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Richard Koichi Tanaka (October 16, 1931 – March 25, 2016)

By Judy Niizawa

Richard Tanaka was the first Sansei to serve as the president of the San Jose JACL. Raised as a sharecropper's son in San Jose, he was incarcerated with his family in Poston, AZ, as part of the forced removal from the West Coast of those of Japanese ancestry during WWII.

He graduated from the University of Michigan with a BA in architecture, and in 1978 graduated from San Jose State University with a Masters in City and Urban Planning. Richard practiced architecture in San Jose with Steinberg Architects until his retirement.

Richard was active in the Japanese American Community and passionate about preserving the legacy of the Japanese American. He designed the Tea House at Kelley Park, the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin office and many other iconic buildings in San Jose. In 1980, when the local community finally came to consensus on renovating the Kuwabara Hospital, he served as its architect, completely redesigning the interior after the entire building was gutted. After the renovation completed in 1983, the building was re-dedicated as the Issei Memorial Building. He considered the project to be the single most important project for the Japantown neighborhood since it would stimulate a rebirth of the entire Business District.

During the period when Japanese Americans sought redress for their unjust WWII incarceration, Richard was chairman of the local San Jose



Commission on Internment of Civilians. Although he did not testify during the 1980's Federal hearings, he instead authored a book, *America*

on Trial!, expressing views on his incarceration experience.

Richard and his partners were the first to establish fast food Japanese cuisine, founding Happi House Restaurants, bringing an Island quality to the service and menu.

In the broader community the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors appointed Richard its founding Commissioner of the Human Relations Commission in 1972; in 1975 then Mayor **Norman Mineta** and the San Jose City Council appointed Richard as Chairman of the San Jose Bicentennial Commission, where he directed 2,000 projects engaging an estimated 10,000 San Joseans; he served on The Board of Trustees of both the Eastside Union High School District and the San Jose-Evergreen Community College District; he was an active member of the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin and San Jose Rotary.

Richard Tanaka leaves lasting projects which reflected his passion for preserving the Nikkei legacy and impressing it upon the greater community.

IMB Renovation Initial Phase Complete

By Tom Oshidari

The first phase of the the Issei Memorial Building renovation (exterior sealing) is essentially complete at a cost of about \$70,000. Now we are in the process of coming up with a priority list of projects for future work. Among the projects are exterior lighting, window treatments, new alarm system, foundation repair, kitchen counter replacement, kitchen shelving, new kitchen appliances, back patio replacement, front dead tree removal and replacement, front concrete repair, conference

room ceiling replacement and floor repair, interior wall water damage repair and painting, floor refinishing, and bathroom remodel.

Thanks to the \$50,000 donation matching program initiated by **Ray Matsumoto** and the generosity of IMB supporters who allowed us to reach the goal, we have the reserves to tackle many of the potential projects. However, further donations to the IMB Building Fund are always welcome.



The Matsumotos dropped by the IMB to hand over their donation check. Front row: Lucy Matsumoto and Ray Matsumoto. Back row: Leon Kimura and Tom Oshidari.

BEFORE



AFTER



OUTLOOK is published on a quarterly basis by the San Jose Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League

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The San Jose JAACL 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 JAACL's future.

2016 San Jose JACL Installation

By Marge Tsuji

The 4th Street Bowl Coffee Shop has been the scene of many San Jose JACL activities. The Coffee Shop seems to have been there forever and many of us old-timers remember going there with the "gang" to bowl or grab a bite after the movies, etc. It's nothing fancy but a place with a lot of memories.

On Friday, January 8, 2016, San Jose JACL held its 2016 Installation Dinner meeting there. Councilman **Ash Kalra** was there to do the honors of installing the officers: Co-Presidents **Tom Oshidari** and **Sharon Uyeda**, Past President **Leon Kimura**, VP Civil Liberties **Jeffrey Sera** (absent), Secretary/NCWNPDC Delegate **Neil Kozuma**, Treasurer **Mark Yamamoto** (absent), and NCWNPDC Delegate **Morgan Chang** (absent). Board members **Amy Halcrow**, **Joyce Oyama**, and **Jason Yonehiro** plus members **Lucy Matsumoto**, **Ray Matsumoto**, **June Nakamura**,



