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JACL

OUTLOOK

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Congressional Gold Medal Dinner *by Neil Kozuma*



On Friday, June 12, 2015, twenty members of the San Jose JACL supported the Congressional Gold Medal Dinner held at the Fairmont Hotel in downtown San Jose.

"The exceptional bravery and outstanding military service of Japanese Americans during World War II is a story that all Americans should know, but many don't. To ensure this chapter of U.S. history will be shared for generations to come, the National Veterans Network, in partnership with the Smithsonian

Asian Pacific American Center and the National Museum of American History, is developing the Congressional Gold Medal Digital Exhibition, highlighting the personal stories of these Japanese American soldiers who served under the most trying of circumstances. Connecting the past to the present, the exhibition will also share the post-war impact of their military service with the goal of reaching students, teachers and families nationwide.

The Congressional Gold Medal, the nation's highest civilian honor awarded to the Nisei Soldiers by the U.S. Congress in 2011, is presently on display at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History's Price of Freedom exhibit. The digital project will serve as the interpretive and educational exhibition for the Congressional Gold Medal to be unveiled at the Smithsonian in 2016. It is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Interior, National Parks Service, Japanese American Confinement Site Grant Program, Cole Chemical and AARP" (description provided by the National Veterans Network).

There were over 500 in attendance from San Jose Japantown to Washington, D.C., each sharing the thought of a continuing re-telling of the stories from Nisei Soldiers through a permanent Smithsonian digital exhibit.

Michael Inouye, NBC Bay Area traffic reporter, welcomed the attendees. The presentation of Colors was made by the U.S. Army Color Guard. Co-Chairs **Floyd Mori** and **Mari Watanabe** followed with introductions. There were remarks from Smithsonian Board Member **Robert Johnson**. Then, Executive Director **Christine Sato-Yamazaki** presented the Congressional Gold Medal Digital Exhibition. The keynote speaker, former U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs **General Eric Shinseki** was introduced by former U.S. Secretary of Transportation, **Norman Mineta**. A special thank you to General Shinseki was made by **Lawson Sakai**, 442nd RCT. Spoken Word Artist **G. Yamazawa** performed and Olympic Gold Medalist **Kristi Yamaguchi** shared "My Grandpa's Story". The evening concluded with closing remarks by Retired Lt. Colonel **Michael Yaguchi**.

...Continued on page 2

Congressional Gold Medal – (Continued)

The Congressional Gold Medal Dinner was a successful event and many local organizations and individuals helped support the fund-raising efforts of the National Veterans Network. If you would like additional information about supporting the Congressional Gold Medal Digital Exhibition, visit www.nationalveteransnetwork.com



Back: Leon Kimura, Christy Chung, Neil Kozuma, Komo Gauvreau
Front: M. Oyama, Leo Oyama, Joyce Oyama, Linda Holmberg



Ray Matsumoto, Lucy Matsumoto, Nancy Smith, Louise Kinoshita, Evan Brand, Terry Oshidari, Eugene Kinoshita, Marge Tsuji

Community Recognition Dinner Honorees : *by Christy Chung*

The 12th Annual Community Recognition Dinner.

Honorees:

Dr. Aggie Idemoto, Dr. Mitsu Kumagai, Patricia Nakashima, Judy Niizawa, Dr. Roy Takeuchi, and Its Yokota will be honored for exemplifying this year's theme, "Incarcerates to Educators to Community Contributors."

The event will be held on **Saturday, November 7, 2015** at the San Jose Airport Garden Hotel, and will feature a dessert dash, quilt drawing, and silent auction. Tickets are \$125 per person, \$115 per person for JACL members, and \$1,150 for a table of 10. Reservations will be mailed in August.

If you would like to donate a dessert or silent auction item, please contact Co-President and Community Recognition Dinner chairperson Sharon Uyeda.

Last year's event drew close to 250 attendees, and we look forward to this year's event being just as successful. Hope to see you there!



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The San Jose JACL Board meets on the **Second Friday** of each month at 6:30 p.m., at the Issei Memorial Building. Meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome. Come and help shape San Jose JACL's future.

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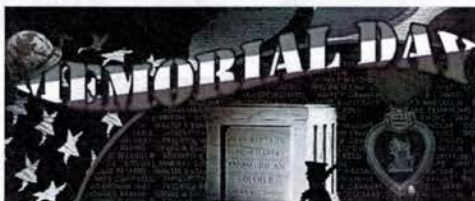
San Jose JACL Attends Memorial Day Services: *by Tom Oshidari and Neil Kozuma*

On Memorial Day, San Jose JACL sent representatives to two local memorial services. **Tom Oshidari** attended the Oak Hill Japanese Cemetery Trust Memorial Day Service in San Jose, while **Neil Kozuma** attended the Golden Gate National Cemetery Memorial Day Service in San Bruno.

