JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

JACL OUTLOOK

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Summer 2016 Issue



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The Work of JACL Continues...

A Message from Bill Yoshino, Interim Executive Director



To Chapter Presidents, Members, and Friends:

Uncertainty often accompanies periods of transition unless it is used as a time to refocus and rededicate our commitment in ways that will advance efforts to carry out JACL's core mission. JACL president, David Lin, and members of the National Board have asked me to serve in the interim until a new JACL executive director is selected. I accepted because after all the years I've served on the JACL staff, I continue to believe this organization has the capacity to be a leader especially in areas such as education and youth development while still tending to issues of social justice that have defined our history and truly improved the lives of Japanese Americans.

There will be challenges, even in this transition period. Within the last two weeks, JACL has lost the services of two full-time professional staff members. We wish the best to Priscilla Ouchida and Christine Munteanu. And yet, even with their resignations, we haven't decreased our program portfolio and activities, placing even more responsibility on existing staff to perform.

So, what's on our program horizon, and what can you expect from your national staff? Our national convention is scheduled for July 11-14, in Las Vegas. Our goal will be to successfully conduct the business of JACL where the National Council will elect new officers, debate policy issues, recognize our awardees, find renewal in the inspiring words of our presenters, and importantly, approve a biennial budget, which proposes to reduce staff positions even further, a prospect that will clearly weaken our organization.

After the convention and extending into early August, we will implement an education program funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities where we will host two weeklong sessions with 72 teachers from throughout the country. The teachers will tour the Japanese American National Museum, attend presentations given by experts on many aspects of the incarceration including by former incarcerees. They will visit Santa Anita and Manzanar to bear witness to those places of confinement during WWII.

In September we will begin conducting the next Kakehashi program, a unique opportunity for students and young adults to gain insight into a variety of fields including the culture, politics, and economics of Japan. Beginning with trips in September, the program will host 200 participants in three groups extending into early 2017.

Throughout the fall our civic engagement program, funded through a grant from the Coulter Foundation, will challenge our chapters and members

(continued on page 2)

A Message from Bill Yoshino (continued)

to engage in voter registration, voter education, and get-out-the-vote efforts to be active participants in citizenship responsibilities. Of course, there are additional important programs such as scholarship, NY/SC, Legacy Fund grants, leadership, and the Smithsonian project beckons as a centerpiece in 2017, when we commemorate the 75th anniversary of the signing of EO 9066.

I am hopeful the JACL National Board will move quickly with its search and selection process to identify and hire a JACL executive director. In the meantime, to see us through this period of transition, we have a staff composed of experienced and committed individuals including Patty Wada, Tomikho Ismail, Stephanie Nitahara, Matt Walters, Mariko Fujimoto, and Mei Kuang. In addition, we value our energetic fellows and interns, Merissa Nakamura, Emil Trinidad, Malin Ouk, and Jennifer Kaku.

There is much to do. We need your cooperation. The work of JACL continues.

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

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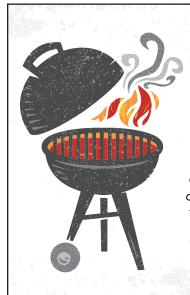
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The San Jose JACL Board meets on the second Friday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Issei Memorial Building. Meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome. Come and help Shape San Jose JACL's future.



SAVE THE DATE: APPRECIATION BARBECUE

Friday, August 19, 2016 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Issei Memorial Building (backyard)

Come enjoy a tasty BBQ and an evening of socializing with Chapter members and the community. It's the Chapter's way of saying, "Thank you for the support and help provided during the year."



13th Annual Community Recognition Dinner Honorees

By Tom Oshidari









an Jose JACL's 13th Annual Community Recognition Dinner – Kansha (Gratitude) to be held November 5th will honor four deserving individuals: Vernon Hayashida, Adrienne (Reiko) Iwanaga, Stan Kawamata, and Rich Saito. Mistress of Ceremonies will be Andrea Nakano, KPIX CBS-5 sports anchor and reporter.

