

Japanese American Citizens League San Jose Chapter

Volume 44, Issue 1

Spring 2013 Issue

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SJ JACL Says Farewell to Tom Maruyama, Jr.



Thomas Y. Maruyama November 4, 1954 - February 24, 2013

On March 4, 2013 several members of the San Jose chapter of the JACL joined hundreds of Tom's family, friends and colleagues to celebrate his life. Tom was a former board member and past co-president of our JACL chapter. We knew him as a strong advocate for fiscal responsibility and justice, particularly in the area of civil rights.

In addition to the JACL, Tom was a member of the National Asian Peace Officers Association (NAPOA), and the National Association of Asian American Law Enforcement Commanders (NAAALEC). He served as president of NAAALEC for two years.

Tom's professional career included many public service positions. Among these were: Mobile Life Support, Mt. View Police Dept., San Mateo County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services, Transportation Security Administration (TSA), and an appointee of Governor Schwarzenegger at Cal EMA.

Reflecting Tom's wishes and his love of Hawaii, a luau was held after the memorial service and interment at the Redwood City Community Center with Hawaiian food and musicians. He was sent off to the sounds of Hawaiian music and the fond memories and laughter of friends. He was a friend to many and will be remembered by them all. Tom's gregarious nature and larger than life personality endeared him to many. He will be sorely missed.

Thomas "Tommy" Maruyama, 58, passed away with his family by his side after a brave battle with cancer. Tom was born in Palo Alto, California to Thomas and Doris Maruyama. He was raised in Mountain View, California and later moved to Redwood City with the "love of his life", his wife Debbie, who predeceased him in 2002.

Tom is survived by his son, Jeffrey, mother-in-law Ruth Ferriera, and his parents Thomas Sr. and Doris Maruyama. He is also survived by his sisters Debbie, Carrie, and Stacey, his brother Keith, and many cousins, nieces, nephews and dear friends.

Aloha, Tom, until we meet again.



President's Message by Leon Kimura



Springtime is here and the hope and promise of a prosperous year of the snake is upon us! There are many exciting things in store for us! Do you feel it too? Just take the forward steps along with me and we can make a difference. Whether it be preparing for one of the community run/walks by getting out for some daily exercise, or changing that diet to cut out some of those deadly sugars, or calling distant loved ones that you haven't talked to in too many years gone by, or... Its time for us to make some

small but important changes as the blossoms emerge to show us the way to new beginnings!

"Attitude is Everything" I have heard it said when I was hiring new employees. And that mantra really does translate well into daily life. You can be positive and upbeat or negative and sullen. You really do have that choice. But so do others in how your attitude causes them to relate to you, or not... So, please do me and yourself a favor and join me in taking the high road, and if you see me taking the daddy downer path every now and again, please give me a swift kick!

And we also have a choice that we can make every morning: to attack the day with gusto, embrace it and ease into the rhythm slowly, or hit the snooze button and tell the day to come back later. I guess I am going to have to get a new clock too! Anybody know where I can get a good rooster?;)



First blossoms on the Cherry Tree donated by Consul General Inomata

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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 U.S. House of Representatives Honorable Norman Y. Mineta Fmr U.S. Secretary of Transportation Fmr U.S. Secretary of Commerce Honorable Richard Tanaka, Retired

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With Much Gratitude - Yu-Ai Kai's Newspaper Collection Shed Moves

Yu-Ai Kai (YAK) thanks the San Jose JACL and the tenants at the Issei Memorial Building (IMB) for the many, many years of hosting our Newspaper Collection Shed on the backside of the property. We are grateful for letting us have our shed there, as the program would not have otherwise thrived to be the program it is today.

YAK volunteers have been at the shed four mornings a week to accept and sort the donations, then transport the paper to the Friday morning newspaper rolling volunteers who then flatten the newspapers at YAK and roll them into logs, which are then sold. Between the newspapers and the plastic bottle/cans recycling, the volunteers have raised on average, \$10,000 a year for YAK's senior programs.