The Oak Hill service is an interfaith service honoring Japanese American veterans. There were representatives from all of the Japanese-based churches in the Santa Clara Valley as well as community organizations: **San Jose JACL, Silicon Valley JACL, and Yu-Ai Kai. Boy Scout Troops from San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin and Wesley United Methodist Church** presented and retired colors. The Honorable **Mike Honda** and **Zoe Lofgren**, again as they have for many years, took the time to attend this service and deliver brief inspirational messages along with the ministers of the churches. **Eric Masunaga** of the Japanese Cemetery Trust Committee served as master of ceremonies, while **Ken Iwagaki** was responsible for behind the scenes organizational management duties.

The Golden Gate National Cemetery Memorial Day Service honors Americans and Americans of Japanese descent who sacrificed their lives while fighting for the United States of America. The memorial ceremony at the National Cemetery is an annual event hosted by the **Golden Gate Nisei Memorial Post No. 9879 Veterans of Foreign Wars** and the **JACL Northern California Western Nevada Pacific District**. Representing the NCWNP District of JACL were **Governor David Unruhe**, Regional Director **Patty Wada**, and Education Committee Chair **Greg Marutani**. The memorial program began with a presentation of colors by Boy Scout Troop 12 followed by Jr. Vice Commander **Sandy Kaya**, the Master of Ceremony. Invocation was given by **Reverend Ken Yamada** of Berkeley Higashi Honganji. The memorial honor roll call was given by **Omar Doi**, Post 9879 Chaplain and an introduction of Gold Star Parents and Veterans' Wives was provided by **Kazuko Iwahashi**. Personal reflections and memorial remarks were given by author and historian, **Tom Graves**. Taps was performed by two Boy Scouts from Troop 12.

Congress authorized construction of the Golden Gate National Cemetery in 1937, with the first interments in 1941. Notable names that Neil recognized were Fleet Admiral **Chester W. Nimitz**, Congressman **Leo Ryan**, and San Francisco County Supervisor **Dan White**. The national cemetery was officially dedicated on Memorial Day, May 30, 1942. As of 2005, the cemetery held 137,435 interments. Ironically, a number of service members who are buried at the Golden Gate National Cemetery were interned in the stables at the nearby Tanforan Racetrack during the early part of the Japanese American concentration camp experience.



2015 Board Retreat *By Christy Chung*

On Saturday, May 23, 2015, a half-day board retreat was held at the Issei Memorial Building. Susan Yuen of Yuen Designs facilitated the retreat with the assistance of four volunteers. Susan is familiar with the JACL: she received a JACL scholarship to pursue her MA degree in International Policy Studies at Stanford University and was a JACL member when she lived in Hawaii.

The format of the retreat was different than in past years. A design-thinking process was used as the framework to think about the specific needs of the chapter and generate new ideas for activities. By the end of the retreat, four main concepts rose to the top: creating an innovation fund to vet and promote new initiatives, organizing social events such as a cooking demonstration, streamlining volunteer responsibilities, and making board meetings more engaging.

Design thinking is used in many fields. It helps people to focus on the specific needs of the user, brainstorm ideas, prototype a selected idea, and test the product with the user to determine if the solution satisfies the requirements. Design thinking is a highly-structured process that fosters creativity and action, and the board plans to use this method in the future to plan activities and initiatives.

Design Thinking Workshop: Hosted by Susan Yuen

This year, at our "Annual Retreat" we were treated to a "Design Thinking" /Problem solving workshop put on by **Susan Yuen of "Yuen Designs"**

This half day retreat was very productive and everyone said they enjoyed it. Susan Puts on a Great team building workshop. Visit her at Webpage- <http://yuendesigns.com/>) or FaceBook Search for "Yuendesigns", for more information on Susan and the Services that her company provides.



pictures from the workshop

Susan Yuen



2015 Scholarship Luncheon—By Sharon Uyeda

Four High School Scholars Honored at Luncheon



On Saturday, May 9, 2015, four high school seniors were awarded scholarships at a luncheon held at the Issei Memorial Building. The recipients and guests were treated to a sandwich and salad buffet lunch. Thanks go to **Terry Oshidari** for preparing a delicious kale salad, **Sharon Uyeda** for the tasty and favorite potato salad and **Joyce Oyama** for large and juicy strawberries. Photo is of the recipients who were in attendance. The previous *Outlook* issue gave more information on each scholar.