Due to the closing of the Airport Garden Hotel, the venue for the Community Recognition Dinner for many years, this year the event will be held at the Holiday Inn, 1350 North 1st Street, San Jose, CA 95112. Ticket prices are \$125 each, \$115 for JACL members, and \$1150 for tables of 10. Reservation forms will be available beginning in August.

We would welcome items to be donated for the silent auction fundraiser. If you have such items, please contact Dinner Co-Chair, **Sharon Uyeda**, via email at suyeda9356@aol.com or call (408)259-3656.

Welcome to the IMB, Teatro Visión

By Tom Oshidari



n mid-June the Issei Memorial Building welcomed a new tenant, Teatro Visión, a Chicano theater company with over three decades of history presenting works culturally relevant

to those of Mexican heritage. They occupy the first floor office formerly occupied by the Filipino American National Historical Society, which moved on earlier this year.



Anne Namba Coming to San Jose

Honolulu designer
Anne Namba will visit San Jose
on Sunday, August 7th
!2:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Issei Memorial Building
565 N. Fifth Street
San Jose

This will be a mini-fundraiser, so come look and shop for something you'll enjoy wearing.

Iris Lou - San Jose JACL's Daruma Awardee

By Neil Kozuma & Sharon Uyeda



he Northern California
Western Nevada Pacific
District held a District
Luncheon on Saturday, April 23,
2016 at the DoubleTree Hotel in
Pleasanton, CA. Three past District treasurers were honored:
Fred Okimoto, Emily Teruya
and John Yamada. In addition,
District chapters had the opportunity to select an honoree to be
recognized at the luncheon.

San Jose JACL selected **Iris Lou** because of her dedication to the mission of JACL. She volunteers

and takes personal responsibility to get projects completed. Her abilities and experiences have helped the San Jose JACL and San Jose Japantown host many special events and community service projects. Iris has compassionate leadership qualities to manage successful events/ projects and endless energy to provide the hands-on labor to get the work completed. She has a passionate interest in social justice and in keeping the stories of the Japanese American experiences alive and valued.

As V.P. of Membership, Iris increased the Chapter's membership in 2014-2015 by 3%, reversing the Chapter and National trend of declining membership. She independently called lapsed members and got many to rejoin as well as recruited new members. Iris always carried Chapter membership applications and did not hesitate to ask people she met to join the Chapter.

During 2015, Iris chaired the following committees: San Jose JACL Volunteer Appreciation Barbecue; Issei Memorial Building (IMB) Annual Clean-up Day; and the IMB Halloween in Japantown with activities and games. In addition, she played a significant role in the Chapter's participation in the San Jose Nikkei Matsuri and J-Town Film Festival. Iris is a major contributor to the Outlook, reporting on events and acknowledging members who have joined or renewed their membership. Beyond the countless hours she has provided, she has made financial donations to support the Chapter. Iris does so many things without asking for anything in return and is a most valued player with the Chapter and other JA community organizations.

Heartiest Congratulations, Iris!

Suzume no Gakko's 40th Anniversary Dinner

Suzume no Gakko, the popular cultural summer school in San Jose, will celebrate its 40th anniversary with a Fundraising Dinner on Saturday, Oct. 8. at the Fairmont Summit Center, 88 S. 4th Street. The event, "Celebrating our Legacy," will honor the three founders, Karen Akahoshi, Ann Saito and Karlene Koketsu.

Friends, former students, their parents and the community are

encouraged to attend to reminisce, recapture memories and support its mission of bringing awareness of Japanese American culture and heritage to the children.

One hundred percent (100%) of the net proceeds from this event will be used to maintain the affordability of the program for the students and families for years to come. Purchase tickets at http://suzume40th.eventbrite.



com or request a printed invitation from a Suzume board member. Sponsor opportunities are available also.

2016 Scholarship Luncheon

By Sharon Uyeda

ith the prospect of rain, this year's scholarship luncheon, which is usually held at the IMB backyard, was moved to JAMsi at the last minute. The attendees fit comfortably in the upstairs conference room. The sandwich and salad buffet was set-up and everyone enjoyed lunch prior to the program. This year, there were seven recipients and all were present to receive their respective scholarships. During the awards program, each recipient announced where they will be attending in the fall and also shared their high school and community experiences.

