



# San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center

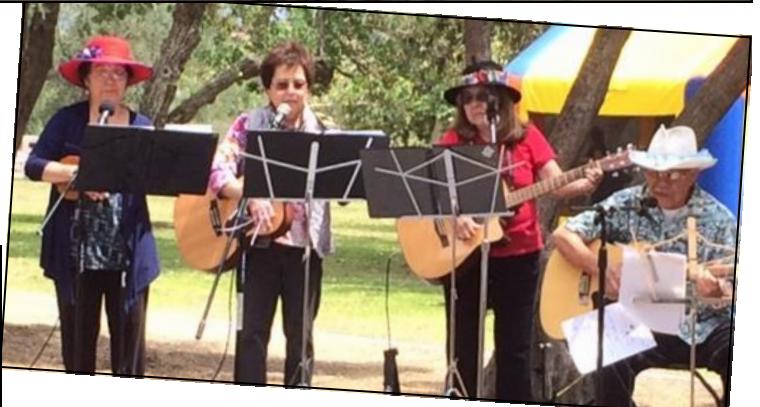
Website: [www.sfvjacc.com](http://www.sfvjacc.com)

Issue 22

July/August  
2015



## Family Day Picnic May 16, 2015



### MISSION STATEMENT

To promote the Japanese culture and preserve the Japanese American experience through education, events and activities for our community.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone is enjoying the remaining month of summer and keeping cool. In June, the SFV Buddhist Temple had their annual Obon Festival at the Community Center. Saturday was much cooler than Sunday, but the turn out was great. People enjoying dancing, eating ethnic food and playing bingo with their families and most of all, seeing old friends and meeting new friends.

The Endowment Committee is meeting quarterly and they are working to establish a Legacy Society Fund where members can donate assets such as their estate, property, car, etc. to the Community Center. The funds that we invested are doing quite well.

We would like to thank Grant Kuwata, Troop 719, his parents and all the volunteers who came out to help and support Grant's Eagle Scout Project at the Center. For his project, Grant built three traditional Japanese fences in the area by the flag pole in the back parking lot. When I came to see the project in the morning, parents had brought their own power tools to cut the wood and the kids were sanding and painting the cut boards. It was quite amazing to see so many volunteers working together. I want to tip my hat to Grant and all the volunteers and say thank you for a job well done.



I had a chance to help pick up fish in San Diego for the Hot Meal Program. It was quite an experience! All the stories that you heard is true! Bert Inouye, Eric Kayegama and I left the center around four in the morning. On the way down, we had a blow out and had to call AAA. It was an unexpected adventure! By the time we arrived at the Wharf, it was around seven o'clock. We helped unload the fish from the boat and sorted out the fish. Fortunately, Richard Goka was on this trip and he caught a "first place" tuna that weighted 268 lbs. So, exchanged a few of our smaller fish for this big catch. It was so nice of him. We came back to the center at around noon and were greeted by the volunteers who were to put the fish in the freezer. One nice thing was that we were treated to a nice breakfast.

A new wrought iron fence and gates along the Remick Street will be going up shortly before the Japanese School starts in August.

We are always concerned with safety and security of the Center and finally the lighting in the rear parking lot behind the Japanese

School was installed. Now, evening parking will be much brighter!

The Future Planning Committee is chaired by Margeret Takimoto. They met at the end of July to prepare a survey that will be going out to our members. The survey will consist of what kinds of programs and facility usage you would like to see at the Center in the future? So, please take a few moments to fill out the survey and return to the Center. It is very important for us to hear your opinions and suggestions since each one of you is a part of this future planning of our Center.

A few of us from the Center will be attending the Nisei Week Coronation at the JACC to support Kelsey Nakaji Kwong. Let's all support Kelsey!!



Paul Jonokuchi, President

### Would Your Family Be Interested?

#### "Camping Trip for SFVJACC Member Families"

You bring your sleeping bag & tent ....  
We provide the site, meals & gear....



Create memories with your Family & Friends— Roast Smores, Sing Songs around the Campfire, Gaze at the Stars, Fishing, Hot Springs, Rock Climbing Clinic, Paddleboarding, etc.

SFVJACC would like to plan such a trip for our members' families. We are working with Monarch Adventure Camp, an extension of Monarch Day Camp program at LA Valley College. We would like to hear from you if you are interested. Call Lois Okui (818) 899-1989 or email: loisokui@aol.com

save the date



## SUPER BINGO FUNDRAISER

Saturday,  
November 7, 2015

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### For the Months of May & June 2015

#### Donations

Mapfre USA  
Commerce West profit sharing  
Yoshiko Hazama  
In memory of husband George Hazama  
Cheryl Shojinaga and John Fukunaga  
Schwab Charitable Contribution  
Stan and Diane Date  
Yeiko Imamura  
Line Dancing  
In memory of George Hazama  
Ikuko Sogabe  
Donated back a portion of \$500 prize from Family  
Day Picnic  
Flora Teramura  
In appreciation of granddaughter Kara Tanaka  
receiving the SFVJACC scholarship  
Steven and Linda Yamamoto  
Greg Kimura  
United Way Charitable Contribution  
Anonymous  
IBM Charitable Contribution  
Satomi Nishimoto  
Ritsuko Shinbashi  
Ikebana Demonstration Donation  
Mae Shishido  
Donation to the Veterans' Memorial Fund  
Gulbir and Judith Walia  
Donation to SF Athletics Association

#### Use of Facilities

Kaleleonalani Hawaiian Civic Club  
Ping Pong Club  
SFV JACL  
Kapunas  
Wednesday Nite Basketball  
Hitomi's Cooking Class  
Tuesday Exercise Class  
Jan & Co.  
Yoshi Matsuda, Barbara Nakatsu, Brian Matsuda,  
Toji Hashimoto, Janet Schuetze  
Poker Club  
Margaret Takimoto  
Friday Exercise Class  
Tai Chi Class  
Hula Wahines  
Country Western Music

