

San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center

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Issue 14

March/April 2014

The Traditional Family Picnic Returns May 17, 2014

By NJ Nakamura

Has it really been over 20 years since I went to a picnic at that grassy park called Sunset Farms? I remember helping my parents lay down a woven mat "goza" so that we could sit in the shade and not have our legs scratched by rocks or twigs. Mom would open up her many plastic boxes containing teriyaki chicken, rice balls "onigiri", potato salad and other picnic foods. For drinks, we would grab a small bottle of soda from a huge aluminum tub that was filled with chunks of ice.

Then, there were the games where toddlers won little buckets with shovels and the older ones walked away with pick-up sticks or a bottle of liquid soap to blow bubbles through a round wand. Those were simple toys that brought happy moments.

Next month, we can all experience those wonderful, fresh air activities again. On Saturday, May 17, the SFVJACC will sponsor a Family Day Picnic. There will be games and prizes for the children and delicious food for all. The adults will have the chance to toss water balloons at each other or to just sit in the shade and watch the talent show on stage.

Eating will be an all day adventure. Some people may prefer to bring a picnic basket filled with their favorite foods. For convenience, obentos that are ordered by May 3, will be ready and waiting for pick-up. Everyone is invited to walk over to the

BBQ grills for free hot dogs and chili. An added plus would be to bring your own plate of cooked rice and ask to have the chili poured on top. There will also be a tub of chilled water bottles and watermelon slices to freshen up your smile.

So, don't miss out on this fun gathering of family and friends. It will be at a new location called Orcas Park. It is near Hansen Dam. Please fill out the registration form on the Family Day Picnic flyer in this newsletter so that there will be enough prizes for the children and food for all. See you there!



There will be free ice cream for all to enjoy.





Dana Chow, Gene Lew and Paul Jonokuchi checking out the picnic site.



Japanese School will be doing the game "Suika-wari", the smashing watermelon game. Come and play!

MISSION STATEMENT

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Paul Jonokuchi

Now that spring has officially arrived, we hope everyone is enjoying the warmer weather and in high spirits. For the first few months of 2014, we were pleased to attend all the various organizations' New Year's parties. I would like to thank each group for their cordial invitation and for an evening of entertainment and delicious o-bento meals.

In February, the Community Center hosted the Nikkei Federation Conference attended by Orange County Buddhist Church, San Gabriel CC, Venice CC, Pasadena CC, Norwalk CC, Rafu Shimpo, and Little

Tokyo Service Center. I want to personally thank Nancy Oda for organizing and coordinating this event and making sure that San Fernando Japanese American Community Center was the number one host. Also, thank you to all the volunteers for their time serving the lunch, leading the guided tours and for setting up and cleaning up after the event.

After the introduction of each community center representative, we gathered around the table brainstorming various issues and problems regarding finances, programs and activities. Two challenges that most community centers encounter were the change in membership from being Japanese to a multi-cultural and younger generation not being actively involved. The conference went very well and at the end everyone was treated to a tour of Nikkei Senior Gardens.

At the end of February, the newly formed Endowment Fund Committee, consisting of Kenji Watanabe, Dick Kaku, Gene Matsushita and Nancy Oda, met with David Nagano from Wedbush, the investment firm, to discuss how and where to invest our funds for the financial security of the Community Center. The committee will have a few more meetings with Dave Nagano before the actual investment decisions are made.

Congratulation to the Athletics for having a successful Pancake Breakfast. It was a great turnout of members who wanted to

support our youth program. It was nice to see the youngsters working with their parents serving, cleaning and flipping pancakes.

The Community Center cordially invites all our families, relatives, neighbors and friends to join us at our Family Day Picnic on May 17 at Orcas Park in Lake View Terrace. Please mark your calendar! The committee is working very hard, making sure we all have an enjoyable time. Please bring your blanket, chairs and of course your picnic goodies. If you wish to purchase an O-bento meal, pre-order forms are on the flyer in the newsletter. So please join us and see you all at our annual picnic.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP

If you have a loved one affected by Alzheimer's disease, come join us — A non-judgmental, confidential place to share ideas, frustrations, concerns and joy.

Meetings: First Saturday of the month Time: 10 am — 12 noon

For more info, call the Center. (818) 899-1989

"Danger Zone" By Nancy Oda

Did you know that we should keep food out for only 4 hours maximum to stay out of the "danger zone"? The danger zone is between 41 degrees and 135 degrees. Twenty members of the SFV Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, Hot Meals, SFV Athletics and the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center met for two hours to become a Food Handler certificate holder in March.

As we prepare and serve our friends and guests at various events like picnics, obon, and team parties, it is a responsibility to make sure that no one gets sick. Of course, washing hands using a nail brush and wearing hair nets are a well known protocol at the Center. People who are ill should stay away from the



food preparation period. Another common sense strategy is to practice "batching". That means, on days like New Years' Day, the menu should roll out with thought given to the "four hour" rule. Food should not be at room temperature all day long, especially for children, the elderly, and those with compromised immune systems.

The online Safeway certification program is scheduled annually that is good for two years. Group rates make it possible to practice preventive measures like McDonald's and PF Chang restaurant chains. Thank you to all who gave up their Saturday to take the class.