The success of any event is dependent on volunteers, so I'd like to acknowledge the following individuals who helped at the luncheon: Gary Jio, Dr. Mitsu Kumagai, Iris Lou, Terry and Tom Oshidari, Joyce and Margie Oyama and Marge Tsuji.

(Photos by Gary Jio)



2016 Scholarship Recipients: (left to right) Megan Yabumoto, Kristen Masada, Leila Nakasone, Christopher Takeuchi, Kylie Kuwada, Alson Shikada, Jemma Jio



















2016 - 2017 Kakehashi Project

he Kakehashi Project is coordinated by JACL and the Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE) and supported by funding from the Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

JACL is now accepting applications for the 2016-2017 Kakehashi Project. The first deadline to apply for the September 5-13, 2016 trip is **July 15th**.

Trip 1: September 5-13, 2016 Applications due July 15, 2016. Copy of valid passport is due no later than August 19, 2016.

Trip 2: December 12-20, 2016
Applications due Oct 1, 2016.
Copy of valid passport is due no later than November 25, 2016.

Trip 3: March 13-21, 2017
Applications due Oct 1, 2016.
Copy of valid passport is due no later than December 31, 2016

Applicants must be (1) a student currently enrolled in accredited college or university OR a young professional who has completed a minimum of a bachelor degree from an accredited college or university (2) between the ages of

18-25 year old Japanese American and Asian American heritage.

Applicants do not need to be JACL members, so feel free to spread the word to any friends, family, and organizations that might be interested. There are 200 spots to fill!

For any questions or issues, please contact **Merissa Nakamura** at 202-223-1240 or by email at japanprogram@jacl.org.

J-Town Film Festival

By Neil Kozuma

he second annual J-Town Film Festival was held in San Jose Japantown on May 20, 2016 through May 22, 2016. There was great support from residents living around Japantown and from the many shoppers who regularly shop and eat at many of Japantown stores and restaurants. This year, the films were: Awesome Asian Bad Guys; K-Town Cowboys; Top Spin; Among B-Boys; Right of Passage; The Wash; Man From Reno; Digging to Chinatown; Hafu; Exodus from the Jungle + R2D2; and Resistance at Tule Lake. The San Jose JACL co-sponsored the showing of

"Resistance at Tule Lake" and former Japanese Americans who were taken to this American Concentration Camp attended the film showing and were reminded of that moment in time which changed their lives.

The signature sponsors of the J-Town FilmFest were Dr. Jerry Hiura, Ken Kamei, Lucia Cha, and CM Capital Foundation. Executive producers were Contemporary Asian Theater Scene, J-Town Community TV, Japanese American Museum of San Jose, and the Multicultural Arts Leadership Institute. 2016 producers were Kogura Company and the Santa



Clara Human Relations Commission. Media sponsors were Nichi Bei Weekly and Nikkei West. To help make the J-Town FilmFest successful, there were numerous community supporters. You may visit the J-Town FilmFest at https://jtownfilmfest.com.

AARP AAPI Community Hero - Julie Hubbard

By Leon Kimura

ur local community treasure, Julie Kimiyo Hubbard, was one of three nationwide winners of the inaugural AARP Asian American and Pacific Islander Community Hero Awards! The other two winners were from Chicago, Illinois and Garden Grove, California and puts San Jose in good company in this inaugural competition.

This award was created to acknowledge the volunteers and staff of non-profit organizations serving AAPI seniors age 50 and above.

Both the winner and the organization for which they work receive \$1,000 in cash! On behalf of Julie and the Yu-Ai Kai Senior Center, Executive Director Ryan Kawamoto completed the application for this award and said that "it was one of the easiest applications to write because Julie is so great-if anything-the hardest part was the word count obstructing me from going on and on!"



Voting for the contestants was done via Facebook and E-mails with Gil Asakawa playing a major role in organizing the program and compiling the results. Gil mentioned at the awards ceremony that he could tell the folks deeply cared about Julie because just about every E-mail ballot submitted included personal comments about her!

AARP Vice President, Daphne Kwok came in from Washington, D.C. with her entourage to present the award after joining the Yu-Ai Kai Seniors in their weekday nutritional lunch. Yummm, I had seconds! She expressed that the winners



tirelessly devote their time, talents, and passion to provide an invaluable service to our community. Please join me in congratulating "Queen Julie" as her co-workers now call her!



