

### Japanese American Citizens League San Jose Chapter

Volume 40, Issue 1

Spring 2009 Issue

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## OUTLOOK

#### **JACL Tri-District Conference**

By Neil Kozuma / Photos By Tom Nishikawa



Plenary I: L-R (front) Kiyo Sato, Prof. James Hirabayashi, Rev. Saburo Masada; (rear) Prof. Lane Hirabayashi, Marielle Tasukamoto



Plenary II: L-R (front) Justice James Ardaiz, Karen Kai, Robert Rusky; (rear) Don Tamaki, Lorraine Bannai, Dale Minami



Plenary III: L-R (front) Carole Hayashino, Norman Mineta, John Tateishi, Joanne Kagiwada; (rear) Counsel General Nagamine, Floyd Mori, Kamal Abu-Shamsieh, Ken Yokota



The Tri-District Conference (CCDC, NCWNP, and PSW) was sponsored by the Central California District Council and held at the Clovis Veterans Memorial Building on February 14<sup>th</sup> through February 16, 2009. The conference theme was Internment & Redress Remembered.

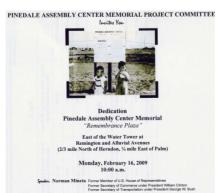
Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup> began with a golf tournament; trip to the Clark Center for Japanese Art and Culture; mixer dinner; the movie American Pastime and Youth Activities. Three plenary sessions were held on Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. Plenary I, moderated by Professor Lane

Hirabayashi, provided personal insights from Professor James Hirabayashi, Reverend Saburo Masada, Marielle Tsukamoto and Kiyo Sato on the Pinedale Assembly Center. Plenary II, moderated by Justice Ardaiz, presented the Coram Nobis Panel (Redress law team) comprised of Dale Minami, Don Tamaki, Professor Lorraine Bannai, Karen Kai and Robert Rusky. Plenary III, moderated by Carole Hayashino, presented Secretary Norman Mineta, John Tateishi, Floyd Mori, Ken Yokota, Joanne Kagiwada and Kamal Abu-Shamsieh to discuss the Redress Movement. The evening of the 15<sup>th</sup> ended with a Day of Remembrance Dinner and special recognition to awardees: President's Medal of Distinction to Satoshi (Fibber) Hirayama; Nisei

Continued on Page 4



Norman Mineta





Counsel General Yasumasa Nagamine

#### President's Message By Leon Kimura



Hello all! I am Leon Kimura, the new President of the San Jose JACL. I have been on the Board for about three decades and last served as your President 20 years ago. But I recently retired from City Service and am now able to devote some quality time to serve you and the community through the JACL. I would like to take a few moments and share some thoughts about my vision for the San Jose Chapter.

First, I would like to remember our past. Please check out the

following purpose statement excerpted from the Chapter's Articles of Incorporation:

"The specific and primary purposes are to foster American democracy, promote active participation in civic and national life, and secure justice and equal opportunities for Americans of Japanese ancestry permanently residing in the United States, as well as for all Americans regardless of their race, creed, color or national origin on an exclusively non-profit basis."

I had to read it more than once to try and understand its nuances and I hope that you will do the same. But it's a message worth understanding.

In part, I see the "American democracy" role as fostering support from both current and future politicians as well as coalitions of like minded organizations and individuals. It is leadership development of our youth. And standing up to be heard and counted through our country's election process. It is ensuring that we have a strong, clear voice that that takes advantage of the democratic right to "free speech" in order to speak out against injustice and prejudice in all of its insidious shapes and forms.

And I envision strengthening our community from within through the promotion of active civic life. This participation in community activities, events, groups, and organizations bring solidarity throughout, even impacting the national scene. There is strength in numbers and your support through civic engagement is crucial to the health and future of our community. And your participation is already making a difference! Thanks to your JACL membership and your generous donations, our local chapter is strengthened and can continue its mission. And if you take a more active role in civic life by supporting events such as the Japantown festivals, meetings, or donating your time and talents, then we all get that much stronger...

