



The mission of the Japanese American Citizens League is to secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry.

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San Jose JACL Supports Tsuru for Solidarity

By Susan Yuen

Japanese Americans from across the country will be gathering in Washington, D.C. on June 5-7, 2020 for a "National Pilgrimage to Close the Camps." Planning is being led by Tsuru for Solidarity, a nonviolent, direct action project of Japanese American social justice advocates. This is expected to be the largest gathering of Nikkei since World War II.

Organizers plan to bring 125,000 paper cranes, or tsuru, as expressions of solidarity with immigrant and refugee communities that are under attack today. The cranes represent the members of our community who were rounded up and imprisoned in concentration camps during World War II.

To support this effort, the San Jose JACL will be hosting "Fold-Ins" at the Issei Memorial Building at 7pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month leading up to the event: February 19th, March 18th, April 15th, and May 20th. We will use the time to discuss local outreach efforts while we fold and



Tsuru for Solidarity Co-Chair Nancy Ukai shows a large paper crane made from 7'x7' paper. At the march, 100 of these cranes will be carried on poles to represent different JA communities.

string together our paper cranes. If you are interested in helping with the Fold-Ins, please email susan.kanagawa@gmail.com. If you are interested in learning more about the event in Washington D.C., or would like to make a donation to help Tsuru for Solidarity, please visit tsuruforsolidarity.org.



Join the 2020 Pilgrimage to Manzanar

By Melanie Shojinaga

Happy New Year! We are preparing for the second annual San Jose JACL Manzanar Pilgrimage and we would love for you to join us! The groundbreaking trip in 2019 was extremely successful due to our intergenerational and stimulating conversations between the attendees, reflections from former incarcerated, vulnerable small group discussions, training on how to act as an ally in threatening situations, and information on how to be an advocate for social justice!

This will be a 3-day journey beginning on Friday morning, April 24, 2020 until the evening

of Sunday April 26th. This is a rare chance to experience the Japanese American World War II incarceration at Manzanar National Historic Park, the most well-preserved of the 10 major concentration camps.

Below is a brief list of deadlines for participating in the pilgrimage:

- **Friday, February 21:** \$50 deposit due
- **Sunday, March 1:** Final cost announced
- **Friday, March 20:** Final payments due

(continued on page 2)

2020 Pilgrimage to Manzanar

(continued)

The planning committee is also excited to announce the **Manzanar Ambassadors Scholarship!** Through this scholarship funded by the SJ JACL, two young adults will have the unique opportunity to participate in the pilgrimage for free, serve their community, and develop their leadership skills. This scholarship is mirrored after the Florin JACL Manzanar Ambassador Scholarship. **Madison Tamichi, Jenna Yonenaga,** and I were honored with the scholarship while attending UC Davis and it's how we first were introduced to the pilgrimage and the JACL!

This scholarship will be awarded to two young adults, ages 25 and under, who are active in the JA community. The scholarship will completely cover all costs of attending the pilgrimage which includes 3 days bus transportation, 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, Friday BBQ dinner, Saturday bento lunch, and custom designed T-shirt. More details about the scholarship requirements can be found on the JACL website.

We are excited for what 2020 has in store!



Yu-Ai Kai Mochitsuki

By Sharon Uyeda

On Saturday, December 14th, the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin annex was bustling with people cooking and steaming rice, cutting mochi, flipping pieces to cool, weighing and packaging mochi for buyers to pick-up. This annual event sponsored by Yu-Ai Kai, brings together the community, including the high school youth to fulfill community service hours. Helping from the Chapter were **Iris Lou, Tom**

Oshidari, Marge Tsuji, and **Sharon Uyeda.** Due to the volume made, the traditional pounding of the steamed rice is now mechanically done. Nonetheless, hundreds of pounds are sold. It freezes well. I understand that Yu-Ai Kai has some frozen that you can buy. If you are interested, please call (408) 294-2505. A lot of help is needed, so call Yu-Ai Kai for the date in December and come out to help.

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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
Secretary – Neil Kozuma
Co-Treasurers – Ryan O'Carroll
and Kaitlyn Thomas
Immediate Past President – Leon Kimura

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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.

Halloween in Japantown

By Marge Tsuji

Every October, San Jose Japantown hosts a fabulous Halloween Happening. Chaired by Taiko's **Franco Imperial,** the whole town goes all out to give kids and adults an exciting, fun, and safe Halloween. Streets are closed off so families can stroll from event to event.

