

## SAN FERNANDO VALLEY JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER

Website: www.sfvjacc.com

Issue 67

January/ February 2023

## SFV JACC NEW YEAR'S INSTALLATION LUNCHEON

On January 7th, the Community Center held their 2023 New Year's Installation Luncheon and it was a great way to start off the new year. The event started off with a powerful performance by the Kazan Taiko from USC. Kendra Motoyasu, our 2021 SFV Queen, did a wonderful job as Mistress of Ceremony. Mr. Kenko Sone, the Consul General of Japan, gave a New Year's message and then participated in the "breaking of the barrel" ritual, Kagami biraki, along with Co-President Jeremy Tsuneishi, Out-going president Danny Okazaki and Board member Kiyo Watanabe.

Garry Monji, the son of one of the CC's pioneers, was awarded the Volunteer Appreciation Award. Garry started writing grants for the Center during the pandemic and through his efforts, we have received several from various foundations. The most recent ones are from the Japanese American Community Foundation (\$10,000) for the 13 series Health and Home Safety presentations for the seniors and one from the office of former Councilwoman Sheila Khuel, for wifi and security. We appreciate the time and effort Garry has put into writing these grants and how it has benefitted our members and the Center.



By Lois Okui

The Kagami biraki ritual is done for prosperity, good health and wealth. (L-R): Kiyo Watanabe, Jeremy Tsuneishi, Danny Okazaki and Consul General Mr. Kenko Sone

Lunch was a delicious and beautifully packaged bento catered by Azay - Little Tokyo. Afterwards, for dessert, the guests had a choice of carrot cupcakes, chocolate cupcakes or Matcha cake, all baked and donated by Tiffany Pearlstein.

Rev. Paul Iwata, who did the invocation and benediction, also installed the CC Board and Cabinet. Out-going president, Danny Okazaki, gave his farewell speech followed by a speech from in-coming Co–President Jeremy Tsuneishi, who also read a speech written by Charles Muranaka who is sharing the presidency with Jeremy.

Ending the program was Matsutoyo Kai, a Japanese Folk Music Group, whose mission it is to pass on the Traditional Music of Japan and to create and leave a Japanese music Legacy. They were so entertaining and funny. It was a wonderful and fun way to end the program. Even Consul General Kenko Sone got up to sing with them!

Thank you to Liz Doomey for planning the event, to all the volunteers for giving of their time to help and to all those who generously donated to our New Year's Luncheon!

Continued on page 6.

## CC RECEIVES DONATION FROM L.A. CITY PUBLIC WORKS

By Kyoko Oda

Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez presented a check for \$19,000.45 to the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center with L.A. City Department of Public Works Commissioner Susana Reyes. These funds were collected by the dissolved Tillman Japanese Garden Visitor's Center Foundation and given to a community organization per the Articles of Incorporation.

Councilmember Rodriguez said, "We are thrilled to support an organization that shares our enthusiasm for preserving and promoting Japanese culture."

The Japanese Garden Suiho-en has had a strong relationship with this



L.A. City Public Works Commissioner Susana Reyes (front row on left), Councilwoman Monica Rodriquez (in yellow) and Jeffery Lee, Esq. (back row on left) with CC Board members and representatives from some of the CC organizations.

Continued on page 7.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To our Community Center Membership,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we wish each and everyone a Happy New Year 2023! It is with deep gratitude and sincere appreciation to be able to help guide our Board of Directors and representing you, our CC Family, in a unified effort to represent the best interests of our Community. Being a lifelong member of the CC, I was very humbled when I was asked to join the Board of Directors a few years ago. It has been a pleasure to work with strong intention, along with my fellow colleagues, to try and effect positive change bridging the best interests of our current Community membership while honoring and preserving the strong

legacy of our past Community leaders with the highest utmost respect possible. It is with this strong purpose that I accept this higher responsibility, along with Jeremy Tsunenishi, to continue to bolster the very best efforts of your selected Board of Directors to see that the interests of the Community as a whole are listened to and addressed with open minds and open hearts.

My grandfather, Minoru Muranaka, of whom I am named after, always stressed the importance of Community, even over one's own family. "If you take care of your Community, your family, all families, will have the strongest roots possible to succeed in our own endeavors." It is with these successes we are able to pay it forward towards and for the future of our Community.

Thank you very much for this privilege to serve you, our Community Center Membership.

Sincerely,

Charles Minoru Muranaka, Co-President\*

\*Note: Charles Muranaka and Jeremy Tsuneishi are Co-Presidents.

## In memory of Todd Matsuda...



Stuart Matsuda and family, along with his parents lke and Yoshi Matsuda, generously sent the SFVJACC Athletics Program a \$15,000 donation to honor and remember their late son and brother.