<u>ACKNOWLEGDEMENTS</u>	Robert Goka	
Months of January and February 2014	Roger and Linda Itaya	
Donations		of Earl Grey black tea
SFV Meiji Senior Citizens Club	Smokey Sugii	
Year End Donation	Tim Elliott/Harriet Takahashi	
SFV JACL	Yone Takimoto	2 (3 Lbs.) Coffee
Year End Donation	Yone Takimoto	2 ibs. Coπee
Marian Murphy and Marilyn Kishi		
In Memory of Mas and Tomiko Oda	DONATIONS TO HOT MEA	<u>L</u>
Eiko Muto	FOR THE MONTHS OF JANU	ARY—FEBRUARY 2014
Ken Kumagai	Don Akamine	Cake to celebrate wife Suzan's
In Memory of June Kumagai Isabelle Miyata and Harvey Negoro		birthday
Greg Kimura	Musashi Restaurant	200 lbs. rice, 10 gal. oil & 4 pkgs.
United Way Charitable Contribution	Madadin ricotaaran iiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiii	chopsticks
Anonymous	Tom Honma	
IBM Charitable Contribution		Cake to celebrate their birthdays
Taro and Mary Ishimoto		2 boxes of ice cream for kitchen
In Memory of Dr. Mary Oda	Dorcer Nawamoto	volunteers
Ted and Kathy Fukuda	Liz Doomey	
June R. Imamoto	LIZ DOOMEY	Takimoto's birthday
Ken and Ritsuko Shinbashi	Dana Chow & Kylie Ozawa	· ·
George and Esther Sakatani	Daria Criow & Rylle Ozawa	
Use of Facilities		Takimoto's birthday (Yone's
Hitomi's Cooking Class		granddaughter & great grand-
SFV Judo Club	Ma 9 Mas Coorse Coto	granddaughter)
Nikkei Senior Gardens	Mr & Mrs. George Goto	•
Seniority	wait Fujimori	Hot Armenian donuts for kitchen
Tuesday Exercise Class	Day Income	volunteers
Kapunas	Roy Imazu	
Ping Pong Club	Marilyn Kishi	
Mae Sakamoto	Lorraine Shimizu	
Wednesday Nite Basketball		volunteers
Monday Bridge Club	Darrell Vivian	
Wednesday Bridge Club	· · · · ·	volunteers
SFVBHT Sangha Teens	Yone Takimoto	-
Marian Murphy/Marilyn Kishi	Jean Asuncion	_
JH Rothenbach	Frank Shimizu	-
Sogetsu SFV Branch (Ikebana)	Rex Shimizu	Cookies for kitchen volunteers
Tuesday Mah Jong Hanafuda	Fish donation:	
Poker Club	Earl Sandifur – Ojai	Vellow fin tuna
Tai Chi Class	-	Use of William's truck to pick up
SF Y2K	Harris Yoneoka and	fish in San Diego
SFV JACL	William Curran	nsii iii dan biego
Friday Mah Jong	William Curan	
Andy Jonokuchi	Ourisian from Cantanahan/Oat	aban danatiana.
Harmonica Class	Omission from September/Oct	
Greg's Guitar Class	Nay IIIaba	1 can coffee, 1 pkg. chopsticks &
NJ Nakamura		2 boxes of toothpicks
Miscellanous	Thank way for way	apperous donations
Coffee donation\$24.25	Marvie you for your	generous donations!
Copier donation\$15.00		
Ballroom Dance Class1 Case Styrofoam cups,	WANTEDIII The Hot	Meal Program is asking
4 pkgs. napkins, 1 (3 lbs.) coffee		go down to San Diego and

for volunteers to help go down to San Diego and pick up donated fish. If you can go, please contact the Center at (818) 899-1989.

Continued



San Fernando Athletics Annual Pancake Breakfast





On Saturday, March 15th the San Fernando Athletics held its annual Pancake Breakfast. This year the Sharks (5th grade boys team) and the Jaguars (5th grade girls team) hosted the event with all 19 of the other boys and girls basketball teams pitching in to help. This truly is a family event with all hands on deck helping with picking up trash in the dining hall, flipping pancakes, serving meals and greeting our Community Center members and guests.

Many thanks to the parents and kids who came out to work the event as well as to those who came to enjoy the pancake breakfast. Without your commitment, hard work and support, we could not have made this event successful. We served over 2,100 pancake breakfasts and netted over \$10,000 thus far, which directly benefits our young athletes.

San Fernando Athletics would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the following donors. Without these generous donations, the wonderful programs for our youth would not be possible.

Thank you!!!

Susie Lew/Ardath Yamaga 2014 Pancake Breakfast Coordinators

"Gold" Donors

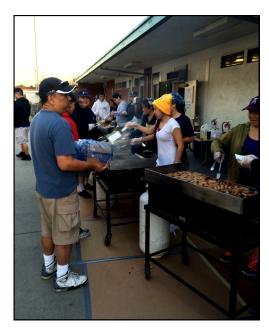
Honda of Hollywood Gelsons Market vAuto Smart and Final

Donors Alta Dena **AV Party Rentals** Costco Farmer John's Gavina Gourmet Coffee MMP Printing Quaker Ralph's Market (corporate) Ralph's Market (local) Rising Stars SFV Japanese American CC SFV Meiii Senior Citizens Club Katsumi & Fuyo Arimoto Vince Deng & Family Florence Fuchi Audrey Fukunaga Laura Fujita and Family Betty Hiji Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hiji Yasuo Ishii & Family Taro & Mary Ishimoto Charles Itaqaki James Komatsu

John Katzaroff & Family

David Kimura & Family Pablo Koguchi & Family Bette Krushell Andrew Lee & Family Greg Lew & Family Gareth Madrid & Family Roy Minami & Family Raymond Miyagawa Robert Mo & Family Scott Motoyasu & Family Yoshiharu & Cheryl Nakagawa Mary & Robert Odson Shel Ogasawara & Family Gary Ogimachi & Family Dan O'Halloran & Family Toshiaki & Janet Ono Mitch Paull & Family Mark Shimizu & Family Margaret Takimoto Jason Tanaka & Family Russell & Tamiko Yamaga Buster Yano Karen Yoshino & Family





Hospitality with a Capital H

By Nancy Oda

On February 22, the Center opened its doors wide for guests who are leaders from all of the Japanese American Community Centers in Southern California. It was a country style event with a welcoming committee with Chuck Itagaki hailing them into Dr. Sakaguchi Hall. Earlier, Gene Lew helped set up the room environment with Danny Okazaki. Doreen Kawamoto made coffee to go with the home baked



refreshments for the travelers who came from as far away as Orange County and Long Beach. Some of the Centers were small and others have major building in progress going on. The discussion, however, was not about how big or small we were but more about what we can do as a community to continue our mission to preserve our culture as demographics are changing.

