

San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center

Issue 20

March/ April 2015

Website: www.sfvjacc.com

GIRL SCOUTS - OUR NEWEST YOUTH PROGRAM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER

By Akiko Manaka

As of February 2015, San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center has formed a **Girl Scout's Troop**, *Troop #1466*. It has been a vision of the SFVJACC's Junior Board for the past 2 years to establish a leadership program for the youths of the SFVJACC. It has finally come to fruition by the formation of Girl Scouts.

Today's Girl Scouts is focused on building leadership and life skills in girls and young women, and providing opportunities to utilize and sharpen these skills through community service.

While providing life skill opportunities, the girls have fun by interacting with other girls through various activities. The girls will be earning and collecting a variety of badges, patches, and pins; an important Girl Scout tradition that lives on, but while they are doing so, in our troop, we will be focusing on Japanese culture and traditions. We wanted our Girl Scouts troop to uphold the SFVJACC's mission statement:

Kelsey Nakaji Kwong, Our 2015 SFV Queen



Kelsey Nakaji Kwong, from La Habra Heights, will be representing the SFVJACC & Coordinating Council at this year's Nisei Week. She will turn 22 years old on April 7 and in May will be graduating from Whittier College with a degree

in chemistry and a minor in Music and French. Kelsey was born in Burbank and her grandparents

and other relatives were members of the SFVJACC.

We look forward to hearing more about her in the next newsletter.

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

As of one of our first meetings, the girls learned about the Japanese holiday, Girl's Day (Hinamatsuri). They learned how to make Gomoku Sushi and displayed the Japanese Girls Day dolls. They were also asked to find some fun facts about Girls Day and share them with everyone.

Our troop is a multi-level troop so we encourage any girls (ages 5-18) interested in having fun to come and join us. For more information, please contact Akiko Manaka at 818-472-5102 or email: <u>akiko.manaka@gmail.com</u>.

Girl Scout Mission:

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.



Japanese Girls Day dolls



Gomoku Sushi





GIRL SCOUTING: A W@rld of Friendship

MISSION STATEMENT

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Now that spring has officially arrived, we hope everyone is enjoying the warmer weather and is in high spirits. Currently 2015 membership drive is taking place; if you already have paid your membership we thank you very much for your support...if you have not done so, please renew your membership and take advantage of the many activities that are offered at the Center.

For the last few years, we did not have a Nisei Week Queen candidate to represent the Center. This year we are very happy to announce that Kelsey Nakaji Kwong will be our candidate. She is 23 years old and lives in La Habra Heights. Kelsey feels a connection with our Center, having played basketball here

when she was younger. More about her in the next newsletter.

Congratulations to the Athletics for having a successful Pancake Breakfast. It was a great turn out of members who wanted to support our youth basketball program. It was nice to see youngsters working with parents serving, cleaning and flipping pancake.

Few weeks ago, the Endowment Committee reported that our investment funds for the last two quarters did very well. We are very excited and want to thank Dave Nagano, who is our financial investment advisor. These funds are being invested for the financial security and future growth of our Community Center.

Also, good news to report! We have received the first revenue sharing check from Nikkei Senior Garden. It was not a large amount, but we appreciate it very much. For now it will be placed in the Future Fund.

As to our Community Center's future, the Future Planning Committee, chaired by Margaret Takimoto, met for the first time at the end of March. Now that our Issei's dream is fulfilled, we need to start looking at the our future vision plan for the Community Center. What do we need to promote to benefit the future generations? These are some of the questions that we need to share with you to come up with a collaborated plan. As we move forward, the Board will be taking up this matter and we ask for your input. It is important that the community stays connected and supportive of each other. Hopefully we can all work together to better serve our community.

The Community Center is offering scholarships to the 2015 graduating high school seniors. If any one is interested, please apply before April 1. It's a very worthwhile scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 each. Good Luck!

Recently, I was invited to Jake Kuwata's Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony in Gardena. It was very impressive with invited City, County and State officials, each presenting a certificate of congratulations. Jake's Eagle Scout Project was to re-build the seating area around the trees in the Japanese School parking lot. Congratulations to Jake and a job well done! Later this year, Jake's younger brother, Grant, will also be doing his Eagle Scout Project at the Center.

Paul Jonokuchi, SFVJACC President

TAIKO CLASSES

Interested in learning how to play taiko drums? Call the CC office (818) 899-1989.

Classes are scheduled to start in May.