Last Fall, thanks to a grant from the Rotary Club of San Jose, two donors and a matching grant from their company (Applied Materials), YAK was able to purchase new sheds for the program, located at the Akiyama Wellness Center (AWC). These sheds are now open and ready to accept donations. The old shed will be cleaned-up and released for the benefit of the IMB community building needs.

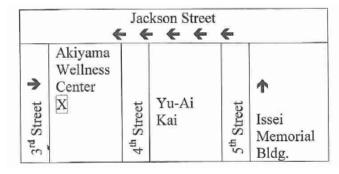
While obviously a wonderful 'green' activity, the newspaper program provides a way for the seniors to socialize as well as engage in a fundraising project benefiting YAK. Volunteers are welcome to contact Julie Hubbard, YAK Activities Coordinator, at jhubbard@yuaikai.org or (408) 294-2505. We are grateful to JACL and our other friends at the IMB for the many years of supporting our collection operations in their home.





EFFECTIVE MONDAY, APRIL 22

Newspaper Collection Shed is MOVING! to the Akiyama Wellness Center



OUR NEW LOCATION

Akiyama Wellness Center

110 Jackson Street, San Jose

Monday - Thursday 8:30-11:30am

On the corner of Jackson and 3rd Streets, enter the driveway from 3rd Street and see our new sheds. Be sure to check to see if the gate is open.

WHAT ABOUT WHEN THE BUILDINGS ARE CLOSED?

You can leave your newspapers at:

Yu-Ai Kai - please put your newspapers in the back of the big truck, located in front of the building.

588. N. 4th Street, near Jackson Street.

Akiyama Wellness Center - there will be a collection bin in front of the building. There is a loading zone right a the corner of Jackson/3rd Streets.

Thank you for donating your newspapers to Yu-Ai Kai and supporting our programs for seniors. Questions? Please contact Julie Hubbard at (408) 294-2505 or jhubbard@yuaikai.org.

2013 San Jose JACL Officers and Board Members Installed by Tom Oshidari

At the February 8th Board Meeting, the evening began with appetizers and then San Jose City Councilmember, **Ash Kalra**, administering the Oath of Office to the 2013 San JACL Officers and Board members.

The officers are President, Leon Kimura; VP-Operations, Tom Oshidari; VP-Civil Liberties, Carrie Kimura; and Secretary/Treasurer, Neil Kozuma. Board members present included Evan Brand, Susan Mineta, Tamon Norimoto, Joyce Oyama, Jeff Sera, Sue Shigemasa, Pamela Tokunaga, Sharon Uyeda, and Jason Yonehiro.

Other guests included Vi Onishi, Chika Minami, Mark Yamamoto, Joey Okumura, Kylie Kawamoto, Elisa Yamaguchi, and Mae Kawamoto.

San Jose JACL thanks Councilmember Kalra for taking time from his busy schedule to participate in the Installation Ceremony.



The Chapter Officers and Board of Directors held their 2013 Retreat which resulted in an organic growth of ideas about activities, events, needs and solutions that culminated in a clear plan to address strategic future actions. Of course, membership is crucial to the organization at both the local and national levels and we are still experiencing a steady decline in numbers. But the encouraging part of this retreat was the positive upbeat manner in approaching the solutions. At the risk of singling out ideas, **Tom Shigemasa** discussed having each current Board member bring one new person to check out the San Jose JACL Board to see what we are all about and also have Board members participate in at least two Chapter activities each year.

After our discussion produced a large laundry list of items, **Tamon Norimoto** introduced a three tier structure to help us visualize and identify opportunities to first excite, recruit and engage new or old members at the grassroots level of "Volunteers" for events like: working in our booth at Nikkei Matsuri, supporting the students at our Scholarship Luncheon, conducting a Childrens Day event, helping execute our Recognition Dinner, tracking our volunteers with a spread-sheet/database, etc.

Then for the next tier of "Members", we identified tasks to support our membership such as: Outlook newsletter, phone bank membership renewal calls, developing e-mail communications lists, engaging members through social media, or updating our Chapter website.