There has also been a proliferation of Asian American support organizations which begs the question of where the JACL now fits in. The current role that I feel the Chapter should pursue is being our community's "insurance policy" for responding, as needed, to civil rights issues. We need to remain strong so that we can insure that we will be there for the community when an issue arises and be able to mobilize and respond quickly and effectively at the local, district, state and national level, as the situation warrants. This requires a dedicated and continuing effort to foster partnerships with community leaders, including at all levels of government so that we can call for assistance in time of need. Strong partnerships should enable us to quickly "pick up the phone" and rally support if and when needed.

But it is crucial for the JACL leadership to maintain a strong bond with you, our members, and with the Asian American community in general, so that you are a true

Continued on Page 3

#### OUTLOOK is published on a quarterly basis by the San Jose JACL

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The San Jose JACL Board meets on the second Friday of each month at 7:00 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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#### President's Message from page 2

partner in the organization and are comfortable in contacting us should a need arise. Our members participate in the various community activities to reinforce the bond with the community and continually explore opportunities to expand our involvement. Supporting other community organization's activities and events through in-kind labor, attendance, co-sponsorships, etc. are just some of the ways partnerships are fostered, and we can always use any volunteer help you can spare.

Of course, there are so many other critical elements to the health and purpose of the organization's support for the community. A major labor of love is the caretaker responsibilities for the historic Issei Memorial Building. This building is going to be 100 years old soon and is in need of some work. And speaking of labors of love, the dedication of the officers and board members who have given so much of themselves ~ physically, financially, and emotionally both to the organization and to the community, has been absolutely essential. We could not be where we are today without these committed servants, and on behalf of myself and the Chapter, I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all!

And on a truly personal note, over the years, I have seen many changes take place in our organization and in our community. The most heartfelt change has been the passing of so many dedicated JACLers, who added so much value to the fabric of our community, to the warmth in our hearts and to the strength of our organization. When I retired and was reminded of my own mortality, I realized a new respect for the elders who have already traveled the road before me. And one of the reasons for my personal decision to again try to serve as your President was to ensure that we take the time and effort to encourage and accept the support of our elder resources while we are still able.

We come from all walks of life, and can each help to clear the way, bring fresh perspectives, offer sage advice and make our journey a little easier for each other and for those who follow. I hope that you will join the San Jose JACL in this journey!

Thank you!
Leon S. Kimura
elskay@aol.com

#### NOC Day of Remembrance 2009--Witness to History By Tom Oshidari



Last Year's Day of Remembrance

It was a dark and stormy night...but the weather did not deter a committed audience from attending the Nihon Outreach Committee (NOC) Day of Remembrance (DoR) 2009--Witness to History held on the evening of February 15. The DoR program once again presented an outstanding procession of speakers, including Reiko Nakayama, NOC Chairperson; Susan Hayase, redress activist, speaking in remembrance of Mits Koshiyama; Shafath Syed, South Bay Islamic Association, who expressed gratitude for the continued support received by the Muslim community from the the JA community; and Congressman Mike Honda, who spoke seamlessly without notes on cogent topics. Interspersed with the speakers were two sets of stirring performances by San Jose Taiko.

San Jose JACL's contribution to the program was the presentation of a multigenerational family who had been through the Internment. This year the family of Grace (and the late Joe) Akahoshi volunteered to be the ceremonial family to perform the candle lighting ceremony whereby a family member lit a candle for each of the 10 Internment camps plus Tule Lake, as NOC's Masao Suzuki and SJ JACL VP, Tom Oshidari, announced the names and populations of the camps. The Akahoshi family then led the candlelight procession. The family was represented by Grace (96 years

young), her daughter, Reiko Iwanaga, and son, Kenji Akahoshi; Reiko's children – Ryan, Courtney, and Ashley, plus Ryan's wife, Meena, and daughter, Keats; and Kenji's wife, Karen, and their sons, Garrett and Kirk. Many thanks to four generations of the Akahoshi family for braving the stormy weather and participating in DoR 2009!