Beginners • Thursdays 7 - 8:30 pm Intermediate • Saturdays 10 - 11:30 am

Cost: \$20 per month (4 classes)

Hula Classes

April 18 – June 6 (8 Saturdays) 3–5 years 2–2:30 pm \$40/session 6–10 years 2:30–3 pm \$40/session 13–55 years 3–3:45 pm \$56/session

Call the CC office (818) 899-1989 if interested.



Subscriptions start at \$5.95 per month

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

For the Months of January & February 2015

Donations

Dr. Bo and Iku Sakaguchi In honor of Dr. Sanbo Sakaguchi and Kay Furuta Sakaguchi Stuart Matsuda For the Endowment Fund Harry Nakada SFV JACL Year-end donation Gary and Pamela Nishida In memory of father Minoru Nishida Anonymous **IBM Charitable Contribution** Anonymous For the start-up of the Taiko Class Frank and Marge Tanaka Toshi Sugii From the sale of her donated items SFV Bonsai Club Year-end donation

Use of Facilities

Greg Librando Bridge Club Karaoke Club Mae Sakamoto Wednesday Nite Basketball Hanafuda **Tuesday Mah Jong Tuesday Exercise Class** SFV JACL Bert Corona Charter School Jeff Measles **Ping Pong Club** Dan Takehara Ralph Ahn Poker Club Mandolin Class Hula Wahines Friday Exercise Class Harmonica Class

Miscellanous

"THANK YOU" To The Following People—

- Harris Yoneoka for revamping the kitchen utility cart for the Hot Meal Program.
- Gene Lew and John Doomey for doing repairs and small jobs around the Center.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

DONATIONS TO HOT MEALS

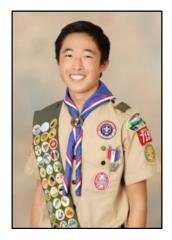
For the Months of January & February 2015

Lauren Arii	8 lbs. Coffee
Jean Ascuncion	Oranges for kitchen volunteers
Liz & John Doomey	Cake for mother Yone's birthday
	Armenian donuts for volunteers & misc. serving equipment
Sally Hamamoto	Roll of aluminum foil
Doreen Kawamoto	Ice cream for kitchen volunteers
Harold Kameya	8 lbs. Coffee
	Cookies, Captain Crunch candy & coffee cake for kitchen volunteers
Marian Murphy	Green onions for volunteers
	150 lbs. rice, 5 gal. oil, 4 pkgs. Chopsticks
Aiko Ross Myring	Aprons
Sandy Nobuyuki	Misc. cooking service
Gerri Radman	Lemons
-	Tea cakes in memory of mother Kay Kajiki
Jane Sato	Cookies for volunteers
	Homemade valentine candy for volunteers
	Dessert for their birthdays, 100 Bags of green tea
Yone Takimoto	Fukujinzuke (January & February)
Denise & Craig Tanaka	6 (30 oz.) Cartons of goldfish crackers
Kiyo Tomomatsu	2 Mini tongs
Sylvia Yamashita	Valentine candy for volunteers

2015 SFVJACC New Year's Luncheon

Thank You to the Following For Their Generous Donations

Chatsworth West United Methodist Church Yas and Nancy Gohata Toii and Hitomi Hashimoto Ken and June Kageyama Ken and Priscilla Mui George and Frances Murakami Harry Nakada Fumio and Kazuko Nakama Karl Nobuyuki Kay and Nancy Oda SFV Hongwanji Buddhist Temple SFV Japanese Language Institute SFV Landscape Gardeners Association SFV Meiji Senior Club Ken and Ritsuko Shinbashi Margaret Takimoto Mabel Takimoto Valley Japanese Community Center Kenji and Kyoko Watanabe Hiroshi and Yoshiko Yamaguchi



JAKE KUWATA ACHIEVES EAGLE SCOUT RANKING

Jake Kuwata was recognized for his achievement in attaining the rank of Eagle Scout on March 6, 2015 at the Ken Nakaoka Center in Gardena.

Eagle Scout Jake Kuwata was born on March 30, 1998 in Woodland Hills, California to parents Miles and Rouxann Kuwata. Jake has an older brother, Cody "Hawk" who is a Troop 719 Eagle scout and a younger brother, Grant who is a Life Scout with the troop. Jake and his family live in Agoura Hills. He is currently a junior at Oak Park High School. Jake likes to spend time with his family and friends, snowboard, fish and air soft.

