



*Japanese American Citizens League
San Jose Chapter*

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OUTLOOK



**San Jose JACL chapter would like to wish Everyone a
Healthy, Harmonious and Prosperous New Year .**



Installation and more... by Leon Kimura

New Beginnings for the New Year! January 8th marked the date of the installation ceremony of the San Jose JACL held at a local community institution, **4th Street Bowl**. Our Chapter members and guests were made to feel very welcome by the establishment and had the run of the hall to conduct a series of events that evening. The first was an opportunity to meet, greet and decompress from the day's activities by visiting the adjacent cocktail lounge! Then we convened the Board to take care of some quick house keeping issues prior to installing the 2014 Officers and Board of Directors.

The installing officer, **Darcie Green** was introduced as Vice President of the Santa Clara County Board of Education and Community and Government Relations Manager at Kaiser Permanente. Also noted was her previous position as a Trustee on the Alum Rock School Board prior to her appointment on the County Board of Education. Unfortunately, subsequent to her appointment, County boundary redistricting questions arose and cast eligibility uncertainties. And rather than subjecting the County Board of Education to distractions and disruption or possible costs to the County to get the issue resolved, she simply resigned (at risk to her standing in being able to be reappointed). Her intent was to resolve the issue privately. She then moved within the same neighborhood to eliminate the boundary question and was subsequently reappointed unanimously to the Board. But it is that spirit of selfless sacrifice that exhibits true character by putting the public first.

Prior to administering the Oath of Office, she addressed the Board and commended the JACL Vision Statement and felt that they are words she would also like to follow:

Aware of our responsibilities as the oldest and largest Asian Pacific American civil rights organization, JACL strives to promote a world that honors diversity by respecting values of fairness, equality and social justice.

And then Darcie surprised **Joyce Oyama** when she called out their mutual ties to Franklin McKinley Elementary School District remembering her as her teacher! Seems that Joyce was and is quite an institution herself and still widely respected!

After the oath was administered, we presented Darcie with a small thank you gift of a neck pillow that is the signature gift from the Nichi Bei Bussan gift shop in J-town. Then we discussed a SJSU proposal to pursue a monument at the site of the new gym and also the site of the WWII processing center. We talked about the JACL National Convention, enjoyed dinner, dancing, karaoke, and a few more trips to the cocktail lounge to cap a delightful evening of business and pleasure! I hope that this is an indication of how 2014 will progress!

National JACL Convention – We Are America *by Leon Kimura*

This year the San Jose JACL is hosting the 2014 National Convention July 19 – 22
at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel.

"We Are America"

We expect about 300 delegates and boosters from across the country to join us during the election year business sessions of the National JACL leadership. The planning window is extremely short this year with only 6-months remaining to develop the programs, speakers, workshops, and other various activities both on and off-site.

Wayne Tanda, as the Convention Planning Committee Chair, has been leading the effort to both negotiate the local agreement with the National JACL organization while developing the strategic program and team to get it all put together in time. He has recruited an initial committee including **Aron Mitsunaga** as the Convention Treasurer as well as the Finance and Accounting section Chair. Other section Chairs include: Hotel Events and Liaison-**Pam Tokunaga**, Non-Hotel Events and Workshops-**Leon Kimura**, and Marketing and Communications-**John Manibusan**.

Some of the planning has already resulted in specifics like **Pam Yoshida** being able to schedule Hiroshima to play Thursday evening. And negotiations led by Joyce Iwasaki have started to try and open the Luis Valdez play, Valley of the Heart in San Jose by the convention welcome reception. Discussions on workshop topics have already begun led by subcommittee workshop Chair **Larry Oda**.

Each of the four major sections of the Planning Committee has additional subcommittees with needs ranging from early corporate and private fundraising through the final San Jose Obon Festival attendance on Saturday. And of course, all the critical things in between like transportation and registration. ***If you would like to help with the convention, please contact us*** and I am sure that we can use you in the planning or during the convention itself!

