



JAPANESE
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SAN JOSE
JACL

OUTLOOK

Volume ⁴⁵46 Issue 4

Winter 2014 Issue

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2014 Yu-Ai Kai Mochitsuki: *by Christy Chung*

On Saturday, December 13, 2014, the San Jose Buddhist Church annex buzzed with the spirited activity of Yu-Ai Kai's annual mochitsuki. In total, nearly 1,800 pounds of mochi was steamed, pounded, cut, shaped, flipped for cooling, and packaged. This was accomplished with the help of 228 volunteers from the community and local high schools. It was one of the best turnouts in over 35 years.



The community groups included: CYS, BSA Troop 611, Junior YBA, BWA, San Jose JACL, Silicon Valley JACL, Wesley UMC, Girl Scout Troop 61302 (Buddhist).

The high schools included: Cupertino JNHS, Homestead JNHS, Archbishop Mitty HS, Lynbrook JNHS; Piedmont Hills HS Leo Club, Yerba Buena HS Interact, and Silver Creek HS.

San Jose JACL members who participated included **Tom Oshidari, Janice Hara, Emi Tsutsumi, Marian Suhama** and **Christy Chung**.

The mochi was sold for \$4 per pound, with all proceeds benefiting Yu-Ai Kai's programs and services for seniors.

Mochitsuki, or mochi-pounding ceremony, is a Japanese tradition that brings people together to prepare for celebrating the New Year. Mochi is one of the most important foods eaten on New Year's Day, and symbolizes longevity, wealth, and prosperity.



President's Message by Leon Kimura



Wanted:

Civic minded leaders willing to advocate for social justice and preserve cultural heritage. Immediate openings on the San Jose JACL Board of Directors. Exciting opportunities to interact with like-minded community members on a variety of programs and activities that influence and support the oldest and largest civil and human rights organization in America.

It's true. You have a chance to get a jump on fulfilling your New Year's resolutions by becoming involved in the community and more through the JACL! Help the community, get out more, meet new people, improve yourself, support a worthy cause, have fun - become engaged in life through volunteerism! What better way than by joining the Board of an organization that has been looking out for you and the community since 1923...

But, I want to wish you a Happy New Year and thank you for the support throughout 2014! It was quite a year we had hosting the successful National Convention and the San Jose Chapter was well represented by our Convention Chair, **Wayne Tanda** and the hard-working Convention Committee!

I have enjoyed the past 6-years as your President (two of them with Co-President **Tom Maruyama, Jr.**). This Presidency was quite different from my 1988-89 Presidency during the wind-up of the redress and reparations movement. I was then privileged to work with amazing Board members like **Helen Mineta, Grant Shimizu, Karl Kinaga, Katie Hironaka and Eiichi Sakauye** (who have all since left us), and along side other committed Board members who have served throughout the years. The insights and perspective that they all have lent to our actions and legacy are priceless.

And the Chapter has continued to be a strong leader within the region's political landscape due in large part to the collective mentorship of community and JACL leaders such as **Yoshihiro Uchida**. I trust that the Chapter will always honor our legacy of promoting American Democracy. I have personally felt that this was a core value in my efforts to support the Chapter Presidency as well as that role of our National JACL organization.

Now it is time for my role as your President to come to an end. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the leader of such a highly regarded Chapter! Wherever I went, I was honored and truly proud to represent you and I only hope that I did justice to the legacy of the San Jose Chapter! I will continue in a traditional capacity for one-year as the Immediate Past President and otherwise help in a limited fashion until a new President is elected. We do have a full slate of Officers and Appointees willing to serve (and who can always use help!) but we still need to fill the top position...

From personal experience I can assure you that serving on the Board can be both fulfilling and enriching! There are many opportunities in which you can serve and you can select or often create your own role depending on your personal interests. Please consider becoming a part of the leadership and future of the San Jose JACL!

