



*Japanese American Citizens League  
San Jose Chapter*

*Volume 45, Issue 1*

*Spring 2014 Issue*

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# OUTLOOK

**Do you know the way to San Jose? ... by Gordon Koo and Pam Yoshida**

## **National JACL Convention**

**This year the San Jose JACL is hosting the 2014 National Convention July 19 – 22**

**at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel.**

***"We Are America"***

The San Jose JACL welcomes you to celebrate the theme of **"We Are America"** at the 2014 National JACL convention! It will be four full days of charting the course of JACL while enjoying great weather and amenities of the 10th largest city in the nation and surrounding cities! While the convention dates are officially July 9-12, 2014, San Jose has so much to offer that we are happy to have you come early or leave later to enjoy our city!

San Jose is a place of change: from the first Capital of California to the 'Valley of Hearts Delight' which paid homage to the agricultural industry, San Jose has earned its nickname of 'Capital of Silicon Valley' - the major city in the local high tech industry. The 1940 census reported San Jose's population as 98% white American and it is now a City with pride in diversity. It is home to San Jose Japantown (one of the last three historic Japantowns in the United States), San Jose Taiko (the second taiko group in America), the Japanese American Museum of San Jose, and the San Jose JACL (established in 1923 as the American Loyalty League) located in the landmark Japanese Hospital building. Convention delegates will get their first welcome to San Jose when they fly into the Norman Y. Mineta San Jose International airport. In 1971, Norman Mineta was the first Asian American mayor of a major American city.

The Convention will climax with the San Jose Obon On July 12 and 13. This is a two day obon festival with the traditional Obon odori (dance) on both days. Conventioneers are invited to extend their visit after the convention to fully experience this event. San Jose is proud to host nearly 1200 dancers at their Obon with collegiate taiko performances in the afternoon prior to the festival, along with food and game booths for all ages.

This year's theme of the 2014 JACL Convention is "We Are America" and is a reflection of the diversity within the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community and the important role we play in our nation's socio-economic future. For far too long, AAPI's and other people of color have struggled to gain acceptance as Americans. The 2014 JACL National Convention will focus on raising awareness about diversity and inclusion of communities of color as an integral part of the fabric of American society.

The 2014 National JACL Convention chairperson is **Wayne Tanda** and it will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel conveniently situated minutes from the **Norman Y. Mineta** San Jose International Airport and several mass transit transportation services including the Valley Transit Authority (VTA) Light Rail System and Bus services. Visiting other parts of the Bay Area? The Cal Train Commuter Train service and Bay Area

**37th Annual 'Nikkei Matsuri' ... by Pam Yoshida**



**Sunday April 27, 2014**

**37th Annual Nikkei Matsuri of San Jose Japantown**

**9:30am - 4:00pm**

**Located in the heart of San Jose Japantown (Jackson Street between 4th and 6th streets).**

The sound of taiko drums! The smells of delicious food! Join the entire community to celebrate Japanese American culture and heritage at this day long festival for all ages. Enjoy a full day of authentic Japanese food, performing arts on two stages, cultural exhibits and arts & crafts from vendors throughout the West Coast and Hawaii.

Other Activities include: Japantown **Farmer's Market**, **5Walk/Run** and Health Fair (Yu Ai Kai) and **Suzume No Gakko's** crafts at Wesley Methodist Church. At the Japanese American Museum-San Jose there will be a '**Kodomo No Hi**' (Children's Day activities) and an Antiques sale.



Find us on Facebook!

See [www.nikkeimatsuri.org](http://www.nikkeimatsuri.org) for the most recent festival information.