On a **final note**, the National JACL is currently looking for the local contribution at the level of \$60,000 in convention funding. Therefore, whatever you can do to help us identify funding contacts at work, friends with private foundations or who are involved in philanthropy, or if you can contribute to the cause, it would be greatly appreciated! Thanks

"Day of Remembrance" commemorating the 70th Anniversary of Korematsu vs US



Nihonmachi Outreach Committee (NOC) presents:

The 34th Annual San Jose Day of Remembrance 2014

Sunday, February 16, 2014 @ 5:30PM
San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin

In the days following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the FBI rounded up thousands of Japanese immigrants who were detained without charges. Then on February 1942 President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, forcing 120,000 Japanese Americans into concentration camps. The Commission on the Wartime Relocation and Incarceration of Civilians concluded that this action was a result of "race prejudice, war hysteria, and failure of political leadership."

2014 is the 72nd anniversary of the signing of E.O. 9066 and this Day of Remembrance will be the 34th annual program in San Jose. We hope that you join us on February 16th as we honor the memory of the internees and renew our commitment to equality and justice for ALL people.



For more information call Fran @ 408-730-9974 or email info@sjnoc.org

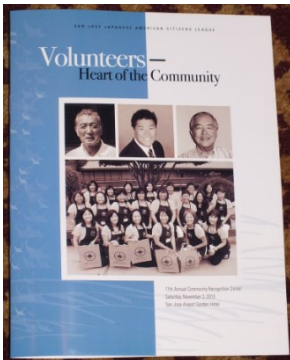
Successful 11th Annual Community Recognition Dinner - By Sharon Uyeda



On Saturday, November 2nd, the Chapter held a very successful Community Recognition Dinner at the San Jose Airport Garden Hotel with the theme: “Volunteers – Heart of the Community”. With an attendance close to 250, the evening began with a no-host cocktail hour where guests mingled, bid on numerous silent auction items and viewed the assortment of pastries for the dessert dash.



With MC, **Rob Mayeda** delayed at the NBC Bay Area studio due to his duties of reporting the weather, President **Leon Kimura** welcomed the attendees and introduced dignitaries. Newly arrived Consul General from Japan, **Masato Watanabe**, shared a few words. Also in attendance was National JACL President, **David Lin**, Executive Director, **Priscilla Ouchida** and six other National Board members. Dinner Co-chair, **Sharon Uyeda**, explained the dessert dash, then dinner was served. As the dessert dash commenced, there was excitement as tables were called in order of monies collected and runners dashed to select their table's dessert. **Rob** arrived to assume his duties as MC and he proceeded to call on each introducer and each honoree. This year's very deserving honorees were **Mas Horiuchi**, **Mike Inouye**, **Midori Kai**, and **Dale Sasaki**. Each honoree was presented a framed commendation from Board of Supervisor **Joe Simitian** and a curved, etched glass award from the Chapter. Congressman **Mike Honda** was introduced and he shared his thoughts with the audience and commented on his small certificate of recognition then called each honoree to come forward to receive it and take a group photo. Closing remarks were made by Co-chair **Sharon Uyeda**, who in turn explained the process for each highest bidder to claim their silent auction items.



An event is successful through the help of many, such as the dinner committee and volunteers, the program booklet advertisers, dessert dash and silent auction donors and table sponsors. *Thanks to Gary Jio, Jeff Sera and Nicki Dang for photographing the event throughout the evening.*



President's Message by Leon Kimura



Hello everyone;

I hope your holidays were happy and spent in ways that both eased you out of the past year and into the new with joy, celebration and the proper amount of retrospection.

Personally, it gave me cause to think about things that are important and this message is a reflection of that pause... For the JACL, there are many important things that I could discuss in this message. Looking back to our past year's accomplishments or forward to the upcoming 2014 National

Convention that we are hosting in July, the continuing need for social justice vigilance, the changing face of the JA/AA population, staying connected with political leaders, supporting community events, the legacy left by those who have passed-on in 2013, the legacy of maintaining the historic Issei Memorial Building and our heritage, and so many more important conversations we could have...