SJ JACL Installation: Jason Yonehiro, Neil Kozuma, Amy Halcrow, Tom Oshidari, Sharon Uyeda, Leon Kimura, Councilmember Ash Kalra (Henry Uyeda in foreground)

Judy Niizawa, Vi Onishi, Margie Oyama, Marge Tsuji, Emi Tsutsumi, Yosh Uchida, Kay Utsumi, Henry Uyeda and **Jean Yamaguchi** were also in attendance. Guests were **Ryan Kawamoto**, Executive Director of Yu-Ai Kai and **Kimiko Kikuchi**.

Then we got down to the serious part of the meeting: enjoying the bountiful buffet that was laid before us by **Jan and Kenny Nakatsu** of 4th St. Bowl. After partaking of two kinds of salad, rolls and cold cuts, pasta, meat-

balls, chicken wings, and huge tender ribs, we felt we were doing honor to the new year and the new Board.

During the business meeting, it was voted to change the Executive Board quorum from eight to six. **Jason Yonehiro** also facilitated a discussion on the current on-going renovation of the IMB. Members brought up areas that needed repair or upgrading. A Wish List was created listing, among other projects, the conversion of the men's restroom into a unisex handicapped restroom, re-doing the floors and carpeting and upgrading the kitchen. All of these items would necessitate continuing fundraising. On a positive note, at the end of 2015, fundraising had surpassed the \$50,000 matching goal set by **Ray Matsumoto** - thanks to many generous donors.

All in all, an evening of good food and good company, a nostalgic trip to the past, and an ambitious commitment to the future.

Save the Date

San Jose JACL 13th Annual Community Recognition Dinner

Saturday, November 5, 2016
Holiday Inn San Jose

\$125/person * \$115/JACL member * \$1,150 for table of 10

Reservation forms will be mailed in August.

San Jose Day of Remembrance 2016 "War Hysteria"

By Tom Oshidari

Due to the renovation of the San Jose Buddhist Church Annex, the 2016 Nihonmachi Outreach Committee (NOC) Day of Remembrance program was moved from its normal venue to the San Jose State Morris Daley Auditorium. The particular significance of being at San Jose State was that the old Men's Gym (renovated and re-dedicated as Yoshihiro Uchida Hall last year) was San Jose's assembly center for Japanese Americans after Executive Order 9066 resulted in their forced removal from the area.

Aggie Idemoto, President of the Japanese American Museum of San Jose (JAMsj), acted as Emcee for the evening. Among the many distinguished speakers, some excerpts are as follows:

- **Reverend Hajime Yamamoto** of Wesley United Methodist Church is from Japan. He explained that his family suffered in Japan during WWII,

and until he came to the U.S., he had not heard about the suffering the Japanese Americans had to endure because of their forced removal and incarceration.

- **Masao Suzuki** of NOC addressed the history of wartime hysteria that eventually led to the unjustified forced removal of persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast.
- **Mei Suzuki**, Masao's daughter, now a college student, who has been attending the Day of Remembrance programs all her life, spoke for the first time and stressed that the WWII experience of Japanese Americans should never be forgotten by the next generation.
- **Mike Honda**, normally a fixture at the Day of Remembrance, was unable to attend this year.

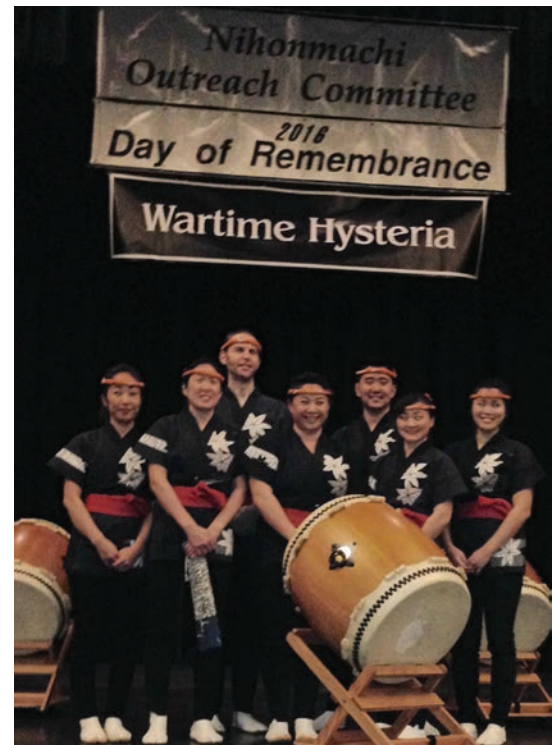
Instead, staffer **Lenine Umali** read a prepared statement from Mike.