Bryan Takeda from the Nikkei Federation chaired the three hour forum that meets twice a year. He guided the conversations much like a Think Tank on questions such as current programs that work or don't work and diminishing philanthropy. Although Leslie Ito has been a dynamo in the short period of time that she has taken charge of JACCC downtown as CEO said that she came to learn from us. Each guest received a packet from our Coordinating Council organizations as a template for future discussion. The newest CC board members led the group on a tour of our facilities including the Judo Dojo, Japanese Language Institute, Bert Corona Charter Middle School, gym, VFW Memorial Garden, kitchen and Pioneer Hall. After lunch, shuttle buses from Nikkei Senior Gardens took the participants on a royal tour led by Marc Aronoff and Michael Motoyasu.

During lunch, I had the opportunity to invite them to the Tuna Canyon Multicultural Panel that will be held on March 30. Thank you to Nancy Takayama who set up the power point show. The day was truly successful due mostly to the volunteers from our Center including the Board of Directors, Junior Board, Cooking Class chef Hitomi Hashimoto who plated the curry made by Paul Jonokuchi and Neil Hashiba along with the barbeque steak grilled by Kay Oda, garnished with "oroshi" lovingly grated by the Japanese Language Institute PTA. Wally and Joy Longworth and Cathy Fujimoto were so helpful cutting the thin



slices of steak onto aluminum foil shaped by Gene and Genevieve Lew. Kay Yamada made a delicious cabbage salad with pineapple to start the lunch that was served by members of the Rising Stars. They are Brandon Isa, Kara Tanaka, Michael Taheri, Derek Manaka, and Lyndsey Taguchi. Homemade cookies, donated by Lois Okui, Sharlene Miyagishima and Linda Kuratomi were put on Akiko Manaka's beautiful tea service. Ritsuko and Ken Shinbashi came early to design cymbidium orchids in a Hokusai type vase to make the meeting room especially beautiful.

Although many of our guests had to travel many miles to visit us, they had time on the way home to reflect on the culture of an increasingly diverse membership and how to attract new leaders with a vision. Further, they must have felt like the good old days coming to the "inaka" and enjoying our homemade food. Thank you to everyone who made the day a special memory for the guests as they work hard for the future of the Japanese American community. I felt very proud of our volunteer organizations.

Concert Presented by San Fernando Valley JACL

A Swinging Big Band Concert

Featuring Dan Taguchi and Friends

Sunday, May 4, 2014 • 2:00 p.m.

San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center 12953 Branford St., Pacoima, CA 91331

Ticket: Donation \$15

For information contact Nancy Gohata at yaiko16@verizon.net or at (818) 371-8013.

Background of the School

San Fernando Valley Japanese Language Institute is a non-profit, tax-exempt school that reaches out to address the cultural needs of our community. Our purpose is to educate the students with the many facets of the Japanese culture, as well as build an awareness of the visual and performing arts.

We offer classes to students from Nyumon (kindergarten) to Advanced Level in the Japanese Language. Here, our students learn the language, as well as the many ancient ceremonies and traditions handed down through the centuries.

Some facts

- Classes start from August and ends in June each school year. Classes are held on Saturdays, from 8:30am to 12:30pm.
- · Entry level for students from the age of 4 years
- High School credit classes
- Monthly tuition 1 student \$75, 2 students \$135, 3 students \$135. Early payment discounts available.
- Conversation classes for adults and children (10 session course for only \$250)

History

San Fernando Valley Japanese Language Institute was started in 1924 under the auspices of 13 original members of the Shikishima club, to promote the Japanese language, culture and place for social gathering. Celebrating 90 years of service to the community, we are the largest Japanese school in the San Fernando Valley, with an average enrollment of 60 to 70 students.

JLI New Year Extravaganza By Steve Nakata

Akemashite omedetogozaimasu! Happy New Year!

The JLI held its New Year's gala on February 1, 2014 at the Pioneer Center. This year also marks the 90th year the JLI has been serving the community.

The JLI was privileged to have as the Mistress of Ceremonies, acclaimed actress, Tamlyn Tomita, who energized and entertained the guests throughout the evening. Esteemed guests such as Assemblymember Raul Bocanegra, Masami Tanaka of Nihongo Gakuen Kyodo System and Genevieve Lew of the SFVJACC were just some of the guests who were provided with a night of Japanese cultural traditions and entertainment.

With the social hour starting at 5 pm, guests were treated with beer, wine, and snacks. For a second consecutive year, JLI parent Kiyo Watanabe brought bottles of his homemade red wines. All three bottles were finished before dinner!

The evening really started with the traditional breaking of the sake barrel or "kagami biraki" "kagami wari" (opening or breaking of the mirror). This tradition dates back 300 years to the fourth Tokugawa Shogun. Before going to war he gathered his daimyo in his castle to break open a sake cask. Now, the tradition is done at New Year, weddings or other significant events. With the sake barrel open, it was time for the "kanpai" (toast).

After dinner, the entertainment started with the JLI Nyumon Class doing their "Curry Rice" song, and student Anais Cordebard doing a speech about Japanese school. The JLI was honored to have World yo-yo champion, Michael Nakamura, put on an amazing demonstration of his skills with a yo-yo. JLI parents and actors, Kurt Hansen and Rob Narita, did solo songs that people are still talking about. The JLI teachers also did a song and dance routine. Mixed in between the entertainment were raffle drawings, with donated gifts from various businesses and JLI families. JLI families were also treated with a raffle for a free month of tuition. Congratulations to the Inoue, Morgan and Upshaw-Onuma families who each won a free month of tuition.