#### Miscellaneous

Coffee Donation  
Copier Donation  
Don Akamine ..... 2 lbs. Coffee  
EGAO ..... 2 (3 lbs) Coffee  
Tim Elliot & Harriet Takahashi ..... Case (10 reams)  
of copy paper  
Maku Cuizon ..... 2 lbs. Coffee  
Joanne Nakamura ..... Box of 33 gal  
trash bags  
Yone Takimoto ..... 2 (2 lbs) Coffee

## DONATIONS TO HOT MEALS

### For the Months of May & June 2015

Musashi Restaurant ..... 100# rice, 2 pkgs chopsticks, 5 gal oil  
Chiz Morita ..... Teacakes for husband Willy's 6th  
memorial  
Denise Tanaka ..... Goldfish crackers  
Yone Takimoto ..... Cucumber tsukemono  
Tony Servera ..... \$25 Macy's gift card  
Shiz Shiraishi ..... 1 Gal. shoyu  
Toshi Sugii ..... Box of plastic forks  
Ron Imazu ..... Kimchee  
Musashi Restaurant ..... 100# rice, 5 gal oil  
Kazu Nakamura ..... Birthday cake  
Walter Fujimori ..... Donuts for K volunteers (twice)  
Bob Goka ..... Utility cart  
Rex Shimizu ..... Two squeezees  
Doreen Kawamoto ..... Box of choco ice cream bars for  
kitchen volunteers  
Michiko Tokunaga ..... Cookies for kitchen volunteers  
Dr. Bo Sakaguchi ..... Monetary donation for the Hot Meal  
volunteer luncheon

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR  
THEIR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

## **LOST & FOUND**

Have you lost anything? Our lost & found is starting to accumulate quite a few things, such as clothing, dishes and many other things. Call Lois Okui (818) 899-1989 to see if we have it.

**amazon** smile

You shop. Amazon gives.

Do you shop on Amazon? Why not shop on AmazonSmile? AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support our Center every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile offers the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon and 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases will go to our Center. To register, go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)



## MEIJI SENIOR CLUB

Thank you to all the people who helped make the Meiji Club Bake/Food Sale at SFVJACC a success. Your hard work and effort were greatly appreciated.

A special thank you to all who donated items to the sale. Everything looked yummy and we sold completely out of all our goods. I am sure most of us have dessert for the next couple of weeks.

Thank you to the people who helped set up the sale items. This was a big job and everyone did so well. Pricing was a challenge but guessing works.

Thank you to all and we could not have done this without your support.

### Thank You To The Following For Their Generous Donation -

Callier, Hazel	Kawamoto, Doreen	Mitarai, Evelyn	Oda, Nancy	Shinsato, Jean
Doomey, Liz	Kimura, Sumi	Monji, Yo	Rasmussen, Kumiko	Shishido, Anna
Evelyn Yaeko	Kishi, Marilyn	Murphy, Marian	Rivera, Satsuki	Sugii, Toshi
Gohata, Yas	Ksuhida, Mitzi	Muto, Eiko	Sato, Eiji & Marge	Takimoto, Yone
Imazu, Roy	Kus, Michiko	Nakamura, Joanne	Sato, Flo & Curly	Yamada, Kay
Inoue, Kay	Lew, Genevieve & Gene	Nomura, Yoko	Shimbashi, Reitsuko	Yamaguchi, Sumi
Iwamasa, Grace	Longworth, Joy	Oda Family	Shimizu, Lorraine	Yamamoto, Janet
Jonokuchi, Paul	Matsuda, Yoshi			

We would also like to acknowledge Smart & Final in Pacoima for giving us a discount on the purchases made for the Bake Sale.

## TAIKO CLASS



Reid Taguchi (back row on the right) and Eryn Tokuhara (kneeling on the left) are teaching taiko to CC members on Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. If you would like to join the fun, call the CC's office (818) 899-1989.



## DEAN CAUDILL, 2014 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT - COLLEGE UPDATE



High school certainly does feel like a long time ago, even if it only has been 8 months since I've graduated. But I've certainly enjoyed myself in my half-year at Berkeley so far. The environment here caters far more to my interests than high school was, especially now that I'm amongst people who are very much like me. I feel like I really "belong" here, that my quiriness and personal oddities are not quirks or oddities at all, but more the socially accepted normality here. I don't have to hide behind a facade of normalcy and I can just be who I am here.

That said, it's hard on me to not be the top of the intellectual pecking order. In high school I was renowned for my abilities, but here it's simply accepted that I can do such things, and meeting up to their expectations can be fairly daunting and even stressful at times. But when I think about all that I've gained from coming here, both educationally and socially, I don't really think it's that big a deal. I am happy here; that's all there is to it.

I get homesick at times, but I think I've found a second real home here in Berkeley. It's a splendid atmosphere where I can be who I want, and where I get to study the things that I truly love.

## My Eagle Scout Project At The CC

By Grant Kuwata

My name is Grant Kuwata. I am a life scout from Troop 719 which is sponsored by Faith United Methodist Church in Torrance. My troop is mostly a Japanese American Boy Scout troop so it helps me learn more about my Japanese culture too. I live in Agoura Hills and am a sophomore at Oak Park High School. I have 2 older brothers, Hawk and Jake who are both Eagle Scouts. To obtain the rank of Eagle Scout, a scout is required to complete a service project. I have played basketball at the CC with my team, Gang Green since I was in kindergarten. So when it was time for me to complete my eagle service project, I knew I wanted to give back to the CC for all the wonderful experiences I have had throughout my life. I spoke with SFVJACC President Paul Jonokuchi who had the perfect idea for my project. My project was to build 3 wooden fences for a Japanese Rock Garden by the Japanese school.