San Jose Taiko again performed a rousing set just prior to the candle lighting ceremony where **Reiko Nakayama** of NOC and **Sharon Uyeda**, San Jose JACL Co-President, read the names of the American concentration camps with their populations.

A candle light procession then led the audience from Morris Daley Auditorium to reconvene at Yoshihiro Uchida Hall to hear **Jimi Yamaichi's** first-hand account of his family's assembly at the Men's Gym through his eventual court acquittal of draft evasion charges at Tule Lake.



2016 Day of Remembrance: (above) Barracks models representing the American Concentration Camps for Japanese Americans during WWII. (right) San Jose Taiko members.



2016 Scholarship Recipients

By Sharon Uyeda

Seven recipients were selected to receive scholarships for 2016. They are:

- **Kristen Masada** - Leland H.S. - \$10,000 Oyama Family Foundation Scholarship (\$2,500 each of 4 years).
- **Alison Shikada** - Presentation H.S. - \$3,000 Kenji Sakauye Memorial Scholarship
- **Jemma Jio** - Prospect H.S. - \$2,500 Phil Y. Matsumura Community Scholarship and \$500 Ada Y. Uyeda Memorial Scholarship
- **Megan Yabumoto** - Sobrato H.S. - \$2,500 George Masunaga Endowment Scholarship
- **Kylie Kuwada** - Christopher H.S. - \$1,000 Masuo B. Nakamura Memorial Scholarship
- **Leila Nakasone** - Mt. Pleasant H.S. - \$500 Lanette Yoneko Hayakawa Memorial Scholarship
- **Christopher Takeuchi** - Pioneer H.S. - \$300 San Jose JACL Chapter Award

Congratulations, Scholars!



Members of the selection committee are **Gary Jio, Dr. Mitsu Kumagai, JoAnn Okabe Kubo, Joyce Oyama.** **Sharon Uyeda** is the Chair of the committee.

The San Jose JACL gratefully acknowledges the following families for their generosity in providing scholarships to deserving high school seniors:

Mrs. John Hayakawa, George Masunaga family, Phil Matsumura family, Margie and Jackie Nakamura, Oyama Family and Henry Uyeda.



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Stand Up Against Scapegoating and Hate Mongering – A Panel Event

By Tom Oshidari

On January 12th at the Wesley United Methodist Church in San Jose in the midst of the current political climate where some politicians are citing the WWII incarceration of Japanese Americans as a model for policy towards Muslim Americans, Muslim immigrants, and Syrian refugees, a group of Japanese American community leaders organized a panel to address the issues.

The panel consisted of the following, who each made statements clarifying either historical facts or present day realities.

