



*Japanese American Citizens League  
San Jose Chapter*

*Volume 44, Issue 2*

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# OUTLOOK

## **Annual Issei Memorial Building Cleanup Day** *by Hayato Takami*

Originally built as a hospital for Japanese Americans during a period of racial and cultural differences, including a language barrier that required a Japanese-speaking doctor, the IMB now provides a home for a variety of professional, cultural and social groups. Time has taken its toll on this 103-year old historic building and it is time for the annual cleaning and maintenance of the building and grounds. All manner of interior deep cleaning will be performed as well as to the building exterior, storage shed, patio and the California Civil Liberties Public Education Project 3-sided bronze monument. Landscape improvements and repairs to the IMB sign and to the perimeter fence will also be done.

The IMB cleanup will be a precursor to the start of some major repairs occurring later this year including the building's fumigation to get rid of termites, then a program to address dry rot, termite repair, water damage, paint, and construction to stabilize a settling corner of the building. We have saved over \$100,000 to start the work but more funds are needed. Please contact the office if you can donate to the building fund.



**When:** Saturday, August 16th from 9:00am to 3:00pm (Refreshments provided)

Please come even if you can only make it for a short while. This is a great time to catch-up with longtime JACL members, meet some of the newer members, IMB tenants and like-minded community supporters including members of the **Japantown Lions Club!**

We would like to get an accurate estimate of all those who will be attending so please:

Register on Eventbrite @ [imbcleanup.eventbrite.com](http://imbcleanup.eventbrite.com)

Join our facebook page at **Issei Memorial Building Cleanup** <https://www.facebook.com/events/557366607636124/>

Call the office and leave the names and phone number of volunteers

We are in need of a few items to complete certain tasks such as trim trees and clean the bronze monument. If there are any folks who would be able to donate or lend the following items: **Mr. Clean Magic Erasers, carnuba wax, windex, paper towels, bathroom cleanser, rubber gloves, scrubby sponges, rakes, hose, buckets, fine wire/grout brushes, leaf blower, and a handheld vacuum.** Your generosity would be greatly appreciated!

Please contact **Hayato Takami** at: [hayato.k.takami@gmail.com](mailto:hayato.k.takami@gmail.com) if you would like to donate or have any questions in regards to the event. We hope to see you there!

## President's Message by Leon Kimura



I am spurred to comment due to an invitation I received to join a "new" AAPI organization, APAICS Leadership Network, Inc., touting Board of Directors such as: Representatives **Judy Chu** and **Mike Honda**; Mayors **Evan Low** and **Ed Lee**; and from the private sector: **Jonnie Giles**, Comcast VP of External Affairs; **Daniel Howle**, Lilly, USA Director of Public Affairs; and others. The purpose is to promote equal opportunity in the public sector and equal access to government to ensure the voices and opinions of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander and other disadvantaged communities are heard. And provide a well spring of leaders for the future.

And to lead this impressive new spin-off of the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies is the President and CEO, our own former National JACL Director, **S. Floyd Mori**. What an amazing organization to develop and nurture both old and new AAPI leaders to carry our agenda forward.

Over time, numerous organizations have blossomed to address the needs of the JA, AA, PI, NH, etc. subsectors of our community. At local, State and National levels, these organizations now share the exclusive territory that the JACL umbrella once protected. And this is a good thing. We all benefit from the extensive services these organizations provide. As they grow in numbers and scope, the connections we foster can make our organization stronger and vice versa by offering our community's incredible legacy and network to leverage support and a seat at the table.

But I am reminded of a conversation I had in Chicago with **Sue Van**, President and CEO of the Wallace H. Coulter Foundation (She funds major causes like the Smithsonian's operations and even the 2010 U.S. Census efforts). I asked her about potential support for the JACL in attending the major policy conferences impacting the AAPI communities and she basically said that she only wants to deal with the umbrella organizations and not with the individual entities. What impressed me about her statement was not her position. That was to be expected. The sobering part was that she did not consider the JACL as an umbrella organization, at least in her circles.