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Emergency Preparedness

By Leon Kimura

ne never knows when a disaster may strike, whether it be natural or manmade, and the Japantown Prepared! emergency preparedness effort has been led by Rich Saito and his team to develop a community-wide response plan in the event of a major disaster. The overall intent of this effort is to preserve life and minimize injuries by proactively preparing Agency Emergency Plans for Japantown businesses and organizations that enables everyone to be knowledgeable of what to do in a disaster.

Rich has been working with the Issei Memorial Building (IMB) tenants to help develop both our **Emergency Plan** and building improvements to make us safer. In fact, a major focus of our annual IMB Clean-up Day was to make safety improvements such as securing book cases, file cabinets and glass framed pictures. The kitchen's high shelving cabinet doors were secured with quake latches to prevent items from tumbling out on top of people. Additional fire extinguishers were mounted strategically. We also purchased gas/water shut off wrenches and small pry bars to help open potentially jammed doors that may trap occupants. Rolls of tape are on hand to enable a safe-room's windows and doors to be sealed in case of airborne contaminant events (note: do

not use bathroom fans or you may draw-in outside contaminants since the fan will depressurize the interior). Readily accessible emergency whistles taped to the underside of furniture in the IMB offices also provide a means for "calling" for help if necessary. But we still have items to address like unsticking windows that have been painted shut and filling our "Grab and Go Box" with essentials.

Although physical improvements are a major component of emergency preparedness, just as critical is the information component for any plan of action. People need to know ahead of time what to do and expect to help reduce confusion, increase efficiency and support an orga-

Therefore, we are drafting our IMB Emergency
Plan identifying the basic information needed by the IMB tenants to respond in an emergency.
We are including the mapping e locations of the gas and water at off valves, fire extinguishers,

nized response.

the locations of the gas and water shut off valves, fire extinguishers, emergency supplies, exit pathways, gathering /meeting areas, etc. And we have identified emergency responders to ensure that people will check the IMB and grounds in case of a major disaster. As a small but important part of the plan, it is encouraged that all responders and volunteers also prepare their own personal emergency plans and grab and go kits that will enable them to quickly assess their status and thereby

feel comfortable in assisting in the Japantown Prepared! effort if needed.

The Japantown Prepared! group follows the internationally recognized Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), developed by a U.S. firefighter, that now provides everyone with a structure for command decisions to be made during an emergency. As such, Japantown participants will report to the Incident Commander at the **Emergency Operations Center** (EOC) who will then marshal the available resources/people to address critical needs. Immediately after a disaster, the Japantown EOC has been identified as centrally located Roy's Station at 5th and Jackson Streets. And the San Jose JACL Board of Directors have offered the IMB as an EOC if it is needed after the initial event settles down and the IMB is cleared for occupancy. A major disaster may require a lengthy recovery period and our Board felt that the IMB facility could provide needed space to assist in this effort. And the EOC use falls in line with our mandate to use the IMB "in the best interests of the Japantown community". The IMB was first built over a century ago as a hospital to serve the community, it then sheltered those who came back from the camps with no place to stay, it was and is the incubator site for many J-town organizations and we hope will continue its legacy of support for those in need well into the future... Be safe everyone!



THE MINETA LEGACY PROJECT IS THE FIRST comprehensive documentary and educational curriculum to be created with Norman Y. Mineta's full involvement and commitment. The curriculum is being developed at Stanford University, targeted to high school and college educators and will be offered free on an open source website. The documentary, titled *All-American: The Legacy of Norman Y. Mineta*, delves into his life, public service career, and unabashed love for his country. This, in spite of the fact, that in 1942 his country betrayed him.

ABOUT NORMAN Y. MINETA

AT AGE 10, DRESSED IN HIS BOY SCOUT UNIFORM and clutching his beloved baseball glove and bat, Norm and his family were forced to leave their home in San Jose, California. Along with 110,000 Japanese Americans, the Mineta family was imprisoned in a U.S. concentration camp during WWII.