- Moderator **Tom Izu**, Executive Director of the California History Center and the Audrey Edna Butcher Civil Liberties Education Initiative at De Anza College; also a board member of the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).
- **Susan Hayase** of the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the ACLU, who initiated this program and gave opening remarks representing the joint view of the panel: that Japanese Americans stand firmly against any kind of scapegoating and object to the scapegoating of Muslim Americans, South Asians, Arab Americans, Sikhs, and others; that the lessons of the internment should be heard and understood; and that former internees have their experience be never forgotten nor repeated.
- **Richard Konda**, Executive Director of the Asian Law Alliance, reviewed the legal and legislative history surrounding the Japanese American incarceration and refuted the validity of recent statements by politicians and others citing such action as a policy option for dealing with Syrian refugees or Muslim Americans.
- **Masao Suzuki**, representing the Nihonmachi Outreach Committee, gave a historical context of institutional racial prejudice against Asians existing for almost 100 years before Pearl Harbor with laws passed banning inter-racial marriage, land ownership, and citizenship. Such action based on prejudice helps us understand what's happening today and how scapegoating develops and grows if not checked.
- **Jeff Yoshioka**, President, Silicon Valley JACL, reviewed the WWII incarceration experience of Japanese Americans, since many seem to be misinformed on the experience, and noted that some of the same reasons (fear, prejudice, lack of political leadership) that led to the Japanese American incarceration are again present today.
- **Tom Oshidari**, Co-President, San Jose JACL, explained how government-coined euphemisms ("evacuation," "internment," "relocation center") has for decades obscured the prison-like conditions endured by the Japanese Americans. The JACL has recently recommended more accurate terminology ("forced removal," "incarceration," "American concentration camp") to reflect the reality of the conditions.
- **Jimi and Eiko Yamaichi**, former incarcerated, shared personal stories. Jimi recounted how, as a matter of conscience, since he was effectively a prisoner of the government, he could not agree to be drafted. The judge who heard Jimi's case studied the draft law and agreed that only a free man could be drafted; so Jimi was exonerated of any draft evasion charges. Other judges at other camps ruled differently; so it was Jimi's lament that other Nisei men had to serve terms in federal prisons as draft evaders. Eiko recounted how, as a high school junior, immediately after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, she was ostracized by her friends, classmates and teachers and made to feel like the enemy.
- **Athar Siddiqee**, President of the South Bay Islamic Association, described his essentially all-American family that still encounters harassing



Eleven member panel addressing scapegoating of minority groups.

comments and questions, but commented that he remains hopeful because of groups such as the Japanese Americans who have overcome such obstacles and continue to stand up for others.

- **Mike Kaku**, President, Sequoia JACL, explained how "failure of political leadership" was found to be one of the causes that led to the incarceration of Japanese Americans and how the rhetoric in today's political scene is far too familiar and should not be allowed to lead to similar results.
- **Brice Hamack**, Northern California Civil Rights Coordinator with Council for American Islamic Relations (CAIR) and an attorney, talked about CAIR's work in providing free legal services in the civil rights arena, networking in the political arena, doing outreach to "humanize" the Muslim image (we're just like everyone else), and empowering youth to take action on their own behalf.

Following the statements by the panelists, the audience of

over 120 strong engaged in a question and comment period. During this time a representative of the International Rescue Committee of Northern California, Igor Radulovic, was given the floor to explain the existing, lengthy process for a refugee to enter this country. The event

elicited favorable reviews from the attendees.

The event may be seen in its entirety on YouTube, compliments of Duane Kubo of J-Town Community TV:
https://youtu.be/GKms_RubSTQ



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A Reparations Workshop: Let the Healing Begin

By Judy Niizawa

On February 28, 2016, the NAACP sponsored "A Reparations Workshop: Let the Healing Begin" at the St. James A.M.E. Zion Church in San Mateo. Among the panelists invited to speak was **Judy Niizawa**, San Jose JACL member and former Chapter President. She was joined by **Frederick Hubbard** of the Bay Cities District A.M.E Churches; **Winifred Sharper** of the Christian Education Western Episcopal District; and **Dr. Mary Lynn Wilson** of the San Jose State University History Department.

There was a prelude of musical selections on guitar and vocals performed by **Garrick Davis**; a welcome message and prayer from **Rev. Marilyn Bussey**, a dramatic interpretation of MLK's "I Have a Dream Speech" by **Rev. Michael Henderson**, and a current update on the reparations progress.

The thrust of the Afro American pursuit is based on the history of slavery and its on-going effects on the descendants of those who were held as slaves. On their backs the USA became the number one world financial power. Given the precedence of reparations given some Native American tribes, and the 1988 reparations bill signed by **President Reagan** for Japanese Americans, this group is seeking reparations from the government to recognize the on-going challenges still being borne by the descendants of their forefathers who were held as slaves.



Niizawa attempted in 15 minutes was to review the 20 years of her personal involvement leading up to receiving a check for \$20,000 in 1990, accompanied by a letter of apology by **President Clinton** because it had taken that long for the last of the checks to be funded and dispersed.