As a participant in the SFVJACC Athletics, Todd also excelled in sports at Poly High School in Sun Valley. He played both baseball and football and was selected to the 1978 All East-Valley League First Team Defense as a linebacker. Todd was voted Varsity Football Captain and Most Valuable Player by his teammates.

SFVJACC Athletics appreciates the Matsuda Family's overwhelmingly generous donation and kind support of the Athletics program over the many years!

Thank you, Stuart and family!

SFV HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE OBON JUNE 24 & 25, 2023

# Seeking Queen Candidates for 2023

As part of the annual Nisei Week Festival, we are seeking a queen candidate to represent the SFVJACC.

## Qualifications:

- Single woman who has never been married or had children
- 2. Between the ages of 19 to 25 years
- 3. 50% Japanese ethnicity
- 4. USA citizen or legal permanent resident
- 5. Family connection to our Center

Contact NJ Nakamura for more information: 818-893-6503 or ninakamura.ni@gmail.com



The 2022 Super Bingo Emcees were past SF Queen. L-R: Jaclyn Tomita, Kendra Motoyasu and Ariel Imamoto

## JACF 2022 SENIOR HEALTH & HOME SAFETY GRANT SCHEDULED TO RESTART



In October of 2022, the Japanese American Community Fund Senior Health and Home Safety speaker series grant started. Since then, we have had ten speaker presentations on a variety of topics. In addition, the grant has allowed us to purchase items so each speaker would supplement their presentations.

After a brief suspension of the Hot Meal, our two remaining speakers have graciously rescheduled their presentations. The speaker series for this \$10,000 grant is progressing into its 10th week. On February 10th, similarly, the presentation scheduled for January 6<sup>th</sup>, Sandra Hattori Okada, Occupational Therapist Senior Driving Specialist will provide us with "Senior Driving Tips". On

February 17<sup>th</sup>, NJ Nakamura, RN with many years' of experience as an oncology nurse will present "Life After Cancer" to conclude the speaker series.

The JACF 2022 grant allowed us to purchase an AED machine and paid for the fees for Red Cross online instruction and the live instruction training on 11/06/22 and 12/10/22, in which 37 participants received Red Cross Certificates. Each SFVJACC organization/groups sent at least one representative for this training.

As the speaker series progressed, comments for attendees noted issues with hearing the speakers clearly. Through grant funds we were able to purchase a wireless mic and required cables.

The grant also allowed us to purchase 45 Stretch Bands for the Senior Exercise class. The class is now in the process of learning how to effectively use the bands to build strength to prevent falls.

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## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES GRANT AWARDED TO COMMUNITY CENTER



The Community Center Board applied for the County of Los Angeles Discretionary Grant in the Fall of 2022. In December of 2022, the Community Center received a check for \$25,000 from the County of Los Angeles. Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, (who retired from politics after her term expired in late 2022) whose jurisdiction included the Community Center, approved and awarded the funds to the CC. The Grant was requested to allow the Community Center to develop the infrastructure for improved and coordinated electronics and web access. This will allow for the development and expansion of online programs that could be offered through the Community Center. This grant will allow for improved and

coordinated web access for everyone at the Center as we continue to expand our reach into the virtual world. Bing Lau, Kiyo Watanabe, and John Sunada are taking the lead in developing the priorities and item list to be purchased with the grant funds. We thank them for their expertise so the CC can utilized the grant efficiently and effectively.

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## COVID TEST KIT DISTRIBUTION UPDATE

The County of Los Angeles has a free COVID Test Distribution agreement with manufacturers whose COVID test kits will expire shortly. Julie Monji-Nguyen, a Los Angeles County Public Health representative advised of this program.

The Community Center has received over 11,000 Rapid COVID Tests through this County of Los Angeles program for non-profit organizations.

In addition to our Community Center organizations and groups, we have shared these kits with a number of our extended family.

Organizations that the Community Center has shared kits with include -

Nikkei Senior Gardens Sakura Gardens Keiro Chatsworth West United Methodist Church Sunrise Foursquare Church Crossway Church of SFV SFV Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

Sun Valley Buddhist Temple
Pasadena Buddhist Temple
Anaheim Japanese Free Methodist Church
Sun Valley Japanese Community Center
Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute
Pasadena Bruins

The Board will continue to utilize available resources to ensure that members have the ability to monitor their health in these challenging times.

## **GRANT IDEAS SOUGHT**

If you have an idea that the Board could explore for grant funding, please email garry.monji.1509@gmail.com or text him at (626) 818-1509.