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National JACL: www.jacl.org

Health Trust: www.jaclhealth.org*
(800) 400-6633

* Must be member of National JACL

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Tom Nishisaka	Jason Yonehiro

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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San Jose State University Re-dedicates Yoshihiro Uchida Hall by Tom Oshidari

On November 7th after a multi-million dollar renovation, the building on the San Jose State University (SJSU) campus originally built in 1929-30 and called the Men's Gymnasium, then in 1997 renamed **Yoshihiro Uchida Hall** (aka YUH), was re-dedicated in a ceremony honoring the man whose name the building bears. Included in the ceremony was the unveiling of a plaque to adorn the building noting its history as a processing center for Santa Clara County Japanese Americans and Japanese resident aliens during WWII. Included among those honoring Mr. Uchida were SJSU President, **Mohammad Qayoumi**, who presented the Presidential Medal of Distinction, the University's highest award; Consul General of Japan, **Masato Watanabe**; San Jose City Mayor-Elect, **Sam Liccardo**; and the Honorable **Norman Mineta**.

A long-time San Jose Japantown supporter and San Jose JAACL Advisory Council member, the now 94 year old honoree began his history with the University in 1940 when he enrolled as a student majoring in chemical engineering. While enrolled he competed on the wrestling team and coached police students in judo. His student status was interrupted by WWII when he was drafted into the Army where he served as a medical technician. ---After the War he re-enrolled to complete his studies with a degree in biological sciences in 1947. He continued to teach judo and was instrumental in creating an on campus judo program as well as creating a weight class system and rules that led to judo being accepted as an amateur competitive sport and eventually an Olympic sport. **Yosh Uchida** has led the SJSU judo team to unprecedented success—having won 45 National collegiate championships. Also, along the way Yosh Uchida has received the SJSU Tower Award; was inducted into the SJSU Hall of Fame in 1992; and was inducted into the SJSU Legends Hall of Fame in 2012.



The new facility contains a 1200-seat gym, training and therapy rooms, a weight room, offices, classrooms, and, of course, a judo dojo.

The portrait by which Yosh is seen in the photo was painted by **Dr. Andor Paposi-Jobb**, a retired Professor of Fine Arts at Clarion University of Pennsylvania, who not only taught Master's Classes in Portrait Painting but also had founded the Hun-Judo Dojo at the University and was its Sensei. Upon retiring and having some time on his hands, Dr. Paposi-Jobb decided to honor the sport of judo by painting portraits of those he considered to be judo greats, and, of course, Yosh Uchida was among those he chose to honor.

“Looking for Jiro Onuma: Queer Perspectives on Wartime Incarceration”

by Marge Tsuji

In celebration of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender History Month (LGBT History Month), the San Jose JACL hosted this program, at the IMB hall.

On October 19th, the San Jose JACL sponsored a presentation by **Dr. Tina Takemoto** on the above topic in support of the National JACL’s recognition of gay rights and October being LGBT History Month.

Dr. Takemoto is an artist and associate professor of visual studies at California College of the Arts in San Francisco. Based on her work examining issues of queer identity, race, memory and grief, Dr. Takemoto has received several art grants and her articles have appeared in many journals. She is the board president of the Queer Cultural Center and co-founder of Queer Conversations on Culture and the Arts.



Dr. Tina Takemoto

“Looking for Jiro Onuma” recounts Dr. Takemoto’s archival research to explore the hidden dimensions of same-sex intimacy and queer sexuality in Japanese Americans while incarcerated during World War II. Sending out a call for any information on the topic, Dr. Takemoto was unable to elicit any such information. People scoffed at the idea of Japanese Americans being gay, and especially in the confines of the crowded camps. Yet, Dr. Takemoto persevered and pieced together part of the difficult life someone like Onuma must have led to both hide and express his sexuality. “Looking for Jiro Onuma” received Best Experimental Film Jury Award at the Austin LGBT International Film Festival.