The San Jose JACL has participated for several years by hosting an Arts, Crafts and Games Event at the IMB. Manned by adult volunteers and teen CYSers, a creative and fun time is had by all. Many parents want to join in the clever crafts and root on their kids in the games. Thanks to all the volunteers: **Margie Cornehl, Barb Isa, Iris Lou, Wendy Miller, Tom Oshidari, Margie Oyama, Marian Suhama, Tennessee Tang, Marge Tsuji, Emi Tsutsumi, Keiko Utsumi, Josh Villaneueva, Joyce Yamamoto,** and **Pat Yotsuya.** Come join us next year – it's free to all.



Annual General Meeting

By Neil Kozuma

The San Jose JACL holds an Annual General Meeting every November to elect or renew board members. The board members hold staggered two-year terms to assure there are always board members serving the Chapter.

On November 8, 2019, in attendance at the Annual General Meeting were: **Ray Matsumoto, Emi Tsutsumi, Margie Cornehl, Joyce Oyama, Tom Shigemasa, Sue Shigemasa, Cindy Sugino, Iris Lou, Terry Oshidari, Tom Oshidari, Sharon Uyeda,** and **Neil Kozuma.**

Before the start of the meeting, the Chapter hosts a potluck dinner for the attendees and as usual great food was served and cheerful conversations were happening among all.

On the ballot this year were the following board members whose terms would expire unless they were voted-in to return to the board:

Leon Kimura, Joyce Oyama, Iris Lou, Tamon Norimoto, Ryan O'Carroll, Kaitlyn Thomas, Tom Oshidari, Cindy Sugino, and **Jason Yonehiro.**

Terry Oshidari volunteered to collect and count the votes. All the above-mentioned ballot names were reelected to another two-year term to serve on the San Jose JACL Board.

Tom Oshidari distributed the 2019 list of activities. Highlighted activities were:

- Minidoka Swing Band Concert
- Pilgrimage to Manzanar.
- Hosted Women's March protesters at the IMB to make posters prior to going to City Hall
- Day of Remembrance - **Melanie Shojinaga** and **Madison Tamichi** represented SJ JACL as banner bearers
- Attended NCWNP District Gala, where Sharon was awarded a Sapphire Pin

- Presented scholarships to five students at the Scholarship Luncheon
- Tom and Sharon participated as panelists at the University of California Office of the President, Oakland, UC Asian Pacific Islander Staff Association screening of "And Then They Came for Us"
- Co-sponsored the Fort Sill Solidarity Vigil, protesting the proposed incarceration of migrant children at Fort Sill, OK (SJ Mercury published an interview with Tom Oshidari). This vigil was coordinated with similar vigils in San Francisco and Los Angeles Japantowns.
- Coordinated Suzume No Gakko Community Service Project-cleaning Japantown monuments
- Signed the Chapter on as Amici Curiae in the case of **LaDonna Kumori Kaku vs. City of Santa Clara** (City has not adequately addressed minority voters' rights with its voting districts)



2020 JACL Scholarship Applications Available

By Sharon Uyeda

Attention High School Seniors! Help defray the high cost of college by applying for scholarships offered through San Jose JACL. Scholarships ranging from \$10,000 - \$500 are available. Please go to the website: sanjosejacl.org, click on the Education link and download an application for the San Jose JACL Scholarships and/or the Ray and Lucy Vocational/Business Scholarship. Student membership is not a requirement, but some of them do require membership to be eligible. Student membership is \$30, so go to the website (www.sanjosejacl.org), complete the membership application and enhance your chance of being selected for a scholarship. Take some time to complete an application. Your invested time will reap being selected for a scholarship and provide some financial support. Deadline for submittal is Monday, March 2, 2020.



United States Census 2020

The United States Census Bureau will begin the 2020 Census count on April 1, 2020.

What is the Census?

Every ten years, as mandated by the Constitution, the federal government gathers data about every person living in the United States. Counting the population living in the US creates a map of who is in America, where they are, and what they do. This data drives policy and decision making for federal and local governments, as well as the private sector.

Why is the Census Important?

Vital Funding for Our Community
The data from the Census will be used to distribute over 600 billion in annual federal funding over the next ten years. Census data lets policy makers and politicians know where resources are needed. In California, Census data is used to determine federal funding allocations for programs that are vital for our communities. The government needs to know where the people are in order to ensure enough money is directed to fund these programs. An undercount will result in insufficient funding for these programs.

Making Sure We are Represented
The Census count is used to ensure the fair distribution of political power.

In Santa Clara County, the Census data is used to draw the boundaries for its districts. Federally, the population count is used to determine the number of seats each state receives within the House of Representatives. California is home to 10 of the hardest counties to count. California is in danger of losing a House seat from the first time in its history. Your participation is crucial.

Keeping Our History Documented
For many communities of color, their stories have not appeared in history books. By participating in the Census it ensures that you, your family, and our community is documented in US history. Your presence here in the US is all that is required for you to be counted and you cannot be excluded because of your race, gender identification, or citizenship.