## **Acknowledgements**

## For the month of December 2022 & January 2023

## **Donations** Muranaka, Harry..... For Project Nozomi County of Los Angeles Discretionary Grant ..... L.A. City Department of Public Works ..... Oda, Kay and Kyoko..... For Project Nozomi Yamamoto, Gary and Sandra..... Doomey, John and Liz..... To thank CC members for their prayers & support for John this past year SFV Meiji Senior Club ..... Year end donation Inouye, Robert and Ina..... In honor of Yoshimori and Kimiko Inouye Itagaki, Charles..... Warner Bros. Charitable Donation Oda, Jon ..... For Project Nozomi Oda, Jon ..... Honda Matching Gift - For Project Nozomi SF Athletics ..... Year end donation Hazama, Yoshiko ..... Okui, Tadao and Lois ..... Year end donation - In memory of Harry and Helen Nakada Yamane, Teddy and Midori ..... Anonymous..... In honor and tribute to Garry Monji for the seniors' Health and Home Safety Presentation Series (JACF grant) Morikawa, Dean..... Yoshikawa, Jill ..... Farmers My Rewards Program Anonymous..... Lawrence Livermore Nat'l Laboratory Charitable Bennett, Richard and Leonor ..... Ito, Beverly..... In appreciation of the CC and Keiro partnership Monji, Garry and Joy ..... Nagby, Leslie..... In memory of Betty Fujiwara Nakamura, Sherre ..... Happy Giving Tuesday Saevivat, Kay..... Seta, Lynne ..... Delander, Suzi ..... lida, Lorraine..... In honor of Garry Monji receiving the CC's Volunteer Appreciation Award Hino, Emi ..... In memory of Tom Doi Keiro ..... In appreciation for advertising their events Motooka, Marjorie..... Liberty Mutual Charitable Donation

**Donations** - Continued. Niwa, Amy ..... Anonymous ..... Lawrence Livermore Nat'l Laboratory Charitable Donation Longworth, Joy..... Ping Pong Club ..... In appreciation for the COVID tests **Use of Facilities** Chow, Dana..... Ping Pong Club ..... SFV Judo Club ..... SF Blakers and SF Aloha Girls ..... Zentoku Foundation ...... Tuesday & Friday Exercise Class ..... Tai Chi ..... Thursday Nite Basketball ..... SF Raptors, SF Dragon Ballers and SF Guardians ... Aloha Club..... Senior Arts & Crafts ..... Line Dance ..... Tuesday Exercise Class..... Volleyball Club..... Movie Review Club.....

Thank you for your generous donations!

Dining with the Chef .....

## SENIOR HOT MEAL MENU February 2023

February 3 - Salisbury Steak
February 10 - Roast Pork
February 17 - Teriyaki Chicken
February 24 - Fish

SFVJACC & SFV Athletics Scholarship Applications Are Now Available At

www.sfvjacc.com

See page 14 for descriptions of the scholarships.

Continued in next column.

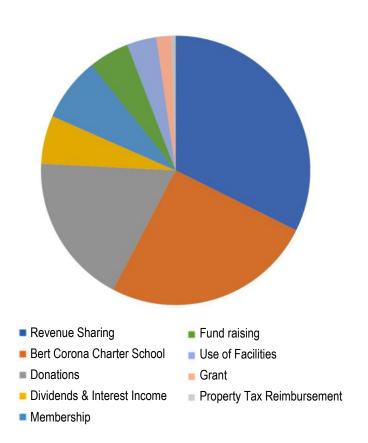
## 2022 Income/Expenses

## Income

November 2021 - October 2022

## Income

Revenue Sharing	\$ 188,267
Bert Corona Charter School	147,435
Donations	105,395
Dividends & Interest Income	33,800
Membership	44,780
Fund raising	28,260
Use of Facilities	20,694
Grant	10,200
<b>Property Tax Reimbursements</b>	3,177
Total Income	\$ 582,008



**Expenses**November 2021 - October 2022

## **Expenses:**

Maintainence & Supplies	\$	57,606
Fixed Assets		44,918
Advisor Fees		39,427
Utilities		33,570
Insurance		33,315
Salaries and taxes		26,827
Fund Raise		19,113
Taxes		14,683
Miscellaneous Expenses		13,006
Grant Expenses		6,731
Donation		5,690
Scholarships		5,500
Telephone		4,578
Office Equipment & Supplies		2,917
Postage		1,916
Copier Lease		1,175
Koden		900
Total Expenses	\$ :	311,872

■ Maintenance & Supplies Grant Expenses Fixed Assets Donation Advisor Fees Scholarships Utilities Telephone Office Equipment & Supplies Insurance Salaries & Taxes Postage Fund Raise Copier Lease Taxes Koden Miscellaneous Expenses