Therefore, perhaps the JACL will be well served if our leadership fosters deeper relationships with the goal of becoming more of an identified versus silent partner with organizations we support. Perhaps some organizations like the new APAICS LNI could be targeted to become the advocacy support arm of the JACL, and enlist the well established Asian American Center for Advancing Justice to vet our common ground matters such as legal issues. I know this smacks of here-sy, our relinquishing long-standing leadership roles in the AAPI community but we are somewhat victims of our own success with the advent of all these new groups. But in an era of dwindling membership and resources, conscripting portions of our organization's functions may be necessary for survival. The time may be now to firmly establish the JACL as a visible partner with key organizations while we still have some influence.

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\* Must be member of National JACL

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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

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## Help Needed for IMB Repairs *by Tom Nishisaka*

The IMB building is 103 years young. The San Jose JACL has been tasked with the responsibility to ensure that the building is preserved and maintained for future generations to use. As with other aging wooden structures, the building needs extensive work and repairs.

Building fumigation work will be scheduled soon to kill airborne and subterranean termites. This will be followed up by hiring a contractor to repair and restore the following areas: roof and gutter replacement, re-enforcing front porch joists, general wood rot and termite damage repairs on the floors, column repair/replacement, flagstone patio repair, landscape irrigation, exterior siding and window frame(s) repair/replacement, and install exterior lighting to enhance personal safety. Lastly, a nice paint job would be in order.

Thanks to past community support, we have about \$100,000 budgeted for immediate use which is insufficient to repair all the listed defects. Therefore, we are reaching out to our community to assist us in maintaining this historical building whether in funding or in-kind services. Of course, any monetary contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Your contributions can also be made confidentially but please note your contributions are for the building fund.

We are also looking for contractors for pro bono or perhaps at-cost services and/or volunteers to contribute time and expertise to accomplish these repairs. Experienced electricians, landscapers, sign manufacturers, masons, carpenters, roofers, etc., please contact the San Jose JACL office to offer your assistance.

We are projecting our repairs to this venerable Japantown Landmark to be completed by May 2014 to showcase the IMB for our JACL National Convention in July. There is much work to do. We cannot do it without your continued generosity and support!



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## National Convention: Washington DC & San Jose



The JACL National Convention is being held in **Washington D.C. from July 24 – 26, 2013** and will commemorate the passage of Redress and the signing of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. In addition to the business sessions of the convention, the black-tie opening gala will honor members of the JACL lobbying arm for redress, the Legislative Education Committee. And the closing reception entails the exclusive opportunity to visit the residence of the Japanese Ambassador, His Excellency **Kenichiro Sasae and Mrs. Sasae**. Typically, the Ambassador's Residence is used only to receive top dignitaries and features a tea room, expansive koi pond, and grand garden. This will be the first time that a reception will be held exclusively for the JACL.

All in all, the convention will be an opportunity to participate in the rarified atmosphere only our Nation's capital can best provide!

Then the following year, JACL will bring the National Convention to **San Jose during Obon week July 9 – 12, 2014** at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel. We will be providing a program that looks to recognize the diversity of the Asian American Pacific Islander community which is reflected in our theme: **"We Are America."** The rich cultural offerings of Japantown will also be highlighted with the culmination in Saturday's Obon dance!

So please mark your calendars and plan to reunite with old friends and make plenty of new ones!

More to come.





## Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony Notes *by Kats Hikido*



The veterans of the 100th/442nd & MIS next to the Congressional Gold Medal in the Wilsey Court, DeYoung Museum.

Here are a few notes and pictures from Saturday's Congressional Gold Medal event honoring the Nisei Soldiers of WWII

The speakers who addressed the assembled veterans and their guests, were House Minority Leader, **Nancy Pelosi**; **Daphne Kwok**, Chair of President Obama's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders; **Konrad Ng**, Smithsonian Institution Representative (also brother-in-law of President Obama); and **Lawson Sakai**, decorated veteran of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. They all gave tribute to the record of the 100th/442nd RCT and the MIS.