Your Participation is Important!

Participation in the 2020 Census will not only secure federal funding and political representation, but also document your place in America. You can participate by completing a form online, a paper form through the mail, by telephone, or in person when an enumerator (census taker) comes to your residence. Whichever method is best for you, the Census will start on April 1, 2020.

CAIR 25th Anniversary Gala Dinner

By Tom Oshidari

On November 9th the San Jose JACL contingent of **Sharon Uyeda, Tom Oshidari, Neil Kozuma,** and **Joyce and Margie Oyama** were among over 1400 supporters at the Santa Clara Convention Center for the CAIR 25th Anniversary Gala Dinner.

The evening began with live, spiritual music by the Aswat Ensemble and a recitation from the Quran by Outreach Coordinator, **Ossama Kamel.** The program was emceed by CAIR-LA's Executive Director, **Hussam Ayloush,** one of CAIR's longest tenured leaders.

Representative **Anna Eshoo** spoke to attendees about Islamophobia and the current political climate, as well as her appreciation for the institution that CAIR has grown to become. The event was honored to have more than 30 elected officials in attendance, and even more who submitted letters, proclamations, commendations, and videos.

Following these remarks Executive Director, **Zahra Billoo,** spoke about CAIR-SFBA's achievements and work in the past 25 years. CAIR-SFBA Pres-



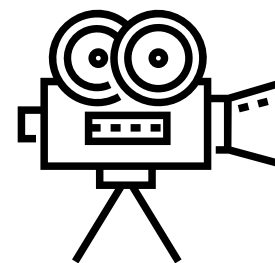
Left to right: Co-Presidents Tom Oshidari, Sharon Uyeda, Margie Oyama, Neil Kozuma (standing), Joyce Oyama (seated).

ident, **Musaab Attaras,** comments during the event reflected back some of tangible results the supporters' contributions have allowed the organization to accomplish.

Dr. Altaf Husain inspired the crowd to invest in CAIR's crucial, grassroots civil rights work. The evening's keynote speaker, **Shaun King,** spoke about making change and fundamental aspects an organization must have

to be successful at it. Finally, **Jeremy McLellan,** the Gala's featured comedian specializing in Muslim-centric humor, closed the night by filling the room with smiles and laughter.

Prior to the closing of the evening, it was announced that they had received a record amount in donations. We wish continued success to our community partner.



Silicon Valley Asian Pacific FilmFest

By Tom Oshidari

Like its new, first-time venue at the Cinearts Theater at Santana Row, the Silicon Valley Asian Pacific FilmFest (SVAPFF) 2019 took a step up over its three-day run, November 1-3. The SVAPFF is a project committed to promoting and showcasing stories that capture and reflect the history, the contributions, the diversity, the aspirations, and the interests of Asian Pacific immigrants and residents, rich and poor, young and old, who are living and working in, and shaping the present and future

of life in Silicon Valley. Most of the films were sold-out, including *Alternative Facts: The Lies of Executive Order 9066*, the film for which San Jose JACL was a Co-Presenter. Congratulations to **Steve Yamaguma** and **Cindy Toy,** FilmFest Co-Chairs, and their hard-working committee and volunteers for a very successful event and delivering on their motto, "Connecting and Inspiring Communities Through Stories of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders."

2020 Officers & Board of Directors Inducted



On Friday, January 10, 2020, the San Jose JACL held its annual Installation Banquet at China Stix Restaurant in Santa Clara. Pictured left to right: Co-President Sharon Uyeda, Co-President Tom Oshidari, Jason Yonehiro (back), Marge Tsuji (center), Joyce Oyama (seated), Secretary Neil Kozuma, and Iris Lou.

Co-Presidents:

Tom Oshidari & Sharon Uyeda

Secretary:

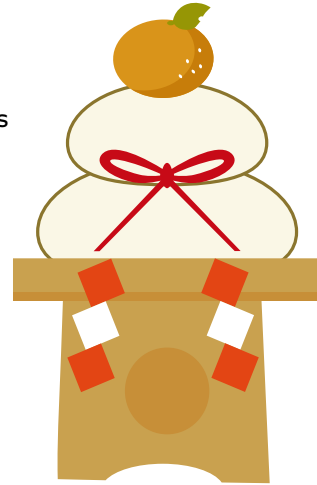
Neil Kozuma

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Iris Lou
Tamon Norimoto
Steven Nose
Joyce Oyama
Sue Shigemasa
Tom Shigemasa
Cindy Sugino
Marge Tsuji
Jason Yonehiro