## SFV JACC NEW YEAR'S INSTALLATION LUNCHEON - Continued from front page.



## SFVJACC NEW YEAR'S DONATIONS

FIA Insurance Services Hollywood Japanese **Cultural Institute** Miyagishima, Sharlene Monji, Garry & Joy Mui, Ken & Priscilla Murakami, George & Frances

Oda, Kay and Kyoko SFV Hongwanji Buddhist Temple Shinbashi, Ken & Ritsuko Takimoto, Margaret Tanaka, Denise















ward Recipient





## CC RECEIVES DONATION FROM L.A. CITY PUBLIC WORKS - Continued from front page.

The late Harry Nakada was on the advisory board for many years because he felt it was important. Kazuhiko Nakanishi (Bonsai Club), Barbara Okita (SFV JACL), Ritsuko Shinbashi (Meiji Club), and Jeff Lee, esq. witnessed the exchange.

The Japanese Garden is renown for its breathtaking beauty of gardens designed by our ancestors. It remains open but the gift shop is closed.

Kyoko Oda replied, "We are deeply touched by this generous gift today. Your gift will grow here."

The board of directors who escorted our guests on a tour of our Center were Liz Doomey, Bing Lau, Sharlene Miyagishima, Kay Oda, and Tadao and Lois Okui, Nancy Takayama, and Kiyo Watanabe.

During the height of the pandemic, Councilmember Rodriguez passed out food, set up trash bins for Clean Up Day, and provided turkeys for Thanksgiving. She has also solidly supported the Historic Cultural Monument 1039 at Tuna Canyon.



## SFVJACC's Annual General Meeting

By Liz Doomey



On December 7, 2022, the joint dinner meeting of the SFVJACC Board and Coordinating Council was well attended by at least 60 members of our Community Center. Dinner was provided by Mario's Italian Deli in Glendale. They served Rotini pasta in marinara sauce with meatballs and Lasagna with meat sauce, tossed green salad and garlic bread. Thank you to Mario's for an excellent dinner. Thank you to Margaret Takimoto for making the brownie desserts.

Each organization and committee gave reports, updates and what they had planned for 2023 - the Center is back to in-person activities such as, the Family Day, Hawaiian

Luau (new event), Steak Night and Super Bingo. Because of the pandemic, our donations were less than in past years. Projects for this year - our roof on the hall needs to be replaced; drainage from the parking lot will require maintenance; the parking lot will need to be sealed, coated and re-stripped. All these projects will require funds in 2023, thus the need for fundraisers.

The Temple will have their in-person Obon on June 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Our Senior Lead Officer Adrianna Munguia has retired and our new Lead Officer will be Diane Ferguson as announced by Captain Lozano and Sargent Ojeda. We hope to meet her at our February Coordinating Council meeting.

If you would like an informative list, send me a request and I will send a copy of the minutes to you. Liz Doomey 818-429-4096 or <a href="mailto:lizdoomey@yahoo.com">lizdoomey@yahoo.com</a>.

Thank you to all the volunteers for helping set up and clean-up. Without your help we would not be able to have these events.

## **Volunteers**

Liz Doomey
Rev. Paul Iwata
Bing and Diana Lau
Joy Longworth
Sharlene and Glenn
Miyagishima
Gary Nakada

Kay and Kyoko Oda Lois and Tadao Okui Nancy Takayama Denise Tanaka Jeremy Tsuneshi Kiyo, Tenka and Asuka Watanabe

## **SENIOR ACTIVITIES**

## **Keiro In-person Classes at Community Center**

#### **TECH HOUR**



Date to be selected when enough people sign up for the class. This is one on one for any of your devices, iPhone, tablets, or laptops. If you need help with using your device this is the class for you.

## KEIRO EMERGENCY PROCEDURES PART II - TO GO BAG



Emergency Procedure Part II - To Go Bag was held on January 20th.

## **Emergency Procedures Part III - First Aid**

This forum is scheduled for March 31 at 12:30 pm in the conference room. Contact Liz Doomey if you would like to attend this class. 818-429-4096 or <a href="mailto:lizdoomey@yahoo.com">lizdoomey@yahoo.com</a>

## **Exercise Class**

Tuesdays 9-10 AM and Fridays 9:30-10:30 AM in the Dojo. New: Rubber Band Resistance added to the program of Stretch, Balance and Light Free Weights.

## **Movie Review Club**

First Monday of each month (unless it's a holiday, then the 2nd Monday) From 12 noon to about 3 pm. We have lunch, watch a variety of movies, and discuss them. Our next meeting will be on February 6th and the movie will be Hula Girls.