After months of planning, I completed my project on Saturday, June 20. My family and I arrived at the CC at 6:30 am to get the coffee started and breakfast ready for the troop. The troop arrived about 8 am and after saying grace, we all enjoyed a great breakfast including Gardena Bowl fried rice, sausage and donuts. I gave the scouts a safety talk to prevent any injuries and then we started working. The dads cut all the wood and the scouts stained the wood.



CC Board member Nancy Oda with Grant.

It was a hot day for my Torrance friends but I made sure everyone stayed hydrated. By the time we took a break for lunch the cement had already been poured for the supporting posts.

We took a break about 12 pm to take pictures and eat lunch. My parents had the taco guy from Papas and Tacos serve tacos and the troop moms brought a whole bunch of other good things to eat. There was plenty of delicious dessert including shaved ice. After lunch, everyone worked really hard to finish the project. We finished around 5 pm and cleaned up and left by 6 pm. It was a really long day but we really got a lot accomplished. I want to thank everyone for their help and generous donations to my Eagle Service Project. I could not have done it without everyone's help. It was an event that I will remember for the rest of my life.



Thank you to my sponsors for your generous donations!

Scott and Rikki Aratani • Sharon Aratani • Richard Fujimoto and Anne Sheedy • Roy and Kristin Higashi • Derrick and Janet Isa • Steve and Grace Joe • Kevin and Gail Kaneko • Ron and Paris Kariya • Owen Kato • Ray Kawamoto • Frank Kuwata • Kent and Vicki Kuwata • Los Angeles Mid-Valley Lions Club • Mark and Paige Low • Scott and Patty Motoyasu • Kyle and Diane Onaga • Willie and Janice Quan • Keith and Kristin Shimazaki • Jane Takagi • Nathan Tanaka and Sharon Teramura • Janice Teramura and Michael Taheri • Alan and Sheri Wong • David and Erika Yamasaki



Supporter Ray Kawamoto and Grant.

## SECOND NYABC BASKETBALL CLINIC HOSTED AT SFVJACC FOR JSPACC MEMBERS

By Curtis Takimoto, Co-Founder of NYABC

On June 14th and 21st, Not Your Average Basketball Camp (NYABC) organized its second special needs basketball clinic for the members of the Japanese Speaking Parents Association of Children with Challenges (JSPACC) at the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center (SFVJACC).

Eleven players and over thirty volunteers participated in an hour long camp over two weekends that focused on team work and having fun playing basketball. We were very excited to extend our clinic into a two weekend event. Having a two day program allowed for coaches, players, and the families to get to know each other on a deeper level. During the basketball portion of the camp, the participants engaged in "exploratory time," dribbling, and agility drills with encouragement and guidance from the volunteers. The activities ranged from dribbling a basketball



and making accurate passes to working on jump stops and running layups. All the volunteers expertly adjusted their interaction and support according to the participants' abilities, which they gauged not only on the court but through communication with the player's parents. The participants were all smiles as they challenged themselves in physical activity and had the opportunity to spend time with people outside of their day-to-day activities. The highlight of the clinic was when our players and coaches participated scrimmage against one another. The game was exciting as this was the first time playing an actual game for most of our participants. Seeing the players share the basketball and work together to beat the coaches was an awesome sight to witness.



Every player was partnered with at least one volunteer coach who helped to encourage and guide the players through the various drills and exercises. This one on one pairing model was adapted from the successful Rising Stars Buddy Program cultivated by the Rising Stars Alumni Committee and the JSPACC over the past seven years for annual events such as Pumpkin Carving and Holiday Shopping. "The buddy system allows for safe exploration of not only the physical element of basketball, but also fosters socialization between participant and buddy," says Ryan Lee, NYABC's other co-founder.

After the basketball portion was complete, the event moved to the Pioneer room at the SFVJACC where the San Fernando Valley Hawks basketball team sponsored a luncheon for the event. There were numerous Hawks players and parents busy at work serving the line of hungry participants, volunteers, and coaches. Additional community support was provided by Cliff Shinmei and Isabelle and Harvey Negoro who supplied customized T-shirt for each participants. Also a huge thanks to the SFVJACC and San Fernando Athletics for supporting and hosting this event. One might think that the players were the

only ones enjoying themselves but to see how much fun our volunteers had working with the Special Needs Community was spectacular. The lessons that the volunteers learned along the way are priceless. The players showed us team work, compassion, patience and perseverance. Regardless of their condition, the players showed us that you can still be positive, caring, and compassionate. As NYABC continues to grow, we hope to learn how we can better serve the Special Needs Community and continue to host events that will further enrich our community. Thank you to all of our volunteers and supporters. We wouldn't be able to create this opportunity without your continued support! See you at our next event!



Would you be interested in a 6 Week Course  
to be presented at the Center?

**LIFELONG LEARNING COURSE**  
**Chronic Disease Self-Management Program**  
**KEIRO SENIOR HEALTH CARE**

Developed by Stanford University, Chronic Disease Self-Management Program is designed to help people with chronic health conditions, such as diabetes and high blood pressure, manage daily challenges for a happier, healthier life.

**LEARN HOW TO:**

- Cope with the "blues", frustrations and worries
- Reduce fatigue, anxiety and pain
- Communicate better with doctors, friends and family
- Set goals and problem solve to make positive change
- Maintain a healthier diet

Contact Liz Doomey at (818) 429-4096 for more information.



**NISEI WEEK PARADE**

Was the last time you saw the Nisei Week Parade decades ago?

Well, I suggest you attend this year! Expect something different: For the 75<sup>th</sup> Nisei Week Parade, participation is by invitation only, as they wanted the parade to be shorter than the typical 2 hours of the past.

Last year, the Pacific Southwest JACL District marched for the first time in many years. I was surprised and saddened that many sidewalk locations along the parade route were empty! Now is the time to support your community and to view the new faces of Little Tokyo!