**Food - Entertainment - Craft Faire - Kodomo No Hi ('Children's day '@ JAMS)**

**Children Crafts (Suzume No Gakko) - Farmers Market - Yu Ai Kai Nihonmachi Run - Yu Ai Kai Health Fair**

**Volunteers needed for Nikkei Matsuri 'IKA' booth by Cindy Sugino**

**San Jose JAACL is hosting the IKA ( calamari) booth. We are recruiting volunteers to help with this event.**

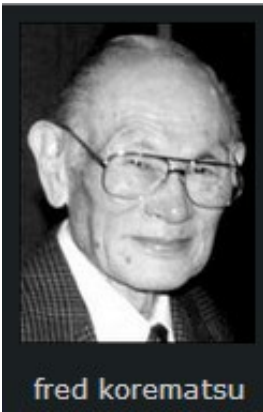
**Students: This will count as community service credit hours.**

**Please contact Cindy Sugino at [csugino@yahoo.com](mailto:csugino@yahoo.com) or 1-408-823-7616 be sure to have your Name, contact information and preferred shift. I will get back to you ASAP ( shifts filled on first come basis)**

<b>KITCHEN DUTIES</b> (inside) creating the trays of Ika to sell, and bring them to the booth.	<b>IKA BOOTH</b> –Selling IKA and Ice tea
<b>Shift times:</b>	<b>Shift times:</b>
7:30 am ~ 10:30 am (6+ needed)	9:30 am ~ 12:30 pm (3+ needed)
10:00 am ~ 1:00 pm (5+ needed)	12:00 pm ~ 4:00 pm (4+ Needed)
12:30 pm ~4:00 pm (4+ needed)	

**Join us, we have a lot of fun!!!**

## “Civil Liberties and War: Commemorating the 70th Anniversary of Korematsu v. United States” – San Jose Day of Remembrance



The 34th Annual San Jose Day of Remembrance was held on Sunday, February 16, 2014 at the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin. In 1944, the Supreme Court of the United States upheld the constitutionality of the World War II concentration camps for Japanese Americans in the case of *Korematsu v. United States*. Almost forty years later, Fred Korematsu’s conviction was overturned when a legal team led by attorney Dale Minami showed that the U.S. government suppressed evidence in the 1944 case. This year, Dale Minami was a special guest speaker and he related aspects of the case. Joe Yasutake was the remembrance speaker and he shared his personal experience being incarcerated in the Department of Justice’s detention center in Crystal City, Texas.

Chapter Board member, James Aki Matsumoto and Reiko Nakayama of NOC read the names of each camp as former incarcerated from the various camps lit candles. A candlelight procession through Japantown followed.

Returning to the Betsuin Annex, everyone took their seats and listened to San Jose Taiko perform. Concluding the evening, Congressman Mike Honda spoke about the importance of protecting civil liberties.

Coincidentally, on February 11, Congressman Honda introduced HR 482, which would resolve “that the House of Representatives: (1) recognize the historical significance of February 19, 1942, the date Executive Order 9066 was signed by President Roosevelt, restricting the freedom of Japanese Americans, German Americans, and Italian Americans, and legal resident aliens through required identification cards, travel restrictions, seizure of personal property, and incarceration; and (2) supports the goals of the Japanese American, German American, and Italian American communities in recognizing a National Day of Remembrance to increase public awareness of these events.”  
*(also see a related article below)*

## Stand Up For What Is Right – Fred Korematsu Day Celebration by Leon Kimura

The Morris Dailey Auditorium at Tower Hall on the San Jose State University Campus was the location of the January 26<sup>th</sup> celebration of **Fred Korematsu’s** legacy. The theme was focused on undocumented immigrants with a line up of speakers and that tackled the burgeoning question of how to address this issue. Master of Ceremonies, **Lloyd LaQuesta**, ably marshaled the afternoon with a program including Fred’s daughter **Karen Korematsu**; Congressman **Mike Honda**; **Bonnie Sugiyama**–Director of the LGBT Resource Center at SJSU; undocumented students **Miguel Santiago** and **Myrna Enriquez**; and Keynote Speaker – Pulitzer Prize Journalist **Jose Antonio Vargas**. We even had **Cesar Chavez’s** son joining in the discussion from the audience.