## **Arts and Crafts**

Mondays, from 10 AM to 12 Noon in the conference room. Come learn different crafts from our members. Kay Yamada showing "String Art", ribbon lei making for special events coming up and so much more.

## **Upcoming Keiro Forums**:

## 10:30 to 11:30 AM Register at Keiro.org

When you register for one it will automatically register you for all the months forums.

- February 7 The Steps to Finding The Right Care Facility
- February 9 Maintaining Independence Through Home Medications
- February 21 Selling Property and
  Downsizing Better Doesn't
  Mean Better
- February 23 Community Conversation:
  What Does Autonomy Mean
  To You

### **KEIRO'S IYASHI CARE**



On October 28<sup>th</sup> after Hot Meal, Keiro did a forum on Iyashi Care, a palliative care program created in partnership with Keiro and Providence. They explained what palliative care is, how it's different from hospice and what it can provide to you or your loved ones. Thank you Heather, Yulia, Lauren, and Naomi for the very informative talk.

### "DINING WITH THE CHEF"



At the last *Dining with the Chef*, we made Makizushi and California Roll. The next cooking demonstration with Chef John Nishio is scheduled for March 5th from 2-4 pm. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Liz Doomey at 818-429-4096 or <a href="mailto:lizdoomey@yahoo.com">lizdoomey@yahoo.com</a> to sign up. Space is limited so sign up now.

## SFV Meiji Senior Citizens New Year's Luncheon

By Toshi Toda, President



SFV Meiji Senior Citizens Club's 58th Annual New Year's Luncheon was held on January 14<sup>th</sup> at Dr. Sakaguchi Hall. Despite the rain, about 250 people attended. The Meiji Club recognized sixteen seniors of 85 years young as main event. There were speeches from different organizational guests including Deputy Consul General, Naoshige Aoshima, from the Japanese

Consulate General's office.

There was the introduction of the new president of the Meiji Club, Toshi Toda, and the message from the out-going President, Ritsuko Shinbashi.

After the main subjects, there was great, fun entertainment from Ohana Na Pu'uwai Nani, the Hawaiian Hula group, Line Dance and the Meiji Ondo Group as well as a raffle with many winners.



あけましておめでとうございます。 Akemashite omdetou gozaimasu.

## Meiji Senior Citizens New Year's Luncheon - Continued from page 9.







## **2023 NEW YEARS LUNCHEON DONATIONS**

Dyo, Ronald & Cynthia Goto, Grace Ito, Beverly Kodani, Powell & Faye Longworth, Joy Lucas, David & Tracey Maeda, Henry & Yoshiko Matsuda, Ikuo & Yoshiko Muranaka, Charles Oda, Kay & Kyoko Schuetze, Janet Seinan Senior Citizens Club SFV Buddhist Temple SFV JLI SFV Judo Club SFVJACC Shinsato, Ray & Jean Tanaka, Denise Tomita, Tamlyn Yamada, Katsuko

Yamaoka, Ruby Chizuko



## **NEW YEARS LUNCHEON RAFFLE DONATIONS**

Ping Pong Club
Mr./Mrs. Kenzo Shinbashi
Line Dance Club
Ondo Dancers
John Doomey
Kay Yamada

Barbara Dempsey
(Hula Instructor)
SFV JACL
Jean Asuncion
Joy Longworth
Anonymous

## **Help Our Community Center With Mandated Food Waste Management!**

Every day, 4,000 tons of food waste are generated in Los Angeles County. This food waste includes dinner scraps as well as spoiled fruit and vegetables from grocery stores and restaurants. Decomposition of food waste (organic material) in landfills produces methane, a greenhouse gas that is 23 times more potent than carbon dioxide. In a landfill, this decomposition takes decades and even in well-controlled landfills, some of the methane leaks into the atmosphere. In a wastewater treatment plant's anaerobic digester, the decomposition takes place in a few weeks with none of the methane leaks. By digesting rather than landfilling food waste, we can reduce greenhouse gases in our atmosphere that contribute to global climate change.

California has passed two laws to divert waste from landfills - <u>Assembly Bill (AB) 1826</u> and <u>Senate Bill (SB) 1383</u>. SB 13823 require cities and other jurisdictions to divert organic waste from landfills. The organic waste stream can either be diverted to composting or anaerobic digestion. Enforcement of those requirements began in January 2022.

The CC Board is going to have to come up with some of kind of program for all CC organizations to follow but in the meantime, please help by throwing food waste and soiled cardboard food

boxes, as well as plant branches and leaves, in the green container located in the courtyard by the kitchen. Let's do our part to make our world a safer and better place for our children and all the future generations.