Jake has gone on many hikes and long terms including hiking to the peak of Mauna Loa on the Big Island of Hawaii and Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. Last year, Jake led his Scorching Tiger Patrol on a 5

day, 35 mile long term through the Desolation Wilderness of Lake Tahoe. The Scorching Tiger Patrol received the troop's "Awesome Patrol" of the quarter award. Jake received the troop's "Scout of the Quarter" award twice and made the Elite 50 Club twice at the Annual Invitational Field Day Competition. He also received the troop's "Hiker of the Year" award. Jake has held the positions of Quarter Master, Troop Historian, Assistant Patrol Leader and Patrol Leader and is currently the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader for the troop. Jake has attended 5 different summer camps including Camps Emerald Bay and Cherry Valley on Catalina Island. When Jake was 11 years old, he received the Wyatt Earp award for rifle shooting at Camp Whitsett for shooting 10/10 targets. He has earned 42 merit badges and plans to obtain his silver palm.



Jake and CC President Paul Jonokuchi.

Jake chose the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center (SFVJACC) to complete his eagle service



Jake with brother, Cody "Hawk" (L) and friend and supporter, Eileen Kawana.

project. SFVJACC President Paul Jonokuchi is the father of four Eagle Scout sons and had the perfect idea for Jake's project. Jake's project removed four old rotten wooden benches by SFV Japanese Language Institute and the Kiyoshi Tomiye Memorial Garden and built and painted four new benches. The benches are used at the annual obon festival and by the Japanese school students. Jake also rebuilt a caution sign used in the community center parking lot. The project was a huge success.

Attaining the rank of Eagle Scout has been a major accomplishment for Jake. Scouting has taught Jake responsibility, the meaning of dedication and commitment, and how to be a good leader and lead by example. Jake has learned that with hard work and perseverance, anything is possible. He will use all these lessons to help guide him through life. Jake would like to sincerely thank the SFVJACC, and all his friends and family who have helped support and encourage him to attain the rank of Eagle Scout.



L.A. `Ukulele Expo 2015: World Record Attempt • April 18 11:30AM • JACCC Campus Grab your `ukulele or purchase one at the

Expo, and bring a few friends to put Los Angeles on the `ukulele map! JACCC and its resident `ukulele cafe—<u>U-Space</u> -

present the *Ukulele Play-Along World Record Attempt* for largest `ukulele ensemble, led by GRAMMY winners **Tia Carrere** and **Daniel Ho**. *Registration for the World Record Attempt begins at 9:30am.



Calling the High School Class of 2015

Dr. Sanbo and Kazuko Kay Sakaguchi Scholarship, Lily Sakaguchi Thibodeaux Scholarship and Dr. Bo and Ikuyo

Sakaguchi Scholarship will be awarded at the upcoming SFVJACC Family Day Picnic on May 16, 2015, at 1:00 PM. Newest member of the Scholarship Selection Committee is Nicole Thibodeaux, granddaughter of Lily Thibodeaux. Deadline to apply for these scholarships is April 1. See **sfvjacc.com** for applications.

CANDLE NIGHT 3-11-2015, A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

EGAO, a thriving organization dedicated to bringing smiles to survivors of natural disasters, hosted a candlelight celebration of life and recovery on March 11, 2015, to commemorate the fourth anniversary of the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami. Supporters gathered at the San Fernando Valley Japanese Language Institute within the SFV Japanese American Community Center.



Along with a welcome from Community Center President Paul Jonokuchi, attendees heard an update on recovery progress in the region from EGAO co-founder Yoshiko Kawada, and a very personal story from community leader Kimiaki Chiba, whose father came from the Tohoku region and who still has family there.

In a message to the gathering, Consul General of Japan in Los Angeles Harry. H. Horinouchi said, "The work of community organizations is critical to Tohoku's continued recovery. It reminds the people of Tohoku that with each passing year, even as memories of the earthquake and tsunami may fade in many people's minds, there are caring groups such as EGAO and caring people like those attending this celebration who are ready to lend a helping hand."



San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple Reverend Patti Usuki led a mindfulness service and spoke of the value of living every day to the fullest.

Along with fellow co-founders Kawada and Fusako Hagiwara, Yoko Matsui expressed gratitude to the Center, the school, and the assembled supporters for continuing to keep the Tohoku survivors in their thoughts and for helping however they can, including through community organization like EGAO and its toy and teddy bear drives for the children of Tohoku.



Veterans Memorial Day Service

The members of the SFVJACC will continue holding Memorial Day services in honor of deceased veterans of the San Fernando Valley.

Since the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4140 merged with Gardena VFW Post 1961, the SFVJACC created a perpetual Memorial Day fund to continue these services as long as possible for the community members, veterans families and especially the youth organizations.