Check out [www.niseiweek.org/honorees](http://www.niseiweek.org/honorees) to read about the Grand Marshal of the Parade, chef Roy Yamaguchi! Additional stories include the Parade Marshal Kenny Endo, the 2015 Pioneers, the Inspiration Awards and the Community Center Awards! One of the Inspiration Award winners is Michie Barbara Sujishi from our community center! Receiving a Community Center Award is our own San Fernando Valley Japanese Community Center! Congratulations to all!



**The Nisei Week Grand Parade will be held in Little Tokyo, Sunday August 16 at 5:30 PM.**



## Moving to Colorado

By Old Wakaba, Bud Sagara

Please indulge me in telling an old story of my personal anxiety when our daughter Colleen moved her family to Colorado. The dreaded day finally arrived in the summer of 2006. In the driveway, the blue SUV was packed with boxes and bags as our daughter Colleen and her family were about ready to start the long drive to Colorado. My wife was busy in the house gathering snacks for their long trip and Colleen was taking one last look in her old bedroom, closets and in the attic for her possessions. Colleen had married Brian the year before so although she was not living with us, much of her stuff still was. Granddaughter Kayla was in good spirits and ready for new adventures as most youngsters are, but her old Grandpa was not so happy that they were leaving.

My mind was occupied with searching for some golden nugget of advice for the travelers that would keep them safe and allow them to flourish in their new surroundings, but nothing came to mind except the usual cautions that I had already given to them over and over again. Brian and Colleen had decided to move to Colorado some time ago so that they could afford to purchase a home and raise their family away from the dangers of Los Angeles. They were following their dreams in Colorado, where the mountains touch the sky and the cold, pure water flows down from the Rockies in rugged streams through wooded glens. I had visited Colorado many times as a kid in the 1950's and 60's when our family would drive to Denver to spend time with my grandparents. Even though the winters can be harsh at times, I can't think of a better example of God's creation than in Colorado.

How could this move be happening? Families are supposed to stick together and not have a chunk of it move away. Our daughter Colleen was gracious in welcoming me to the family when I came into her teenage life when I married her mother. Sure, there were ups and downs and the sullen day as with all teenagers, but overall she was a great kid and became even better as a young woman out on her own. Witnessing the way she lovingly manages the chaos of family life with a steady hand makes her mom and me so very proud of the mature adult she has become. I would especially miss my granddaughter Kayla who I have known since she was in Colleen's tummy. It's funny how time passes without us even noticing. I remember Kayla

as an infant, a toddler, a little girl, and now she's leaving for Colorado as a pre-teen. It seems like only yesterday when her tiny fingers released the corner of the coffee table as she took her first steps to the sofa. After her historic wobble to the sofa, she turned to everyone and flashed a smile that was as bright as sunshine. Although her trip was only a few steps, it was significant in that she was ready to take more steps into an angry world that was filled with potential dangers to her. All one has to do is to read in the news about another gang shooting, drugs in schools, and kids bullying other kids. Her journey will not be easy, and her old Grandpa will not be around in Colorado to remind her to look both ways when she crosses the street. Meanwhile on the driveway, I was still searching for something to say that would lift the family during the tough times and give them hope during periods of trial. There must be some great lesson for them that could be dispensed in the last remaining minutes on the driveway. All I could say to Brian was, "It looks like you'll be driving in good weather all the way." Great, the sum of my wisdom was the weather report! Brian had already started the SUV as I hugged a tearful Colleen goodbye. There was this overwhelming sense of loss like when someone in the family passes away. My tears began to flow in complete betrayal of my stoic Japanese-American upbringing. Oh boy, now here comes Kayla. She was a little red-eyed, but in a heck of a lot better shape than her Grandpa.

Continued on next page.

## 2015 SFVHBC OBON







# 2015 NEW PLAYER FREE BASKETBALL CLINIC



## Saturday, August 15

Sign in: 1:00 pm | Clinic 1:15 - 2:30 pm

**SFV Japanese Community Center**  
12953 Branford Street, Pacoima, CA 91331

**Dayna Tanaka – Director**  
Angels Prep Team

### For Boys and Girls, ages 5-9 and 10-12 ready to learn the basics and have fun!

Go to [www.sfvjacc.com](http://www.sfvjacc.com) for the registration form.

Questions?

Call Margaret @ 818-701-7628 or email: [JNCMOM@aol.com](mailto:JNCMOM@aol.com)

## Old wakaba - Moving to Colorado

Continued from page 8.

In her typical upbeat fashion, she simply said, "Bye, Grandpa" and gave me a big hug. As we parted, my hand reached down for her hand; the same hand that I had marveled at when she was a newborn, the same hand that had drawn all those pictures that were displayed on the refrigerator, the same hand that I held whenever we crossed the street after looking both ways.

As the SUV began to move down the driveway, I yelled, "Take care of your family" to Brian over the engine noise. It wasn't until those words were actually said out loud that I realized those were the golden nuggets of wisdom. It was Brian's job to take care of his family, not mine. The lesson that I had been searching for Colleen's family was really meant for me, not them. It told me that it was time to let them go even though my selfish pride was still holding them tightly.

In *Genesis 2:24* it says, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." Scripture tells us that in marriage man and woman symbolically become one flesh in a God-ordained union of the couple's hearts and lives. The goal in marriage should be more than romance, friendship, or traditions of culture; it should be oneness. As Cora and I watched the SUV disappear down the street, we stood arm in arm for a little while longer. We had passed the torch; it was how it was meant to be. As we turned toward the house, we could feel the warmth of the summer morning as God's perfect plan for sons and daughters unfolded as it has since time began.