The evening was capped off by the SFJACC Meiji Ondo Dancers that got the party goers out of their seats and dancing around the Pioneer Center.

The JLI would like to thank all of the donors, student and parent volunteers and guests for making this New Year's party one of the best ever for the JLI.

Continued on next page.



SFVJLI NEW YEAR'S PARTY









Mochi tsuki at JLI By Steve Nakata

Mochitsuki is the Japanese custom of making rice cakes (mochi). This tradition dates back to the Heian period (794 - 1185) and usually occurs during late December in anticipation of the New Year. The process involves soaking and steaming sweet rice, then pounding the rice with a wooden mallet (kine) in a mortar (usu), until the rice becomes a soft paste. The paste is then cut and rolled in a sweet rice flour (mochiko).

The JLI was extremely fortunate to have JLI alumni Mike Takeshita, Bruce and Eddie Sakamoto and "Aunties" Evelyn Motoyama and Sachi Sakamoto volunteer and show the students how mochi is made. Mike, Bruce and Eddie steamed rice, brought the kine and usu and showed the students how to pound the rice. All the students and teachers were able to pound the rice with the kine and usu. Then, Aunties Evelyn and Sachi showed the students how to roll and form the mochi paste into the small rice cakes in the mochiko. The students had a variety of toppings for the mochi ranging from daikon to soy sauce and sugar, then got to eat the mochi. There is nothing like enjoying freshly made mochi.

The JLI is deeply appreciative of the Takeshita and Sakamoto families for

volunteering their time, equipment and knowledge to teach the students about traditional custom of mochitsuki.









Welcome New Community Center Members

Delacuesta, Luisa Fitzgerald, Douglas Hiraki, Audrey Hito, Teresa Ishihara, Roger & Joan Jacobs, Louise Keomalu, Diane Keomalu, Shanell Kitazaki, James S. Lee, Michelle Matsumoto, Yumiko Morishita, Sam

Nishida, Willie Okazaki, Sid & Yujie Rivera, Stanley Stewart, Stephanie Toda, Toshi Tokeshi, Joanne Ueda, Noriko Van Noy, Nick & Faith Watanabe, Hisako Young, Mikilani & Nanea

DIANNE FUKUWA 2014 SFVJACC NOMINEE FOR WOMEN OF THE YEAR



Congratulations to Diane Fukuwa!

We nominated Ms. Fukuwa for Woman of the Year because she represents the highest level of Japanese dance culture. It is a true honor that she teaches Nihon Buyo at the Center on Friday afternoons, although she has to travel from the South Bay. She also spends time with her aunt who is a resident at Nikkei Senior Gardens. She will be honored at the Women of the Year Luncheon to be held on Sunday, May 4, 2014 at Quiet Cannon (Montebello II Room) from 12:30 - 2:30 pm. Tickets are \$40.00 per person. If you are interested in attending the luncheon, please contact Satomi Nishimoto (818) 886-1285 or email her at satominishimoto@hotmail.com for reservations. Checks and reservation forms must be received by April 18. This event is sponsored by the Downtown Los Angeles JACL and the Japanese Women's Society of Southern California.

Dianne Michiko Fukuwa is a third generation Japanese American who is also known by her stage name, Fujima Seiyumi. Introduced to her Japanese culture at an early age, she felt as though her parents chose her to embrace the cultural traditions for the family. Because of this, Dianne was immersed in the arts which included koto, shamisen, Chanoyu (tea ceremony), Ikebana (flower arrangement), Shodo (calligraphy), and Nihon Buyo (classical dance).

In high school, Dianne was selected to be part of the City of Gardena's first delegation to visit its sister city, Ichikawa. She attended the University of California, Los Angeles, where she minored in Asian Studies and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Japanese. Shortly afterwards, she had the opportunity to live in Japan and taught English not only to adults and children, but to employees of notable entities like Lotte, Nippon Kokan and Tokyo Ika Daigaku (Tokyo Medical University). She was encouraged to continue her study of Nihon Buyo by Madame Fujima Chiseye, her mentor in Los Angeles, and received tremendous support from renowned experts of dance and choreography such as master instructor Madame Fujima Isesuzu of Tokyo, Fujima Tomoaki, Nakamura Danshichi and Madame Hanayagi Chiyo. In addition to performing at several venues in Tokyo, Dianne was given the chance of a lifetime to perform at the Kabukiza Theatre and The National Theatre of Japan. Of all her dances, she feels "Kagami Jishi" was the most physically challenging as its depiction of a shy court lady's gradual transformation into a fierce lion lasts nearly an hour.

After receiving her Shihan (Master ranking), Dianne eventually returned to Los Angeles, and was asked to teach Nihon Buyo to three children. This number quickly grew, and over three hundred have taken her classes in the last twenty-one years. This path has led to unanticipated honors. She received the Excellence in Art Award for Dance from the City of Torrance Cultural Arts Commission and the Teachers Making a Difference Award by the Cherry Blossom Festival of Southern California. She was also recognized by the Los Angeles Vet Center and Community Clinic, and was honored with a Certificate of Recognition from the City of Los Angeles.

Fujima Seiyumi's dance school continues its involvement in the community by performing and volunteering at church and community festivities and fundraisers. The students have enjoyed dancing at the Keiro Retirement Home, and volunteering for Japan's Earthquake and Tsunami Relief Fund. Additionally, she has collaborated with the entertainment industry on special film and television projects. In an effort to raise cultural awareness, her students have performed at ethnically diverse locations such as the Sanatan Dharma Hindu Temple, Hsi Lai Temple, and the Ricardo Montalban Theatre. She also remains a strong supporter of the values and traditions upheld by the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center, Venice Japanese Community Center, the Japanese Cultural Institute, the Japanese Community Pioneer Center, and the Japanese American Citizens League.