But please allow me to save those for later because I want to take a moment to offer all of you something that you truly deserve, and that is my thanks to all of you for being part of our organization. As your Chapter President for the past 5-years, I am grateful for all of you old and new members, supporters, donors, volunteers and well-wishers for being a part of the JACL organization. Yes, we are the oldest and largest Asian American Civil Rights organization in the country and have seen many ups and downs throughout the years since our 1929 inception, but we have weathered them all and continue to strive for uncompromised ideals and actions that are in the best interests of our community and nation.

The strength of our organization and our commitment is borne of the solid base of you, our membership. And we all know that the Local and National ranks have been dwindling over the recent years. With your support, we have made spectacular accomplishments, and I believe that we can continue this legacy in a changing landscape as we move into 2014 and beyond. THANK YOU!

Welcome New Members to San Jose JACL

by Iris Lou

Hi, I am **Iris Lou** and recently elected to be V.P. of Membership.

I would like to welcome our new members **Karyn Fujii, Ann Nakadate Kotas, Alisha Leong, John Manibusan, Hayato Takami**, and the **Ydens family (Phil, Irene, Jeremy and Daniel)** into San Jose JACL! Thank you for joining! I realized I met most of you and it all involved food! John and Hayato are Board members too. Strengthening our community will be the best part of the job!

Thank you to **Caroline Kurimoto** and **Marge Tsuji**, both keep the San Jose JACL membership records updated and send out renewals

I hope everyone had a great 2013 and is looking forward to an even better 2014! If you have any suggestions or changes to your membership please email me at Inky1lou1452@yahoo.com.

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The San Jose JACL Board meets on the **First Wednesday** 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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Mochitsuki in Japantown *By Vernon Hayashida*

San Jose Taiko performed at the Yu-Ai Kai mochitsuki on December 14th 2013 to commemorate the connection between the two organizations. Following is some history of the San Jose Japantown mochitsuki beginnings:

In late fall 1970 Asians for Community Involvement (ACA), a group of students from San Jose State, were seeking a community activity centered in San Jose Japantown that would make a difference in our world. Looking at several options ACA finally settled on mochitsuki as being Japanese but neither Christian nor Buddhist.

First we needed the tools. Usus, the stone bowls; wooden mallets, to pound the mochi rice; and satos, the special wooden boxes used to steam the rice, were found by San Jose State students from the area on their family farms and in their garages.

For a location, because some ACA members were raised Buddhist, ACA arranged with the Buddhist Betsuin board of trustees to have mochitsuki at their classroom parking lot and facility.

Next item needed was mochi rice (AKA sweet rice). ACA started selling preorders for mochi and went to a rice broker to order some rice. He asked how much rice did we need and that we needed to order a year in advance... So, ACA stopped additional preorder sales. A thousand pounds of mochi were already preordered and there was no rice for ACA to make the mochi! Fortunately, the rice broker called back and said that he was a good broker and acquired small amounts from some of his special customers so that ACA had enough rice to make a thousand pounds of mochi.

ACA members washed the rice in wash tubs on a cold December day and soaked the mochi rice in new, clean garbage cans.

Now that ACA had a facility, the rice and some of the equipment, lacking was the expertise needed to make mochi. **Tom Masuda** was instrumental in assembling the burners and the propane gas tanks to boil the water in wash tubs generating the steam, and the arrangement to cook the mochi rice.

Three hours after starting, (*and after the sato steamer base plate made for the effort using ¾ inch plywood delaminated after the first several hours!*) the first batch of mochi was pounded and placed on a table. It was HOT. ACA members could not form mochi cakes from the first batch. A lady was watching us and said in Japanese; "Real bad, lousy, lousy", and left. As ACA members were waiting for the batch to cool the lady came back with five additional ladies from Fuji Towers. They popped mochi cakes from the first batch quickly and said in Japanese; "More, more, quickly".

Now mochi could not be pounded fast enough. A hand grinder, much like a meat grinder, was used to preform the mochi rice so that it was ready for pounding quickly. Still the pounding was taking too long. ACA would never make a thousand pounds of mochi at that rate.

But a young boy was also watching us. ACA members asked if he would help. He said that his family made mochi every year so he didn't want to help. His family used the meat grinder technique but it was no fun because their grinder was larger and had a motor on it. So, with a pickup truck we acquired his family's motorized machine. ACA took three days to make the thousand pounds of mochi.

