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# Double Your Donation Dollars to the IMB Building Fund

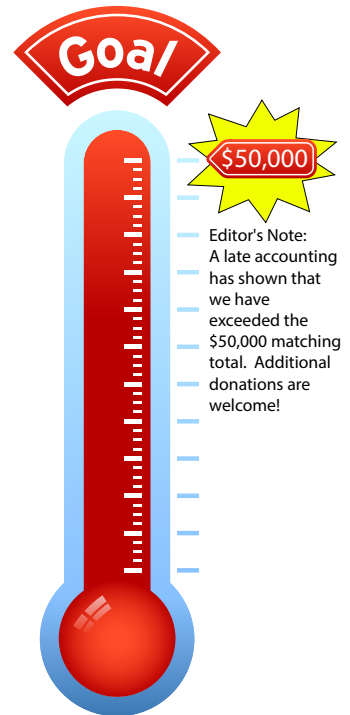
By Tom Oshidari

**T**hanks to the generosity of San Jose JACL Advisory Council member, **Ray Matsumoto**, for a limited time your donation to the Issei Memorial Building (IMB) Building Fund will be matched by Ray to a maximum of \$50,000. This past year we began renovating the historic building using donation reserves built up over the past 25 years. First priority was to seal the exterior—replacing extensive dry-rotted wood, sealing weathered cracks, resurfacing balcony decks, and painting the entire exterior. As a City Landmark, the IMB must keep its look and character; so unless you looked closely at the IMB “before,” you may not notice the renovated “after.” The accompanying pictures show some of the “before” conditions.

Still on the “to do” list for the IMB are exterior lighting, back patio replacement, dead tree replacement, interior wall water damage repair, interior painting, window treatments,

floor and rug replacement, conference room ceiling replacement, and a new alarm system.

To help us rebuild the donation reserves to allow continued restoration of the the historic IMB, please consider donating now while your dollars essentially count double. Make checks payable to San Jose JACL with a notation on your check, “For IMB Building Fund”. Thank you for your generous support.



IMB “BEFORE” photos: replacing dry-rotted wood and sealing the exterior was first priority.

## Co-Presidents' Message

**A**s we begin 2016 – the Year of the Monkey, we want to take this opportunity to thank two of our dedicated and hard-working 2015 officers: **Christy Chung**, Corresponding Secretary and **Iris Lou**, Vice President of Membership. They will be missed for all that they did throughout 2015 and before.

**Christy** not only wrote letters in behalf of the Chapter, she wrote articles for the Outlook and took care of articles for the various newspapers and newsletters, publicizing the Community Recognition Dinner. She organized a San Jose Giants Baseball Night, which was a fun social event. Along with **Sharon Uyeda**, she was a delegate to the National JACL Convention in July.

Iris, as VP of Membership did an outstanding job of maintaining our local membership and thanks to her efforts of calling lapsed members and encouraging potential members to join, our Chapter membership has

increased. Her membership articles in the Outlook, welcomed new members and thanked renewing members, which was a great way to acknowledge membership support. Iris also maintained the volunteer database and co-chaired the annual Clean-up Day and Appreciation Barbecue.

We appreciate **Christy** and **Iris'** willingness to help wherever needed and thank them for their many contributions and tireless work. We hope that you will both continue to participate in our Chapter activities and events. Take a well earned break and we hope that you will rejoin the Board in the future.

Our Year End Donation letter focused on the Issei Memorial Building Fund and the matching grant that **Ray Matsumoto**, Advisory Council member, has generously offered for the IMB renovation fund. To those who kindly sent in a donation, THANK YOU! Please refer to the IMB renovation article for details.

We wish you a Happy New Year!

*Tom Oshidari & Sharon Uyeda*  
Co-Presidents



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Website: www.sanjosejacl.org  
National JACL: www.jacl.org  
Health Trust: www.jaclhealth.org\*  
(800)400-6633

\* Must be member of National JACL

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and Sharon Uyeda  
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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.

# Voter Registration and Civic Engagement

By Christy Chung

In 2015, the Wallace H. Coulter Foundation provided grant funding for the JACL Civic Engagement program to promote voter registration, voter participation, and civic engagement among JACL members and the Japanese American community.