Among the veterans attending the program was **Roy Matsumoto** who served with the Merrill's Marauders in Burma and who is now 100-years old. He continues to be clear minded and sturdy of stature.

The Congressional Gold Medal's first recipient was George Washington. Over the years, it has been awarded to those individuals and groups who have been recognized to have made exceptional contributions to the United States of America.

The medal will be on display from June 29 to August 4 in the public area of the Wilsey Court, deYoung Museum in San Francisco. There will be ongoing programs during this time, which the public is invited to attend. After the medal finishes touring the country, it will be permanently displayed at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C.



Katsumi Hikido and Roy Matsumoto



Katsumi Hikido and Nancy Pelosi

(Editors note: **Kats Hikido** and **Jack Matsuoka** were selected to help represent the NCWNP District's WWII veterans at the June 29<sup>th</sup> opening ceremonies of the deYoung Museum tour stop of the Congressional Gold Medal bestowed collectively to the members of the 442 Regimental Combat Team, 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion and the Military Intelligence Service. On the drive up to the deYoung, Jack suffered a stroke and had to be attended to by paramedics upon arrival and was then rushed to the hospital. As of this writing, he is doing "okay" and we all wish him a speedy and complete recovery.)

## Nikkei Matsuri Celebration *by Cindy Sugino*

**On Sunday April 28<sup>th</sup>** - The JACL, San Jose chapter, Once again heated up the giant woks at the SJ Buddhist church in downtown San Jose for this 36<sup>th</sup> annual event with Fried IKA and Ice Tea on the menu.

As the crowd rolled in they heard "Fried IKA"..."Get your Hot and Fresh, fried IKA"!

The 'Fry Boys' had the woks all fired up, cooking up the IKA. The 'kitchen crew' prepared the condiments and the 'Booth' mixed the ice tea and setup for the day.



Many got a glimpse and sought pictures of our mascots '**IkaMan**' and '**IkaGirl**'. It was very nice day with the crowd enjoying the entertainment, crafts and food booths.

'Thank-you' goes out to ALL of our hard working **volunteers** including the **Nor Cal Elite cheer group** for stepping in at this event. Everyone said they had a fun and friendship filled day!

Special thanks to **Santo Market** for again helping store and deliver the ika!



**Save the Date next year! April 27, 2014 is the 37th Annual Nikkei Matsuri-San Jose Japantown!**

*Follow the festival on Facebook, search 'Nikkei Matsuri'*





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## Unwanted IMB Tenants Evicted *by Tom Oshidari*



Hole made to remove the bees.

While one set of known, unwanted IMB tenants, termites, are scheduled to be fumigated soon, another surprise group of tenants, bees, were discovered during one of the fumigation quote walk-throughs. The bees had found a gap on the south corner of the front balcony and had established a hive in the area between the front of the balcony and the first crossbeam. On June 11, professional beekeeper, Doug Smith, performed his specialty, removing approximately 15,000 bees unharmed with his special vacuum and clearing out the accumulated honeycombs. Judging from the size of the honeycombs, Doug estimated the bees had been in residence for 2-3 months.



We were later informed that the bees were relocated to a new home in Los Gatos. The honeycombs were available for tasting at the June Board meeting. Fresh, wild honey has a lighter and more fragrant taste than the typical store-bought honey—yum!

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## SJ JACL's 11th Annual Community Recognition Dinner to be Held on November 2nd

You're invited to San Jose JACL's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Recognition Dinner-- ***Volunteers - Heart of the Community***, to be held on **Saturday, November 2, 2013**, at the **San Jose Airport Garden Hotel - Mediterranean Center** in San Jose. Tickets are priced individually at \$100 (\$90 for San Jose JACL members) or \$900 for a table for ten. The celebration begins with No Host Cocktails and Silent Auction at 5:00 pm and with the Dinner program scheduled to start at 6:00 pm.

