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San Jose JACL's 13th Annual
Community Recognition Dinner

By Sharon Uyeda



This year's honorees with San Jose JACL Co-Presidents. L to R: Tom Oshidari, Vernon Hayashida, Stan Kawamata, Reiko Iwanaga, Sharon Uyeda, and Rich Saito. Photo by Gary Jio.

This year's dinner was held on Saturday, November 5th at the Holiday Inn – San Jose-Silicon Valley. The theme was "Kansha" (Gratitude). **Andrea Nakano**, KPIX 5 sports anchor and reporter, served as mistress of ceremonies. Following dinner, four honorees were recognized for their activities and involvement in and around San Jose Japantown. **Vernon Hayashida** was the first honoree. Vernon is an active member of JAMsj, Wesley United Methodist Church and Yu-Ai Kai. The next honoree was **Reiko Iwanaga**. Reiko has been involved with many Betsuin activities as well as CATS and other organizations outside of Japantown. The third honoree was **Stanley Kawamata** and he was introduced by **Alvin Hironaga**, a past honoree. Stan has devoted over three decades to the Betsuin scouting program and it was so fitting for Al to tie the Boys Scout oath into his introduction of Stan. The final honoree was **Rich Saito**. He can be seen helping at numerous events around Japantown. As a retired police

officer, he is a proponent of public safety and is heavily involved in Japantown Prepared.

With the recognition dinner being the Chapter's major fundraiser, there was a silent auction and two opportunity drawings of a quilt, donated by the Betsuin Sangha Quilters and a framed Otsuka print, donated by **Sharon Uyeda**. Serving as dinner co-chairpersons were **Tom Oshidari** and **Sharon Uyeda**. The hard working planning committee members were **Leon Kimura**, **Caroline Kurimoto**, **Iris Lou**, **Joyce Oyama** and **Marge Tsuji**. Numerous volunteers helped during the night of the dinner. They were **Christy Chung**, **Ken Furu-kawa**, **Chris Hioki**, **Yoko Kobashi**, **Mark Nakamae**, **Jeanne Nakano**, **Kristin Okimoto**, **M. Oyama**, **Marian Suhama**, **Brandon Uenaka**, and **Joyce Yamamoto**. **Gary Jio** served as the photographer and **Vi Onishi** provided the flowers for the honorees. The very clever

(continued on page 3)

Co-Presidents' Message

Akemashite-omedeto-gozaimasu



Happy New Year! To start things off, we want to thank those of you who generously responded to our Year-End Donation Request. Finances will be one of the challenges we face in the coming year. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

We also want to thank two members who are leaving our Executive Board, **Leon Kimura**, Past President and most recently VP Civil Liberties, and **Mark Yamamoto**, who has served as Treasurer. Both have had a change in their personal commitments which preclude their continued service level to the Chapter. Thank you, **Leon** and **Mark**, for your valued service to San Jose JACL.

So along with finances and Chapter leadership, we face a very challenging civil liberties environment. If you are up for a challenge, we would love to hear from you!



Tom Oshidari & Sharon Uyeda
Co-Presidents



Freshman Scholarships Available Through San Jose JACL

Are you a high school senior or do you know a high school senior? If yes, then go to the San Jose JACL website: www.sanjosejacl.org and download an application, complete it, include the supporting information, and submit it by the **March 1st deadline**. The San Jose JACL awards and administers a number of scholarships in behalf of families and the Chapter itself. There are two applications available on the San Jose JACL website. You can download a **Freshman Scholarship application** and/or the **Ray and Lucy Matsumoto Vocational/Business Scholarship application**. Remember, submittal deadline is March 1st (postmarked). Questions can be directed to **Dr. Mitsu Kumagai**, scholarship chair at mkumagai@sbcglobal.net.

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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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and Sharon Uyeda
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Treasurer - Mark Yamamoto
Immediate Past President - Leon Kimura

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Vi Onishi	Jimi Yamaichi

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.

13th Annual Community Recognition Dinner (continued)

table centerpieces were created by **Joyce Oyama**. Designing the photo board, which displayed Chapter events was **M. Oyama**. *Domo Arigato* to all who helped make the 13th Annual Community Recognition a success.



Photos by Gary Jio

Community Recognition Dinner Acknowledgments

Grateful appreciation to the many donors to the Silent Auction. Please patronize the businesses that supported the dinner and say, "Thank you for supporting the San Jose JACL."