L to R:

Tiffany Ziegelman (\$500 Ada Y. Uyeda Memorial Scholarship), **Paige Ogawa** (\$1,000 Ray and Lucy Matsumoto Business Scholarship and \$250 San Jose JACL Chapter Award) and **Megan Nakamae** (\$2,500 George Masunaga Endowment Scholarship). **Photo taken by Gary Jio**

San Jose J-Town Film Festival – by Neil Kozuma

The first San Jose J-Town Film Festival was held on the weekend of Friday, May 29th through Sunday, May 31st at the Northside Community Center and the Japanese American Museum of San Jose (Sunday).

The films shown were:

May 29th: **Delano Manongs: Forgotten Heroes of the United Farmworkers**

May 30th: **Hibakusha**. After the film screening, a question and answer session was held with director **Steve Nguyen**.

Kumu Hina. A special question and answer session with Kumu Hina was held via Skype.

Skin Stories. After the film screening, co-producer **Emiko Omori** provided a question and answer session.

East Side Sushi. A question and answer session was held with director **Anthony Lucero** and actors and actresses after the film screening and a special sushi reception was hosted by the J-Town Film Festival. The San Jose JACL was a co-presenter for this film.

The People I've Slept With. After the film screening a question and answer session was held with screenwriter **Koji Sakai** and actress **Karin Anna Cheung**.

May 31st: **Issei: The First Generation**. A question and answer session was held with filmmaker **Toshi Washizu**.

The J-Town Film Festival was brought to San Jose Japantown by the **Contemporary Asian Theatre Scene**, **Jerry Hiura**, **Lucia Cha**, **Ken Kamei**, **Komo Gauvreau**, and the **Japanese American Museum of San Jose**. Stay tuned-in for next year's J-Town Film Festival.

The Big Read By Leon Kimura

The Palo Alto Children's Theatre Production Manager, Mr. **Lane Pianta**, contacted our Chapter back in September 2014 to propose a partnership in their 2015 "Big Read" program. This unique program developed by Lane, is targeted towards reluctant readers and is partially funded by a National Endowment for the Arts grant. The program formula first presents students with an intriguing book to read and then a teaching artist from the theatre helps them interpret and respond to the writing through a personal creative response. Drawings, paintings, poems, haiku, spoken word performances, and a three-part play are all examples of individual and group responses to **Julie Otsuka's** novel **When the Emperor Was Divine**.

The value of the JACL in participating in this year's Big Read was enhancing the exposure of the student participants and greater community to the history of Japanese American wartime incarceration through the literary prose of Julie Otsuka. Five high schools participated with camp survivor visits, school assemblies and/or community events from Burlingame to San Jose with 334 students working with the teaching artists and planning the community events. 382 attendees came to in-school assemblies and the public community events. Many, if not all of these hundreds of predominantly non-Japanese participants gained a greater knowledge and desire to learn more of the WWII Japanese American story.

The kick-off event included a showing of **Dr. Satsuki Ina's** "Children of the Camps", a documentary of 6-incarcerates discussing in a 3-day session their experiences in the camps. Dr. Ina also attended and participated in a Q&A session. Another program highlight was when the Sequoia JACL Chapter and Palo Alto Buddhist Temple incorporated the Big Read program into their Day of Remembrance event by having **Tom Izu** from the DeAnza College California History Center and author Julie Otsuka speak about her book via Skype. The final Big Read event incorporated the Heart Mountain artwork of **Shingo Nishiura** juxtaposed against the student artist responses to his artwork and the book by the students of Foothill College. One young artist, **Melina Hillen**, created a piece entitled "Radiance" which captured the beauty within Shingo's mind as he painted the beautiful camp scenes while imprisoned in the oppressive camp environment. It was quite enjoyable to view all of the student's creative responses, in all of their chosen artistic mediums. They were moving, insightful, creative, poignant, sometimes even humorous and can be summed up with the words: "imaginative empathy".



Radiance

by Melina Hillen

My thanks to Lane Pianta and his team for his/their creative labors in accomplishing a successful Big Read program targeted this year towards the Japanese American story. To the teachers, who graciously accepted both the extra work and especially the challenge of creatively expanding young minds to a difficult subject matter. Also, to those incredible students along with their

families' support. I hope that they continue family discussions and explore the stories of the JA wartime legacy. The tough lessons of 70+ years ago are still so valuable for all Americans. Thank you to **Richard Yamaguchi** for joining me 10-months ago as San Jose representatives to the Big Read advisory committee. **Lynn Yamaichi** also provided her contacts at San Jose High to facilitate a Big Read session for our community students. Lynn and her family, including the **Santo's**, attended and spoke at the San Jose session. To **Mike Kaku** for engaging the Sequoia Chapter participation and **Frank Nishiura** and his family for sharing Shingo's artwork and story. And finally, to San Jose JACL Co-President **Sharon Uyeda**, thank you for attending Big Read sessions as a show of interest and support and valuable program of education. for this unique