The San Jose Chapter received a sub-grant through this program to offset the cost of attending the 2015 National Convention. Chapters receiving sub-grants were required to attend voter registration workshops at the convention and conduct voter registration drives in their local area.

Spearheaded by Neil Kozuma, the chapter participated in three voter registration drives:

- September 19: Moon Festival, Seven Trees Branch Library and Community Center
- September 20: Japantown Lions Pancake Breakfast
- September 22: National Voter Registration Day, San Jose State University

Through these efforts, 56 people were registered to vote.

2016 will be a big year for elections, and it's important for our voices to be heard. If you aren't registered to vote, go to [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org) and click on the red "Register to Vote" widget. After filling out the online form, print out, sign, and mail the registration to the voter registrar.

*Photo L to R: Leon Kimura, Christy Chung, Neil Kozuma, Cindy Sugino, Sharon Uyeda. Photo by Tom Oshidari.*



Calling All High School Seniors

## Scholarship Applications Available

by Sharon Uyeda

**A**re you a high school senior or do you know someone who is a senior (child, grandchild, friend), contact **Sharon Uyeda**, scholarship chair and request an application - email: [sharonuyeda@att.net](mailto:sharonuyeda@att.net) or call: 408-259-3656.

The San Jose JACL offers and administers a number of scholarships to high school seniors, ranging from \$10,000 to \$500, so complete an application and apply. Student membership is not required to apply, but if you join the San Jose JACL as a student member, your chance of receiving a scholarship increases. Any questions related to the San Jose JACL Scholarship Program can be directed to **Sharon Uyeda** at the above numbers. The postmark deadline for submittal is **Tuesday, March 1, 2016**.

SAVE THE DATE:

## 36th Annual San Jose Day of Remembrance

**"WARTIME HYSTERIA"**

Sunday, February 14, 2016 • 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Morris Dailey Auditorium, San Jose State University

Guest Speakers: Congressman Mike Honda & Jimi Yamaichi

Performance by San Jose Taiko

Candlelight Procession to Yoshihiro Uchida Hall for a post-event reception



# Community Recognition Dinner

By Christy Chung

**F**or exemplifying the theme "Incarcerees to Educators to Community Contributors," **Dr. Aggie Idemoto, Dr. Mitsu Kumagai, Patricia Nakashima, Judy Niizawa, Dr. Roy Takeuchi,** and **Itsuo Yokota** were honored at the 12th Annual Community Recognition Dinner, which was held on Saturday, November 7, 2015 at the San Jose Airport Garden Hotel. The event included the dynamic dessert dash, quilt drawing, and silent auction.

Close to 250 people were in attendance, including **Congressman Mike Honda; Margaret Abe-Koga,** District director for **State Assemblymember Evan**

**Low;** San Jose City Councilmember **Ash Kalra;** and **former State Assemblymember Paul Fong.**

The honorees were introduced by **Joe Yasutake, Dr. Jerry Hiura, Gail Sueki, Marsha Nishi, Roy Takeuchi, Jr.,** and **Rev. Karen Yokota.** The introductions provided colorful and illuminating background to the ways the honorees helped people, both individual students and the community as a whole.

The emcee for the night was KTVU Channel 2's **Jana Katsuyama.** The dinner's co-chairs were **Sharon Uyeda** and **Tom Oshidari.**

Thank you to everyone who helped make the evening a success, including the dinner committee and volunteers, the program booklet advertisers, dessert dash and silent auction donors and table sponsors.



Dr. Aggie Idemoto



Dr. Mitsu Kumagai



Pat Nakashima



Judy Niizawa

# Annual General Membership Meeting

by Neil Kozuma

**T**he San Jose JACL held its Annual General Membership Meeting on November 13, 2015, at its headquarter building known as the Issei Memorial Building located at 565 N. Fifth Street in San Jose Japantown.

The general meeting was called to order at 6:19 pm by Co-President **Tom Oshidari.** The meeting began with a wonderful potluck dinner and conversations. **Tom** showed two videos created by **Duane Kubo** on the Issei Memorial Building. One video, narrated by **Tom Oshidari,** commented on the building maintenance issues of a 106-year old historic building. The second video, narrated by **Mike Inouye** and **Jessica Savage** shared the history of the Issei Memorial Building.