The courage it takes to stand up for what is right was evident in the program honoring the legacy of Fred Korematsu and reflected in the words and actions of the speaker and attendees. “Immigration (procedures) is legalized discrimination versus nurturing and inclusive.” There are 11 million undocumented immigrants, 1.3 million are Asian. Need to humanize the undocumented immigrant issue and no longer use the term “illegal”. It is apparent that as more people like Jose Antonio Vargas who stood up and “outed” himself as undocumented in 2011 during a New York Times Magazine essay, and the “Dreamers”, children of undocumented immigrants, step forward, America will truly begin to embrace immigration reform.

The San Jose JACL was proud to be a Community Organization Partner in supporting this event. Chapter representatives: **Leon Kimura**, **Sharon Uyeda**, **John Manibusan**, **Judy Niizawa Evan Brand**, **Iris Lou** and **Kari Fuji** joined NCWNP District Governor **David Unrue** at this important celebration.

## President's Message by Leon Kimura



Three-months to go! The National JACL Convention is right around the corner and things are underway to host delegates and boosters for four days of business and pleasure in July. The process has been both frustrating and rewarding, as with any complex venture, and we are closer but still far from being done... But our Fearless Leader, committee chair **Wayne Tanda**, has kept his eye on the goal line and has been masterful at marshaling the forces to keep our progress optimized. It is heartening when you are in the midst

of a project of this magnitude, witnessing the camaraderie and the desire to help from your teammates and from the community.

So, for any of you who have wanted to help out with a worthy project, making new friends, facing a new adventure and experiencing the feeling of accomplishment for a job well done, please consider helping out and give us a call. We are also in need of financial support of the convention and JACL. We need to raise about \$200,000 to fund this convention, our local commitment is to bring in \$60,000 and the National JACL will be raise the remainder. We are grateful for the community members who have already sponsored at levels of \$5,000, \$1,000, \$500 and others! But we are barely starting to receive responses and have a lot more need to collect within 30-days before the May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline in order to include all the donors in the printed convention program as sponsors or advertisers.

This is the last Outlook until after the July 9-12<sup>th</sup> convention and I want to tell you that thousands of hours are being devoted to support the JACL through convention planning by the Chapter and convention committee. We are committed to the JACL and our theme: We Are America! And this theme of inclusion and diversity throughout our community is reflected in all aspects of the convention. San Jose JACL last hosted the National Convention 18-years ago so please be included in sustaining perhaps the final San Jose convention! And a big **Thank You!** to all the volunteers and supporters for making this convention possible!

For more info, please visit our website: [www.jacl.org/2014](http://www.jacl.org/2014)



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The San Jose JACL Board meets on the **First Wednesday** 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

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Honorable Norman Y. Mineta  
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## Welcome New Members to San Jose JACL... *by Iris Lou*



I would like to welcome our new members, **Edmund and Joanne Vasquez** into San Jose JACL! Thank you for joining!

At the beginning of February, I did a mass membership drive by calling, emailing, and mailing out applications to over 200 lapsed members. I would like to thank all of you for renewing your membership: **Takashi Hirota, Von Miyasaki, Carol Ishikawa, Paul Kimura, Henry Nakamura, Paul Sakamoto, George Domon, Shiro Kubota, Matsuko Yamada, Corrine and Kurt Takara, Anne Finney, Gail Ishimatsu and Harold Hall, Yoshimasa and Dorothy Sato, Susumu Ikeda, Margery Kanemoto, Paul DeWitt, Rainee Hiraishi, Lisa Tamaki, Yumiko Hojo, T. Wayne Okubo, Stan Satake, Noreen Yamaoka, Roland and Sakaye Santo, Tom and Virginia Fujishin, Kazuki Hirose, Joe and Evelyn Jinguji, Dale Yoshihara, Christopher Hyde, Brian and Sachi Iwashita, Mark Shimizu, Mary Sugimoto, Mina Uehara, John and Alice Hayakawa, Andrea Hyde, Teresa Ishigaki, Betty Nishi, Geraldine Watanabe, Noreen Yamaoka, Dale and Vicki Yoshihara, Jeffrey Fudenna, Ann Cowels, Yasuo and Janice Hara, Yoshiko Ikegami, Don Uyeda, Emi Tsutsumi, Ronald Tsukagawa, Ben and Ann Koda, and Doris Wong.**