The Memorial Day Service will be held on Sunday, May 24, 2015. As in the past, all CC organizations, families of deceased veteran listed on the Memorial, all veterans and the community are invited to observe this event.

We're asking for volunteers to help with the service. We need people to man the registration table, set up the chairs, and provide help wherever needed.

SFV community members are asked to submit names of deceased veterans so that their names may be inscribed on the memorials located in the Kiyoshi Muranaga Veterans Memorial Garden. Qualifications include: Service in any branch of the armed services, served at any time in war or peace, and any family member must be a resident of the San Fernando Valley. Please call Marge Tanaka at (818) 361-8951 or email her at <u>fitma1@verizon.net</u>. Organizations are asked to give Marge the name of the individual representing the organization. Families of the deceased are asked to call Marge Tanaka and tell her they will be attending the services.

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2015 • 5:00 PM

12953 Branford Street, Pacoima, CA 91331 - In the Courtyard.

Following the services, a light dinner will be served. Dinner will be in the Dr. Sanbo Sakaguchi Memorial Hall.

For veteran information and confirmation: Marge Tanaka (818) 361-8951 or email <u>fitmat1@verizon.net</u> For donations and remembrances, please make donation payable to SFVJACC-Veterans Fund.

Valley Japanese Community Center's New Year's Celebration

By Christine Inouye

Having celebrated our 60th Anniversary in November of 2014, Valley Japanese Community Center located in Sun Valley, California recently celebrated its 61st annual Shinnenkai or New Year's Party on Saturday, January 31, 2015.

A record number of guests and members made for a full hall and a lively party. VJCC is unique due to the fact we do not have paid entertainment, rather we highlight each organizations accomplishment. From kawaii little girls in pink tutus to poetry, dance and popular songs sung by guests, a good time was had by all. The most anticipated act at the end of the evening was Magic performed by our own President, Mr. Ken Kageyama. He was joined on stage by his two grandchildren who are also students of Valley Gakuen. A raffle with many gifts and goodie bags for all culminated the evening.

Valley Japanese Community Center has a Buddhist Temple which meets monthly. Our Valley Gakuen offers Japanese Language classes under the Kyodo System. We also have classes in martial arts such as Judo, Kendo, Karate, Tea Ceremony, Calligraphy, Minyo Odori

and most recently added Ballet. New members are always welcome.

Valley Japanese Community Center wishes to extend our wishes to everyone for a Happy, Healthy and Successful New Year.

For further information, please contact: Christine Inouye (818) 825-9583 and leave a detailed message.

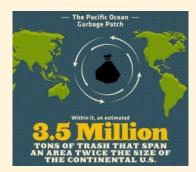


Neil Hashiba was honored for his outstanding contribution & continuous support.









Mottainai: Recycle, Reduce, Reuse

Remember hearing those words? Bring your elementary aged children and/or grandchildren to SFVJACC from July 6-10 to practice this valued concept, much needed by the entire global community. SFV JACL's Suzume no Gakkou (SNG) Summer Camp registration begins this month. The relevant theme: "Mottai nai" will be embraced throughout the week through stories, performing arts, activities to focus on where does something come from and where is it going. Do not hesitate as only 40 children may participate. The camp runs from 8:30 am - 1:00 pm.

There will be a field trip to Little Tokyo via metro. Orientation night is set for May 28 at 7:00 PM. Fee: \$100 includes T-shirt, book coupon and more. Registration forms

available online at sfvjacc.com or sfvjacl.com



Discovery Camp Coming to SFV

Introducing Kizuna for the middle school aged kids at SFVJACC. Fun activities include making spam *musubi* and pounding *mochi*. Heritage Source Books display and sales on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. Activities will be integrated with SNG on Friday's Pot luck, starting at 11:00 am - 12:30 pm. Signup directly online at **www.KIZUNA-LA.ORG/PROGRAMS**. Fee: \$100. Only 20 openings available.





Sakura By Old Wakaba, Bud Sagara

It's about this time of year when the residents at Nikkei Senior Gardens are among the many Japanese-American families who take field trips to Lake Balboa and other locations to follow the Japanese tradition of hanami, which means literally "flower viewing." It is understood that the sakura (Japanese cherry tree) is the main attraction. If the climate is good, the blossoms can be stunning; as if we get a glimpse of heaven itself. The Oya Koko Foundation sponsors a fundraising campaign



called the Sakura Family Tree Project at Nikkei Senior Gardens with a goal of planting Japanese cherry trees along the walkways of the facility so that the residents will not have to travel very far for hanami.