Fujima Seiyumi's desire is to share the beauty and essence of Nihon Buyo. She has attracted students from all walks of life, and is always gratified to see them develop into dancers with an appreciation for the art. It is this which inspires her to continue on and, as her stage name translates, "spring forth with a beautiful spirit."

Letters to Tohoku

The students, faculty and staff of the San Fernando Valley Japanese Language Institute were proud participants in the 2nd annual "Letters to Tohoku" project. Others that also contributed letters were seniors from Hot Meals, SF Hawks and friends.

This project was developed by the Rotary E-Club of The Greater San Fernando Valley, which enjoys a continuing relationship with the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center. This effort collects letters of support and friendship from Japanese language students in the Los Angeles area. Those letters are then sent to Tohoku for distribution to the brave survivors of the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

SFVJACC member and Rotary E-Club Treasurer Yoko Matsui, the project co-chair along with Jennifer Usyak (Rotary Club of Downtown Los Angeles), explained, "The letters are designed not to remind the survivors of the tragedy, but to commemorate the anniversary of the events by showing the recipients, mostly children and some senior citizens, that we will never forget about them and that we send our support and love from across the world."

Letters were delivered to Tohoku area schools and residents in time for March 11, 2014. Last year's contacts in Japan reported the delighted smiles of local children upon receiving a letter from far away.



Candle Night 3.11

EGAO, a new organization dedicated to bringing smiles to survivors of natural disasters, hosted a candlelight celebration of life on March 11, 2014, to commemorate the third anniversary of the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

Highlighted by a mindfulness ceremony celebrating peace and conducted by Reverend Patti Usuki of the SFV Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, the ceremony included remarks from Immediate Past President Nancy Oda and current President Paul Jonokuchi of the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center.



Beautiful flowers were provided by Mrs. Shinbashi and information from the recovering regions of Japan were displayed by Junko Yonezawa and Yoshihito Yonezawa, President of Nanka Miyagi Kenjin Kai.

"We are grateful to the Center for allowing us the use of the facility under the stars, as well as to the San Fernando Valley Japanese Language Institute for lending us a classroom as well," said Yoshiko Kawada, co-founder of EGAO with Fusako Hagiwara and Yoko Matsui. "The support of the Japanese, and Japanese-American, community of the San Fernando Valley continues to show its strong support for the survivors of the tsunami."

Center members will have the ongoing opportunity to assist in the emotional recovery of the Tohoku residents through similar efforts, including EGAO's Teddy Bear Drive for the region's children.



SFV JACL SUZUME NO GAKKOU

SUMMER CAMP JUNE 16 - 20, 8:30 - 12:30

\$75 per child

Japanese Language Institute classrooms 12953 Branford Street, Pacoima CA

FUN FILLED WEEK FOR KIDS GRADE 2-6

Additional information:

- T-Shirts only \$10 Available at Orientation on May 29, 6 PM at Dr. Sakaguchi Hall
- Grandparents Welcome to Closing Program held in Sakaguchi Hall Potluck Lunch
- Volunteer and Junior Counselor training will be held on June 11, 5 PM at SFVJACC

ENROLLMENT LIMITED TO 40 FIRST COME FIRST SERVED

HERITAGE BOOK STORE ON SITE

SNACKS DAILY BY PARENTS sign up

- STORY TIME READING OF "THE CAT THAT CHOSE TO DREAM" AND "HACHIKO"
- LEARN BASIC JAPANESE PHRASES
- BRUSH PAINT YOUR NAME
- EXERCISE, DANCE, SING, COOK
- FOLD ORIGAMI
- FIELD TRIP TO JAPANESE AMERICAN
 NATIONAL MUSEUM BY METRO ON THURS

SFV JACL SUZUME NO GAKKOU SUMMER CAMP - JUNE 17	-21, 20	014
Registration form and field trip consent slip for each chi	d	

Name of student	Grade in Sept
Japanese Name	Contact E-mail
Telephone	Parent or Guardian
Allergies	

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT Nancy Oda nancyoda64@gmail.com or cell 818 935-2603 Send registration to Mitzi Kushida, 11641 Porter Valley Dr., Northridge, CA 91326

Mission Statement:

To nourish pride in American history through education and hands on activities for young people To develop programs for youth so they can be well rounded and fair minded citizens in a diverse world







SUPERHERO By Old Wakaba, Bud Sagara

While we were watching our old VCR copy of <u>Cinderella</u> with our granddaughter Raven, it became readily apparent to me that we could all use a fairy godmother. Wouldn't it be nice to have someone to look after us and help us out of tough situations simply by waving her magic wand? She would surely come in handy when the household chores pile up or when playing the slots in Las Vegas. A fairy godmother would also be the answer if you have lost your way in the search for "living happily ever after," or when you look in the mirror and hear, "you could use a little Botox," instead of "you are the fairest in the land."

Children are brainwashed by fairy tales and Disney stories into thinking that there is always someone to provide the needed magic to rescue them, turn a pumpkin into a carriage, or transform their lives. This role is usually filled by a fairy godmother or superhero. Even as adults, we continue to hold onto the idea that there exists someone who is watching over us, with unlimited power, wisdom far beyond any man, and loves us unconditionally. Is this a childhood fantasy or is there a real Lord in heaven who is your personal guardian? It seems par for the course that kids never consider their parents as superheroes. It is only after they become adults and parents themselves that they finally realize all that their parents did and sacrificed for them.