Attending the 2016 Annual General Membership Meeting were: **Amy Halcrow; Mark Yamamoto; Sharon Uyeda; Henry Uyeda; Iris Lou; Terry Oshidari; Tom Oshidari; Leon Kimura; Susan Yuen; Christy Chung; Jean Yamaguchi; June Nakamura; Kay Utsumi Al Nakahara; Judy Niizawa; Tyler Shiramizu; Emi Tsutsumi; Tamon Norimoto; Yukiko Hatanaka; Marge Tsuji; Margie Oyama; Joyce Oyama; Richard Kamimura;** and **Neil Kozuma.**

**Tom Oshidari** highlighted some of the San Jose Chapter's 2015 event participation:

- Observance during Memorial Day at Oak Hill Memorial and the Golden Gate National Cemetery
- The Big Read Program featuring the book: When the Emperor was Divine by Julie Otsuka

- Hakone Gardens Centennial Celebration Gala Dinner
- Nikkei Matsuri – Kurokke booth
- Annual Scholarship Luncheon
- IMB Renovation – exterior work
- IMB Clean-up Day
- Chapter Appreciation BBQ
- Film showing of "White Light Black Rain" in commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- 12th Annual Community Recognition Dinner – "Incarcerees to Educators to Community Contributors"
- Yu-Ai-Kai Crab Feed & Spaghetti Dinner
- Yu-Ai-Kai Mochitsuki
- San Jose J-Town Film Festival
- Congressional Gold Medal Fundraiser Dinner
- Halloween at the IMB

# Community Recognition Dinner Acknowledgments



L to R: Gail Sueki, Tom Oshidari, Pat Nakashima and Sharon Uyeda.  
Photos by Tom Nishikawa.



Dr. Roy Takeuchi



Itsuo Yokota

To have a successful event, it takes a hard working and dedicated committee, helpful volunteers, generous donors for the Dessert Dash and Silent Auction, and supportive advertisers, groups, sponsors and individuals. Please patronize the businesses listed below as a way of thanking them for supporting the San Jose JACL.

**Co-Chairs:**

Tom Oshidari & Sharon Uyeda

**Committee:**

Christy Chung, Leon Kimura, Iris Lou & Joyce Oyama

**Volunteers:**

Morgan Chang, Ken Furukawa, Gary Jio, Jemma Jio, June Kinyon, Neil Kozuma, Caroline Kurimoto, Kristen Kurimoto, Kristin Okimoto, Terry Oshidari, Mimi Suga, Cindy Sugino, Marge Tsuji, Jean Yamaguchi, and Joyce Yamamoto

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Yu-Ai Kai Staff

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design2market - Steve Yamaguma (layout)  
Content Management Corporation - Zack Tsuji (printing)

# JACL Fellowship Recipients

by Christy Chung

The JACL currently supports three fellowships, named in honor of important Japanese-American leaders: **Mike M. Masaoka**, **Norman Y. Mineta**, and **Daniel K. Inouye**. These fellowships foster civic leadership development in recent college graduates and young professionals. Two individuals who recently completed fellowships through this program have San Jose ties: **Korinne Sugawara** and **Craig Shimizu**.

## Mineta Fellow Korinne Sugawara

Last year, **Korinne Sugawara** completed a year-long position as the 2014-2015 JACL Norman Y. Mineta Fellow. Based in Washington, D.C. at the national JACL offices, she worked on a variety of policy advocacy issues, including education, health care, and immigration. She also assisted with preparing content for the JACL Digest.



She co-organized the three-day JACL/OCA Leadership Summit in March 2015, which brought together members of Congress, government agency staff, and Asian Pacific American social justice leaders. Participants attended seminars to learn more about civil rights and advocacy strategies, and visited Congressional offices to advocate for immigration and education reform.

Seeing the need for a session on LGBTQ issues at the National JACL Convention last July, **Sugawara** spearheaded and organized a very well-received plenary session. Along with the other National JACL staff, she worked on the many logistical details associated with the Convention.