In Japan, it's safe to say that the viewing of sakura blossoms is a national pastime, right up there with baseball and loudly slurping udon. The pink and white sakura blossoms cover all the islands of Japan during early spring, painting its mountains, castles, parks, and streets with glorious splashes of color. Virtually everyone in Japan takes the time to enjoy strolling under the blooming trees. Over the centuries, poets and artists have made the sakura a favorite subject for their works as a symbol of the sublime essence of what it means to be Japanese. One of the reasons that the sakura blossoms are so revered is that the cherry trees bloom with overwhelming power for only a few days and then the petals fall at the peak of their beauty. Then the spring winds uplift the petals as if billions of tiny white and pink birds have taken wing.

The traditional Japanese folk song, Sakura, translated into English reads:

"Cherry blossoms, cherry blossoms, (sakura, sakura) the spring sky - as far as you can see. (yayoi no sora wa miwatasu kagiri) Is it a mist? Is it a cloud? The fragrance comes out! (kasumi ka kumo ka nioi zo izuru) come now, come now, let's go see." (*iza ya iza ya mi ni yukan*)

Like so many things in Japan, flower viewing started in ancient China. The Chinese observed plum blossoms as the herald for the end of winter and the coming of spring. This appreciation for plum blossoms came to Japan through diplomatic exchanges between the Imperial Courts of the two countries. The problem with viewing plum blossoms in Japan was that plum trees typically bloom in February which is way too cold to celebrate outdoors. By the 9th century, the sakura became the flower of choice for viewing in Japan. Over the years, the sakura blossoms became a metaphor for the beauty in life that exists only for a brief instant, like glorious bursts of fireworks exploding in the sky. The sakura blossoms were identified with the common mindset of the samurai and their code of Bushido because the blossoms fell at the moment of their greatest beauty, an ideal death. Prior to his seppuku (ritual suicide), Asano Naganori, wrote a poem that reads, "Sadder than blossoms swept off by the wind, a life torn away in the fullness of spring." During WWII, Japan's military used the fallen and scattered cherry petals to signify soldiers' deaths, and the blooming cherry blossoms to represent fallen soldiers being reborn at Yasukuni Shrine, the national memorial dedicated to honor the spirits of Japan's war dead.

The delicate cherry blossoms seem to have had a disproportionate impact on Japanese culture. The sakura has inspired many to contemplate life, compose love songs or write poetry. Poetry is as Japanese as cherry blossoms because it moves heaven and earth without effort, stirs emotions, calms the hearts of fierce warriors, and brings mono no aware. The concept of mono no aware literally means "sensitivity to things." The phrase describes the awareness of the transience of all things and the gentle sadness of their passing. According to mono no aware, the muted rays of sunset are more beautiful than the light of day and a fading sound is more beautiful than one clearly heard. The most famous variety of sakura, the Somei Yoshino, is a prime example because of the magnificent fall of the petals within a week.

Do you remember the anticipation you had when you were about to bite the ear of a chocolate Easter bunny? The sweet taste soon faded with the realization that the chocolate bunny was hollow. Empty, futile, hollow - all these words describe disappointment and disillusionment. They also describe man's self-directed pursuit to know the meaning for his existence. About 3,000 years ago, Solomon, the wisest man to ever live, wrote about the human condition in the Book of Ecclesiastes and the message holds true today. The lesson is that the search for the meaning of life, mono no aware, or whatever one wants to call it, leads to many dead ends and ultimately concludes with only one answer. Ecclesiastes 12:13 says "Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." We will not find meaning in life through knowledge, money, selffulfillment, work or success. These things have only temporal value and they will pass away. True joy and peace come from living a life that is aligned with God's will for us. This does not mean to abandon traditions, ignore the beauty of creation, or to stop enjoying family and friends. Instead, we are told to lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven and set our hope in God, who is the Savior of all people. He calls us to him with open arms. Come now, come now, let's go see.

Welcome New Community Center Members			
Larry & Cecelia Furukawa Don & Donna Kihara	Nancy Nakaji Kwong Sherry Nagano Felilia Rosas	Nicole Thibodeaux June Ushiyama	

7

REJECTED: Forum on Tule Lake Inmates

By Nancy Oda

On February 22, the San Fernando chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League brought Tulean history to the front from different perspectives offered by **Dr. Art Hansen** from the world of academia, **Takako Day**, author, and **Yukio Kawaratani's** personal experience, concluding audience participation led by facilitator, **Phil Shigekuni**. **Nancy Gohata** served as an MC for the panel.