There were many questions to **Niizawa** regarding the implementation of HR442. Clearly, the background work was not commonly understood. **Niizawa** did a further review of the twenty years leading up to the actual distribution of reparations in 1990 beginning with **President George Bush** and completed in 1990 by **President Clinton**. It roughly covered 85,000 who survived up to the Reagan signing on August 10, 1988. There were no provisions for heirs but the onus was on the U. S. Government to find any and all deserving survivors including those who may have been in Japan and continued to live there.

The process was very long and very arduous for the JA community to get **President Reagan** to sign HR 442, not to mention the additional efforts it took to get **Senator Daniel Inouye** to undertake the actual funding of the HR 442.

The Afro American movement as **Niizawa** could view it, appeared to be where the JA program was when **President Jimmy Carter** signed a bill to establish the Commission on Relocation and Internment of Civilians in 1979. The Afro Am program has yet to have such a Bill passed by Congress. However, they do seek support for HR 40: Commission to Study Reparations for African-Americans Act, introduced a number of years ago by **Representative John Conyers** of Michigan and re-introduced many times over the years, but never having made it out of committee. The audience was urged to contact their local Congress representative, **Jackie Speier**.

Asian American & Pacific Islander Community Summit

By Leon Kimura

On Friday March 4th, the AAPI Community Summit at San Jose State University provided the opportunity to interact with many of the campus AAPI students, organization leaders and faculty. FYI, in a previous open forum, the students identified as issues on campus:

- Lack of AAPI representation (events, resources, community engagement, cultural celebrations and holidays)
- Model Minority myth expectation/pressure (especially in certain majors)
- Need for mental health resources focused for the AAPI community
- Decrease in available Asian American Studies sections and enrollment
- Low numbers of AAPI faculty and staff
- Lack of resources and funding specific for AAPIs

Dr. Michael Chang, founder of the Asian Pacific American Leadership Institute at De Anza college, made a welcoming presentation to help guide how to effect change. He advised strategies such as always lean forward and not just stand still because the squeaky wheel gets the grease, work collectively, be visionary by developing a plan, be effective in institutional change by developing a path, and always take care of yourself by staying healthy.

During the summit sessions I attended, I learned that the landscape of AAPI ethnicity is becoming increasingly complex with the greater interracial mixes, let alone the new sexual and gender associations, etc. Therefore, the binary fashion that race has traditionally been discussed is no longer adequate since these associations are no longer so black and white. We now need a greater vocabulary

and concepts to address the increasing complexities. As an aside, I noted that the students brought forth arguments both for and against racial dis-aggregation. On one hand, you want to separate out racial data to better understand the needs of individual ethnic groups but on the other, the groups, or more accurately, individual students, want to feel included and a part of the larger whole of being "Asian American".

Part of the discussion outcomes was about the need to have visual references on campus for the AAPI students like others have the **Tommie Smith/John Carlos** statues and **Cesar Chavez** monument. Murals were suggested as a means to accomplish this and I suggested a global map incorporating a theme of showing all the AAPI countries to provide viewers the educational reference and to reinforce the inclusionary message for the students.

The students also made further comments about the support (or lack of) by the University for their needs including not being provided with space or a resource center(s) for their clubs to meet. After hearing the frustration of the students, I offered the Issei Memorial Building (IMB) as a safe haven to come and hold their meetings. At least until they could get on campus facilities from the University administration. I explained that the



Mia Guevarra, President, Akbayan SJSU - addresses a breakout session.

(continued on page 10)

Asian American & Pacific Islander Community Summit (continued)

JACL supports all ethnicities and indeed, all Americans, and are not exclusively JA. Our Chapter has been working to foster connections with the SJSU students and it would be mutually beneficial if we could bring them into Japantown and expose them to our community and Chapter to possibly garner new participation and youthful energy. Perhaps, an inclusive SJSU AAPI club collaborative could meet at the IMB with spinoff activities by all the various AAPI factions...

I also spoke to members of the faculty about partnerships between the University AAPI instructors/courses and Japantown and was told by **Professor Hien Do, Ph.D** - Professor and Coordinator of Asian American Studies, that they had worked with our community previously but was instructed by the Administration to stop due to insurance concerns. I explained that if he wished to reactivate a working relationship between the University students/classes with the SJ JACL, we could discuss having cooperative educational activities covered under our insurance policy.