**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!**

## A Swinging Big Band Concert

Featuring  
Dan Taguchi and  
Friends



An afternoon of classic and contemporary jazz from the 1940s to the present with a 17-piece jazz ensemble and guest vocalist,  
Nina Kasuya

**Sunday, September 27, 2015, 2:00 pm**  
San Fernando Valley  
Japanese American Community Center  
12953 Branford St., Pacoima 91331  
Tickets: Donation \$15

Contact Nancy Gohata  
[yaiko@verizon.net](mailto:yaiko@verizon.net)  
818-371-8013

Bento orders (\$10) by  
September 20, 2015

Make checks payable to SFVJACL  
Send to: Nancy Gohata, 14229  
Carl Street, Arleta, CA 91331



## TUNA CANYON'S SECOND ANNIVERSARY AS A HISTORICAL MONUMENT

By Nancy Oda

More than 125 people attended the second anniversary of the Tuna Canyon Detention Station. Sumi Yamaguchi, Ken Furutani, Kay Yamada, and Teddy Yamane welcomed guests from many parts of the city as far away as San Diego, Yas Tana came to hear Dr. Williams' talk about his father, Reverend Daisho Tana. It was the first glimpse into the early days after the bombing of Pearl Harbor through the lens of a Buddhist bonsan. Reverend P. Usuki opened the luncheon with a shokuzen no gassho. Consul Izuru Shimmura brought greetings from the Consul General of Japan, Los Angeles. Dr. Williams described how Buddhists observed rituals and meditated during their stay in camp. He was quoted as saying, "Fight fire with water, not fire." Several handmade Buddhist shrines were on exhibit as well as a Shinto shrine.



Eiko Masuyama, archivist from Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, Lloyd Hitt and Kanji Sahara, Tuna Canyon Board members, set up historical displays. Sharlene Miyagishima, Gene and Genevieve Lew, Kei Inoue, and the SFVJACL served the bento lunches, tea and dessert. Linda and Robert Takayama donated more than 100 boxes of Limited Edition strawberries from Watsonville for each guest to take home.

The San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center is the sponsor of the successful National Parks Service Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) grant that will enable the Coalition to proceed with its plan to build a traveling exhibit.

The Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition will receive \$109,000 and match it with \$50,000.

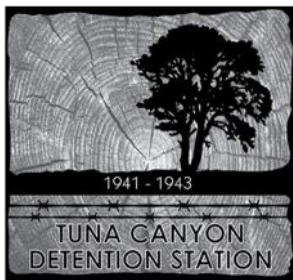
To meet the required match, there will be a fundraiser luncheon on August 29, 2015, at Nishi Hongwanji Betsuin Kaikan in Little Tokyo from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm.

Minoru Tonai and Dr. W. Lloyd Hitt will be honored for their legendary contributions to society and to the movement to preserve Tuna Canyon. Entertainment will be highlighted with performances by multi nominated Grammy artists from the Hiroshima Jazz band, along with Rob Narita, and Franny McCartney. For more information: contact [nancyoda64@gmail.com](mailto:nancyoda64@gmail.com). Visit our new website at [www.tunacanyon.org](http://www.tunacanyon.org) or "like" us on Facebook.

Photos courtesy of Marc Stirdivant



It was a wonderful day for us all. Missing: Yas Tana, David Scott



Tuna Canyon is off the 210 freeway where cars whiz by without knowing that it was once a detention camp days after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941. Today, more than seventy years later, the National Park Service Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) grant program will give the activist the opportunity to search for artifacts, documents, narratives, and photos to retell the story of the Tuna Canyon Detention Station by awarding \$109,000 to the Coalition.

Despite several set backs, the Tuna Canyon Detention Station has continued to raise awareness through college and community lectures, 2014 National JACL convention, and Days of Remembrance at the Japanese American National Museum. A hearing in Superior Court is scheduled for August 12 in department 86 between the City of Los Angeles and Snowball West, Investments.

On August 29, Nishi Hongwanji Betsuin Kaikan will be the site for a benefit to raise \$50,000 for the 2-1 match that is required by the JACS grant. The SFV JACC is a proud sponsor of the Traveling Exhibit.

If you want to attend, please contact [nancyoda64@gmail.com](mailto:nancyoda64@gmail.com) for reservations. Tables for ten range from \$500 for non profits or seniors to \$10,000 for the Platinum level sponsors. Regular tickets cost \$60 each.

Dr. William Lloyd Hitt of the Little Landers Historical Society and Mr. Minoru Tonai will be honored. Their leadership is legendary and an inspiration for the generations. Cherrystone is the selected caterer for the event with lunch starting at 11:00. See the website: [www.tunacanyon.org](http://www.tunacanyon.org) for more information. Like us on Facebook

Dan and June Kuramoto will bring their Grammy nominated music from their Hiroshima Jazz Band collection. Their music is like the breeze that drifts through the mature trees left at Tuna Canyon that seem to say, if only I could talk.

## GETTING TO SESAME STREET AND BEYOND \*



\* Article is by Connie K. Ho from the May 8, 2015 edition of the Pacific Citizen.

Alan Muraoka is the son of longtime members Victor and Lois Muraoka.

For cast member Alan Muraoka, it's an honor to be a part of the history of the long-running children's TV show.

'Oh you can be what you want to be, be what you want to see, believe in yourself, just believe in yourself. Go where you want to go, do what you want to do, believe in yourself.' Dressed in a purple sweater and dark-colored pants, Alan Muraoka sang the opening lyrics of the upbeat "Believe in Yourself." He was joined in the song by Muppets Elmo, Abby Cadabby and Cookie Monster, with the trio bopping and swaying along to the music. With a wide smile

and charisma to spare, Muraoka made a mark at his first White House Easter Egg Roll earlier last month in Washington, D.C., with the gang from PBS' "Sesame Street."

A cast member for the past 17 years, Muraoka has performed with "Sesame Street" at the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles, outreach performances in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina, and the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City.

"It's amazing to be a part of that legacy," Muraoka said. "A generation of children have grown up with me and my character, so that's pretty amazing and awe-inspiring when you think about it."