On January 3, 2023, the SFVJACC Ping Pong Club hosted a gathering to celebrate a momentous birthday for our most cherished member, Dorothy Shiba. Dorothy's ties to the SFVJACC go back to its beginnings as her late husband Jim was one of the founding members in the 1950s. Burt Tokuhara, who co-founded the Ping Pong Club with the late Ken Furutani, 17 years ago, gave a special tribute to Dorothy, who was one of the first to join the club (when she was "only" 77 years old). Tommy Uyeda gave a touching toast to Dorothy and calling her "the *mother* of our club."

Today, Dorothy comes to the CC four days a week. In addition to Ping Pong Club,

she also participates in the Senior Exercise Classes, Tai Chi, and

Line Dance Class. Prior to the pandemic, she was also a regular member of the Ballroom Dance Class. "Amazing" is the word most often used to describe Dorothy by her fellow ping pong players. Over 50 people attended this birthday fest, many making a special effort to arrange their schedules. Dorothy's friends from other clubs were also present to acknowledge and celebrate Dorothy.

Saeko Nakamori oversaw the ordering of bento lunches from Nijiya and a delicious birthday cake from Ralph's. For



the entertainment portion of the afternoon, we were treated to traditional shigin performances by Kayoko Shido and Yoshimi Sussan; a special vocal / guitar performance by Jordan Maseng; a spontaneous vocal/guitar performance by Hiro Ueno; and, upon a special request by Dorothy, an acappella performance by Masami Nakamori. Concluding this special event, Toshi Toda captured the celebration with this group photo.

Dorothy is a role model for us all to follow — to keep active as the years go by and live with vitality. An anonymous quote says, "An active ping pong club is an investment to the health and welfare of our community, to keep alive the opportunity to play this wonderful sport, and to build relationships that enrich our lives." *Happy 95th Birthday, Dorothy!* 



## **Resistance Band Exercise**

On Wednesday, January 25th and February 1st, Dr. Steven Loy taught the Tuesday/Friday Exercise Class how to use resistance bands to strengthen their bodies, improve balance, coordination, flexibility and range of motion. Resistance training also helps fight bone loss and the symptoms of arthritis pain and is being added as part of our stretch and balance program.

Dr. Loy is an exercise physiologist on faculty in the Department of Kinesiology at California State University, Northridge. He and his students have free classes at San Fernando Park (208 Park Avenue, San Fernando, CA 91340) on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:15-9:15 am.

If you would like to attend the classes or want more information, contact Liz Doomey (818) 429-4096 or lizdoomey@yahoo.com



## San Fernando Valley Japanese Language Institute

By Kiyo Watanabe, PTA President

The second Semester for SFVJLI started on January 7, 2023. Despite the cold and rainy weather this season, we have started very strong with all the returning students and almost ten new students joining our school for the first time (total of 60 students).

For the school to continue to grow out of the pandemic which has damaged our school attendance, we are in need of an energetic new teacher to join our staff. The requirements are simple: 1) to be able to speak, write and talk to students in Nihongo (Japanese) as well in English; 2) have Saturdays (J-School days) to work at our school and 3) love the children who are the future of our community. If you know anyone who may be able to help us teach our students, please talk with them or let us know. Our PTA, Board, and teaching staff believe with complete confidence that there exits positive possibilities and wait for your support.

By the time you read this article, we had a very successful Mochitsuki event on January 28th followed by our New Year's Party Celebration on February 4, 2023. One of the school's favorite events, Mochitsuki teaches everyone Japanese culture

and history with very positive traditions. Every student, school staff member, interested guests and supporters had a chance to pound or shape their own mochi and taste their creation. A special thanks to the Takeshita and Sakamoto families who believe in teaching the children our traditions and must keep continuing to do so. We also like to thank other community members who volunteered to work with us in organizing our traditional Mochitsuki event. We always like to express our gratitude for your generous support and you are always welcome to join us!

Thank you. Stay safe, hope to see you again soon.





# Documentary *Paper Chase*Shown at the CC

On January 21, the Center and the SFV Honwanji Buddhist Temple hosted the showing of Zentoku Foundation's *Paper Chase*, a documentary about the 150 years of Japanese American history here in America. The film tells the story of how the vital, local news organizations, such as *The Rafu Shimpo* (founded in Los Angeles, in 1903), rose and evolved since the late 1800s, and the challenges they face today in the age of digital and social media.

There were two showings of *Paper Chase*, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, with a bento lunch served in between. Thank you to Sushi Dragon for making the delicious bento.



Working hand in hand with SFV Hongwanji Buddhist Temple and ZENTOKU to present *Paper Chase* twice on January 21.



## LESSONS IN AN AIRPORT TERMINAL

By Old Wakaba, Bud Sagara

The Bureau of Transportation Statistics estimates that nearly 700 million people will take domestic flights this year in spite of COVID. No wonder the airports have become as crowded as the seats on the planes that the airlines cram us into. All of us have our own stories of the perils of flying and here are a couple more.