Haiku
Rules about the fence
You could not go over it
You let the kite go

Cruising the Far East with Norman Mineta and Alan Simpson

By Tom Oshidari

In April my wife, Terry, and I joined a group led by Karen Akahoshi to cruise the Far East on the Crystal Symphony. To our pleasant surprise, among our shipmates were the Honorable Norman Mineta and his good friend, the Honorable Alan Simpson, retired Senator from Wyoming, along with their wives.

For those not familiar with their friendship, Norm and Alan met as 12 year olds when Alan's Cody, Wyoming, Boy Scout Troop accepted the Heart Mountain Boy Scouts' invitation to come into the camp for a scout jamboree. Norm and Alan began their friendship as pup tent mates, maintained a pen pal relationship for awhile, and then many years later they renewed their friendship in the halls of the U.S. Congress.

Norm Mineta and Alan Simpson were on board as Celebrity Lecturers as part of the ship's enrichment program. They each spoke individually twice; then appeared together a third time for questions and answers. Alan Simpson's first lecture was entitled, "Politics is a Contact Sport." He described how the current Congress is dysfunctional because its members spend much of their time fund raising, little time getting to know fellow members, and vote heavily along party lines. This contrasts with the past when members got to know each other and respected differences in opinion. His second lecture was on the Federal budget. He showed where two thirds of the budget is tied up in defense and entitlements (social security), and if the Congress is not changing those (and so far they are not), then any talk of fixing the budget is just misleading.

Norm Mineta's first lecture was entitled, "A Lesson in Democracy." He recounted his experience with the unjust removal of his family from their home and their incarceration at Heart Mountain Internment Center. The lesson in democracy occurred some 40 years later when the grass roots campaign begun by the JACL for redress and reparations successfully made its way through the U. S. Congress and resulted in the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, offering an apology to the Japanese American incarcerated and leading to a reparations payment of \$20,000 to each living incarcerated.

In Norm's second lecture he gave a moment by moment commentary of his 9/11 experience as Secretary of Transportation. He recounted that one incident could be considered random; two incidents are a trend; three or more are a plan. After the third plane went down, he called for all planes over the U.S. to be grounded. One surprising fact to come out was that contrary to popular perception, the one plane thought to be overtaken by the passengers was actually brought down by the pilot, according to black box information.

Many of us have had the opportunity to hear Norm speak and know what a fine speaker he is. I was pleasantly surprised to find that Alan Simpson is an even more entertaining speaker, blending his down-home humor and candid honesty. Personally, these lectures were among the highlights of the cruise, even though the food and the ambiance were great, also!

Welcome New and Returning Members to San Jose JACL *by Iris Lou*

Please welcome our new member: **Katherine Matsumura** to our San Jose JACL organization.

We would like to thank the following members for renewing their membership:

Rick Abe, Christy Chung, Kiyoko Dobashi, Perry and Toni Dobashi, Stephen Fugita, Yasuo and Janice Hara, Donald Hashimoto, Helen Hayashi, Amy Higuchi, George and Patricia Hinoki, Clarence Hiraishi, Michael Honda, Barbara Horiuchi, Brent Horiuchi, Karen Inouye, Dorothy Ishimatsu, Michiko Itatani, Reiko Iwanaga, Joe Junguji, Lillian Junker, Frank Kagawa, Margery Kanemoto, Vic and Jane Kawasaki, Leon Kimura, Hisayo Kitahara, Mitsu Kumagai, Tom Kumano, Fumiko Mannes, Jack and Jean Matsuda, Daren Matsuoka, Franklin and Mary Ann Matsumoto, Ray and Lucy Matsumoto, Violet Matsushima, Florence Matsushita, Jim McClure and Sue Sakai-McClure, Tamaye Morino, Hisako Mukai, Henry Nakamura, George Nakano, Chiyoko Nerio, Ko Nishimura, Richard Ogami, Violet Onishi, Kay Ono, Nellie and Takeshi Ota, Terry and Shirley Ota, Leo Oyama, Henry Sasaki, Mae Sato, John Schwartz, Bret Shimizu, Eric Shimizu, Alma Shiomoto, Hisa Suzuki, Pamela Tokunaga, Nobuko Toyota, Marge Tsuji, Richard and Naomi Tsurumoto, Emi Tsutsumi, Yoshio and Kikue Uyeoka, Edmund and Joanne Vasquez, and Yoshiko Yamashita. Let's keep on adding more new members to our organization!