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 Wen Zhou Fish, Noodles & More

Individuals/Groups

Cynthia Fong, Jerry Hiura, Reiko Iwanaga, Sue McClure, Jason Mikami, Vi Onishi, Tom Oshidari, Shirley Ota, Joyce Oyama, M. Oyama, SJ Buddhist Church Sangha Quilters, San Jose Taiko, Emi Serizawa, Heidi Shigematsu, Sharon Uyeda, Kristi Yamaguchi/Always Dream Foundation, Michael Yoshihara, Yu-Ai Kai Staff

Dinner Donors

Carl Fujita, Sophie Horiuchi-Forrester, Maya Iwanaga, Aki & Linda Iwasaki, Michael & Elaine Jones, Russell Kageshiro, Neil Kozuma, Iris Lou, Jacqueline Maruhashi, Judy Niizawa, Tom Nishisaka, Rich Saito, San Jose Tofu/Chester & Amy Nozaki, Kristin Okimoto, Tom & Sue Shigemasa, Leon & Fusako Talley, Taylor Arco Automotive, Jean Yamaguchi, Mark Yamamoto and Dale Yoshihara

Dinner Booklet Advertisers

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Annual General Membership Meeting

by Neil Kozuma

The San Jose JACL Chapter held its Annual General Membership Meeting at the Issei Memorial Building on November 11, 2016. At the Annual General Meeting, members are elected to the Chapter's Board of Directors. In attendance were the following Chapter members: **Henry Uyeda; Sharon Uyeda; Cindy Sugino; Margie Oyama; Joyce Oyama; Iris Lou; Ken Diaz; Christina Diaz; Judy Niizawa; Tom Shigemasa; Sue Shigemasa; Al Nakahara; Carrie Shigemasa-Diaz; Joyce Furukawa; Terry Oshidari; Tom Oshidari; Marge Tsuji; Mark Yamamoto; Leon Kimura; and Neil Kozuma.**

The following persons were nominated and elected to the Chapter's Board of Directors for 2017-2019: **Iris Lou; Neil Kozuma; Sharon Uyeda; Carl Fujita;**

Al Nakahara; Richard Kamimura; Tom Nishisaka; Tom Shigemasa; Sue Shigemasa; and Steven Nose.

Co-President **Tom Oshidari** provided a recap of the Chapter's involvement during 2016:

- January - Installation Dinner at 4th Street Bowl
- Panel member on the Stand-up Against Hatred and Scapegoating Forum
- February - Day of Remembrance
- "Valley of the Heart" Play
- April - NCWNP District Gala
- Luncheon (recognized Iris Lou)
- May - Scholarship Luncheon
- Oak Hill Memorial Event
- July - National Convention in Las Vegas
- BAAPALS Summer Mixer
- August - Appreciation BBQ
- Anne Namba Fundraiser

September - AACI Dinner

October - CAIR Dinner
- Suzume no Gakko 40th Anniversary Dinner
- Halloween at the IMB

November - 13th Annual Community Recognition Dinner

National JACL News:

National JACL is conducting an executive search for a new Executive Director. National President, **Gary Mayeda**, is forming a Fiscal Oversight Committee to prevent overspending. The Pacific Citizen is projected to cost members \$17.00 a year for a printed copy. An electronic version will be free.

News:

The Smithsonian is commemorating the 75th Anniversary of Executive Order 9066. The exhibit opens February 2017.

Sayonara, Yoshi Tasaka

by Tom Oshidari

On November 22, 2016, in lieu of its regular Board meeting at the Issei Memorial Building, JCCsj held an informal reception to honor Yoshi Tasaka, Community Relation Liaison for the Consulate-General of Japan in San Francisco. Yoshi held that position for almost 10 years and through four Consul Generals prior to his departure in December. It was largely due to his efforts that San Jose Japan-

town strengthened ties with the Consulate-General's office.

In addressing the group Yoshi related how it was a "life changing experience" to observe the U. S. Japantowns' community spirit and volunteerism (Yoshi attended many of San Jose JACL's Community Recognition Dinners to hear the in-depth stories of many dedicated volunteers).

Yoshi was inspired to visit the Tohoku region to see if there was something he could do to help. In a moment of serendipity he came across a start-up company with a philosophy similar to his in wanting to help people, and he found his next job. The Chapter wishes Yoshi success in his new venture, and thanks him for his efforts in fostering ties between the Consul General and San Jose Japantown.

Halloween Fun House

By Marge Tsuji



Photos by Marge Tsuji & Iris Lou

This year, Halloween fell on a Monday, a bad day for working parents and school children. But that didn't stop hordes of costume-clad families from enjoying the festivities held in JapanTown. Even the weather helped as the rain held off until later in the evening.

From 4 - 6:30 pm, the IMB rocked with Halloween music and tricksters happily engaged in creating Halloween crafts. (This year the games were omitted due to lack of volunteers but we hope to have them again next year - the boys were especially disappointed.) Frankensteins, ghosts, mummies and jack-o-lanterns were created by earnest young artists clad in the most extravagant costumes. San Jose Lions handed out even more candy.

Across the street at Wesley Church, San Jose Taiko and their children's class performed, later leading the children in a Japan-

Town parade to candy-giving shopkeepers. Wesley members had elaborate Trunk-or-Treat displays in their car trunks, featuring interactive displays, balloon creatures and more candy.


This was a free, fun-filled event for all in the neighborhood and beyond. It was a chance for JACL, Taiko, Wesley and the Lions to give back to the community and to connect with the people we work for and with.

Some of the JACL volunteers were **Leon Kimura, Tom Os-hidari, Iris Lou, Marge Tsuji, Emi Tsutsumi, Barb Isa, Margie Cornehl, Marian Suhama, Kay Utsumi, Irene Nakamitsu, Margie Oyama** and **Joyce Oyama**. We always have so much fun at this event, come join us next Halloween!