It was the Christmas season and the terminal was packed. As a man waited for his turn to hand over his luggage to TSA personnel, he noticed that there was a sprig of mistletoe hanging above the conveyer belt that took the luggage to some unseen place to

be screened. While pointing to the mistletoe, the man asked the agent, "Do you get many offers for kisses with that?" The agent just smiled and replied, "Oh, it's not for that. It's so that you can kiss your luggage goodbye."

Next story: It was another evening in a distant city as weary Kazuko walked down the skyway and entered the terminal; she saw on the flight board that her connecting flight was delayed for an hour. "Well, that's just great," she muttered under her breath. She proceeded to a convenience store in the terminal and decided on a small bag of short-bread cookies and a bottle of water. The terminal was crowded, so when she found an open seat, she plopped down, fished into her shoulder bag for the book she had been reading on her previous flight and settled in until her connecting flight home was announced.

Although Kazuko was engrossed in her book, she saw out of the corner of her eye that the man sitting next to her reached into the bag of shortbread cookies between them and took one. "How rude is that! What a jerk" thought Kazuko, who did not want to make a scene or move to another empty seat because there weren't any in the immediate area. As time passed, she continued to enjoy her book and cookies, while the cookie thief would occasionally sneak a cookie from the bag. "If I weren't such a proper lady, I'd punch this dude in the nose," thought Kazuko. Eventually, the cookie supply was exhausted to a single one. The cookie thief had the nerve to break the last one in half and offer a piece to her. That sent Kazuko past her tolerance limit and she immediately got up, gathered her things and gave the cookie thief a glare that could kill.



She proceeded to her gate without looking back at the man. After she boarded her flight, she sat back and wondered why strange people always seem to cross her path. As Kazuko reached into her shoulder bag to retrieve her book, her eyes widened with shock at the sight of an unopened bag of shortbread cookies. She thought, "If these are the cookies I bought, whose cookies was I eating?"

As Kazuko shrunk back in her seat, she realized that that she was a rude, unthankful cookie thief.

Was this just an accident or was Kazuko really a thief who should have been thrown in jail? Let's continue with a famous 1939 Leslie Thrasher cover for the <u>Saturday Evening Post</u> of a senior lady purchasing her fresh holiday turkey from an old fashion meat counter. I remember in the 1950-60s there was the same kind of meat counter at Bob's Market in Sun Valley on Laurel Canyon Boulevard, near Sheldon Street. All kinds of red meat and poultry were on display in a long refrigerated counter and the butchers would weigh and wrap the customer's meat purchases in heavy paper. Anyway, back to the

Rockwell-like cover that shows the fresh bird being weighed on a suspended scale pan while both the senior lady and the kindly butcher are looking up at the scale dial. There were no digital read-outs in those days. What the other does not see is that the kindly butcher is pushing his finger down on the pan while the senior lady is pushing her finger up under pan. The senior lady and the kindly butcher would be aghast if someone called them thieves, but that is just what they were doing. Both would never rob a bank or steal a car so they didn't see themselves as thieves. The eighth commandment simply says, "You shall not steal." Most would agree with the eighth commandment, but occasionally we forget that some of the regular things that we do may actually be stealing.

There are over 5 million criminal acts of theft in the United States each year, but how many crimes go unreported? The IRS estimates that people steal about \$400 billion each year in unpaid taxes by underreporting their income. It is estimated that nearly \$50 billion is stolen each year from employers, not from thieves breaking in, but by their own employees. Employees steal ten times more from American businesses than is stolen in street crimes and it is all by socially acceptable larceny. Stealing is doing personal business on company time, loafing on the job, chatting or texting with acquaintances, taking office supplies, extended lunches, and a host of other things. Outside the workplace, people continue by stealing time from others by not being punctual, stealing another's reputation by gossip or lying, downloading pirated software and movies, or bullying or degrading others to steal their dignity.

The Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 13:9-10, "The commandments, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law." The debt of love that we owe to our neighbors is not because they have done anything for us. The debt is because of what Jesus Christ has done for us. Christ loves us freely, he gave his life for us, he took away all our sins, guilt and condemnation, and he guarantees us everlasting joy in him. He did this while we were his enemies; this is when we become debtors of love to all people. Loving others is not just a duty. It's to be pursued with the same kind of vigor that you have when striving for your own happiness. The amazing thing is that when the happiness of others becomes the goal of our desires, our happiness doesn't take a back seat. It gains the very thing that we thought we had given up: true joy. May God work in us this most amazing kind of love!