Superheroes have always been popular because they convey to us a glamorous, ideal person to model ourselves after. I am not suggesting that we should don a brightly-colored costume and fight criminals all night, but to consider modeling one of their extraordinary behaviors-sacrificial love. Many people have a tendency to be selfish and to protect their own little worlds by not becoming involved in anything unless it affects them. In the persona of the superhero, we see someone who is willing to sacrifice himself for ungrateful strangers. Comic book heroes like Batman or real life heroes like the soldiers of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team share this in common. A hero plunges into danger and does what needs to be done when a threat arises with no regard for himself; while most of us prefer to remain safely on the sidelines.

The actions of Batman are powerful, not because of his physical strength or his nifty gadgets, but by his willingness to sacrifice for the people of Gotham City. He will steadfastly make the hard choice to forego his self-interest to endure the pain, ridicule, disappointment, and the loneliness of his existence. What makes Batman great is not that he defeats the villain or saves the city; it is because he inspires us to endure our own personal trials by tapping into an inner power that we did not know we have. There are a few lines of dialog that sum up this message in the Batman movies. In a conversation between Batman and his loyal butler Alfred in The Dark Knight, Batman asks Alfred what he should do to stop the mayhem that the Joker is causing. Alfred counsels Batman, "Endure, Master Wayne. They'll hate you for it, but that's the point of Batman. He can make the choice that no one else can make, the right choice." In the final battle scene of The Dark Knight Rises, Selina Kyle tries to talk Batman out of personally carrying an armed nuclear device out into the ocean before it detonates. Knowing that this heroic act will certainly lead to Batman's death, Selina pleads with him, "You don't owe these people anymore. You've given them everything." Batman replies, "Not everything, not yet."

There is much darkness in the world. Darkness consumes every place where there is no light. A superhero is a fictional example of someone pushing back the darkness. The lifestyle of a superhero is not glamorous. It is a life of ridicule and suffering. It is akin to the life of the hero in Japanese samurai movies. The samurai hero is always on the side of good and is certainly the deliverer of justice as an extraordinary killing machine of bad guys, but you have to feel sorry for him at the same time because of the loneliness of his existence. He has no family, no close relationships, and no rest. He never lays down his burden of the protection of others, and at the end of the movie he silently walks away alone.

We are all protectors of someone, whether they are your children, husband, wife, siblings, friends or aging parents. We do this because we love them. In John 15:13, Jesus says, "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends." We are not superheroes and will not be saving mankind from the clutches of evil. But if we deny ourselves and love one another sacrificially, then we will become much more than we thought we could be. We will do this without a costume or gadgets or superpowers. The light will burn brighter and just maybe; the darkness will be pushed back.

BY VELINA HASU HOUSTON

Directed by Ernest A. Figueroa

SAVE THE DATE!



Sunday, June 8, 2014 2:00 PM San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center Suggested Donation \$15

For more information, contact Nancy Gohata at <u>yaikol6verizon.net</u> or (818) 371-8013.

Q&A with playwright Velina Hasu Houston.

Valley Japanese Community Center to host their Annual Obon Festival June 21 & 22, 2014 5PM-10PM

The Valley Japanese Community Center is located at 8850 Lankershim Blvd, Sun Valley, CA. All time favorite foods such as Udon, Teriyaki Beef, Sushi, Chinese Chicken Salad, and Fresh Roasted Corn on the Cob and Homemade baked goods are some of the foods which will be available for purchase.

Demonstrations of Judo, Karate, Kendo, Tea Ceremony and Minyo Odori will be held. Festival-type games, exhibits of calligraphy/Sumi-E, and schoolwork completed by Japanese School Students will be featured on both days. Returning on Saturday to Sun Valley for the 4th year is Matsutoyo Kai with special performance of Minyo music. Returning for the 5th year is LA Matsuri Taiko who will fill the air with their thunderous drumming on Sunday.

After the demonstrations, please join in the Bon Odori dances. Bon dances are dances of joy so age, looks or experience should not inhibit anyone from entering the circle of dancers!

Practice dates are Tuesday and Friday starting on May 30, 2014 to June 17, 2014 from 7-9 PM

Please bring Uchiwa, Tenugui and Kachi Kachi

Contact Christine Inouye @christineinouye@yahoo.com or 818.825.9583

TUNA CANYON DETENTION STATION COALITION By Nancy Oda

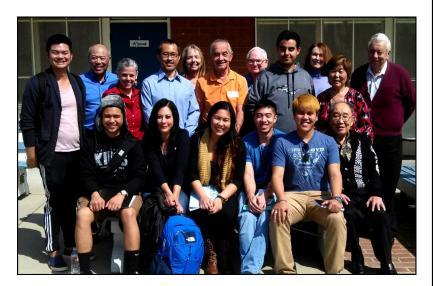
Tuna Canyon became an enemy alien detention station on December 16, 1941, days after Pearl Harbor, by installing barbed wired fences and watch towers. Only days before it was a Civilian Conservation Corp camp built during the Depression in 1933.

The Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition hosted its first multicultural panel called "Discovering History in Your Own Back Yard". The descendants of Japanese, German and Japanese Peruvian detainees told their personal stories on Sunday, March 30, 2014 at the Center.

Over fifty camps held enemy aliens that included Tuna Canyon detainees who were the fathers of the multicultural panel

consisting of Min Tonai, Sigird Toye and Reverend Dr. Yoshi Tsuyuki. Grace Shimizu's story came from Latin America. She also made comparison to today's political climate. California State University, Northridge students (pictured with Coalition Committee) joined the community and participated in the question and answer period that followed.

Sponsors of the program were the SFV JACL and the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center. Although there is a lawsuit against the city of Los Angeles by the developer, Snowball West Investments, there is growing momentum to learn about Tuna Canyon and its place as part of the eventual evacuation of the Japanese who were unjustly removed from the West Coast during World War II.





MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES AT SFVJACC

This year's Memorial Service at the JACC, will see a change in the people helping with the program. In preparing the changing of the guard, you will see some new faces in the program from the M.C. to the reading of the names of the deceased. The new faces will include the younger members of the Community Center who will carry out the service in the future. We ask that you support these new participants by coming to the memorial service for all deceased veterans of the community.

This is the last call for members of the JA community in the San Fernando Valley to call in to have veterans in their family memorialized at the Kiyoshi Muranaga Veterans Memorial Garden at the SFVJACC. The names of any deceased veteran and relative of a resident of the San Fernando Valley, who served in war or peacetime, may be engraved at the memorial to be recognized and remembered as one who sacrificed and served their country. Please call Marge Tanaka at 818-361-8951 to have their names placed in the memorial or email her at ftmatl@verizon.net. The families of veterans are invited to participate and encouraged to come to the Memorial Day Service.

As reported, VFW Post 4140 will merge with Gardena Post 1961. We are urging all members of VFW Post 4140, to contribute towards an endowment fund that will insure funds for future engraving and memorial services at the Center. Please make checks out to VFW Post 4140 and mail to Frank Tanaka, 15050 Germain Street, Mission Hills, CA 91345. We ask that VFW members show up in force for the services.

VFW Memorial Day Services

Sunday, May 25, 2014 at 5:00 PM SFVJACC - 12953 Branford Street, Pacoima, CA 91331 Dinner to follow after the service.



2014 San Fernando PeeWee Basketball Clinic

Saturdays (July 12, 19, 26, Aug 2)

Registration 10:00 a.m. Clinic 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

SFV Japanese American Community Center

12953 Branford Street, Pacoima, CA 91331

Clinic Director: Curtis Takimoto

1993-2007 SFVJACC Athletics - Terminators • 2003 Frosh, 2004 JV, 2005-2007 Varsity Basketball – Chatsworth HS 2005-2011 - Counselor Pierce Brahma Basketball Camp (Ages 8-12) • 2007-2012 UCI Intramural Basketball 2012-present NAU Basketball • C.O.R.E Basketball League Director - Corona Del Mar

\$45 (includes Coaching by SF Coaching Staff, Jersey and Basketball!)

Register Today! (There's space for only 20 boys and girls! First come, first served!)

For Boys and Girls, 4 through 7, ready to learn the basics & meet new friends!

4 Saturdays of fun! (8-year-olds who have never played before also welcome)

To register or for more information, call Margaret (818) 701-7628 or email: JNCMOM@aol.com

Deadline for forms and payment— 6/14/14.

COORDINATIING COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONS-MEETINGS-CONTACT PERSONS

Coordinationg Council	1st Wed.	, 7:00 PM	Na	ncy Oda	818 786-0914
Community Center	. 1st/3rd V	Ved., 7:00	PMP	aul Jonokuch	ni818 894-5327
Athletics	. 3rd Tues.	, 7:30 PM.	Marga	aret Takimoto	o818 701-7628
Bonsai Club	. 4th Sun.,	8 AM-12 F	PM	Daito Ono	818 349-1310
Chatsworth West United Methodis	st Church				
	. 2nd Sun.,	, 1:00 PM	Dore	en Kawamot	.o818 764-8850
CC News	Lois Okui	818	892-148	7Email:	: loisokui@aol.com
Fishing Club	3rd Mon.	, 8:00 PM.	Jo	ohn Goka	
Golf Club					
JACL	2nd Wed	., 7:00 PM	Dore	een Kawamot	to818 764-8850
Japanese Language Institute	. Sat., 9:30	AM-12:30) PM	.Kimi Chiba	818 590-3362
Judo Club	4th Wed.	, 7:03 PM.	M	o Barrera	818 331-9444
Landscape Gardeners	Sat. of ev	ery other i	month	Nob Tama	i818 347-3912
Nikkei Senior Gardens					
Nikkei Village					
Sho Chiku Bai Porter Ranch Bonsai	Club				
	,			•	
SFV Holiness Church	. 2nd Sun.,	, 12:30 PM		Diane Date	818 701-6607
SFV Hongwanji Buddhist Temple	. 2nd Mon	., 7:30 PM	Ro	ger Itaya	818 899-4030
SFV Meiji Senior Citizens	1st Fri., 1	2:30 PM	Ka	y Yamada	818 763-4861
Sunrise Foursquare Church			Reverend	l Paul Iwata	818 782-8738
Valley Japanese Community Cente	r				
	2nd Fri., `	7:30 PM	Neil H	ashiba	818 732-5837
VFW Post 4140	. 1st Fri., 1	0:00 AM	Fra	ınk Tanaka	818 361-8951

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	9:00 AM-12:00 PM	Sally Hamamoto	818 361-2902
Ballroom DanceTuesday	7:00-8:30 PM	Nancy Gohata	818 899-4232
Bowling*, Mission Hills BowlThursday	9:30 AM	George Seko	818 998-0682
Bridge* Mon/Wed	12:00-4:00 PM	Ray Shinsato	818 767-5550
Japanese Calligraphy1st/3rd Thursday	9:30-11:00 AM	Yuriko Muso	818 726-8935
Country Western Music*1st /3rd Tuesday	10:30-11:30 AM	Janet Schuetze	818 767-1819
Hitomi's Cooking Class4th Tuesday	7:00 PM	NJ Nakamura	818 893-6503
Craft Workshop 2nd Sat, even months	10:00 AM-12 PM	SFVJACC@gmail.com	818 899-1989
Exercise ClassFriday	10:00-11:00 AM	Reverend Leo Fong	818 618-4368
Exercise ClassTuesday	9:00-10:00 AM	Ralph Ahn	818 897-1322
Guitar ClassTuesday	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 HulaFriday	12:30 PM	Jan Kondo	818 888-5124
Hawaiian Ukulele ClassFriday (Gym)	10:00-11:30 AM	Greg Librando	818 896-6503
Ikenobo Ikebana Class2nd Thurs	10:00-1:00 PM	Ritsuko Shinbashi	818 892-0470
Japanese Classical Dance Friday	1:00-6:55 PM	Diane Fukuwa	310 217-0443
Karaoke* 1st/3rd Thurs	10:00 AM-12:00 PM	Walter Fujimori	818 352-1075
Kokusei Shigin ClassThursday	7:00-9:00 PM	Lily Kumagai	818 367-2711
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	Yoko Kawamura	818 765-3513
Ondo Dancing*2nd/4th Friday	7:00-9:00 PM	Masako Rodriguez	818 899-8777
Ping Pong ClubThursday, 2nd/4th Tuesday	10:00 AM-3:00 PM	Burt Tokuhara	818 469-8934
SFV Judo Club Mon/Wed/Thurs/Fri	7:00-9:00 PM	Mike Murakami	818 648-6044
Tai Chi Class* Monday	9:00-10:00 AM	Florence Takaaze	310 202-6693
Yoga ClassWednesday	10-11 AM/7:30-8:30 PM	CC Office	818 899-1989
ZumbaMonday	7:30-8:30 PM	Margaret Takimoto	818 701-7628