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#### **Tri-District Conference** from Page 1



Veteran John Tagami; Spirit of Pinedale award to Ambassador Phillip V. Sanchez; Spirit of Education award to Dr. Peter G. Mehas; Spirit of Justice award to Dale Minami, Don Tamaki, Professor Lorraine Bannai, Karen Kai and Robert Rusky; and the Spirit of Public Service award to Senator Daniel K. Inouye (accepted by Secretary Mineta).

The conference ended on February 16<sup>th</sup> with a dedication of Pinedale Remembrance Plaza, located at 625 N. Alluvial Avenue in Northwest Fresno. The memorial plaza is 7,000 square feet, surrounded by cherry trees. Two storyboard plaques provide a background of the Sugar Pine Lumber Company, which established the Pinedale community and Camp Pinedale, an Army Air Force base and ten storyboard plaques track the progress of Japanese Americans from WWII to Redress on September 17, 1987. A bronze water fountain, designed by Gerard Tsutakawa from Seattle, stands at the center of the plaza. Buried beneath the fountain are artifacts from the Sugar Pine Lumber Company, Camp Pinedale and photographs from assembly and relocation centers. Under the leadership of Judge Dale Ikeda, the Pinedale Assembly Center Memorial Project Committee, a partnership between the CCDC JACL and the Central California Nikkei Foundation, began its work in 2005 to develop the Pinedale Remembrance Plaza.



Photos Courtesy of Tom Nishikawa

#### Renovation Planning Underway By Leon Kimura

The historic Issei Memorial Building (IMB) is undergoing a planning effort to determine what improvements should be made to both preserve the building and to promote its usefulness to the community in the future. A Building Renovation Committee (BRC) has been reviewing the project and coordinating with the JACL Board since August of last year to formulate a development strategy and preliminary cost estimate for use in fundraising. The anxiously anticipated cost estimates should be ready in the next month and are being developed by our contractor who specializes in historic buildings. He is also soliciting input from a structural engineer to temper his numbers. Current BRC members include Leon Kimura- Chair, Ron Yamamoto-V.P. of Operations, Richard Tanaka- Architect, James Salata- Contractor, and Roy Hirabayashi- IMB Building Manager.

Various development options have been created with several objectives in mind such as: Preserving the IMB- fire sprinklers, fire alarm, roof and foundation improvements; Making the spaces useful and accessible- expand the kitchen area, reconfigure interior walls, relocate a stairwell, handicapped accessible bathrooms, ease second floor access by installing an elevator; Providing a more energy efficient building- incorporate double glazed windows, better insulation, cool roof and solar panels; Ensuring the space is functional for the tenants- configure and equip the building as a business incubator site to better accommodate new start-up business/non-profit tenants including new information technology improvements. And we also want to ensure the enclosed backyard is more functional for community use with increased visibility from our conference room, greater accessibility to the kitchen and bathroom facilities.

The two preliminary options both include the above items but one scheme pushes out the entire length of the rear wall of the IMB 10 ½ feet to accommodate the width of an elevator and a basement storage area (with elevator access). But we will see what the overall costs entail and see how this impacts the design decision to prepare the IMB for the next century of use. More to come!

#### **Call for Assistance for the Turlock Assembly Center**

Currently a project is underway to erect a monument at the Turlock Fairgrounds to commemorate the Turlock Assembly Center (TAC). They have received approval of the design and to construct the monument from the Fairgrounds Board.

The TAC operated from April 30 - August 12, 1942. Japanese Americans living in Contra Costa, Alameda and San Joaquin counties as

well as other regions of the Sacramento Delta were relocated to the TAC.



Photo from Pacific Citizen online

There are two main objectives at this point. First and foremost they are seeking people who were incarcerated at the TAC. Please forward contact information of anyone who was relocated there or any ideas on how to get in touch with those incarcerated. Secondly, they are seeking funding and only need about \$4,000 to complete the project.

Contact information:

Kayla Canelo (209) 658-6681 k\_can88@sbcglobal.net

#### JACL National Youth/Student Council Announces 2009 Summer National Youth Conference

The National Youth/Student Council of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL NY/SC), the youth body of the oldest and largest Asian Pacific American civil and human rights organization in the country, is pleased to announce that all youth and students are invited to attend the 2009 JACL National Youth Conference.