More than seventy years ago, while the Japanese and Japanese Americans were in concentration camps, the U. S. War Department and the War Relocation Authority (WRA) decided to test the loyalty of all people of Japanese ancestry who were incarcerated in the WRA camps who were seventeen years of age and older. The *Kibei* (from Japanese ki =to return, bei+

to America) were caught in the middle with a language and cultural barrier as a "minority within a minority within a minority." As a result, 5,000 men, women and their children have been branded "disloyal" in two swift motions of a pen marking "No and/ or Yes". At the time, the government suspected kibei more than other Japanese Americans as "the most dangerous element'. Some even left the survey blank which put them into jail in the Tule Lake stockade, Klamath Falls jail, Moab, Utah, and Leupp, Arizona with a ten thousand dollar fine like **Kentaro Takatsui** for not backing down.

Dr. Art Hansen, Professor Emeritus from California State University at Fullerton, quoted an inscription on the front page of **Michi Nishiura** Weglyn's landmark book, Years of Infamy: The Untold Story of America's Concentration Camps, reads: "Dedicated to **Wayne M. Collins** Who Did More to Correct a Democracy's Mistake Than Any Other One Person." At a time when people barely knew Collins' name, Nisei historian Weglyn called attention to the attorney responsible for almost single-handedly fighting deportation and restoring citizenship to more than 5,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry who had renounced their U.S. citizenship. The tedious and time-consuming process that involved researching and filing some 10,000 individual affidavits from both renunciants and witnesses consumed Collins' life for no less than two decades. Dr. Art Hansen posed a question that said, "If you know what you aren't, you will know what you are." As an educator, he answered historical questions without hesitation and referred to a bibliography that may be of interest to you. Please contact me for the list.

Yukio Kawaratani, who was only 14 years old then, spoke eloquently from his heart saying, "We were sent to Tule Lake for many different reasons, opinions, circumstances and misinformation that had nothing to do with loyalty. But for years we have been labeled as the "trouble makers" because we didn't comply for the better face of the community like most of the others did. Among Nisei, the standard question was, "What camp were you in?" I never hesitated to say Poston and Tule Lake, but I was always angered by those who acted surprised or reacted to the fact that I was a "No, No."

Takako Day, author of "Show Me the Way to Go Home", revealed portions of her interviews of *kibei in Japan. She began by saying that* everyone has but one life to live; they tried to make the best decision, not just for their own survival, but for the future of their families. And if 120,000 people were incarcerated, then 120,000 stories must be heard and accepted. These men stayed alive by holding their breath through the post-war days, and most have passed away without telling their stories even to their own families. This is a cruel lot in life for them. The community has closed its eyes to this cruelty, which forced a minority to live in shame for more than half a century, while at the same time glorifying battlefield deaths as if fighting in war was the only way to contribute to the country. And so I ask the question: have we ever suspected that the fissure in the JA community might have been the direct result of the government's "divide and conquer" strategy toward minorities, and furthermore, isn't it a shame for the JA community to leave the fissure as it was in Japanese American history instead of trying to heal it? She said, "I believe that the time for healing has come to the community, and that it is time for all of us to rise above the government's manipulation of subgroups within a minority. The government has already admitted its mistake through the redress and reparations enacted in the late 1980s.

Under Redress in 1988, Congress and President Reagan apologized for a grievous wrong and gave reparations to each internee, including those who were in Tule Lake.

In 1998, President Clinton awarded **Fred Korematsu** a Presidential Medal of Freedom, the country's highest civilian honor, for his protest against the internment. And this year, President Obama awarded the late **Gordon Hirabayashi** a Presidential Medal of Freedom for his protest. Also, in 2002, the National JACL Board finally issued a public apology to the Heart Mountain draft resisters for not recognizing their wartime stand of protest"

Wendy Hirota Takatsui attended the SFV JACL sponsored forum called **Rejected: Forum on Tule Lake Inmates** and wrote later, "My father was not a disloyal American. He was a resister of conscience who said his constitutional rights were being violated and he would sign if his rights were restored." She was deeply touched by Dr. Art Hansen who said. "We can say **Farewell to Tule Lake** when all former Tuleans can stand up and say they were proud of their stance of defying authorities on the loyalty questionnaire. Instead, they were made to feel stigmatized and disloyal within their own Japanese community, both during and after the war. He is remembered at SFVJACC's VFW Garden as a honorable member of the Military Intelligence Service.

The goal of the program was to educate about this complex episode in American History. Thank you to **Nancy Gohata**, **Patty Takayama** and **Nancy Takayama**, members of the committee. Refreshments were kindly provided by the Board.