Reverend Hiroshi Abiko from the Buddhist temple said that rhythm was needed to pound mochi. He brought out a gong and drum. **Roy and PJ Hirabayashi**, members of ACA, took up the challenge. And subsequently, in 1973 San Jose Taiko performed on stage for the first time.

Mochitsuki (*continued*)

Then Wesley United Methodist Church made mochi after the ACA mochitsuki and received a donation of old equipment from Shuei-do Manju. ACA members joined in to help with their mochitsuki too.

Some funds generated from the ACA mochitsuki were donated to the Buddhist and Wesley Churches. The remaining funds were donated to the San Jose JACL to start a senior citizens' center in Japantown. There was no senior citizens' center in Japantown and ACA members said their parents would get old and need such a center. Yu-Ai Kai was formed in 1974 and used the JACL building (Issei Memorial Building) to start their senior services. The ACA mochitsuki eventually became the Yu-Ai Kai mochitsuki.

(Note: As you can see, the ACA students just jumped right in and this attitude started much of what we enjoy in Japantown today. On December 8th, **Duane Kubo** gathered many members of the ACA to participate in developing a video history of ACA and their impact in the community. Unfortunately, **Vernon** was not part of this reunion event and when I found out the wealth of his knowledge regarding mochitsuki, I asked that he document it to share with all of us. Hope you enjoyed it! Leon)

Advancing Justice Conference by *Leon Kimura*

The Asian American Advancing Justice (AAAJ) Conference was held November 14 – 16, 2013 in Los Angeles at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel. This National conference packed an agenda filled with sessions geared towards timely and cutting edge information impacting our Asian American Pacific Islander communities.

It is comforting to know that AAAJ has expanded from its first conference in LA five-years ago in 2009 to more that double it's size with over 80 plenaries, workshops, caucuses, and other events during this year's conference. Of course, current civil rights and social justice policy issues were addressed such as voting rights, health care and immigration reform but the level of issues coverage drilled down to levels like corporate partnerships in fundraising, challenging islamaphobia, gender democracy, arts in activism, LGBT equality, cross racial movement building and much, much more.

Here are a few snippets of insights targeted towards youth and young adults during the conference:

- Racial profiling is a segway into the criminal justice system.
- School closures disproportionately impact communities of color.
- School to prison pipeline: Policies and practices that push students out of the classroom = 3 times more likely to be in the criminal justice system.
- **Download a 70-page national directory of scholarships, internships, and fellowships relevant to students of Asian American background or those with an interest in Asian American affairs at:**
<http://www.aast.umd.edu/scholarships/scholarship-directory>
- How can we be intentional about honoring all the various aspects of supporting youth?
- Use youth to empower youth and make sure their voices are heard.
- Regarding movement building, the millennial generation is the largest group alive today and if you do not include them, you do not have a movement.

The annual AAAJ conference provides amazing insights into a plethora of issues relevant to the health of our AAPI community. It is difficult to decide which sessions to explore during the three-days of the conference! I want to take this opportunity to thank the Asian Law Alliance and the Walter H. Coulter Foundation for sponsoring my attendance at the conference again this year.



San Jose State University Hate Crime – Failure of the Village

By Leon Kimura, President-San Jose JACL

The issue of black and white race relations struck with a vengeance in our hallowed San Jose State University institution. At the press conference held on campus, emotions ran deep and rightfully so as university and community leaders tried to reconcile NAACP demands for justice including a call for felony charges to be brought against the four white young-adult perpetrators who terrorized their black roommate over several months. The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), the nation's oldest and largest Asian American Civil rights organization, was there to stand in support and solidarity with our NAACP brethren in this call for justice. As President of the San Jose JACL Chapter, member of the Asian American Pacific Islander Justice Coalition (APIJC) and the NAACP, native son of San Jose, and former student of SJSU, I felt compelled to reach out to the NAACP leadership.