Every two years, JACL youth and student members from around the country converge in one city to meet, interact, and learn about their community, and their heritage and culture. This year's biennial conference will be held at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, from June 26-28, 2009. The theme of this year's conference is "IMPACT! Your Community - Your Generation - Your JACL."

The conference is expected to be its best ever with an inspiring array of workshops, speakers, and events that will give participants the tools needed to be a successful leader in any capacity, and to gain critical knowledge of a diverse range of issues. JACL youth and student members will also be able to network with youth and students from other Asian American/Pacific Islander ethnicities from various Midwest cities and regions. Lastly, as this is the last official JACL National Youth Conference, it will be an opportunity to be a part of a legacy. We hope you will join us!

For more information and to register online, please visit: http://www.jacl.org/youth/conference-youth.html

#### **Not in Our Town** by Leon Kimura

Mountain View leaders have been proactive in developing actions and programs to combat bigotry and hate in their community. Their efforts include a partnership with the Not in Our Town organization to develop a pilot learning project utilizing the power of storytelling to reduce prejudice. This project showcases the combination of grass roots participation coupled with the leadership support of the greater community.

Picture this: You are a 6-year old boy and just finished making a menorah to celebrate Hanukah, and your parents are so proud of you they have you put it up in your home's front window. Then someone smashes your window with a rock... This outraged an entire town. So much so that people started putting up pictures of menorahs in their windows, despite their religious beliefs. Then the local paper printed a full page picture of a menorah for people to use, and they did, about 10,000 of them. The clear message sent from the people of Billings, Montana ~ not in our town.

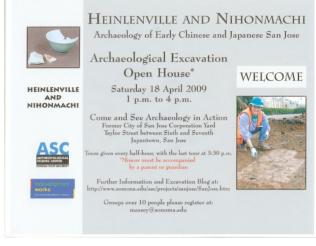
So, Mountain View's Not in Our Town effort kicked off with an Anti Hate Workshop held on March 25<sup>th</sup>, moderated by Alicia Frank, Mountain View Human Relations Commissioner and attended by such committed public servants as Mayor Margaret Abe-Koga; Vice Mayor Ronit Bryant; MV Human Relations Commission Chair Kal Sandhu; Police Chief Scott Vermeer; Leslie Bulbuk, BAYMEC Boardmember and Field Representative for Assemblymember Paul Fong; and Deputy District Attorney Jay Boyarsky who monitors County hate crimes.

Sadly, it should be noted that since the controversy over Prop 8, the incidence of anti-gay hate crimes has jumped from 15% of total hate crimes in the County in 2007 to 56% in 2008. This truly is an unfortunate affront to the civil, human, and constitutional rights of the LGBT community and one in which we should not tolerate in our town.

Kudos to Mayor Margaret Abe-Koga and the Mountain View community for their efforts in proactively addressing the issues of prejudice and bigotry!

In a couple of weeks the archeologists from the Anthropological Studies Center (ASC), at Sonoma State University will be returning to do a more intensive study of the Heinlenville/Nihonmachi area (otherwise known as the Corporation Yard block, 6<sup>th</sup>, Taylor, 7<sup>th</sup>, Jackson), following up on the exploratory dig from last year. According to Dr. Adrian Praetzellis, the Project Archeologist, the plans call for the unearthing of the entire Ng Shing Gung Temple foundation, more targeted exploration of the Chinese stores and "theater" sites, and a major trench along the back of early Japantown structures on the east side of 6<sup>th</sup> Street.

Heinlenville, named after John Heinlen, was the last Chinatown in San Jose. Against political pressure, he built a sturdy brick Chinatown at the northern edge of town. This Chinatown lasted until the 1930's with the last structure, the Ng Shing Gung Temple, demolished in the 1940's. Japantown had its roots just south of the brick Chinatown with such early businesses as the Yamato Bath House and the San Jose Sake Factory; all of these buildings were torn down to make way for the corporation yard.