Donations

With grateful appreciation to the following for their end of year donations to the Chapter:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Perry & Toni Dobashi
Akemi Flynn
George & Shizuka Hanada
Susumu Ikeda
Diane Ikegami
Carol Ishikawa
Gail Ishimatsu & Harold Hall
Michiko Itatani
Reiko Iwanaga
Alice Kadonaga
Yayoi Kambara
Don Kawabara
Leon Kimura
Neil Kozuma
Misao Kusuda
Bill Kusumoto - <i>in memory of Masami & Jiyushi Kusumoto</i>
Lois Matsumoto
Henry Nakamura
Theodore Nakamura
William Okasa | Tom & Terry Oshidari
Terry & Shirley Ota
Joyce Oyama
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Victoria Taketa
Barbara Tanaka
Wayne Tanda
Stan Tomita
Marjorie Tsuji
Emi Tsutsumi
Lillian Uyeda
Sharon Uyeda
James Yamaguchi
Joyce Yamamoto
Susan Yuen |
|---|---|

Volunteers

- FO - Fall Outlook
H - Halloween
M - Mochitsuki
- Margie Cornehl - H
Barbara Isa - H
Iris Lou - H, M
Wendy Miller - H
Tom Oshidari - FO, H, M
Margie Oyama - H
Marian Suhama - H
Tennessee Tang - H
Marge Tsuji - H, M
Emi Tsutsumi - FO, H
Keiko Utsumi - H
Sharon Uyeda - FO, M
Josh Villaneueva - H
Joyce Yamamoto - H
Pat Yotsuya - H

Much thanks for volunteering and supporting our events and activities. Your time and energy are very much appreciated.



Membership Report

(October - December 2019)

Welcome to the following new members: **Russ Baba, Susan Hayase & Tom Izu, Anastasia Langner** (student), **Barbara Tanaka**, and **Steve Yamaguma**. Thank you for joining our Chapter. We hope to see you at upcoming events.

Change: **Jason Yonehiro** added his wife, **Lani** as a member, so Jason renewed as a couple. Welcome, Lani!

Thank you to the following for renewing your membership. The Chapter appreciates your continued support: **Allen & Aileen Ando, Margie Cornehl, Fumiko Higuchi, Chris Hioki, Dorothy Hiura, Cathryn & Andrea Hyde, Barbara Isa, Larry Kubo, Iris Lou, Kristen Masada, Wendell & Elaine Misawa, Theodore Nakamura, Ryan O'Carroll, Tom & Terry Oshidari, Leslie Parks, Rose & Warren Shimonishi, Wayne & Diane Tanda, Yoshitoru Tanikawa, Kaitlyn Thomas, James Yamaguchi, Hatsumi Yamamoto, Robert Yamanaga, and Susan Yuen.**

If you have any changes in your contact information, please notify **Marge Tsuji**, Administrative Assistant, at sanjosejacl@sbcglobal.net or telephone: 408-295-1250. The Chapter welcomes any suggestions for events, projects as well as members who wish to volunteer. If you wish to be removed from the email send outs, please email your request to sanjosejacl@sbcglobal.net or call 408-295-1250.

General Fund

Hisako Ando - *in memory of Chiyoko Nerio*

Building Fund

Kathy Higuchi
Oyama Foundation

Oyama Family Scholarship

Oyama Foundation





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SUNDAY: 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm

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Calendar of Events

- Sat. Feb. 15 BWA Chirashi & Bota Mochi Fundraiser
3 Bota Mochi - \$5 / Chirashi - \$8
Contact Sharon Uyeda for tickets
(SUyeda9356@aol.com)
- Sun. Feb. 16 40th Anniversary of Day of Remembrance
SJ Buddhist Church Betsuin Annex
Guest Speaker: Norman Mineta
5:00 p.m.
- Wed. Feb. 19 Tsuru for Solidarity "Fold-In"
Issei Memorial Building, 7:00pm
- Sat. Feb. 22 Yu-Ai Kai Fundraising Dinner
SJ Buddhist Church Betsuin Annex
\$55 individual / Table of 8: \$400
5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- Feb. 29-Mar. 8 Hinamatsuri Doll Display
JAMsj - 535 N. Fifth St.
Hours the Museum is open (Thurs. - Sun.)
- Wed. Mar. 18 Tsuru for Solidarity "Fold-In"
Issei Memorial Building, 7:00pm
- Sat. Mar. 21 Unite Casino Night Fundraiser
SJ Buddhist Church Betsuin Annex
Price: TBD

*San Jose JACL
90th Anniversary Celebration*

**SAVE THE DATE
October 17, 2020**

**Embassy Suites by Hilton
Milpitas Silicon Valley**



**National Pilgrimage to Close the Camps
Washington, D.C.
June 5 - 7, 2020**

For more info: tsuruforsolidarity.org