She also had the opportunity to go to rallies, including the 50th Anniversary of the March on Selma, and a voting rights rally held in Roanoke, Virginia. These rallies were especially significant because of the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act.

**Sugawara** enjoyed diving into the National JACL organization and learning about the many facets of public policy and advocacy while taking advantage of the many cultural attractions of D.C, such as the Smithsonian Institution, and the Kennedy Center.

In October, she began a position as one of only 18 fellows in the prestigious California Senate Fellows Program and will be working for **Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson** of District 19.

**Sugawara** was a member of the San Jose Chapter, and is currently a member of the Sacramento JACL Chapter.

## Q&A with Craig Shimizu

San Jose JACL Chapter member **Craig Shimizu** served



as the 2014-15 Daniel K. Inouye Fellow. This fellowship program was created by the JACL to honor the late U.S. Senator and focuses on public policy advocacy. Currently, he is the Washington, D.C. Fellow, responsible for coordinating the 2015-2016 Kakehashi Project program that will send over 175 college students to Japan for a 9-day cultural exchange program.

**Shimizu** graduated from the University of Southern California with a degree in business administration. He served as an armor officer in the Army and was deployed to Afghanistan for nine months in 2013 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Shimizu will serve in Hawaii Congresswoman **Tulsi Gabbard's** office as a JACL Mike M. Masaoka Congressional Fellow beginning in January 2016.

### **What is the greatest lesson you learned through the Daniel K. Inouye fellowship?**

The greatest lesson I've learned is the importance of being active and engaged. The Inouye fellowship has taught me that there are so many opportunities to get involved, to speak out,





JACL Fellows in action: Craig Shimizu (far left) Korinne Sugawara (far right)

and to contribute toward making your community and country a better place.

### **What's something interesting you've learned about Senator Inouye himself?**

Throughout the fellowship, I learned a lot about Senator Inouye's legislative legacy. I was surprised to learn that Senator Inouye was one of the original sponsors of the bill creating Asian Pacific American Heritage month in 1977, and in 2009, he worked to secure over \$38 million dollars in grants to preserve and interpret the World War II Japanese American confinement sites.

### **What is the most rewarding aspect of being a D.C. Fellow?**

The opportunity to have your voice heard and affect some of the most important issues of our time is not only the most rewarding aspect of this fellowship but the most inspiring as well.

# Ghosts! Goblin! and Witches! Darth Vader, Spiderman and Snow White!

By Marge Tsuji

These were some of the scary and delightful creatures to scamper into the IMB on Saturday, October 31st. "Halloween in Japantown", a joint event by the San Jose JACL, San Jose Taiko, Wesley Church and the Japantown Lions, was a huge success as it was visited by well over a hundred children and parents.

The night was balmy and clear, the spectral omens were auspicious, spirits (non-alcoholic) were high, and fun was had by all. Wesley members hosted their infamous "Trunk-or-Treat" with car trunks wildly decorated in various Halloween themes and drivers dressed appropriately. Balloon animals were a big hit.

Taiko members dressed for Halloween gave a lively concert and later led a parade of candy hunters through Japantown where several businesses gave out candy.

The IMB was a ghostly spectre but inside were fun and games. Children could rotate between five different craft projects to take home scary skeletons, fangy bats, personalized jack-o-lanterns and other lovingly created art. Jack-o-Lantern Toss and Ghostly Darts

were played on the back patio while weary parents relaxed in the cool back yard.

The event was a free, welcome-to-all neighborhood fun fest. A time to give back to the community which has been so supportive of all of our endeavors, a time to let children frolic and to even let the child in all of the adults out for a night.

Great events are the result of great volunteers and we had some of the best. Kudos to **Iris Lou** (co-chair), **Irene Nakamitsu**, **Cindy Sugino**, **Kay Utsumi**, **Margie Cornehl**, **Joyce Oyama**, **Jean Yamaguchi**, **Liz Isa**, **Barbara Isa**, **Joyce Yamamoto**, **Margie Oyama**, **Leon Kimura**, **Emi Tsutsumi**, **Jalan Wong** and **Derek Hane** for their high-spirited help and for bringing all the yummy food for the volunteers.