Along with performing with the Muppets, Muraoka also had the chance to do a few book readings with younger kids at the White House Easter Egg Roll. Those in attendance at the event included First Lady Michelle Obama as well as celebrity chefs Chris Cosentino and Aáron Sánchez.

"'Sesame Street' has been invited several years to do this, but this was the first time that I was invited to join, so it was a great privilege to do that," said Muraoka, who is based in New York City and films the show there. "It's always so flattering and humbling, and they're always so appreciative of the work that we do on the show. Because it's an educational program and an entertainment program, parents feel very, very familial with us in the best possible way. There's a lot of hugs, there's a lot of thank you's and it's always so gratifying to know that I'm on a show that educates as well as entertains."

According to Muraoka, when "Sesame Street" started in 1969, it was the only show at that time that dealt with educating pre-school kids — the program was initially created to help inner-city kids feel prepared for school. "Sesame Street" has won accolades over its 30 years on the air, and this year, it was awarded five Daytime Creative Arts Emmy Awards. The honors include outstanding writing in a children's or preschool children's series, outstanding original song and outstanding costume design/styling.

"I think what sets us apart is the writing, and 'Sesame Street' has always played to two levels — it plays one level to kids, but there's always a level of social satire that the kids may not get but the adults definitely get and appreciate. So, that's why I think adults and children can watch the show together, and they can each get something out of it," Muraoka said. "For instance, this year, we have a take on 'Game of Thrones,' we have a take on 'Homeland,' on 'Star Wars.' If you're watching as a kid, you're not going to get all of the sort of subtleties of the humor, but if you're an adult watching, you'll absolutely get it."



Jimmy Fallon with Alan.

Part of the magic of "Sesame Street" are the segments that feature guest celebrities. A Who's Who list of Hollywood's brightest stars have appeared on the show, including comedians such as Jimmy Fallon, Amy Poehler and Tina Fey, musical acts such as Janelle Monáe and Pentatonix and award-winning actors such as Jamie Foxx, Anne Hathaway and Lupita Nyong'o.

"I've been on the set before with celebrities who have grown up watching the show, and when they walk on the set, it's like they're coming home again," Muraoka said. "It's a place where people have always felt safe, and so there's something very heartfelt about seeing something that you grew up with as a child."

It was no easy feat for Muraoka to win the role of the proprietor of Hooper's Store. In 1997, Muraoka was performing the last Broadway revival of "The King and I" in New York and he received a call from his agent, who told him that "Sesame Street" was planning on introducing a new character who was going to take over Hooper's Store. He auditioned for

the role, ultimately going through four rounds before being offered the part.

"As it pared down, I thought, 'I think I might actually get this' because it was such a great fit for me," Muraoka said. "I had graduated from UCLA with a theater arts degree, and I did a lot of children's theater when I was at UCLA. There are rules about children's theater, and one of them is don't talk down to the kids, don't try to overplay — kids are smart, kids get it. And so I took that with me to the audition, and it was absolutely to my benefit that I had."

Muraoka's character was still TBD (to be determined) about a month before the crew and cast were going to begin filming. When he went into the writers' meeting, Muraoka expressed hope that the writers would be able to look beyond his ethnicity in developing the character. They ended up keeping the name "Alan" for his role.

"At that time, in the '90s, if there was an Asian on TV, even if you were completely Americanized, they were called names like Toshi or Yoshi — like the audience wasn't smart enough to observe their ethnicity, they had to hammer it home," said Muraoka.

Continued on next page.



Alan Muraoka at the White House.

## Alan Muraoka on Sesame Street

Continued from page 11.

"And for me, I'm a fourth-generation Japanese American who grew up in the [San Fernando Valley], and all of my friends and family members were not named Toshi or Yoshi — they had names like Steve or Alan."

When he's not onstage acting or filming, Muraoka takes on directing projects and is also currently working on a book highlighting his experience on "Sesame Street."

"I really wasn't interested in writing a pure autobiography — the idea is to do something about Hooper's. I'm the third owner of Hooper's Store, and there is a great legacy and history that needs to be told about the store as well," Muraoka said. "It's sort of the central meeting place of the neighborhood. It has all of these core values of community that I think sort of represents a microcosm of the world at large, the idealized world at large that we all hope a community should be."

Muraoka treasures his multifaceted experience on "Sesame Street" as the show ramps up production on a new season.

"We're filming season 46 right now, and it's great to be an Asian American representative on a show that's all about inclusion," Muraoka said. "I feel very safe here because it's not like they're saying, 'Alan is an Asian character, so we have to write him a certain way.' They write for me as a human being with foibles and intricacies and humor and heart — it's just a great, great joy to be a part of."

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Staci Yamashita-Iida  
Attorney at Law

**Saturday, Aug. 8<sup>th</sup>**  
1PM - 2:30PM  
Gardena Valley JCI  
1964 W. 162nd St  
Gardena, CA 90247

**Thursday, Aug. 13<sup>th</sup>**  
1PM - 2:30PM  
Japanese American Culture  
Community Center  
244 S. San Pedro St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Saturday, Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
10AM - 11:30AM  
San Fernando Valley JACC  
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sfvjli@hotmail.com 818-896-8612