A second documentary that Dr. Takemoto showed was “Sex, Politics and Sticky Rice”, a film that is still in its working stage. It features five Asian American lesbians speaking very frankly about their search for love and their activist work in the San Francisco Bay Area since the 1980’s. It was shocking, and yet refreshing, to hear their voices; their fears, their grieves, their desires – framed in a lesbian lifestyle, yet the same fears, grieves and search for love that all women feel regardless of gender identity.

Dr. Takemoto’s two films and her narrative were enjoyed by about 25 mixed-age and mixed-gender audience. Her films were professional in quality, informative, and amazingly creative. She is a vivacious and enthusiastic speaker, very knowledgeable and with a delightful sense of humor. Her presentation was extremely well-received and there were many questions after her talk. An interesting sideline was that someone in the audience had been an 8-year-old boy living in the same barracks as Jiro at Topaz.

Some of those in attendance were: **Evan Brand, Chris Essert, Komo Gauvreau, Bob Greiss, Barbara Hiura, Rev. Keith Inouye, Viki Inouye, Leon Kimura, Bill Kumagai, Iris Lou, Tom Oshidari, Betty Saito, Roy Shimada, Marge Tsuji, Emi Tsutsumi, Sharon Uyeda, Dr. Yiman Wang, Dr Wang’s guest, Gilda Wundermen, Jean Yamaguchi, and Joe Yasutake.**

Halloween Family FUN Night at the IMB by Iris Lou



Hosted by San Jose JACL at the Issei Memorial Building

The rain, cold, and wet streets didn't dampen the Halloween spirits and event at the IMB's Halloween Family Fun Night. Scary music, strobe and pumpkin lights, skeletons and tombstones welcomed everyone to the start of "Halloween in Japantown".

We started at 4:00 pm with games such as Pin the Spider on the Web, Spider Ring Toss, and Pumpkin Bean Bag Toss. Our arts and crafts included making Lollipop Ghosts, Wicked Visors, Owl Bags, Pipe Cleaner Spiders, and a selection of coloring pictures, puzzles, and mazes. We had planned to close at 5:00 pm but stayed open until 6:30 pm to welcome over 100 children to join us in our first San Jose JACL Halloween Event.

It was fun to see the kids all dressed up in Halloween costumes, many handcrafted by loving moms and dads. Many of the parents also came in full costume, which added to the fun. The kids were so excited, many jumping up and down to do all the fun activities. It was humbling to see many children from the neighborhood, whose parents were so grateful that this was a no-cost event. You could see that for some of the immigrant families, Halloween was a new experience and one in which they were somewhat bewildered in following their excited children.

Marge Tsuji was such a great co-chair. We plan to make this an annual event. Thanks to our excellent and hardworking crew: Evan Brand, Marge Cornehl, Leon Kimura, Neil Kozuma, Sachi Mitsunaga, Sue Sakai McClure, Joyce Oyama, M. Oyama, Marian Suhama, Irene Nakamitsu, Emi Tsutsumi, Jean Yamaguchi, Mark Yamamoto, and Liz Isa.

"Halloween in Japantown" also included performances by San Jose Taiko (at Wesley United Methodist Church and marching around Japantown), Halloween mini-panoramas staged by Wesley members, candy given out by merchants and restaurants, and a Family Movie at the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin. The four blocks of central Japantown (Fifth and Jackson) is a small, safe and intimate area. This event was a great happening to bring the churches, businesses and organizations together and to attract families to Japantown. We hope to see more events like "Halloween in Japantown" in the future.



San Jose JACL would like to thank their members and wish everyone a Warm, Healthy and Happy New Year

あけましておめでとうございます。
Akemashite omedetō gozaimasu!
Happy New Year!

2015 Scholarship Applications are Now Available *by Sharon Uyeda*

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS: It's time to apply for a scholarship.

If you are graduating this June or know of someone who is, please go to the San Jose JACL website: www.sanjosejacl.org and download one or both applications:



- 1) 2015 Freshman Scholarship form and
- 2) Ray & Lucy Matsumoto Vocational/Business Scholarship form.