The third tier of "Board/Officers" identified areas for leadership development including such opportunities as: advocacy, mentorship, National and District JACL communications, civil and social justice through the API Justice Coalition, Japantown coordination through the J-town Community Congress, and of course, our on-going efforts to improve and maintain the historic Issei Memorial Building.

Volunteers and new members are welcome to join at any of the three levels at any time. We are so lucky that people have been so supportive here in the San Jose Nihonmachi since 1923, and have kept our community strong! So, if you believe that the JACL has helped and continues to help our community and beyond, perhaps you can take a moment and consider asking just one person or family to join you as a member of the San Jose JACL! Thank you all for your continued support!

Day of Remembrance



This year's remembrance ceremony on February 17th was entitled "The Changing Face of America" and in addition to familiar faces like Congressman **Mike Honda** at the speakers podium, also participating were **Sara Jaka** from the South Bay Islamic Association and **Simran Kaur** with the Sikh Coalition. The point was well made that there is still a need for vigilance in protecting the rights of ethnic minorities today as much as in the past.

The San Jose JACL was fortunate to find Advisory Councilmember **Yosh Uchida** and soon to be Eagle Scout **Justin Hashimoto** to participate as banner bearers leading the candlelight procession through the Japantown night.









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Apologies & Affirmations by Leon Kimura

Imagine being a young JA woman back 30-years or so ago and deciding to pursue the history of those Japanese Americans who were summarily fired from State employment. You dig in the public records and in frustration find that the JA names were filed phonetically rather than in alpha order. Then your efforts pay off when you find an elderly civil servant who worked with the original filing system just before she was about to retire and you were able to cobble together the listing of those wrongfully fired employees.

The news of your efforts get out into the rural farming community from which you came and when you come home, the disdainful glares you receive from the JA community grows and comments are even directed to those in your



family. People cannot understand why you would be dredging up this terrible history and bring unwanted attention to the community. But you continue and eventually a State Assemblyman validates your efforts through the passage of the bill you created in order to issue restitution to those fired employees.

Well, you have probably guessed that this young woman was our own National JACL Executive Director, **Priscilla Ouchida** when she was a legislative aide to then Assemblymember Patrick Johnson. Years later he would tell Priscilla that carrying AB 2710 to the Assembly was the single most defining moment of his career. Thereafter, things did not quite measure up and have the same type of impact. And the JA community attitudes changed from glares to smiles as the success of the efforts led to a catharsis for those in the community who had suffered silently due to the wrongful firings.

But that was only the beginning. Even though including an apology was not politically feasible at the time and monetary restitution was the pragmatic and tangible success, it set the stage for further traction in redress efforts by other States and ultimately the precedent for the campaign at the National level!

Now flash forward to January 10, 2013 when the California State Personnel Board adopted a resolution paving the way for a State of California apology to those fired employees. The effort begun so many years ago by a young farmer's daughter has now come full circle on February 19, 2013 with our now Executive Director attending the State Assembly's introduction of ACR 19, (authored by Assemblymember Dr. Richard Pan) that long overdue official apology for the firing of JA state employees in California.

And our own Advisory Council member and local community leader, **Yoshihiro Uchida** was also in attendance representing one of those fired employees. Ironically, just months prior in October 2012, Mr. Uchida received his latest award from the state institution that fired him in 1942. He was conferred with the Legend Award in the San Jose State University Sports Hall of Fame.

So, some days, you CAN rise to see justice prevail! Thank you Priscilla for making it a bit easier for all of us to have hope! And enjoy and be thankful for your freedoms each day everyone!

Breaking Bread with Minister Mizukoshi by Leon Kimura



It was a typical San Francisco overcast day when **Consul General Inomata** and **Minister Mizukoshi**, Head of Chancery for the Embassy of Japan, rolled into the Saint Francis Yacht Club the evening of March 20th to meet with various JACL representatives. The bay and base of the Golden Gate Bridge visible below San Francisco's signature fog still provided a picturesque backdrop for a pleasant evening of good food, good company and interesting conversation.

Larry Oda, Floyd Shimomura, Miko Sawamura and I engaged our Japanese hosts in all manner of topics ranging from baseball, **Mike Honda**, the three remaining U.S. Japantowns, the Wakamatsu Colony, the location of the consulate offices, relief efforts for Tohoku and much more.