Saturday May 16, 2015 12 noon to 3 pm Bring Your Own Picnic	SFVJACC FAMILY DAY PICNIC &	
Lunch or Order Obento. Free Hot Dogs & Chili, too. Children's Games Entertainment (1 pm)	RAFFLE FUNDRAISER	
Kagel Ga at set	Raffle Drawing 2:45 PM	
S FID Lake View Terrace of Los Recreation Center		
Orcas Park 11126 Orcas Avenue * Lake View Terrace, CA 9134	Ticket donation - \$2.00 per ticket	
Please fill out & send the form below so we	e can have a count of all those attending!	
Picnic Regist Deadline: Monda		
Name		
 Phone Email Number of adults attending: Number of children: Ages 2 - 4 Ages 		
Please fill out and mail this form to:		
SFVJACC— Family Picnic 12953 Branford Street, Pacoima, CA 91331		
 Yes, I would like to order obento— Number of obento @ \$10 each 	_	
Please send your check (made payable to	SFVJACC) with this registration form.	
For more inform Paul Jonokuchi (818) 894-5327		



2015 San Fernando PeeWee Basketball Clinic



Saturdays (July 11, 18, 25, Aug 1)

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)

For an application go to **www.sfvjacc.com** • Deadline for forms and payment— 6/1/15. For more information, call Margaret (818) 701-7628 or email: JNCMOM@aol.com

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***	Check:	Make payable t	o "SFVJACL"		
P	Pejist	721100;	Mitzi Kushida	bighisa@aol.com	
	For 194	formailen;	Linda Tanaka	lkitai@hotmail.com (805) 527-1224	***
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ABOUT NIKKEI DISCOVERY CAMP

The Nikkei Discovery Camp is a local cultural summer camp program for kids, ages 11-13, centered on building a foundation of Japanese American culture & heritage.

WHEN:

July 6 - 10, 2015 9:00am - 1:00pm, Daily

WHERE:

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

REGISTER TODAY! WWW.KIZUNA-LA.ORG/PROGRAMS

Kizuna partners with the SFV-JACL's Suzume No Gakkou program.

PROGRAM DETAILS

🕦 WHO

Kids, ages 11-1 (grades 7-8)

- PRICING
- \$100 per camper

💡 LOCAL TO YOU

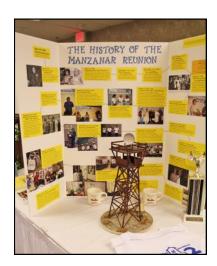
We bring the camp closer to you. Our program runs in 4 separate locations so you can shorten your morning & afternoon commute.

- CULTURE & HERITAGE

Example activities include: mochitsuki, Japanese calligraphy, family oral histories, Japanese America values, and much more.

? QUESTIONS?

Email: info@kizuna-la.org Phone: (213) 973-4465



Other pertinent information will be passed on as the Committee meets and finalizes the may aspects of the reunion.

For more information, please contact:

Cherry Uyeda (818) 981-2629

2015 MANZANAR REUNION SEPTEMBER 14, 15 & 16 At The California Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, NV

The Manzanar Reunion Committee is inviting anyone, whether they were interned at Manzanar or any other camps to attend. Also encouraged to attend are individuals who want to get firsthand information through pictorial displays, photo albums and informative brochures.



Valley Japanese Community Center to host their Annual Obon Festival

June 20 & 21, 2015 + 5PM-10 PM

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!