The San Jose JACL offers and administers a number of scholarships to high school seniors, ranging from \$10,000 to \$500, so take some time, complete one or both of the applications, and apply. The \$10,000 Scholarship is a new one offered by the Oyama Family Foundation. It will be a renewable one with the recipient receiving \$2,500 for the initial year then \$2,500 for three more years. Being a student member increases your chance of receiving a scholarship, so if you're not a member already, sign-up and become a student member now! Student membership is \$30.00. Please contact Sharon Uyeda, Scholarship Chairperson, at SUyeda9356@aol.com or 408-259-3656 for a membership application. Take the opportunity to become more involved in the JACL and community. Any questions related to the San Jose JACL Scholarship Program can be directed to Sharon Uyeda at the above numbers. Post-mark deadline for submittal is March 1, 2015.



20th Anniversary Dinner of CAIR: *by Joyce Oyama*



The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) celebrated their 20th Anniversary with a dinner on November 3, 2014 at the Santa Clara Convention Center with over a thousand attendees. The theme was *Rooted in Faith: Growing Through Service*. To help CAIR commemorate their milestone, San Jose JACL board members and guests filled a table at their event.

The evening began with a silent auction and Maghrib (Sunset Prayer) attended by all of the members of the Islamic faith. Those not attending the prayer were served a delicious grilled achiote halal chicken breast dinner. When the prayer session ended, the worshippers joined the others and had their dinner. Pleasant music was provided by ASWAT, a Bay Area multi-ethnic and multi-racial Arab Music Ensemble.

Athar Siddiqee, CAIR-SFBA President made a welcome address followed by the presentation of awards, featured CAIR videos, a live auction raising thousands of dollars, and a keynote address by **Amy Goodman**, host and executive producer of *Democracy Now*, a National daily, independent award winning news program airing on over 1,200 public television and radio stations worldwide. The evening ended with closing remarks and announcement of the silent auction winners.



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

Please welcome our new members, **Morgan Chang, Margie Cornehl, Chris Hioki and Duane Takahashi** to our San Jose JACL organization.

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

Evan Brand, Amy Halcrow, Suma Inouye, Mark Kato, Harriet Kitazawa, Neil Kozuma, Iris Lou, Vera Matsumoto, Wendell Mizawa, Fred Morita, Irene Nakamitsu, Richard Ogawa, Tom Oshidari, Louise Oyama, David Santo, Nicole Santo, Richard Shinagawa, Richard Tanaka, Diane and Wayne Tanda, Mark Tashima, Mae Tokiwa, James Yamaguchi, Miles Yamamoto.

Let's keep on adding more new members to our organization!

On January 14, 2014, our San Jose Chapter membership report showed that we had 208 members. Our December 15, 2014 report is showing 262 members, which is an increase of 58 renewed or new members. Our membership has grown 34.18% in one year. Keep on renewing your membership and be a part of San Jose JACL!

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, have changes to your membership, or would like to be removed from the email send out, please email me at **Inkylou1452@yahoo.com**.

New IMB Tenant - J-Town Community TV Channel *by Leon Kimura*

Through the generosity of CATS and **Dr. Jerrold Hiura**, the IMB has a new tenant. J-Town Community TV (JTCTV) has been created by **Duane Kubo** and can be found at **Youtube.com/J-Town Community TV**, or **http://tinyurl.com/jtowntv**. Videos at this site deliver on a promise of "news, views, culture and history of San Jose Japantown and beyond". Board member **Evan Brand** has developed some of these videos! So please take a look at the videos including three of the 2014 JACL National Convention sessions and much more!

The fledgling JTCTV is now on a "subscriber" campaign. There is no cost so please support the channel by clicking on the subscribe box in the upper right hand corner. Quantifying viewership will help JTCTV make a case for ongoing support and more programming. For more info or to become involved in video production please contact Duane at **duanekubo@gmail.com**.