Thank you to all of the members who had renewed their membership: **David Mishima, Terry and Shirley Ota, Carl Mune, Sharon Uyeda, Jason Yonehiro, Joyce Kitabayashi, Yoshiko Ikegami, George Handa, Tom and Toshiko Kawahara, Sandy Imai, Mark Kato, Barbara Isa, Dennis Takaoka, Jack Shinkawa, David Horiuchi, Atso Kukuda and Eiko Shimizu, Eugene and Louise Kinoshita, Richard Tanaka, Pam Tokunaga, Atsuo and Nancy Fukuda, Brent Horiuchi, and Chester Santo** . Let's keep on adding more new members to our organization!

**Caroline Kurimoto** and **Marge Tsuji** keep the membership record updated and send out renewals for San Jose JACL. Thank you because I wouldn't be able to do this without you.

We have a great year planned and I hope to meet you all at one of our events such as: our Third Thursday Monthly Dine-Out, Nikkei Matsuri, Clean-Up Day, Scholarship Luncheon, Appreciation BBQ, the National Convention or any fun planned events 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](mailto:Inky1lou1452@yahoo.com).

# SAKE SAN JOSE



Sake San Jose 2014  
Thursday, May 22th, 2014  
5:30 PM to 8:30 PM

## 2014: The Year of the Horse

# KANPAI!



Mark your calendar – the 9th Annual Sake San Jose fundraising event is here!

Take a stroll through and explore the shops, businesses, and vitality of historic Japantown as you taste a variety of domestic and international sakes. Join us with your family and friends, all for a great cause.

Visit [www.sakesanJose.com](http://www.sakesanJose.com) for news and updates.

All event proceeds from Sake San Jose is a fundraiser benefiting Yu-Ai Kai Community Senior Service, a nonprofit senior center in Japantown.

Yu-Ai Kai is celebrating 40 years of service throughout 2014. Please join us for this 40th Anniversary event!

## Putting Patients First

By CPAT and CA Access

In the March issue of CA Access News, The California Partnership for Access to Treatment (CPAT) highlights current health care issues at the state and national level.

The National Health Council (NHC) has launched "**Putting Patients First**," an interactive online suite of resources to help people make informed decisions about purchasing health insurance within Covered California. This website includes new tools to help patients analyze their choices in the new health insurance marketplace, including a personalized cost calculator.



Putting Patients First , A guide for understanding out-of-pocket spending.

Go to the website - <http://www.puttingpatientsfirst.net/>

## Hanami... By Cindy Sugino

Spring arrived in San Jose with lots of rain that we did not get in the Winter. I am reminded of the childhood song that my neighbors grandmother taught me. '**Haru Ga Kita**' (**Spring has come**), a song that provides a vivid image and welcomes spring as it surrounds the land with flowers and the songs of birds.

With the spring comes the blossoms and more specifically for the Japanese Culture, Cherry Blossoms and the Cherry Blossom Festivals. I found this information on the web and wanted to share some Cherry Blossom history....

"In spring, one of the best-loved symbols of Japan makes a dramatic sweep across the country. **Sakura** (cherry blossoms) bloom usually from the end of March through April in a kind of wave starting in southern Kyushu and working its way northeast. The viewing phenomenon – also called the **hanami** – has been celebrated for centuries (popular since the Heian Period(794~1185) and is a good example of the Japanese view of beauty in nature. The undeniable beauty of the delicate pink flowers is offset by a sense of melancholy at their all-too-brief appearance. This is often compared to our own short time spent on the earth. This mixture of feelings is best expressed with food and drink, of course. And so every year, hundreds of thousands of Japanese of all ages gather beneath the pink blooms, sing karaoke, dance and drink. Ironically, one popular hanami spot in Tokyo is the Aoyama Bochi (cemetery). Those resting under the rows of tombstones are almost forgotten as they are sprinkled with falling blossoms."