In addition to the dig itself, the archeologists are seeking information, photos, and oral histories – people who may recall the structures, businesses and people connected to this site. If you know of someone who might relate any information, please contact ASC at their website or on-site from April 14<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Out of this project, they anticipate that several tools for documenting and preserving this information will be developed including publications, school educational trunks, and exhibits.

On **Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 4 p.m. a public Open House** will be held on the site. This is your opportunity (and it may be the last one) to see the foundations of San Jose's last Chinatown and the beginnings of Japantown. There is no charge, but come early as last year's Open House was heavily attended.

For more information and to follow the archeology project progress, log on to the ASC blog: <a href="http://heinlenville-nihonmachi.blogspot.com/">http://heinlenville-nihonmachi.blogspot.com/</a>. And for more background on Heinlenville, read Connie Young Yu's <a href="https://heinlenville-nihonmachi.blogspot.com/">Chinatown, San Jose, USA</a> and on San Jose's Japantown, Tim Lukes & Gary Okahiro's <a href="https://heinlenville-nihonmachi.blogspot.com/">Japanese Legacy</a>.

#### Coming (Again) Soon....Sake San Jose - May 21, 2009 By Julie Hubbard



If you have not attended a *Sake San Jose*, you have been missing out! Yu-Ai Kai's third Sake San Jose celebration will be held on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in Japantown San Jose.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to taste high-quality and rare sakes, some of which are not for sale in the U.S. Participants will stroll through more than twenty different businesses, restaurants and community centers in San Jose's historic Japantown tasting different sakes brewed in both the U.S. and Japan.

The Sake San Jose program will start with an opening ceremony which will officially kick-off the event featuring a traditional cask breaking ceremony. *Kagamiwari* (cask breaking ceremony) is a Japanese tradition in which the circular lid of a sake cask is broken with a wooden mallet to celebrate an important event. Live entertainment will also welcome participants.

The proceeds from this event will benefit the programs of Yu Ai-Kai Senior Services and its participants. Tickets are \$35 if purchased before the event and \$40 the day of. They will soon be available at Yu-Ai Kai, at participating businesses in Japantown, or online at www.sakesanjose.com.

San Jose's Japantown is one of only three remaining Japantowns in the United States. Please mark your calendars for May 21<sup>st</sup> and join sake connoisseurs and amateurs alike for another great, fun-filled event!

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#### San Jose JACL Financial Reports by Jeff Yoshioka

San Jose JACL Statement of Financial Position - Operations December 31, 2008		San Jose JACL Statement of Activities For the Year ended December 31, 2008		San Jose JACL Annual Financial Report For the Year ended December 31, 2008	
ASSETS Cash & Investments Current Assets Fixed Assets TOTAL ASSETS LIABILITIES Current Liabilities	\$ 91,117 \$ 360 \$ 23,820 \$ 115,297	TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE TOTAL EXPENSES Change in Net Assets Net Assets at Beginning of Year NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$ 97,649 \$ 67,101 \$ 30,548 \$ 84,008 \$114,556	2008 Revenues Donors Programs Fundraising Membership Miscellaneous	21% 23% 48% 6% 2% 100%
TOTAL LIABILITIES \$ 741  TOTAL NET ASSETS \$114,556  Please remember  San Jose JACL  In your charitable giving				2008 Expenses Fundraising Programs Administration Scholarships Outreach Miscellaneous	39% 12% 24% 3% 18% 4% ——————————————————————————————————

#### **JACL Supports Redress Now For Japanese Latin Americans**

National JACL Press Release

Washington, D.C. - The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), the oldest and largest Asian American civil and human rights organization in the nation, reiterates its support of Redress Now for Japanese Latin Americans who suffered from Wartime Relocation and Internment during World War II. Floyd Mori, National Executive Director of the JACL, said: "Our organization is working with those involved and supporting this effort to bring justice to Japanese Latin Americans."

A Congressional Hearing was held on March 19, 2009, on Bills to Study U.S. Treatment of World War II "Enemy Aliens" of Japanese, German, Italian, and Jewish Ancestry in the U.S. and from Latin America. The two bipartisan bills would establish commissions to study the wartime violations against people within these groups. Testimony was given by former German and Japanese Latin Americans who were interned in Department of Justice camps in the United States as well as by historical researchers and scholars.