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If you like to shop online, help the San Jose JACL by shopping the Amazon Smile Way.

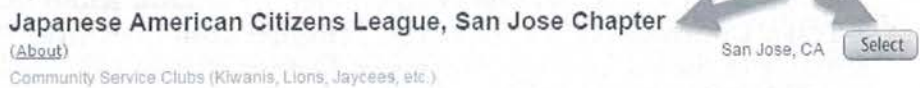
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5. Select “Japanese American Citizens League, San Jose Chapter”



If you require additional help Please email me at csugino@yahoo.com with your phone contact.

Giorgio's Dine Out Fundraiser: *by Evan Brand*

On Tuesday, November 18th, the San Jose JACL held its monthly dine out fundraiser at Giorgio's Italian restaurant in San Jose, near Willow Glen. Guests feasted on amazing pizzas, pastas, and drinks, while enjoying great company and conversation.

Attendees included: **Robin Ohara, Julie Soloquin, Jayvee Soloquin, Dylan Soloquin, Warren Shimonishi, Rose Shimonishi, Ken Furukawa, Joyce Yamamoto, Emi Tsutsumi, Sharon Uyeda, Henry Uyeda, Terry Oshidari, Tom Oshidari, Iris Lou, Evan Brand, Christy Chung, Cindy Sugino, Kathy Duong, Caroline Kurimoto, Glenn Kurimoto, Melissa Ramos, Paul Ramos, Jayden Ramos, Joyce Oyama, Margie Oyama, Stacy Oshidari, Aaron Oshidari, Bryson Oshidari, and Kennon Oshidari.**

Thanks to **Iris Lou** for organizing the event. The chapter raised over \$85. Please join us February 19th at the Westgate Center Smashburger for our next dine out event.

Chevy's Fresh Mex Dine Out: *by Iris Lou*

We had a successful and fun time at our "Dine Out Social" at Chevys Fresh Mex on Almaden Expressway on October 23, 2014 with the hardcore group of 7 leaving after 10:00 pm. We enjoyed stories about past events, catching up on current happenings, and toasting to future prosperities.

Chips, salsa, Crispy Chicken Flautas, Homemade Tortilla Soup, Tacos, Mixed Grilled Fajita, Southwest Salad, Magaritas, beer, etc. were enjoyed by **Evan Brand, Alex Elsorady, Ken Furukawa, Leon Kimura, Darcie Kiyan, Caroline Kurimoto, Iris Lou, Tamon Norimoto, Yukiko Norimoto, Aaron Oshidari, Bryson Oshidari, Jon Oshidari, Kennon Oshidari, Stacy Oshidari, Joyce Oyama, M. Oyama, Jayden Ramos, Melissa Ramos, Paul Ramos, Henry Uyeda, Sharon Uyeda, Eiko Yamichi, and Jimi Yamaichi. Jill Bohn, Sue Shigemasa, JayVee Suliguin and Julie Suliguin and Marge Tsuji** supported our Dine Out by ordering take-out. Thanks, to our supporters.

Join JACL For Our Monthly Dine Outs

Next dine out is February 19th

Smashburger in the Westgate Center on Saratoga Avenue

Please bring the flyer below.



Future Dine outs Will be posted on our facebook page: <http://tinyurl.com/sjjacfacebook>

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Business Card	\$100
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Issei Memorial Building, Year in Review by Tom Oshidari

While most of the focus for 2014 was on the successful execution of the JACL National Convention hosted by San Jose JACL there were still some things happening at the IMB. The Japantown Lions Club is leasing shed space to store some of their gear, while also helping with various IMB improvements.

Physical improvements:

New hi-speed wi-fi internet connection
New Low Flow Toilets
New front sign
New sprinkler valves

Courtesy of the Japantown Lions Club:

Flat screen TV in the conference room (On Loan)
New back gate and fence section (labor)
Shed improvements (labor)

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS & DONORS!