If you are interested in volunteering next year, email sanjosejACL@sbcglobal.net.

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Yu-Ai Kai Mochitsuki

by Sharon Uyeda

With the completion of the San Jose Buddhist Church annex retro-fit, the Yu-Ai Kai mochitsuki operations moved back to the annex. There was the usual turn-out of enthusiastic community and high school volunteers to make the event a success. This year, Chapter volunteers (**Cristina Diaz, Leon Kimura, Iris Lou, Terry Oshidari, Tom Oshidari, Sue Shigemasa, Cindy Sugio, Marge Tsuji, Sharon Uyeda and Mark Yamamoto**) helped in the afternoon with various tasks.

Photos by Sharon Uyeda: Top Left - Sue Shigemasa, Sharon Uyeda, Cristina Diaz; Top Right - Marge Tsuji, Iris Lou; Bottom - Tom Oshidari, Mark Yamamoto, Leon Kimura.

Thank You, Donors!

The San Jose JACL gratefully acknowledges the following donors for their generosity during Oct - Dec, 2016

General Fund

Benevity Community Infinity Fund
Midori Matsumoto
Betsy Oka
Tadashi & Frances Sawamura
Carol Setoguchi
Tom & Sue Shigemasa
Marian Suhama

Halloween

Content Management/Zack Tsuji

Scholarship

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Building Fund

Betsy Oka
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Yoshiteru Tanikawa
Chris Tsuji
Marge Tsuji
Paul & Bobbie Ueunten
Henry Uyeda
Lee Uyeda
Sharon Uyeda

Welcome New and Returning Members to San Jose JACL

Membership Report (Oct - Dec, 2016)

A big welcome to the following new members: **Cristina Diaz, Ken Diaz, Charlene Stroberg, Vince & Lynn Tran.** The Chapter looks forward to meeting you and having you participate in our activities and events. Also, we would like to acknowledge **Terry Oshidari's** 1000 Club membership.

Thanks to the following members for renewing their membership: **Yoshiteru Deguchi, Robert Fujii, Takeo & Yoshiko Ichikawa, Lorie Ishimatsu, Shirley Iwagaki, Sonja Kawamoto, Larry Kubo, Wendy Kumata & Brent Mitsuuchi, Kristen Masada, Lois Matsumoto, Wendell & Elaine Misawa, Wayne & Sachi Mitsunaga, Janet Nagashima, Leonard & Jaime Namimatsu, Thomas Nishisaka, Dennis Otori, Betsy Oka, Dennis & Mary Okamura, Tom Oshidari, M. Oyama, Leslie Parks, Carolyn Satake, Tadashi & Fumiko Sawamura, Carol Setoguchi, Tom & Sue Shigemasa, Carrie Shigemasa-Diaz, Cindy Sugino, Marian Suhama, Roy Takeuchi, Kazuo Utsunomiya, James Yamaguchi, Robert Yamanaga and Susan Yuen.**

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.

Thank You, Volunteers!

Key: Outlook Mailing – OM
Halloween – H
Mochitsuki -M
Year End Mailing – YEM

Margie Cornehl – OM, H
Cristina Diaz - M
Leon Kimura – OM, H, M
Iris Lou – OM, H, M
Terry Oshidari – M
Tom Oshidari – M, YEM
M. Oyama – H
Sue Shigemasa - M
Cindy Sugino - M
Marge Tsuji – H, M
Emi Tsutsumi – OM
Kay Utsumi - OM
Sharon Uyeda – OM, M, YEM
Jean Yamaguchi – OM, H
Mark Yamamoto - M



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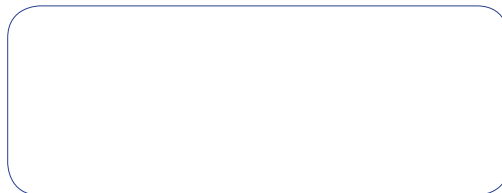
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Upcoming Events

Saturday, February 11
"Kakou" (We)

Yu-Ai Kai Fundraising Dinner
San Jose Buddhist Church
Betsuin Annex
5:00-8:00pm

Saturday, February 18
Chirashi & Botamochi
Fundraiser

San Jose Betsuin Buddhist
Women's Association
Chirashi \$6 / Botamochi \$4
Pick-up Time 1:00-2:30pm
Contact: Sharon Uyeda
(408-259-3656 or
suyeda9356@aol.com) for
ordering

Saturday, February 18
"Evening of
Remembrance"

Tanforan Assembly Center
Memorial Fundraiser
San Mateo Marriott Hotel
5:00pm

Sunday, February 19
Day of Remembrance
San Jose Buddhist Church
Betsuin Annex
5:30-7:30pm

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



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Peninsula at War! San Mateo County's World War II Legacy Exhibit

Tanforan Assembly Center Memorial Committee
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If you are interested in attending, contact Sharon Uyeda at
suyeda9356@aol.com or 408-259-3656 to make a reservation and
select an entree choice.