H.R. 49/S.69, the "Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act," would establish a federal commission to study the wartime violations committed by the U.S. government against Japanese Latin Americans during World War II. The bill has already passed the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and is now being heard on the House side. In 1980, the Congress authorized a similar fact finding Commission that examined the treatment of Japanese Americans during World War II. During the course of that study, information began to surface about the treatment of the Japanese Latin Americans. It was found significant enough to include in the published report and warrants deeper investigation.

The U.S. government went outside its borders and violated the rights of civilians in nineteen Latin American countries. Thousands of men, women, and children of German, Italian, and Japanese ancestry were taken from their homes, forcibly deported, and interned in U.S. concentration camps for the purpose of prisoner exchange. They were apprehended, detained, and interned without charges and held without trial.

Larry Oda, National JACL President, stated, "The American public needs to be aware of this human rights violation against citizens of another country by our own government during World War II. It is truly sad that it has taken us 67 years for this to just begin to be acknowledged."

### End ###

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#### 2009 Installation Ceremony

On January 9, 2009, the Issei Memorial Building was the location of a short mixer and installation ceremony. Everyone enjoyed

sushi and kaarage chicken from Sushi Maru and as they greeted San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed, who year's installing officer. Before performing his term association with the JACL and the Nikkei work with the JACL in future endeavors.

Members of the Board, Advisory Council and

and Aiko Yamaichi, Steve Yamaguma, Art Honda,

to in:

beverages donated by Tom and Jennifer Nishisaka took the time out of his busy schedule to be this installation duties, Mayor Reed spoke of his longcommunity and reaffirmed his commitment to

guests in attendance included: Shirley Ota, Jimi George Hinoki, Yoshihiro Uchida, Henry Uyeda,

Kimberly Shintaku, Greer Nishikawa, June Honma, Carrie Chang, Noriko and Doug Ray, Jennifer Nishisaka, Carrie Kimura, Tom Oshidari, Tom Nishikawa, Sharon Uyeda, Kenzo Kimura, Susan Mineta, Tamon Norimoto, Joyce Oyama, Tom Nishisaka, Amy Halcrow, and Leon Kimura.



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#### Thank you for your Support! Apologies to anyone left off the list

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In Memory of Aiko Nakahara In Memory of Aiko Nakahara In Memory of Dr. Kinji Sera In Memory of Shizuo Itatani In Memory of Aiko Nakahara Donation Donation



#### **Calendar of Events**

#### **April**

- Board & Advisory Council Retreat, 12-4pm, IMB
- Board Meeting, 7pm, IMB
- Archaeological Excavation Open House, 1-4pm
- Nikkei Matsuri

#### May

- Board Meeting, 7pm, IMB
- 15 Palestinian Cultural Day
- 21 Sake San Jose
- 23 Scholarship Luncheon

#### June

12 Board Meeting, 7pm, IMB

#### Legend:

IMB = Issei Memorial Building, 565 N. Fifth Street, SJ

#### **Santa Clara County Palestinian Cultural Day**

The San Jose JACL is proud to once again celebrate diversity by cosponsoring this event. Come join in the celebration of the culture and contributions of the Palestinians in Santa Clara County. See the raising of the Palestinian flag, hear the sharing of untold stories, and witness cultural performances. The day will also include informational displays and delectable Palestinian treats.

Where: Santa Clara County Government Center James P. McEntee, Sr. Civic Center Plaza

70 W. Hedding St., San Jose

When: Friday, May 15 3:45 p.m. to 5 p.m.

**Admission Free** 

MAY 2009									
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sa			
					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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Please remember San Jose JACL in your charitable giving

# Call for Volunteers!

San Jose JACL is looking for volunteers to help the chapter with our 2009 activities or with new ideas you may have that benefit our community. If you would like to participate, call the JACL office at (408) 295-1250 or contact Leon Kimura at elskay@aol.com.