It will be great if some positive results from these discussions and interactions with the students and faculty occur! And in closing, I would also like to thank the Asian & Pacific Islander Faculty and Staff Association (APIFSA) for the invitation to attend.



Duane Kubo, Executive Director of San Jose J-TownFilmFest, announced the dates of the 2nd annual film festival that celebrates the vibrant multi-ethnic community in San Jose's historic Japantown. Twelve films will be screened from Friday, May 20 to Sunday, May 22, 2016.

The festival is executive produced by Contemporary Asian Theater Scene (CATS) in partnership with J-Town Community TV, Japanese American Museum of San Jose (JAMsj) and the city of San Jose's Multicultural Arts Leadership Initiative (MALI). Each screening will include a post-show program that will feature filmmakers, cast members or other special guests.

A special highlight will be the showing of *The Wash* and recognition of its screenwriter, Philip Gotanda. Gotanda will receive the IMAGE HERO Award from CATS with a reception following the film. Other films of interest

are *Resistance at Tule Lake* and *Right of Passage*.

Films will be shown at Northside Community Center (Fridays, Saturdays) and Japanese American Museum of San Jose and Wesley United Methodist Church (Sunday). Visit www.jtownfilmfest.com for a complete lineup of films, descriptions and detailed information.

FILM SCHEDULE	
May 20-22, 2016	
FRIDAY, MAY 20	
at Northside Community Center 488 North 6th Street, San Jose	
Awesome Asian Bad Guys (2014)	7:00pm
K-Town Cowboys (2015)	9:00pm
SATURDAY, MAY 21	
at Northside Community Center	
Top Spin (2014)	11:00am
Among B-Boys (2011)	1:00pm
Right of Passage (2015)	2:30pm
The Wash (1988)	5:00pm
Man From Reno (2014)	8:30pm
SUNDAY, MAY 22	
at Japanese American Museum of San Jose 535 North 5th Street, San Jose	
Digging to Chinatown (2016)	11:00am
Hafu (2013)	12:30pm
Resistance at Tule Lake (2016)	2:30pm
SUNDAY, MAY 22	
FREE screening at Wesley United Methodist Church 566 North 5th Street, San Jose	
Exodus from the Jungle (2015) <i>plus Right 2 Dream Too</i>	1:30pm

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Welcome New and Returning Members to San Jose JACL

Membership Report (January 1st - March 8, 2016)

Welcome New Members to San Jose JACL:

John and Ruby Hill, Don Momii, Rinka Murakami, Grant Suzuki, Christopher Takeuchi and Itsuo Yokota.

Thanks to the following members for renewing their membership:

Amy Halcrow, Tom Fujishin, Alice Hayakawa, Rainee Hiraishi, Takashi Hirota, Yumi Hojo, Sandy Imai, Teresa Ishigaki, Carol Ishikawa, Joyce Iwasaki, Tom Kawahara, Eugene Kinoshita, Linda Kuromi, Iris Lou, Von Miyasaki, Betty Nishi, Richard Nishiki, Susan Ogawa, Tad Okubo, Violet Onishi, Joyce Oyama, Stan Satake, Eiko Shimizu, Mark Shimizu, Mary Sugimoto, Richard and Barbara Tanaka, Yoshiteru Tanikawa, Ronald Tsukagawa, Emi Tsutsumi, Sharon Uyeda, Doris Wong, Jean Yamaguchi, and Dale and Vicki Yoshihara.

Check out our new website and join us at upcoming events.

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. We apologize for any omissions. 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

Saturday, April 23 - District Gala Luncheon
DoubleTree Hotel, Pleasanton
Time: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 1 - Nikkei Matsuri
San Jose Japantown
Time: 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 7 - 2016 Scholarship Luncheon
Time/Place: Noon at the IMB

Fri-Sun, May 20-22 - J-Town FilmFest
Visit www.jtownfilmfest.com for a lineup



Wish List

Geek Squad services
Part-time Bookkeeper (volunteer or paid)
Tools (hammer, saw, shovel, rake, etc.)

Visit our redesigned website!



Featuring: Chapter News, Community Announcements, Outlook Archive

www.sanjosejacl.org