I would like to thank **Caroline Kurimoto** and **Marge Tsuji** for keeping the membership records updated and sending out renewals for San Jose JACL. I wouldn't be able to do this without their help.

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 me at **Inky1lou1452@yahoo.com**.

Dine Outs

April L & L Hawaiian BBQ Dine Out, *by Iris Lou*

A taste of Hawaii right here in San Jose. A plate of two scoops of rice, macaroni salad, and a main course of either...kalua pig, BBQ teriyaki, BBQ Chicken or Mixed BBQ, Loco Moco, etc...what a delicious way to have a fundraiser. The night was filled with delicious food, chatter, and laughter. Thanks to Joyce Oyama who topped our night with Dove's candies for our dessert! A thank you to Jenny and Minh Lam, who generously gave us a week (April 12 to April 18) of Dine Out fundraising at L & L Hawaiian BBQ on Coleman Ave. They even added a donation.

May Dine-out at Minato Japanese Restaurant, *by Sharon Uyeda*

The May Dine-out was held at Minato Japanese Restaurant on May 21st with just a few people participating. The following individuals either had lunch or dinner: Jill Bohn, Judy Niizawa, Betty Togami, Henry Uyeda and Sharon Uyeda. Doing take-out for her extended family was Joyce Oyama. Apologies to anyone who supported the dine-out but is not listed. Our appreciation to those who supported the Minato dine-out.

Nikkei Matsuri –Cindy Sugino

The 38 th Annual *Nikkei Matsuri Festival* was held in Japantown San Jose, On Sunday April 26th. Beautiful day, Sunny but not too hot.

For a long time the San Jose JACL sold "Ika" (aka calamari) this year we made a change and unveiled "Korokke". Vegetable and Corn Korokke with a beautiful display of toppings was quite a hit. There were some customers that came for Ika but tried the Korokke.



Mark at the Frying Woks



Kitchen helpers

Combo 1: Creamy Sriracha, Unagi Sauce, Bonito Flakes

Combo 2: Mayo, Tonkatsu Sauce, Bonito-Egg Furikake

Combo 3: Wasabi Mayo, Unagi Sauce, Sweet Sake - Bonito Furikake



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Appreciation BBQ

Friday, August 21, 2015

Issei Memorial Building Backyard

565 North Fifth Street

San Jose, CA 95112

5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

San Jose JACL will host another appreciation BBQ to thank our volunteers for their contributions throughout the year. Come meet, greet and eat with other volunteers and members.

Outlook Annual Advertising

Business Card	\$100
1/4 page	\$150
1/2 page	\$250

Please provide camera ready art and make checks payable to San Jose JACL.

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L&L BBQ – LL, Big Read – BR, Nikkei Matsuri – NM, Scholarship Luncheon – SL, Minato – M, Retreat – R, Filmfest – F, CGM Dinner – CGM



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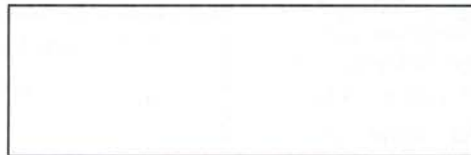
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Calendar of Events

July 13 - 15 JACL National Convention
Monte Carlo - Las Vegas

August 9 -IMB Clean-up

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

call the JACL Office – 408-295-1250 for details
and to volunteer.

August 21 (Friday) Appreciation BBQ

IMB Backyard

Time: 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Aug. 23 (Sunday) Film Screening of "White Light/Black
Rain" (More Information to the Right)

Venue: TBD (possibly Wesley United Church)

3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Nov. 7 (Saturday) San Jose JACL 12th Annual Community
Recognition Dinner

San Jose Airport Garden Hotel

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Sunday – August 23, 2015 – 3:00 p.m.

Venue: TBD (San Jose Japantown)

RSVP (details below) to be informed once the venue is confirmed.



In commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the
devastating WWII atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki,
the **San Jose Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)**
and the **South Bay Area Hiroshima Nikkei Jin Kai**
are teaming up to present a special free community screening of
Steven Okazaki's award winning documentary

WHITE LIGHT BLACK RAIN

The Destruction Of Hiroshima And Nagasaki

Featuring interviews with fourteen Japanese survivors and four Americans involved in
the bombings. A short program on the Hibakusha will follow the screening.



"One hopes it is
not too late for the world
to listen and learn."

-- Los Angeles Times

Sponsored by



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Event is free (donations welcome).
Seating is limited. Contact Komo at
KomoEvents@gmail.com or
(408) 418-6266 to reserve your spot.