Andy Noguchi, Florin JACL Chapter Civil Rights Co-chair asked me after we left the press conference, why I got involved in this issue. First, it happened in my own backyard, so to speak. As noted, I was once a student at SJSU and it struck a personal chord that such egregious acts of racism could occur here in MY hometown. This is said as a resident and native son of San Jose, born scant blocks away from the campus in San Jose Hospital. Second, I consider a large part of being a leader in the JACL or any civil rights organization, includes building relationships throughout the community in anticipation of a social justice "event" that needs to be dealt with quickly. This effort is crucial to maintain strong and relevant organizations and enables its leaders to take the lead in effective responses.



Andy also asked my thoughts about AAPI involvement in this issue. I believe that even though the acts directly impacted a black student, it indirectly impacted all people of color when ignorance and lack of internalized social norms manifests itself in bad behavior. We all need to stand in solidarity as a society when racist acts or hate crimes occur, but there is also value added in seeing AAPI faces in the light of black and white or any race relations issues. The AAPI faces are important reminders that will help instill by association the feeling that other races are part of the issue at hand too. Therefore, it is not acceptable to treat ANY minorities in a discriminatory fashion including those (and perhaps subliminally, especially those) with faces standing in solidarity together.

As I digest Thanksgiving dinner and reflect on all that I am thankful for, I cannot help but to also think about others who are not so fortunate, including the black and white SJSU students that were failed by everyone and will now suffer the lifelong consequences of their actions. Emotional distress, shattered dreams, redirected lives, due in large to a pervasive permissiveness in today's society that allows daily reinforcement of stereotypical racism. As an Asian example, Mickey Rooney's slant eyed-bucktooth Mr. Yunioshi character in *Breakfast at Tiffany's* is now arguably mimicked by kids including teen idol Miley Cyrus when she pulled down the corners of her eyes, kidding around innocently of course, just joking. Sound familiar? Now we have three young adults who may be facing a two-year minimum jail term for a hate crime perpetrated as a group. Not so innocent now.

During WWII, when the U.S. Government falsely imprisoned 120,000 Japanese Americans, most of which were "Non-Aliens" (euphemism for U.S. citizens), the American public was pummeled with caricatures of "the enemy" depicted as the slant-eyed, buck toothed "Yellow Peril!" Yet some still do not see why the Mr. Yunioshi character is offensive to Asian Americans.

And to make matters worse, it seems that, in general, the American public cannot distinguish between the Asian cultures. Vincent Chin, was a Chinese American who was beaten to death by Detroit autoworkers who were upset by the Japanese competition. Or Margaret Abe-Koga, former Japanese American Mayor of Mountain View was taunted by kids with the "Ching Chong Chinaman" routine as she walked her young children home from a neighborhood park. It seems that all the Japanese Americans, Chinese Americans, Vietnamese Americans, Hmong Americans, Samoan Americans, etc. will be collectively lumped together as "Asian" in the minds of "mainstream" America. This has many ramifications, including the need to disaggregate data to identify the true needs of each ethnic minority group contained in the 20+ separate races captured under the general "Asian" umbrella. But that's another story... For now, I hope that the silver lining in the cloud of the SJSU tragedy is that a greater awareness grows for the need to refrain from "innocent" racism that can mushroom out of control even in an enlightened institution of higher education where the population should know better.

So, if people tell me I speak good English and ask where I am from, I tell them "I was born right here in San Jose, and you?" It does take a village and each of us is a villagers.

(Editors Note: This article was written for distribution to various newspapers. Due to the publishing schedule of the Outlook, you may have already seen this.)



Scholarship Information (San Jose)

If you are a High School Senior or you know someone who is a high school senior, go to the San Jose JACL website: www.sanjosejacl.org, download an application, complete it, provide the supporting documents, and mail all to **Sharon Uyeda**, Scholarship Chairperson, by March 1, 2014, The Chapter awards and administers a number of scholarships, so check out the application and apply.

There are two applications that are available: the Freshman Scholarship form and the **Ray and Lucy Matsumoto** Vocational/ Business Scholarship form. JACL student membership is encouraged (download a membership form from the website) and you will increase your eligibility of receiving a scholarship. If you have a question, email Sharon Uyeda, Scholarship Chairperson, at SUyeda9356@aol.com.