Years later, after serving in the army, Norm became the first Asian American mayor of a major U.S. city, a member

of Congress for 20 years, Secretary of Commerce under Democratic President Bill Clinton and Secretary of Transportation under Republican President George W. Bush. In spite of the injustices he experienced as a young boy, Norman Y. Mineta has led a distinguished career in public service. Today he remains a beloved and respected leader, mentor, and an inspiration to many, especially to those who have been marginalized and unrepresented.

PROJECT STATUS

Fundraising For Film and Educational Curriculum

Budget: \$1.2 million, \$700K raised to date | \$500K needed by May 31

Documentary in pre-production; targeted completion 2017







CONTACT

DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE to Media Bridges, Inc., 444 4th St. #22, Davis, CA 95616.

Online donations: NormanMinetaFilm.com.

Contact the Producers:

Dianne Fukami (510) 377-8277 | dianne@normanminetafilm.com Debra Nakatomi (310) 914-5000 | debra@normanminetafilm.com

Annual Issei Memorial Building Clean Up Day

By Iris Lou

n June 25, 2016, we held our annual Issei Memorial Clean Up Day starting at 9 am. I was pleasantly surprised to see Jim Manning, Doug Ray, and Darrell Asing from SJ Japantown Lions already working to readjust the security cameras. Soon after they fastened a wheel onto the bottom of the back gate so it would open smoothly. Great job!

Emi Tsutsumi, Margie Cornehl, Jean Yamaguchi, and Kay Utsumi were busy cleaning the kitchen from top to bottom and the restrooms. Of course, I stole Kay and Jean to help Tom Oshidari, Al Nakahara, and myself trim the front hedges on the side yard.

Leianne Lamb, Cindy Toy, and Reiko Iwanaga from CATS cleaned windows and did general cleaning. Helen Hayashi was busy cleaning up the JCCSJ office area. Marge Tsuji, and Sharon Uyeda cleaned up the SJ JACL office and files.

Rich Saito from JCCSJ/JT Prepared, **Duane Kubo** from Jtown Community T.V. and Jtown Filmfest, **Neil Kozuma**, and **Leon Kimura** worked on our disaster preparedness by fastening down picture frames, fixtures, and items in glass cases.

Thank you, **Wisa Uemura**, **Franco Imperial**, **Alix Koyama**, **Rylan Sekiguchi**, and **Yurika Chiba** from SJ Taiko for taking on the task of cleaning the upstairs

of the IMB. Plus, you had to fasten down all of the SJ JACL items in the glass cases. Of course, Mitchell Fukumoto (I made a joke about the youngest adult having to climb the ladder and

Mitchell was a sport and did it) and Wisa helped me cut down the trees in the back...you guys were awesome!

Mark Yamamoto for changing our mat for our Handicap ramp in the back yard.

Thank you to Emi for making a salad, Kay for the watermelon, Reiko for the plums, Marge for the fruit salad, mini-bundt cakes, cookies and brownies, **Joyce**Oyama for the sandwiches from Subway, Sharon for the bagels, cream cheese, juices., chips



The hard-working clean up crew pauses to take a selfie.

and dips. I made namasu and Chicken salad. There was plenty to eat and it was enjoyed by all.

What a great way to spend a Saturday by volunteering to upkeep a historical majestic building, enjoying a great meal, and sharing laughter with new found friends. I can't thank all of you enough for giving up your weekend Saturday! Rich, Duane, Leon, Sharon, Marge, and Tom for staying 2 hours past our 3 pm end time.

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Thank You, Donors!

Many thanks to the following donors during the second quarter:

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Richard Abe
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M/M George Hanada
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Margery Kanemoto
Midori Kai, Inc.
Tamon Norimoto
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Norimoto –
Matching Employee
Gift
Takeshi & Nellie Ota (2)

SJ Nikkei Social Club Brent Shimizu Roy & Hannah Takeuchi - Thank you for scholarship awarded to grandson Yuri Torigoe - In memory of Ernest Torigoe Chris Tsuji - In memory of Richard Tanaka Yosh Uchida Wesley United Methodist Church - Use of backyard for Easter eag hunt Yoshiko Yamashita

IMB Building Fund Scholarship Fund

Iris Lou Ray & Lucy Matsumoto - \$50,000 matching grant

Leo Oyama

Alice Hayakawa - 2016 Lanette Yoneko Hayakawa Memorial Scholarship

Thank You, Volunteers!