San Jose JACL is proud to recognize the following three individuals and organization:

**Mas Horiuchi** - Active with the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin Dharma school for over 25 years; also with the Board of Directors and other committees. Volunteer Chaplain at SC County jails. Volunteer notary at Yu-Ai Kai.

**Mike Inouye** - NBC Bay Area Traffic Reporter who gives tirelessly of his time to act as Master of Ceremonies at non-profit events in the Asian American community.

**Dale Sasaki** - Active in the Japantown community organizations Yu-Ai Kai and Wesley United Methodist Church; is the legal advisor for CYS.

**Midori Kai** - A group comprised of professional women who are committed to community involvement, supporting local non-profits, mentoring youth, and celebrating Japanese American heritage.

Along with the dinner and program, the evening will again include its popular silent auction as well as an encore for the dessert dash, a fun event which made its debut last year. This function is the Chapter's major fundraiser to support its programs.

A reservation form can be found on the San Jose JACL **website** [www.sanosejacl.org](http://www.sanosejacl.org) or may be obtained from the **San Jose JACL office, 408 295-1250**. For more information contact **Tom Oshidari, [toshidari@yahoo.com](mailto:toshidari@yahoo.com) 408 489-2161** or **Sharon Uyeda, [suyeda9356@aol.com](mailto:suyeda9356@aol.com) , 408 259-3656**.

## Girl Scout Zabuton Project *by Leon Kimura*



The Girl Scouts of America, Troop 61304 sponsored by the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, successfully fulfilled the requirements to receive the Girl Scouts of America Bronze Award by designing and fabricating eighteen zabuton seat cushions for use in the Issei Memorial Building community conference room.

The troop brainstormed on items to sell for their fundraiser and decided on greeting cards, laminated bookmarks and bags of chex mixes. They sold on two dates at the Betsuin, including during Hanamatsuri. They then purchased the fabric, batting and thread and learned to sew on machines provided by one of the parents.

On May 17<sup>th</sup> nine Girl Scouts came to the Issei Memorial Building and gave a wonderful presentation! In gratitude, the San Jose JACL Board of Directors prepared a Resolution of Appreciation for the troop. Thank you to the Scouts and to the parents! Instilling support for the community by our youth is such an important and powerful contribution to help ensure its future health. And again, congratulations to the Girl Scouts on achieving the Bronze Award!

## Eagle Scout Award *by Leon Kimura*

On April 6<sup>th</sup>, the **Boy Scouts of America Troop 611** convened their Eagle Scout Court of Honor at the Betsuin Annex to award the standing of Eagle Scout to three deserving young adults. **Marshall Yukio Seid, Andrew Stephen Wong and Justin Tyler Hashimoto** joined the prestigious ranks of Troop 611 Eagle Scouts.



The San Jose JACL was fortunate to be selected by Scout Justin Hashimoto to perform his Eagle Scout service project, which was to design, construct and install two beautiful wooden benches located in the Issei Memorial Building's rear yard gardens. And because we were selected to benefit from Justin's project, I was honored to present him with a Resolution of Commendation from the San Jose JACL Board of Directors at the Court of Honor ceremonies.

Congratulations Justin, Marshall and Stephen! Thank you for your service and allowing me to be a part of your special day!

## A Good Day for Earth Day *by James Aki Matsumoto*



Aki Matsumoto working on the cleanup crew.

The annual Japantown Earth Day cleanup was held on Saturday April 20, 2013. There was a fair turnout and included an appearance from City Councilman **Sam Liccardo**.

All of the volunteers brought their own tools and helped clear-out overgrown weeds along Sixth Street.

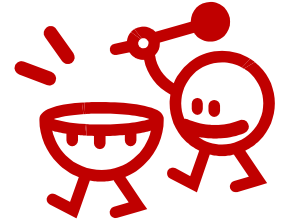
They worked from 7am to 12pm and the San Jose JACL would like to thank those who helped make Japantown tidy for Nikkei Matsuri.