Scholarship Information (National)

Encouraging youth/young adults to apply for this exciting national JACL programs :

Kakehashi Project

Info can be found below in the JACL Digest and *deadlines are fast approaching!*

Washington, D.C. - The Japanese American Citizens League is now accepting applications for the "KAKEHASHI Project: Japanese American Young Adults Invitation Program." Funded by the Japan-U.S. Educational Commission (Fulbright Japan) and co-organized by the Japan Foundation and the Laurasian Institution in the U.S., the KAKEHASHI Project is a short-term study tour for undergraduate and graduate students ages 18-25 years old.



The goals of Japanese American Young Adults Invitation Program are (1) to continue building cooperation between Japanese Americans and Japan, (2) to promote Japanese Americans a better understanding of Japan in a variety of fields including politics, economy and culture, and (3) to encourage Kakehashi alumni to be effective advocates in enhancing U.S.-Japan relations.

JACL is coordinating 4 trips to Japan in May, July and October, 2014

For More information and application form go to <http://www.jacl.org/news/Kakehashi.htm>

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(See Page 10 for more information.)



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Changes in Japantown



The **Asian Law Alliance** has moved! They are now located a short drive away at 991 West Hedding Street, Suite 202, San Jose 95126 (NE corner at Myrtle St. one block before the Alameda).

And the **J. Morey Insurance Company** has moved down to fill the vacated ALA office space. You will also see a bicycle rack (docking station) out front filled with light-teal colored bicycles, a part of the **Bike Share program**.

Long-time Japantown institution **Uchida Travel** has closed and is replaced with a new **acupuncture studio (Zen)** located on the 5th and Jackson corner and a new **street wear shop (Elusive)** at 196 Jackson St.

Across the street, the old Hiro's Golf Shop is vacant with a new **smokeless tobacco shop (Vapers Vault)** now opened in the back portion of the space.

And in the front portion of **Ken Matsumoto's Art Object Gallery and Studio** (old walnut shelling facility) another **elite street wear shop (Halloway)** has opened at 592 N. 5th St.



Join JACL For Third Thursdays Dining Out

Please join us at our continuing Third Thursday's Dine-Out social-fundraisers! Come to dinner and break bread with new and old friends. We try to arrive around 6:30 pm so we can socialize. To minimize the impact on the merchant, cash is preferred to avoid the credit card service charge. Thanks everyone!

Thursday January 16th : **Chipotles Mexican Grill**- 1751 N. First St.,
(For this event we will need to pre-order all together so please call Leon at (408) 568-0932 that afternoon by 5:30 pm to pre-order. If you wish, you can check their website: <https://order.chipotle.com> (First Street) to see their menu and pricing before you call.)

Thursday February 20th: **M8trix Casino**- 1887 Matrix Blvd
(social only-merchant cannot return a portion of the proceeds)

Thursday March 20th : **Kubota Restaurant**- 593 N. 5th St.(J-town)

Pictures from our Social at L&L Drive In @ coleman



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
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 To Today
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Judy Niizawa, President
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Joyce Yamamoto & Ken Furukawa	Mr. & Mrs. Tom Oshidari
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	Sumi Takagi
	Tamon Norimoto
	Teiji Okuda
	Torao Sorakubo
	Tsugaru Restaurant
	Victoria Taketa
	Violet Matsushima
	Yoshiko Ikegami

Volunteer Legend:

M - Mochizuki	R- Recognition Dinner	B -Bonen Kai
O - Outlook	N- National Convention	
T- Third Thursday	F-Football Mixer	

Community Recognition Dinner—"Thank You"

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**Japanese American Citizens League
San Jose Chapter**

565 North Fifth Street
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Calendar of Events

January

- 8th Board Installation - 6:30 @4th Street Bowl
- 16th 3rd Thursday Dine-Out @ **Chipotles**
Mexican Grill- 1751 N. First St.

February

- 16th: Nihonmachi Outreach Committee annual
Day of Remembrance program
- 20th: 3rd Thursday Dine-Out @ **M8trix Casino-**
1887 Matrix Blvd

March

- 20th 3rd Thursday Dine-Out @ **Kubota Restau-**
rant- 593 N. 5th St.(J-town)

April

- 17th 3rd Thursday Dine-Out @ **TBD**