KEY: Outlook Mailing - OM Scholarship Luncheon - SL IMB Clean-up Day - CD

Darrell Asing - CD Yurika Chiba - CD Margie Cornehl - CD Mitchell Fukumoto - CD Helen Havashi - CD Franco Imperial - CD Reiko Iwanaga - CD Gary Jio - SL Leon Kimura - OM, CD Alix Koyama - CD Neil Kozuma - OM, CD Duane Kubo - CD Mitsu Kumagai - SL Leianne Lamb - CD Iris Lou - OM, SL, CD Jim Manning - CD Al Nakahara - CD Terry Oshidari - SL Tom Oshidari - OM, SL, CD

Joyce Oyama - SL, CD

Margie Oyama - SL

Doug Ray - CD

Rich Saito - CD Rylan Sekiguchi - CD Cindy Sugino - OM Cindy Toy - CD Marge Tsuji - SL, CD Emi Tsutsumi - CD Wisa Uemura - CD Kay Utsumi - CD Sharon Uyeda - SL, CD Jean Yamaguchi - CD Mark Yamamoto - CD



Welcome New and Returning Members to San Jose JACL

Membership Report (April - June, 2016)

Welcome New Members to San Jose JACL: Mikaela Fenton, Alexa Miller, Chantel Ricks, Katie Wong, and Kiyomi Yamamoto.

Thanks to the following members for renewing their membership: Allen Ando, Christy Chung, Carl Fujita, Ken and Joyce Furukawa, George and Shiz Hanada, Donald Hashimoto, Helen Hayashi, Leslie Higashiuchi, Michael Honda, Brent Horiuchi, Diane Ikegami, Dorothy Ishimatsu, Gail Ishimatsu, Reiko Iwanaga, Joe Jinguji, Lillian Junker, Margery Kanemoto, Frank Kagawa, Victor and Jane Kawa-

saki, Leon Kimura, Tom Koda, Jack and Jean Matsuda, Lucy and Ray Matsumoto, Katherine Matsumura, Violet Matsushima, Florence Matsushita, Toshi Michihira, Teruyo Mitsuyoshi, Hisako Mukai, Wesley Mukoyama, Ko Nishimura, Steven Nose, Tad Okubo, Kay Ono, Takeshi and Nellie Ota, Terry and Shirley Ota, Leo Oyama, Chester Santo, Mae Sato, John Schwartz, Bret Shimizu, Jack Shinkawa, Grant, Suzuki, Sumi Takagi, Dennis Takaoka, Marjorie Tsuji, Richard Tsurumoto, Yoshio and Kikue Uyeda, Yoshiko Yamashita, and Jason and Lani Yonehiro.

Check out our website: **www.sanjosejacl.org** 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. 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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Please remember San Jose JACL in your charitable giving



July 11-14 - National JACL Convention Monte Carlo Hotel & Casino Las Vegas, NV

July 21 - BAAPAL Summer Mixer IMB Backyard

August 6 - ABA Rummage Sale San Jose Buddhist Church Annex

August 7 - Anne Namba Trunk Show IMB Conference Room, 12 noon - 5 pm

August 19 - JACL Appreciation BBQ IMB Backyard, 6 pm

August 29 - Yu-Ai Kai Memorial Golf Tournament The Villages Golf & Country Club

September 10 - AACI DinnerSanta Clara Convention Center

September 10 - Midori Kai Arts & Crafts Boutique Mountain View Buddhist Temple, 9 am - 4 pm

September 25 - San Jose Buddhist Chirch Keiro Kai San Jose Buddhist Church Annex, 12 pm - 2 pm

October 1 - Wesley UMC Aki Matsuri 11 am - 4 pm

October 8 - Suzume no Gakko
40th Anniversary Dinner
Fairmont Fourth Street Summit Center

October 15 - Yu-Ai Kai's Keiro Kai San Jose Buddhist Church Annex, 4 pm - 6 pm

October 31 - Halloween in J-Town San Jose Japantown