SUPPORT GROUPS & SERVICES

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

^{*}Meiji Senior Citizens' Activity or Service



SAN FERNANDO VALLEY HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

9450 Remick Ave. Pacoima 818 899-4030 www.sfvhbt.org

Rev. Patricia Usuki: Temple President: Rod Kuratomi Dharma School - Sunday 11:00 am

BUDDHIST TEMPLE CALENDAR

April

- 6 Shotsuki: Monthly Memorial Service and Hanamatsui: Birth of Shakyamuni Buddha 10 am
- 13 Regular Service 10 am
- 20 Regular Service 10 am
- 27 Regular Service 10 am

May

- 4 Shotsuki: Monthly Memorial Service 10 am
- 11 Gotan-e: Shinran Shonin's birthday service & Hatsumairi: child presentation service; Mother's day celebration 10 am
- 18 TBA
- 25 Memorial Day service 10 am (Temple & Forest Lawn)

June

- 1 Shotsuki: Monthly Memorial Service 10 am
- 8 Regular Service 10 am
- 15 Father's Day & Graduation Service 10 am
- 22 TBA
- 29 No service (Obon festival, June 28/29)



Crossway Church

Formerly San Fernando Valley Holiness Church

9610 Haddon Avenue Pacoima, CA 91331 (2 blocks east of Laurel Canyon Blvd. between Branford and Osborne St.)

Office Phone:

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

Please refer to our website for more information: www.sfvhc.org

English Department

Pastor Roland Hazama Pastor Raynold Nakamura

Sunday Schedule

9:30 AM
Kid Venture Children's Ministries
(infant -6th grade)
Sunday School for ages
junior high through adult

10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship

11:00 AM Worship Service (childcare for infants-Pre-K)

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

Sunday Schedule

11:00 AM Worship Service

Lunch and Fellowship After worship service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays

Wednesday, 10:00 AM Prayer Meeting @ church

Please ask about other weekday meetings.



Chatsworth West United Methodist Church

(Formerly West Valley UMC merged with Chatsworth UMC)

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

10824 Topanga Canyon Blvd. Chatsworth, CA 91311 818 341 1270

 $E\text{-mail: }\underline{chatsworthumc@juno.com}$

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 1st and 3rd Wednesday @ 3:00PM

Musical Director: Steve Foreman

Japanese Class – 2nd & 4th Sunday @ 9AM

Instructor: Junko Wayama

Shotokan Karate of America Fri. @ 6:30 PM Rm.1

Instructor: April Warynick 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

"Connected to God-Connected to One Another"

Pastors:

Rev. Paul Iwata

Rev. Haruko "Spring" Iwata

Meeting Address:

5853 Laurel Canyon Blvd. North Hollywood, CA 91607

Mailing Address:

14705 Wyandotte St. Van Nuys, CA 91405

Sunday

10:30 AM Worship Services
English: Rev. Paul Iwata
Japanese: Rev. Spring Iwata
12 noonPotluck Lunch

Thursday

7:00 PM.....Prayer Meeting and

Bible Study

Friday

6:00 PM......Prayer Meeting at Court Yard Assisted Care Living Center

7:30 PM.....Youth & Young Adult Meeting at Church

Home Meetings

Yukio Masai's 2nd Wednesday 7:00 PM in Gardena 310-329-1586

Pastoral counseling is available for individuals, couples, and families.

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

Email: pmiwata1@hotmail.com

Website:

www.sunrisejapanesechurch.org

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE CC

April 26, 2014

Manzanar Pilgrimage

April 27, 2014

SF Athletics Jamboree

May 4, 2014

JACL - A Swinging Big Band Concert

May 17, 2014

CC Family Day @ Orcas Park

May 25, 2014

VFW Memorial Day Service

June 7, 2014

SFV Language Institute Speech Contest

June 8, 2014

JACL - A Reading "Tea"

June 21, 2014

Craft Workshop

June 28 & 29, 2014

SFV Hongwanji Buddhist Temple Obon

NAKANO NURSERY

PLANT SALE

FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2014

9: 00 AM - 1:00 PM



The SFV JACL together with SFV JACC will again have a plant sale at the Community Center. This will be the first and only sale for 2014. For more information contact Nancy Gohata at yaiko16@verizon.net or at (818) 899-4237.





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U.S. Postage
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Permit No. 21

San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center

 Complete the information below. Tear off the membership card for your records. Make check payable to "SFVJACC". Send your check and this form to: SFVJACC – Membership 		☐ Family Membership - \$55.00☐ Single Membership - \$35.00	
Please Pint) Name		F	Phone
(Last Name) Address	(First Name)		
			Zip Code
mail Address			
		D	hone