All while enjoying wonderful meals prepared by the excellent Yacht Club chefs!

Although we did not resolve any of the multitude of problems that we discussed (except perhaps for resolving which dessert to order where we all followed Inomata-san's lead in choosing a wonderful strawberry sorbet and espresso ice cream combination), once we bid farewell to our hosts and they were whisked away by their driver, we spent a few moments to discuss the extraordinary evening. In a nutshell, we were gratified and encouraged that the Embassy is reaching out and making contact with JACL representatives. Who knows, Mizukoshi-san's visits to the 3-Japantowns may be the harbinger of new relations or Japanese investments. Or maybe he just likes to eat good food...

After decades of various planning efforts for the old City Corporation Yard in San Jose's Japantown, a community meeting was held to present the latest plans by returning developer Williams/Dame and Associates. These preliminary plans show the block primarily developed with 600 apartment units spread over three 6-story residential towers with mixed-use retail along Jackson Street and Live/work units along a portion of 6th Street. The center of the block would be reserved for a separately funded and developed 60,000 square foot Creative Center for the Arts with planned tenants like San Jose Taiko, CreaTv and the Arts Council of Silicon Valley. Also, an outdoor stage area and park space is anticipated. Parking for the residential and retail spaces would be provided underground.

Corporation Yard Block



Initial feedback for the plans include a community desire to see for-sale units included in the project as well as additional parking spaces to accommodate the needs of both the project tenants and the adjacent retail community.

Now the developer will need to secure project financing based upon the basic terms. More to come as further negotiations and adjustments ensue for this \$180 million project.

FANHS Santa Clara Valley Chapter Establishes Office in Issei Memorial Building

As of March 1, 2013, the **Filipino American National Historical Society** (**FANHS**), Santa Clara Valley Chapter has established an office in the historic Issei Memorial Building in San Jose's Japantown.

"This is history in the making," says **Ron P. Muriera**, Administrator of FANHS Santa Clara Valley Chapter. "Outside of the National FANHS headquarters in Seattle, Washington, we may be the only chapter that has an office to operate from."

Muriera states that establishing the FANHS Santa Clara Valley Chapter office in San Jose Japantown is of historical significance. "Many people don't realize that there was a Filipino American community right here in San Jose Japantown in the 1920s. There were businesses owned by Filipinos on 6th Street and Jackson, and several Filipino American families who lived on 5th Street, across from the Buddhist temple."

Founded in 1982 by **Drs. Fred and Dorothy Cordova**, the Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS) documents and promotes Filipino American history through its archives, conferences, books, programs, films, art and more. With 30 chapters throughout the United States, FANHS was instrumental in recognizing October as Filipino American History Month for decades.

The FANHS Santa Clara Valley Chapter is the 8th chapter out of 30 chapters nationwide, establishing its charter on August 21, 1991. The chapter has been active by promoting events in the South Bay to bring awareness of the contributions that Filipino Americans have made to the region, and throughout the United States.

A FANHS "Open House" event is being planned to coincide with Philippine Independence Day activities in June.

For more information, contact Ron P. Muriera at admin@fanhs-santaclara.org or at (510) 919-8469. Visit the FANHS Santa Clara Valley Chapter website at www.fanhs-santaclara.org or the National FANHS website at www.fanhs-national.org.

2014 National Convention in San Jose

We are pleased to announce that the San Jose JACL was successful in our bid to host the 2014 National JACL Convention. It is scheduled for **July 9 -12, 2014** and was purposefully scheduled the same week as the **San Jose Obon Festival**. The Board felt it was crucial to expose the conventioneers to the largest Bon Odori in the country! Therefore, we stressed the importance of scheduling to include the Obon and the National Board agreed.

As you are probably aware, the National Convention is an incredible event! Especially now, during the even numbered years, when the National Board holds their elections. It is a lot of work by many and **Wayne Tanda** has agreed to lead the way for us acting as the Convention Committee Chair.