## Wendy Maruyama: Executive Order 9066: The Tag Project

Artist **Wendy Maruyama's** celebrated large-scale sculptural installation honoring 120,000 Japanese-Americans - incarcerated during WWII.

***On display till May 24th, 2014 at Japanese American Museum of San Jose, 535 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street,***

Presented in collaboration with ArtObjectGallery and the Japanese American Museum of San Jose (JAMsj), this multi-venue exhibition explores the complex story of the Japanese-American internment. This is the fifth presentation of this exhibition which premiered in May 2012 at San Diego State University. The Society of Arts and Crafts in Boston presented the exhibition in the fall of 2012 and has organized the show's traveling schedule to Arizona and Northern California.

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 authorizing the internment of tens of thousands of American citizens and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry. Wendy Maruyama, a third generation Japanese-American and highly regarded educator and artist/furniture maker based in San Diego, has created a compelling body of work examining this period in American history. The exhibition includes three integrated parts: *Executive Order 9066*, *The Tag Project*, and an exhibition of historical artifacts.

## Why is the JACL failing? A Yonsei perspective ... By Jason Yonehiro

As part of the Yonsei generation and a link in Japanese American history, I have taken personal pride in **knowing 'where I came from'**. **Having Japanese and Caucasian ancestors (Hawaiian's call us 'Hapa Haole' or half white)** I am consistently asked what ethnicity I am. I proudly say, 'Japanese'. But where does this come from? Did it originate since I read 'Farewell to Manzanar' as a junior in high school and then realized my grandparents had been holding out on me? Maybe. I think being Japanese American in this *new century of American citizenship* means less of how Japanese and other immigrant ethnicities were subject to horrific racial and cultural persecution and more on celebrating these foundations of support and opportunity given to us by our forefathers and mothers who sacrificed for us all. So why is the foundation of this effort, namely the Japanese American Citizens League diminishing? At a time when JACL's values and vital vignettes are more accepted in society than ever do we see our membership and interest in our organization *slowly erode*? As a Board member of the San Jose JACL, I feel I have an ability to voice concern and frustration in seeing how this genuine and valuable organization continues to struggle and reinvigorate it's base. But what is the JACL's base? Where are the young members who need to understand what the JACL membership brings and the historical precedence which is the genesis of the organization? If we do not recognize how we engage the next generation of members and what our current membership needs to do in order to attract this new base, I regretfully feel the entire organization may inevitably fail. But where do we start? Let's think of ways where we can work through some of the obstacles I've seen frustrate our local chapter. Let's do away with the Regional, National, local Chapter tiers. Let's create a unified national organization which works cohesively together, unified, and with cause. But first, we need to understand how we engage our next generation of JACL members and why they need to join. If they don't care about their heritage, civil rights, or other value propositions JACL brings to them, it's vital to the vein of JACLs to rethink: why should they?



## 2014's First 'Third Thursday Dine Out' - By Iris Lou



On January 16, 2014, we held our regular Third Thursday's Dine-Out social-fundraiser with food from Chipotles Mexican Grill. **Leon Kimura** and **Hayato Takami** picked up the food and met us at 4th Street Bowl.

**Ken Furukawa, Joyce Yamamoto, Joyce Oyama, Hayato Karyn, Evan Brand, Cindy and Kelsey Sugino, Aki Matsumoto, Leon Kimura, Tom Oshidari, Karyn Fujii, Mike Honda, Peter Berg** and I were there to enjoy the night of fun and laughter. We dined, drank, and best of all, serenaded by **Mike, Hayato** and **Peter**. We had a great time while raising money for the JACL and hope to see all of you at our next Dine-Out.