**COORDINATING COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONS—MEETINGS-CONTACT PERSONS**

Coordinating Council.....	1st Wed., 7:00 PM.....	Nancy Oda .....	818 786-0914
Community Center.....	1st/3rd Wed., 7:00 PM.....	Paul Jonokuchi.....	818 894-5327
Athletics.....	3rd Tues., 7:30 PM.....	Margaret Takimoto.....	818 701-7628
CC News.....	Lois Okui.....	818 892-1487.....	Email: loisokui@aol.com
Chatsworth West United Methodist Church .....			
.....	2nd Sun., 1:00 PM.....	Doreen Kawamoto .....	818 764-8850
Crossway Church.....	2nd Sun., 12:30 PM.....	Jennifer Trax.....	818 896-1676
Nikkei Senior Gardens.....	2nd Thurs., 7:00 PM.....	Toji Hashimoto .....	818 897-4216
SFV Bonsai Club.....	4th Sun., 8 AM-12 PM.....	Walter Zipusch .....	818 993-4478
SFV Fishing Club.....	3rd Mon., 8:00 PM.....	Al Tokunaga.....	818 982-4236
SFV Hongwanji Buddhist Temple.....	2nd Mon., 7:30 PM.....	Terry Ishigo.....	818 899-4030
SFV JACL.....	2nd Wed., 7:00 PM.....	Doreen Kawamoto.....	818 764-8850
SFV Japanese Language Institute....	Sat., 9:30 AM-12:30 PM.....	Stephen Nakata .....	818 896-8612
SFV Judo Club .....	4th Wed., 7:03 PM.....	Kenji Couey .....	818 381-7232
SFV Landscape Gardeners .....	Sat. of every other month.....	Nob Tamai.....	818 347-3912
SFV Meiji Senior Citizens.....	1st Fri., 12:30 PM.....	Liz Doomey .....	818 892-7381
Senior Hot Meals .....	Tues. & Fri. (no meal on 5th Tues. & 5th Fri.) ..		818 899-1989
Sho Chiku Bai Porter Ranch Bonsai Club.....	1st Sun., 9 AM-12 PM; 2nd Mon., 5-7 PM.....		
.....		Yoko Zipusch.....	818 746-6677
Sunrise Foursquare Church.....		Reverend Paul Iwata .....	818 782-8738
Valley Japanese Community Center .....		Neil Hashiba .....	818 732-5837

**Want to reserve the  
Community Center  
for an event?**

Call Tadao Okui  
at 818-892-1487  
or email:  
tadokui@aol.com

**Want to submit an  
article for the CC  
Newsletter?**

Email:  
loisokui@aol.com

CC Deadline:  
2nd Friday of  
every odd month.

**SPECIAL CLASSES**

Arts & Crafts.....	Monday	10:00 AM-12:00 PM	Sally Hamamoto	818 361-2902
Ballroom Dance.....	Tuesday	7:00-8:30 PM	Barbara Okita	818 784-5128
Bowling*, Mission Hills Bowl.....	Thursday	9:30 AM	George Seko	818 998-0682
Bridge*.....	Mon/Wed	12:00-4:00 PM	Ray Shinsato	818 767-5550
Country Western Music*.....	1st /3rd Tuesday	10:30-11:30 AM	Janet Schuetze	818 767-1819
Exercise Class.....	Tuesday	9:00-10:00 AM	Ralph Ahn	818 897-1322
Exercise Class.....	Friday	10:00-11:00 AM	Phil Shigekuni	818 893-1581
Guitar Class.....	Tuesday	10:15-11:30 AM	Greg Librando	818 896-6503
Hanafuda*.....	Friday	1:00-3:00 PM	Yone Takimoto	818 765-6735
Harmonica Class*.....	Friday	11:00-11:30 AM	Call CC office	818 899-1989
Hawaiian Hula (Hula Wahines).....	Friday	12:30-1:30 PM	Suzan Akamine	818 367-1723
Hawaiian Hula (Ages 3-adults) .....	Saturday	2:00-3:45 PM	Mikilani Young	818 692-4189
Hitomi's Cooking Class .....	4th Tuesday	7:00-9:00 PM	NJ Nakamura	818 893-6503
Ikenobo Ikebana.....	2nd/4th Thursday	10:00-1:00 PM	Ritsuko Shinbashi	818 892-0470
Japanese Calligraphy.....	1st/3rd Thursday	9:30-11:00 AM	Yuriko Muso	818 726-8935
Japanese Classical Dance.....	Friday	3:00-6:30 PM	Diane Fukuwa	310 217-0443
Karaoke*.....	1st/3rd Thursday	10:00 AM-12:00 PM	Walter Fujimori	818 352-1075
Kokusei Shigin Class.....	Thursday (Off premises)	2:00-4:00 PM	Paul Jonokuchi	818 894-5327
Line Dancing*.....	Thursday	8:45-10:00 AM	Mark Nakamura	818 363-3038
Mandolin.....	Friday	9:30-11:00 AM	Call CC office	818 899-1989
Mah-Jong*.....	Tuesday	1:00-3:00 PM	Yone Takimoto	818 765-6735
Ondo Dancing* .....	2nd/4th Friday	7:00-9:00 PM	Masako Rodriquez	818 899-8777
Ping Pong Club.....	Thurs/2nd, 3rd, 4th Tuesday	10:00 AM-3:00 PM	Aaron Sanwo	661 755-0584
Qi Gong .....	Thursday (J-School)	7:00-8:30 PM	Mamie Kosaka	661.645.4515
SFV Judo Club.....	Mon/Wed/Thurs/Fri	7:00-9:00 PM	Kenji Couey	818 381-7232
Tai Chi Class*.....	Monday	9:00-10:00 AM	Florence Takaaze	310 202-6693
Taiko .....	Thurs (Beginners) 7-8:30 PM	Sat (Interm.) 10-11:30 AM	Reid Taguchi	818 571-1797
Ukulele Class .....	Friday (Gym)	9:00-11:30 AM	Greg Librando	818 896-6503
Yoga Class.....	Wednesday	10:00-11:00 AM	Call CC Office	818 899-1989
Zumba.....	Monday	7:30-8:30 PM	Margaret Takimoto	818 701-7628

**SUPPORT GROUPS & SERVICES**

Alzheimer's Support Group.....	1st Saturday	10:00 AM-12:00 PM	Facilitator: Isabelle Miyata
Blood Pressure Screening*.....	3rd Friday	9:00-11:00 AM	Nikkei Pioneer Conference Room
Podiatrist*.....	2nd Saturday	11:30—2:00 PM	Nikkei Pioneer Conference Room

\*Meiji Senior Citizens' Activity or Service

For more information, call the CC at (818) 899-1989.