Pleasanton DoubleTree by Hilton  
7050 Johnson Dr, Pleasanton, CA 94588  
Saturday, April 23, 2016  
11:00 am – 3:00pm

## NCWNP District Awards Banquet & Celebration

- ❖ Celebrating JACL’s past – continuing our work... *ONWARD!*
- ❖ Honoring our past treasurers: John Yamada, Fred Okimoto and Emily Teruya
- ❖ Honoring each chapter’s unsung hero
- ❖ Special guest, Delphine Hirasuna, author of “The Art of Gaman”
- ❖ Delicious lunch
- ❖ Silent auction with many fabulous items
- ❖ Net proceeds to support the 2017 Smithsonian exhibition commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Executive Order 9066

**For more information, contact**  
NCWNP District Office at (415) 345-1075 or [pwada@jacl.org](mailto:pwada@jacl.org)



### Registration:

\$65.00 **Early Bird deadline – March 21, 2016**  
\$75.00 afterwards – **final deadline to register April 10, 2016**

Make checks payable to: NCWNP District JACL  
Mail form & checks to: c/o Debbi Hatanaka, 8 West Canterbury Drive, Stockton, CA 95207

Names: (list additional names on back or second page – include entrée choice)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Circle your choice of entrée:

Chicken      Vegetarian  
Chicken      Vegetarian

Email (for confirmation of receipt) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

# of attendees \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Sorry, I am unable to attend, but I would like to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_



# Yu-Ai Kai Mochitsuki

By Tom Oshidari

After decades of making New Year's mochi in the Buddhist Church annex, due to renovation, Yu-Ai Kai this year moved its mochitsuki operation to Wesley United Methodist Church. The move was not exactly seamless according to long-time rice prep guru, **David Okazaki**, who said it took awhile to get the logistics worked out and the process working smoothly. Still, with the usual turn out of enthusiastic community volunteers, including your Chapter Co-Presidents, **Tom Oshidari** and **Sharon Uyeda**, Yu-Ai Kai had another successful mochitsuki!



Yu-Ai Kai Mochitsuki photos: (left) Tom Oshidari & Vernon Hayashida, (below) Marian Suhama & Sharon Uyeda. Photos by Sharon Uyeda.



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# World Premiere! Valley of the Heart

Presented by: San Jose Stage Company in partnership with El Teatro Campesino

Written and directed by Luis Valdez

The fight to maintain dignity, identity, family and love are at the heart of this American love story deeply rooted in the fertile Santa Clara Valley.

Famed playwright, director and producer Luis Valdez's sweeping epic illustrates the ironic divide between America's ideals and its actions in what the San Jose Mercury News says is a "multicultural touchstone," and of which the Los Angeles Times says "We need memory plays as powerful as this one ... a quintessentially California play, written by a master of the genre."

Opening in the days leading up to Pearl Harbor, the Yamaguchis and the Montanos are two immigrant families struggling

to provide a future for their American-born children after the Great Depression. The families' oldest children, Benjamin and Teruko (Thelma), fall in love and the emotional stakes are further heightened when the Japanese attack Hawaii on December 7, 1941, throwing both families into uncertainty. Issues of loyalty and patriotism provoke both rebellion and heroism among young, imprisoned Japanese Americans while both Thelma and Benjamin fight to maintain their dignity, identity, family, and love in the face of war, fear, and separation.

The attendees of the 2014 JACL National Convention were treated to a reading of the play by the El Teatro Campesino theatre troupe. Bringing the full produc-



Publicity photo via valleyoftheheart.com

tion to San Jose is a major event and tickets are selling out fast. The San Jose Stage Company in downtown San Jose is the venue for this World Premiere that is currently scheduled from February 10th through March 6th, 2016. Tickets are available online at [thestage.org](http://thestage.org). The Stage can be contacted at 408-283-7142.