If you are a party planner extraordinaire, are good with keeping financial accounts, or would just like to help out in your own special way, please contact us and keep us in mind as we begin our planning effort in earnest starting in May.

Keep tuned in for more to come and start your own planning of reunions and time spent with old (and new) friends!

Wesley Easter Egg Hunt at the IMB













Six High School Seniors Garner \$13,500 in Scholarships

At this year's annual scholarship luncheon held in the rear gardens and patio of the Issei Memorial Building on Saturday, April 27, six high school seniors received the following scholarships:

\$3,000 Kenji Sakauye Memorial Scholarship and \$1,000 Ninja Youth Foundation Scholarship – **Nick Wang**, senior at Mtn. View H.S. His parents are **Victoria and Stan Wang**.

\$2,500 George Masunaga Endowment Scholarship – **Dylan Nakagawa Jew**, senior at Saratoga H.S. His parents are **Mr. and Mrs. Tom Jew**.

\$2,500 Phil Matsumura Community Scholarship – **Kyle Takeda**, senior at St. Lawrence Academy. His parents are **Nancy Hirose and Alan Takeda**.

\$1,000 San Jose JACL Award and \$1,000 Masuo B. Nakamura Memorial Scholarship – **Justin Hashimoto**, senior at Los Gatos H.S. His mother is **Elvia Tahara**.

\$1,000 Ray & Lucy Matsumoto Business Scholarship and \$1,000 Ninja Youth Foundation Scholarship — **Karissa Ogawa**, senior at Gunn H.S. Her parents are **Amy and Richard Ogawa**.

\$500 William K. Yamamoto Memorial Scholarship – Danielle Kitagawa, senior at Leigh H.S. Her parents are Karen and Kevin Kitagawa.

In attendance to present the respective scholarships and awards were **Robert Nakamae**, president of the Ninja Youth Foundation, **Shirley Ota**, representing the Matsumura family, **Ray and Lucy Matsumoto**, and **Leon Kimura**, president of the San Jose JACL. It is through the generosity of families and organizations that the San Jose JACL is able to administer and award the scholarships annually.

Members of the selection committee were **Gary Jio, JoAnn Kubo, Mitsu Kumagai, Joyce Oyama,** and **Sharon Uyeda**, chairperson. Contributing salads for the luncheon were **Terry Oshidari, Joyce Oyama, Elvia Tahara, Pam Tokunaga** and **Sharon Uyeda**. Helping at the luncheon, were **Jemma Jio, Gary Jio, Leon Kimura, Iris Lou, Tom Oshidari, Joyce Oyama, Margie Oyama, Sue Shigemasa and her grandson Kenny, Pam Tokunaga, Henry Uyeda,** and **Sharon Uyeda**. A huge thank you to everyone involved in making the luncheon a success.

Heartiest congratulations to the 2013 scholarship recipients!

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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- Sushi Bar
- Cocktail Lounge

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1/4 page

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THANK YOU DONORS!

Donors:

David Horiuchi Mr. & Mrs. J. Kawahara Tom Kawahara Eric & Shirley Masunaga Hisako Mukai Judy Niizawa Patty & Dennis Ohori Joyce Oyama George Yamamoto Family



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save the Date! San Jose JACL

11th Annual Community Recognition Dinner Volunteers - Heart of the Community

Saturday, November 2, 2013 San Jose Airport Garden Hotel

Please join us in celebrating the following honorees:

Mas Horiuchi * Mike Inouye * Midori Kai * Dale Sasaki

Celebration Reservations: \$100 per person or \$900 table of ten San Jose JACL * 408 295-1250 * info@sanjosejacl.org * www.sanjosejacl.org



Japanese American Citizens League San Jose Chapter

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Please remember San Jose JACL in your charitable giving

Calendar of Events

May		
	10	Taiko Anniversary Dinner
	17	Board Meeting
	18	JACL Youth Summit in SF
	23	Sake San Jose
	27	Memorial Day
June		
	14	Board Meeting
	22	IMB Clean-up Day (Tentative)
July		
	4	Independence Day
	12	Board Meeting
	24-26	National Convention in Washington, DC