Contact Christine Inouye @christineinouye@yahoo.com or 818.825.9583



COORDINATIING COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONS—MEETINGS-CONTACT PERSONS

Community Center	1st Wed., 7:00 PMNancy Oda
	Lois Okui
	ist Church
	2nd Sun., 1:00 PMDoreen Kawamoto818 764-8850
	2nd Sun., 12:30 PMDiane Date
Nikkei Senior Gardens	2nd Thurs., 7:00 PMToji Hashimoto818 897-4216
SFV Bonsai Club	4th Sun., 8 AM-12 PMWalter Zipusch 818 746-6677
SFV Fishing Club	3rd Mon., 8:00 PMAl Tokunaga 818 982-4236
SFV Hongwanji Buddhist Temple	2nd Mon., 7:30 PMTerry Ishigo
SFV JACL	2nd Wed., 7:00 PMDoreen Kawamoto818 764-8850
SFV Japanese Language Institute	Sat., 9:30 AM-12:30 PMStephen Nakata 818 896-8612
SFV Judo Club	4th Wed., 7:03 PMMo Barrera 818 331-9444
SFV Landscape Gardeners	Sat. of every other monthNob Tamai818 347-3912
SFV Meiji Senior Citizens	1st Fri., 12:30 PMLiz Doomey 818 892-7381
Senior Hot Meals	Tues. & Fri. (no meal on 5th Fri.)
Sho Chiku Bai Porter Ranch Bonsa	i Club
	1st Sun., 9 AM-12 PMYoko Zipusch
Sunrise Foursquare Church	Reverend Paul Iwata 818 782-8738
Valley Japanese Community Cente	er 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 DanceTuesday	7:00-8:30 PM	Barbara Okita	818 784-5128
Bowling*, Mission Hills BowlThursday	9:30 AM	George Seko	818 998-0682
Bridge [*]	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
Craft Workshop 2nd Sat, even months	10:00 AM-12 PM	SFVJACC@gmail.com	818 899-1989
Exercise Class	9:00-10:00 AM	Ralph Ahn	818 897-1322
Exercise ClassFriday	10:00-11:00 AM	Reverend Leo Fong	818 618-4368
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	818367-1723
Hitomi's Cooking Class4th Tuesday	7:00-9:00 PM	NJ Nakamura	818 893-6503
Ikenobo Ikebana2nd/4th Thursday	10:00-1:00 PM	Ritsuko Shinbashi	818 892-0470
Japanese Calligraphy1st/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 ClassThursday (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
MandolinFriday	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 ClubThurs/2nd, 3rd, 4th Tuesday	10:00 AM-3:00 PM	Burt Tokuhara	818 469-8934
Qi GongThursday (J-School)	7:00-8:30 PM	Mamie Kosaka	661.645.4515
SFV Judo ClubFri	7:00-9:00 PM	Mo Barrera	818 331-9444
Tai Chi Class* Monday	9:00-10:00 AM	Florence Takaaze	310 202-6693
Ukulele Class Friday (Gym)	9:00-11:30 AM	Greg Librando	818 896-6503
Yoga ClassWednesday	10:00-11:00 AM	Call 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-12:00 PM	Facilitator: Isabelle Mi	yata
Blood Pressure Screening*	9:00-11:00 AM	Nikkei Pioneer Confer	
Podiatrist*2nd Saturday	11:30-2:00 PM	Nikkei Pioneer Confer	ence 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

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

BUDDHIST TEMPLE CALENDAR

April

- 4 Dharma discussion, 9:30 am5 Shotsuki: Monthly Memorial
- Service and Hanamatsuri: Birth of Shakyamuni Buddha I0am
- 12 Regular Service 10 am
- 18 Dharma discussion 9:30 am
- 19 Regular Service 10 am
- 26 No Service (FDSTL Conference)

Every Wednesday in April, 7 pm – Buddhism in Everyday life workshops, everyone welcome

May

- 2 Dharma discussion, 9:30 am
- 3 Shotsuki: Monthly Memorial Service 10 am
- 10 Gotan-e: Shiran Shonin's Birthday and Mother's Day celebration 10 am
- 16 Dharma discussion, 9:30 am
- 17 Regular Service 10 am
- 23 Dharma discussion, 9:30 am
- 24 Memorial Day Service 10 am (Temple and Forest Lawn)
- 31 No service (World Buddhist Women's Conference)

June

- 7 Shotsuki: Monthly Memorial Service 10 am
- 14 Regular Service 10 am
- 20 Dharma discussion, 9:30 am
- 21 Father's Day and Graduation Service 10 am
- 28 No service (Obon Festival, June 27/28)

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



crosswaychurch

(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: <u>www.crosswaysfv.org</u>

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-mail: <u>chatsworthumc@juno.com</u> 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

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 5th 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^{nd} Wednesday of the month

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE CC

April 19, 2015 SFV JACL Film - Hula Girls

April 25, 2015 SF Athletics Jamboree

May 16, 2015 Family Day Picnic at Orcas Park June 6, 2015 SFV Japanese Language Institute Speech Contest

June 27 & 28, 2015 SFV Hongwanji Buddhist Temple Obon





SAN FERNANDO VALLEY JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS 12953 Branford Street, Pacoima 91331 818 899-1989 Fax 818 899-0659 Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Van Nuys, California Permit No. 21

San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center			
2015 MEMBERSHIP FORM (Membership period: January 1 to December 31, 2015)			
 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 (Last Name) (First Name) Address			
City			
Email Address			
Emergency Contact	Phone		
* For information, please call SFVJACC at (818) 899-1989. Thank you for supporting our Community Center. FAX is (818) 899-0659.			