Volunteers

Evan Brand-H, L,D, O, C, G
Christy Chung- L, O, M, G
Margie Cornehl- H
Kathy Duong-G
Alex Elsorady-C
Ken Furukawa- C, G
Janice Hara-M
Yukiko Hatanaka-C
Liz Isa-H
Leon Kimura-H, L, D, O, C
Darcie Kiyan- C
Neil Kozuma-H
Caroline Kurimoto-G, C
Glenn Kurimoto-G
Iris Lou-H, L, D, O, C, G
Sachi Mitsunaga-H
Irene Nakamitsu-H
Tamon Norimoto-C
Robin Ohara- G
Aaron Oshidari-C, G
Bryson Oshidari-C, G
Jon Oshidari-C
Kennon Oshidari- C, G
Stacy Oshidari-C, G
Tom Oshidari-L, D, O, M, G, C,
Terry Oshidari- C, G

Marge Oyama-H, C, G
Joyce Oyama-H, C, G
Jayden Ramos-C, G
Melissa Ramos-C, G
Paul Ramos- C G
Sue Sakai McClure- H
Sue Shigemasa-C
Tom Shigemasa-C
Rose Shimonishi-G
Warren Shimonishi- G
Dylan Soloquin-G
JaVee Soloquin- G
Julie Soloquin-G
Cindy Sugino- L, O, G
Kelsey Sugino- L, G
Marian Suhama-H, M
Marge Tsuji-H. L, C, G
Emi Tsutsumi-H, M, G
Henry Uyeda- C, G
Sharon Uyeda-O,C,G,L
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Eiko Yamaichi-C
Jimi Yamaichi-C
Joyce Yamamoto- C, G
Mark Yamamoto-H

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Iris Lou

Scholarship Fund

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In Memory of

Duke Tokiwa's 6th Anniversary of Passing

Mae Tokiwa

End of Year Donations

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M. Oyama
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Torao Sorakubo
Lillian Uyeda

Volunteer Legend: Halloween- H, LGBT-L, Donation Letter-D,
Outlook-O, Chevy's - C, Giorgio's - G, Mochitsuki- M

2014 San Jose JACL Annual General Meeting - By Christy Chung

San Jose JACL's Annual General Meeting was held on Friday, November 14 at the Issei Memorial Building. Attendees socialized over a potluck dinner with food provided by the Board and a few members before the business meeting began. The officers summarized 2014 accomplishments, attendees discussed strategic planning for the Chapter, and board member election was held.

Treasurer Mark Yamamoto presented a report on the Chapter's finances and highlighted key differences in income and expenditures for 2014 due to the Chapter's role as host of the JACL National Convention. V.P. of Membership Iris Lou provided an update on membership status. Currently, there are 268 members, which is a 64% increase over 2013. Congratulations, Iris for doing a great job in recruiting new members and reinstating lapsed members. President Leon Kimura summarized the Chapter's 2014 activities, which included Day of Remembrance, Nikkei Matsuri, JACL National Convention, Keiro Kai, and LGBT History Month.

Looking ahead, a slate of returning board members were elected for the 2015-2016 cycle:

**Evan Brand, Carl Fujita, Amy Halcrow, Richard Kamimura, Carrie Kimura,
Neil Kozuma, Susan Mineta, Tom Nishisaka, Steven Nose, Sue Shigemasa,
Tom Shigemasa, and Sharon Uyeda**

A lively discussion on the future direction of the Chapter generated consensus that the Chapter needs to look outward, do more with the community, and partner with other organizations. One such opportunity is the Palo Alto Children's Theatre's "Big Read" Project. The Japanese American Museum of San Jose (JAMsj) is also a partner.



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Calendar of Events

Friday, January 9 at 6:30
Monthly board meeting: @ IMB

Friday, January 16 at 6:30
Board Installation banquet: @ Kyoto Palace

Thursday Feb 19th
Social Dine out (Join us)
Smashburger @ Westgate Saratoga (see page 9)

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.

2015

January Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	February Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	March Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
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