## Welcome New and Returning Members to San Jose JACL

by Iris Lou

**P**lease welcome our new members: **Al Nakahara, June Nakamura, Kay Utsumi** and **Kay Zimmer** to our San Jose JACL organization. We would like to thank the following members for renewing their membership:

**Margie Cornehl, John Higaki, Chris Hioki, Kazuki Hirose, Andrea Hyde, Christopher Hyde, Wendell and Elaine Misawa, Wayne and Sachi Mitsunaga, Vinh Nguyen, Louise Oyama, Leslie Parks, Tad and Fumiko Sawamura, Jeff Sera, Carol Setoguchi, Richard Shinagawa, Wayne and Diane Tanda, Mark Tashima, Mae Tokiwa, James Yamaguchi, and Miles Yamamoto.**

I will no longer be monitoring our SJ JACL membership but I would like to thank **Caroline Kurimoto** and **Marge Tsuji** for their continued dedication in keeping the membership records updated and sending out renewals for San Jose JACL.

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 your request to [sanjosejacl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sanjosejacl@sbcglobal.net) or call (408)295-1250.

## Thank You, Donors!

### Matching Fund for IMB Repairs

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 Individuals from Dessert Dash  
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 Carol Ishikawa  
 Gail Ishimatsu  
 Reiko Iwanaga  
 M/M Tom Kawahara  
 M/M Glenn Kurimoto  
 Dr. Misao Kusuda  
 Don Kuwabara  
 M/M Ben Masatani  
 Judy Niizawa  
 M/M Dennis Ohori  
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 Kay Ono  
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 John Hayakawa  
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 Neil Kozuma - Year End  
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 Joyce Oyama - Reimbursement of  
 CGM dinner rebate  
 M/M Tad Sawamura - Year End  
 Carol Setoguchi - Year End  
 Jack Shinkawa - Year End  
 Mae Tokiwa - In memory of Rod  
 Kobara & Toshio Tokiwa's 93rd  
 birthday  
 Dr. Ernest Torigoe - Year End  
 M/M Chris Tsuji - Year End  
 Lillian Uyeda - Year End  
 Joyce Yamamoto - Year End



Thank  
you

## Thank You, Volunteers!

### KEY:

Halloween - H  
 Year-end Mailing - YM  
 Mochitsuki - M

Margie Cornehl - H, M  
 Derek Hane - H  
 Barbara Isa - H  
 Liz Isa - H  
 Leon Kimura - H, YM  
 Iris Lou - H  
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 Al Nakahara - M  
 Tom Oshidari - YM, M  
 Joyce Oyama - H  
 M. Oyama - H  
 Marian Suhama - M  
 Cindy Sugino - H  
 Marge Tsuji - H, M  
 Emi Tsutsumi - H, M  
 Kay Utsumi - H  
 Sharon Uyeda - YM, M  
 Jalen Wong - H  
 Jean Yamaguchi - H, M  
 Joyce Yamamoto - H

ありがとう





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CITIZENS  
LEAGUE

SAN JOSE  
**JACL**

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San Jose, CA 95112

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



## Upcoming Events

**Sunday, Feb 14 - Day of Remembrance**  
San Jose State University  
Morris Dailey Auditorium  
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday, Feb 20 - "Valley of the Heart" play**  
San Jose Stage  
2:00 p.m.

**Saturday, April 23 - District Gala Luncheon**  
DoubleTree Hotel, Pleasanton  
Time: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



## Wish List

Geek Squad services  
Part-time Bookkeeper (volunteer or paid)  
Tools (hammer, saw, shovel, rake, etc.)  
Web Master



## ***NCWNP District Awards Banquet & Celebration***

Pleasanton DoubleTree by Hilton  
Saturday, April 23, 2016  
11:00 am - 3:00pm



### About our event:

- ❖ Celebrating JACL's past - continuing our work... *ONWARD!*
- ❖ Honoring our past treasurers:  
John Yamada, Fred Okimoto and Emily Teruya
- ❖ Honoring each chapter's unsung hero
- ❖ Special guest, Delphine Hirasuna, author of "The Art of Gaman"
- ❖ Delicious lunch
- ❖ Silent auction with many fabulous items
- ❖ Net proceeds to support the 2017 Smithsonian exhibition commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Executive Order 9066

*For more information, contact  
NCWNP District Office at (415) 345-1075 or pwada@jacl.org*