kale salad and soba salad), **Joyce Oyama** (strawberries), **Rich and Dian Saito** (bottle of sake), **Sue Shigemasa** (quinoa salad and chocolate cake) I heard that **Kenny Diaz** made the quinoa



The food line under a canopy tent.



Delicious food.

dish for us., **Marge Tsuji** (chili and rice), **Emi Tsutsumi** (oriental salad), **Sharon Uyeda** (bread, grilled zucchini, potato salad, and sodas). **Mark Yamamoto** (age bitashi). The mystery question of the night was, "who brought the tray of Happi House chicken salad?" Whoever this wonderful person is, we thank you!

For grilling the chicken, tri tip, corn and zucchini: **Evan Brand, Tom, and Mark.**

For setting up: **Sharon, Tom, Leon, Mark, Marge, Terry,**

Kennon Oshidari, Emi, Jim Manning, and Iris.

Thank you: **Margie Cornehl, Charlie and Christine Eichen, Duane Kubo, Ray and Lucy Matsumoto, Al Nakahara, Irene Nakamitsu, Judy Niizawa, Tamon, Yukiko, Keishin and Maya Norimoto, Aaron and Bryson Oshidari, Margie Oyama, Doug and Noriko Ray, Lynn and Vince Tran, Keiko Utsumi, Henry Uyeda, and Jean Yamaguchi** for joining us and making our SJ JACL Appreciation BBQ a memorable one.



The Norimoto Family & Iris.



Mark Yamamoto hard at work.



Duane Kubo and Evan Brand at the grill.

It Takes a Village

by Leon Kimura

There has been much recent discussion about Black Lives Matter and the following excerpt from "Letters for Black Lives: An Open Letter Project on Anti-Blackness" is intended to further that discussion and bring about greater awareness and understanding.

It's true that we face discrimination for being Asian in this country. Sometimes people are rude to us about our accents, or withhold promotions because they don't think of us as "leadership material." Some of us are told we're terrorists. But for the most part, nobody thinks "dangerous criminal" when we are walking down the street. The police do not gun down our children and parents for simply existing.

This is not the case for our Black friends. Many Black people were brought to America as slaves against their will. For centuries, their communities, families, and bodies were ripped apart for profit. Even after slavery, they had to build back their lives by themselves, with no institutional support—not allowed to vote or own homes, and constantly under threat of violence that continues to this day.

In fighting for their own rights, Black activists have led the movement for opportunities not just for themselves, but for us as well. Black people have been beaten, jailed, even killed fighting for many of the rights that Asian Americans enjoy today.

We owe them so much in return. We are all fighting against the same unfair system that prefers we compete against each other.

Yes, all lives matter. I believe the Black Lives Matter movement is intended to raise public awareness that black lives are more likely to be taken without justifiable cause. And that is a burden of correction that should rest on us all. It truly does take a village to bring about meaningful change and until the whole of society can see through truly impartial and colorblind eyes, perhaps like many of today's youth, then deadly and tragic mistakes will continue...

Yosh Uchida: Grand Marshall of Saratoga's 60th Anniversary Parade

(Adapted from Sal Pizarro's column, San Jose Mercury News, 9/14/16)

Yosh Uchida was the Grand Marshal of Saratoga's 60th Anniversary parade on Saturday, September 17th. It was an Olympic-sized celebration and who better to be chosen as Grand Marshal than Yosh, legendary Olympic judo coach and longtime Saratoga resident. He represented past Olympians who have lived in the rural hamlet, including beach volleyball champ Kerri Walsh Jennings, wrestler Patricia Miranda and swimmers Chris von Saltza, Carrie Steinselter and Chris Cavanaugh. Yosh has been a long-time member of the San Jose JACL and serves on the Chapter's Advisory Council. Congratulations, Yosh!



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Thank You, Donors!

Many thanks to the following donors during the third quarter:

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Yoshiteru Deguchi
Ben Koda
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of Henry Uyeda's
102nd birthday
Henry Sasaki

Hisa Suzuki
Henry & Sharon Uyeda
- in honor of Lucy
Matsumoto's 88th
birthday
Lillian Uyeda

Sharon Uyeda - in honor
of Henry Uyeda's
102nd birthday
Wesley United Methodist
Church - for use of
backyard

ありがとう

Scholarship Fund

SJ Ninja Youth Foundation
Henry Uyeda - Ada Y.
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Scholarship

IMB Building Fund

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Community Recognition Dinner

Iris Lou
Jean Yamaguchi

Thank You, Volunteers!

KEY: Outlook Mailing - OM
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Leon Kimura - OM, AB
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Joyce Oyama - AB
Sue Shigemasa - AB
Marge Tsuji - AB
Emi Tsutsumi - AB
Sharon Uyeda - OM, AB, CM
Mark Yamamoto - AB

Welcome New and Returning Members to San Jose JACL

Membership Report (July - Sept, 2016)

Thanks to the following members for renewing their membership:

Fumiko Higuchi, Dorothy Hiura, Art and Chris Honda, Susumu Ikeda, Ben and Ann Koda, Glenn and Caroline Kurimoto, Harry and Tomiko Lee, Fumiko Mannes, Russell and Judy Nakano, Iwao Nakao, Earl and Helen Santo, Yosh and Dorothy Sato, Eric Shimizu, and Stanley and Margaret Tomita.

Our apologies for any omissions. If you have any changes in your contact information, please notify **Marge Tsuji**, Administrative Assistant, at sanjosejacl@sbcglobal.net or telephone: 408-295-1250. If you have any suggestions, would like to volunteer, make changes to your membership or would like to be removed from the email send out, please email your request to sanjosejacl@sbcglobal.net or call 408-295-1250.



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Upcoming Events

October 8 - Suzume no Gakko 40th Anniversary Dinner
Fairmont Fourth Street Summit Center

October 15 - Venturing Crew 611 Electronic Waste Collection
San Jose Buddhist Church, 9 am - 3 pm

October 15 - Yu-Ai Kai's Keiro Kai
San Jose Buddhist Church Annex, 4-6pm

October 23 - Japantown Lions Club Pancake Breakfast
IMB Backyard, 8 am - 12 pm

October 31 - Halloween in J-Town
San Jose Japantown, 4 pm - 6:30 pm

November 5 - Community Recognition Dinner
Holiday Inn - San Jose - Silicon Valley, 5-9pm

November 11 - Potluck Annual General Meeting & Board Meeting
IMB, 6:00-9:00pm

November 12 - JAMsj Winter Boutique
San Jose Buddhist Church Annex, 9am - 3pm

Please remember San Jose JACL in your charitable giving