## Join JACL For Third Thursdays Dining Out .. By James 'Aki' Matsumoto

About two years ago my mother, **Karen Matsumoto** and myself came up with the idea of "FUNraisers" which are currently known as Third Thursday Dine outs. It is always important to remember the origins of an event. My mother's goal was for people to come together to dine out as a special occasion and have a good time with friends, community and family. On behalf of the San Jose JACL I would like to personally thank each and every one of the Third Thursday Dine out "FUNraisers".

We would like to invite you to the Thursday April 17, 2014 Dine out event which will be at **Ono Hawaiian** located at 1706 Oakland Rd #10, San Jose, CA 95131. We are planning to meet at 6:30pm, but the event will take place opening to closing. Please present flyer to participate. The Thursday May 15, 2014 dine out event will take place at **Bella Mia Restaurant**. I would like to kindly thank the owner of Bella Mia, Jon Murakami and fellow supporter, Joyce Iwasaki who contacted Jon for the fundraising opportunity. Bella Mia Restaurant and Bar is located 58 South First Street San Jose, CA 95113. We will also be meeting at 6:30pm. The scheduled Thursday June 12, 2014 dine out event is for **Sweet Tomatoes** located at 625 Coleman Ave, San Jose, CA 95110, we will also be meeting at 6:30pm, the fundraiser is valid from 5pm and closing. You must present the flyer (in newsletter) to participate in Fundraiser. Again, thank you for your support. And remember to dine and most importantly have FUN while doing it!

Thursday April 17<sup>th</sup> : **Ono Hawaiian** - 1706 Oakland Rd #10, San Jose, CA 95131

*(For this event it is honored Thursday during operating hours, \*Flyer is needed )*

Thursday May 15<sup>th</sup>: **Bella Mia Restaurant**- 58 South First Street San Jose, CA 95113.

Thursday June 12<sup>th</sup> : **Sweet Tomatoes** - 625 Coleman Ave, San Jose, CA 95110

*(For this event \*Flyer is needed )*

*\*Flyer downloaded from <http://www.sanjosejacl.org/news.html>, Picked up at the JACLhall or requested by email [sanjosejacl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sanjosejacl@sbcglobal.net)*



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 O - Outlook N- National Convention  
 T- Third Thursday M—Nikkei Matsuri

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## National JACL Awards and Recognition

### Send in your Nominations for the National Awards and Recognition

**Recognitions Forms and Guidelines** are Available on our web page (<http://www.sanjosejacl.org/news.html>) , contact/visit our San Jose office or Email request to- [sanjosejacl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sanjosejacl@sbcglobal.net)

### **Awards:**

**JACler of the Biennium** -JACler who has contributed the most to the strength and growth of the JACL

**GEORGE J. INAGAKI CHAPTER CITIZENSHIP AWARD** - In recognition of "Better citizenship"

**JAPANESE AMERICAN OF THE BIENNIUM** - Americans of Japanese ancestry whose outstanding achievements ...

*Recipients will be announced at the National Convention*

*All nominations must be postmarked or time stamped before midnight May 9, 2014*



**Japanese American Citizens League  
San Jose Chapter**

565 North Fifth Street  
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## Calendar of Events

- April**  
 17th 3rd Thursday Dine-Out @ **Ono Hawaiian**  
 27th **Nikkei Matsuri** (JapanTown San Jose).  
 Now through  
 May 24th **Wendy Maruyama: The Tag Project**
- May**  
 15th: 3rd Thursday Dine-Out @ **Bella Mia Restaurant.**  
 22nd: **Sake San Jose** (JapanTown San Jose).
- June**  
 12<sup>th</sup> 3rd Thursday Dine-Out @ **Sweet Tomatoes**
- July**  
 9th ~ 12th **National Convention**  
 12th & 13th San Jose Buddhist Temple **"Obon" festival**