## San Jose Taiko x The Bangerz Concert *by Evan Brand*

On Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, the Montgomery Theater in downtown San Jose held a collaborative concert featuring the San Jose Taiko and the DJ super-group, The Bangerz. San Jose JAACL Board members **Evan Brand**, **Hayato Takami**, and **Jeff Sera** attended the event. The eleven song set blended elements of traditional Taiko drumming and electronic music and featured striking choreography by the San Jose Taiko. Standouts included the songs “Kim Moku/Alum Rock/Without You” for its use of rolling drums and beautiful choreography, and “Arigato,” which featured a video montage and rap that paid tribute to Japantown’s community roots. The concert was funded by a successful Kickstarter campaign created by the San Jose Taiko. A grand total of \$9,160 was raised over 30 days, exceeding the initial campaign goal of \$8,000.



## Sake San Jose *by Leon Kimura*



Japantown was once again the location of Sake samplers as part of the **Yu-Ai Kai Senior Center**’s popular annual fundraiser. And the Issei Memorial Building (IMB) was ready for action with San Jose Taiko attracting the crowd by performing in the front with the **Wesley Jazz Ensemble** following up by filling the air in the rear gardens with smooth rhythm and song! Our two Ozeki pouring stations kept the sake flowing for happy patrons (and servers)!

Our newest IMB tenant, **Ron Muriera** Executive Director of the Filipino American National Historic Society of Santa Clara Valley (FANHS) joined me in receiving guests and showing them the displays set up for their entertainment and education as they came through the IMB. We appreciate the opportunity to support the worthy programs of Yu-Ai Kai and also expose the public to the IMB facilities, tenants and our programs. Kampai!



## New Cherry Tree Planted in Front of the Issei Memorial Building *by Tom Oshidari*

To those of you who have noticed, the three venerable cherry trees in front of the Issei Memorial Building have not done well in recent years. In fact, the one nearest the front door was completely dead. Through a cooperative effort, that tree has been removed and replaced.

First, **Jimi Yamaichi** arranged to have the old tree cut down and the stump ground down. He had hopes of creating something beautiful from the large burl the tree contained but alas, the burl was bad. Next, **Tamon Norimoto** allowed the use of his truck and his time to join **Tom Oshidari** to pick up the new tree at the nursery. Finally, on May 25, 2013, **Leon Kimura** and Tom dug the hole and planted and staked the new tree (*Prunus Serrulata*, *Akebono*). **San Jose Taiko** has taken on watering the new tree to go along with the cherry tree gifted to the IMB last year by the **Consul General of Japan, San Francisco**.





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## Join JACL For Third Thursdays Dining Out *by James Aki Matsumoto*



Did you join us last year for the Rubio's and Spaghetti Factory Dining Out Fundraisers? Everyone who attended said the food was great and it was lots of fun. This summer, we are starting the dining out fundraiser again, on every **Third Thursday** starting with **July 18th at Dickey's Barbeque Pit**, 5391 Prospect Rd in San Jose. Also keep your calendar open for Thursday **August 15th** for another fun day from 2pm till 9pm closing at **Rubio's Fresh Mexican Grill** located at 1010 El Paseo de Saratoga in San Jose. On the third Thursday in September join us at **Sonoma Chicken Coop** on Skyport Drive near San Jose Airport. Please remember to bring the Dining Out Flyers for each restaurant so the San Jose JACL can receive the fundraising \$\$\$.

All the Dining Out Flyers will be available online at [www.sanjosejacl.org](http://www.sanjosejacl.org) or you can pick up hardcopies at the Issei Memorial Building. See you there!

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## ATTENTION: NEW MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

The Board meetings are open to all and are regularly held on the Second Friday of the month at 6:30 pm.

Please note that the **September, October** and **November** meetings this year will be held on the **First Wednesday**.

And on **November 6th**, the annual **General meeting will start at 6:00 pm** at the Issei Memorial Building.