**SAN FERNANDO VALLEY  
HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE**

9450 Remick Ave., Pacoima  
818 899-4030 [www.sfvhbt.org](http://www.sfvhbt.org)

Rev. Patricia Usuki  
Temple President: Roger Itaya  
Dharma School: Sunday 11:00 am

**BUDDHIST TEMPLE CALENDAR**

**August**

- 1 Dharma discussion, 9:30 am
- 2 Summer Service 10 am
- 9 No service
- 15 Dharma discussion, 9:30 am
- 16 Summer Service 10 am
- 23 No Service
- 29 Dharma discussion, 9:30 am
- 30 Summer Service 10 am

**September**

- 6 No Service (Jr. YBA Conference)
- 13 Shotsuki: Monthly Memorial Service & Dharma School starts 10 am
- 19 Fall Equinox Seminar 1-4 pm
- 20 Shuki Higan-e: Fall Equinox Service 10 am
- 26 Dharma discussion, 9:30 am
- 27 Temple Clean-up, no service

**October**

- 4 Shotsuki: Monthly Memorial & Eshini-Ko/Kakushinni-ko Service 10 am
- 11 No Service
- 17 Dharma discussion, 9:30 am
- 18 Regular Service 10 am
- 24 Dharma discussion, 9:30 am
- 25 Pet Memorial Service 10 am

*Service at Nikkei Senior Garden  
on the third Thursday of each  
month at 10:30 am*



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818 896-1676 (English)  
(818) 899-4115 (Japanese)

Please refer to our website for more  
information: [www.crosswaysfv.org](http://www.crosswaysfv.org)

**English Department**

Pastor Roland Hazama  
Pastor Raynold Nakamura

**Sunday Schedule**

9:009:45 AM  
Sunday School for ages  
junior high through adult

10 - 11:15 AM

Worship Service  
(childcare for infants - Pre-K)

Kid Venture Children's Ministries  
(K - 5th grade)

11:15 - 11:45 AM  
Coffee Fellowship

**Youth Fellowship**

Friday, 7:30 PM  
Meetings at the church  
for Jr. High and Sr. High

**Mid-Week Home Groups**

We believe that fellowship, friendship, and spiritual growth happens best in our small groups that meet during the week. We have a number of groups meeting in the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys. Come, visit, and get to know our church. For more information, please call us or check our website.

**Japanese Department**

Pastor In Hyun

Please refer to our website  
for more information:  
[www.sfip.weebly.com](http://www.sfip.weebly.com)

**Sunday Schedule**

10:00 AM  
Worship Service

Lunch and Fellowship  
after worship service on the  
1st Sundays

Wednesdays, 10 am  
Prayer @ Pastor's house



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818 341 1270

E-mail: [chatsworthumc@juno.com](mailto:chatsworthumc@juno.com)  
FAX: 818 341 1271

**Pastor: Ruy Mizuki**  
**Lay Leader: Jim Melichar**

Worship Service 10AM  
Sunday School 10AM  
Social Hour following service  
Nursery care provided

**Bible Study Thurs @ 10AM & 7:15PM**  
**Tuesdays @ 1PM**

**Choir practice 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday @**  
**3:00PM**  
Musical Director: Steve Foreman

**Japanese Class – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday @**  
**9AM**  
Instructor: Junko Wayama

**Shotokan Karate of America**  
**Fri. @ 6:30 PM Rm.1**  
Instructor: April Warynick  
[www.ska.org](http://www.ska.org)  
1 213 437 0988

**Electrobattles Dance for children**  
**Fri. evening, Rm. 5**  
Instructor: Sharon James

**Chi Fung Mind & Body Fitness**  
**Tuesday @ 9AM Rm.2**  
Instructor: Leo Fong



**SUNRISE FOURSQUARE CHURCH**

5852 Laurel Canyon Blvd.  
Valley Village, CA 91607

English: Pastor Paul Iwata

Email: pmiwata1@hotmail.com  
haruko.iwata@gmail.com

Website:  
www.sunrisejapanesechurch.org

Japanese: Pastor Haruko Iwata

Phone: (818) 782-8738  
(818) 642-2332

Sunday Morning Service - 10:30 a.m.  
(Prayer for Healing on 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays)

Sunday Evening Service - 6 p.m.  
Thursday Evening Bible Study - 7 p.m.

Late Night Counseling and Prayer  
on the Last Friday of the Month  
From 8 p.m. to 12 midnight

Location: The Prayer Chapel'  
14705 Wyandotte St.  
Van Nuys, CA 91405 (mailing address)

Torrance Home Meeting – 7 p.m.  
On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month

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<b>August 22, 2015</b> Elder Law Seminar	<b>October 3, 2015</b> CC Clean-up
<b>August 24 - September 7</b> Gym closed due to re-finishing the floor	<b>November 7, 2015</b> Super Bingo Fundraiser
<b>September 3 - 7, 2015</b> Pioneer Building closed due to stripping and waxing floors	<b>November 14, 2015</b> Crosswaay Church Thanksgiving Dinner
<b>September 27, 2015</b> SFV JACL Big Band Concert	<b>December 19, 2015</b> SFV Japanese Language Institute Holiday Program

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Sessions will be held on selected Saturdays from October 2014 through March 2015, at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Little Tokyo, Downtown Los Angeles.

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[www.nikkeifederation.org/risingstars](http://www.nikkeifederation.org/risingstars)

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\* For information, please call SFVJACC at (818) 899-1989. Thank you for supporting our Community Center.  
FAX is (818) 899-0659.