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## San Jose JACL Participates in Memorial Day Service *by Tom Oshidari*

San Jose JACL was represented by **Tom Oshidari** in joining the many other JA community organizations in remembering deceased Japanese American servicepersons. Flower offerings were presented at the Oak Hill Japanese Cemetery Trust Memorial Day Service by the following organizations:

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9970  
Wesley United Methodist Church  
Santa Clara Valley Japanese Christian Church  
San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin  
Buddhist Temple of Mountain View  
Nichiren Buddhist Temple  
Konko Church  
Seicho-No-Ie, Truth of Life Center Church  
San Jose JACL  
West Valley JACL  
Silicon Valley JACL  
Yu-Ai Kai Organization  
Oak Hill Japanese Cemetery Committee

Regular attendees, the Honorable **Mike Honda** and the Honorable **Zoe Lofgren**, again were present and gave memorial messages.

**Boy Scout Troop 201, Wesley United Methodist Church**, opened the program with the presentation of colors and also closed the program with the retirement of colors. Finally, **Ted Hasegawa** played Taps to end the ceremony.

Honoring our Nikkei veterans  
 Who have served  
 In the United States military  
 Beginning with  
 The Spanish American War  
 And carrying the banner through  
 WWI and WWII  
 Korean Conflict and Vietnam War  
 To Today  
 In Afghanistan and Iraq

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Judy Niizawa, President  
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<b>Business Card</b>	<b>\$100</b>
<b>1/4 page</b>	<b>\$150</b>
<b>1/2 page</b>	<b>\$250</b>

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Electronic artwork can be sent to:  
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 Evan Brand I  
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 Karen Matsumoto G  
 Shelby Matsumoto G  
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 Janice Nakamura I  
 Jennifer Nishisaka I  
 Tom Nishisaka I  
 Tamon Norimoto I

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I - Nikkei Matsuri / Ika & Iced Tea Booth  
 O - Outlook

G - Girl Scout Zabuton Project  
 SS - Sake San Jose

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DONATION WISH LIST

If you can donate a sturdy credenza to use in our front lobby to display handouts and to store extras, we would sincerely appreciate it!

The Yu-Ai Kai newspaper shed activity has now been relocated to their facility and we will be using the shed space to store gardening tools, portable BBQ, household repair tools, and outdoor equipment and furniture. We hope to make it easier for all community members who wish to use the patio and garden space to do so more efficiently. We would also like to organize the shed and have tables, chairs, the BBQ, and other equipment readily available for outdoor use on the patio and lawn. Used tools in good shape welcome! Please provide an estimated value and a receipt will be mailed to you. We are a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

Therefore, we would appreciate your help in providing the following:

**Shade Canopies, (collapsible)**

**Folding Tables (all sizes)**

**Folding chairs**

**Lightweight Blue Poly Tarps (dust covers)**

**Gardening Tools (pruning shears, lopper, pole saw, shovel, rake, etc.)**

**Handyman Tools (Tool chest, hammer, saw, pliers, drill, files, screwdrivers, etc.)**

**50-100 foot Extension cords and power strips**

**Portable PA system**

**Saw horses/Workmate**

**Shelving Units/Cabinets (freestanding)**



**Japanese American Citizens League  
San Jose Chapter**

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***Please remember San Jose JACL in your charitable giving***



## Calendar of Events

### July

- 11 API Justice Coalition Mixer
- 12 Board Meeting
- 15 Farewell Party for Consul General Inomata
- 18 3rd Thursday Dine-Out @ Dickey's BBQ
- 22 API Justice Coalition Meeting
- 24-26 National Convention - Washington DC
- 31 BAAPALS Mixer

### August

- 9 Board Meeting
- 15 3rd Thursday Dine-Out @ Rubio's
- 16-18 CAAM Fest SJ - Asian American Films
- 17 IMB Clean-up Day
- 23 Community Appreciation BBQ @ IMB

### September

- 4 Board Meeting
- 19 3rd Thursday Dine-Out @ Sweet Tomatoes

# 2013