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## **CC Scholarship Applications Now Available on the CC Website -**Go to www.https://www.sfvjacc.com/scholarships.html

## SFVJACC SCHOLARSHIPS

All applications must be postmarked by April 1, 2023.

## DR. SANBO SAKAGUCHI SCHOLARSHIP

For Academic Excellence

The Dr. Sanbo Sakaguchi Scholarship is the most prestigious recognition awarded at the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center. He was a life long member who supported the San Fernando Valley Judo Club. Alemany High School football team, SFV JACL, and many other community organizations like the UCLA Nisei Bruins, Japanese American National Museum, Japanese American Cultural and Community Center. The Scholarship is intended for high school and college students who exhibit excellence in scholarship, leadership, and service. This in an endowed scholarship provided by the family.

## KAY KAZUKO SAKAGUCHI VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS SCHOLARSHIP

For Visual or Performing Arts

The Kay Kazuko Sakaguchi Visual and Performing Arts Scholarship is given in memory of Kazuko Sakaguchi, wife of Dr. Sanbo Sakaguchi and a patron of the arts including the Asian American Symphony. This scholarship was started by her niece, Helen Nina Oda Abe and is earmarked for students who are interested in pursuing a future in the visual and/or performing arts. \*A video of performance or sample portfolio is required. This in an endowed scholarship provided by the

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## LILY THIBODEAUX SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP

For Leadership and Service

The Lilly Thibodeaux Scholarship is in memory of the beloved grandmother, mother, aunt and friend of the Community Center who inspired us with her love and determination. This scholarship is earmarked for well rounded students who show promise. This in an endowed scholarship provided by the family.

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## DANIEL T. NAGASAWA SCHOLAR ATHLETE SCHOLARSHIP

For High School and College Scholar Athletes

Dr. Daniel Nagasawa is a neurosurgeon whose vision is to help others. He is an example for the younger generation when he expresses his gratitude with this scholarship. This scholarship is open to high school and college students who may be scholar athletes. This in an endowed scholarship provided by Daniel T. Nagasawa.

All the SFVJACC Scholarships are open to graduating high school seniors of SFVJACC who has demonstrated academic excellence, extracurricular activities and service to school, local, and/or Asian community, especially with the SFVJACC.

> Below are descriptions of the four Athletics Scholarships offered. Applications must be Postmarked by March 1, 2023.

## ATHLETICS SCHOLARSHIPS

## **HOSHIKO HIRANO AWARD**

This award honors the memory of Hoshi Hirano, the woman who started and developed the Girls Athletics program at our Community Center. The purpose of the award is to recognize those girls who have contributed to the Girls Athletics program by their participation, performance and/or service to the program. The award committee will also consider any or all awards and performances by all applicants in all athletics/scholastic activities accomplished in high school. This award is open to all senior girls graduating from high school this year. The candidate must have participated or is currently participating in the Community Center Girls Athletics program. For the purpose of the award this includes from Sure Shot to their final year of high school.

## WAYNE YAMAMOTO MEMORIAL AWARD

The purpose of the award is to recognize a senior boy who has contributed to the San Fernando Boys Athletics program by his participation, performance and/or service to the program. The award committee will also consider any or all awards and performances by all applicants in all athletics/scholastic activities accomplished in high school.

This award is open to all senior boys graduating from high school this year. The candidate must have participated or is currently participating in the Community Center Boys Athletics program. For the purpose of the award this includes from Sure Shot to their final year of high school.

Scholarship descriptions continued on next page.

## ATHLETICS SCHOLARSHIP DESCRIPTIONS - continued from page 14.

## LAUREN TAGUCHI MEMORIAL YOUTH SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP

The Lauren Taguchi Memorial Youth Service Scholarship is given to honor her memory as an active member of the SFVJACC Athletics as well as many other community organizations. As a student athlete, Lauren was a role model, friend and teammate who demonstrated sportsmanship on and off the court. A \$500.00 award will be given to the graduating high school senior who best demonstrates the spirit of volunteerism and citizenship, through community service. Applicants should be responsible students, active in school and in their community, as well as participated in SFVJACC Athletics for at least 5 years. The student selected will receive the award to be applied towards his or her college education.

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## **EVAN NIIZAWA MEMORIAL CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP**

The Evan Yoshio Niizawa Memorial Continuing Education Scholarship is given in memory of his accomplishments, scholastic excellence and participation in athletics in the face of severe illness and life challenges. Evan was an inspiration to all who knew him and admired his determination in all aspects of his life. A \$1,000.00 continuing education scholarship provided by the Niizawa Family and SFVJACC Athletics is given to a current or past member of SFVJACC Athletics who has demonstrated scholastic excellence and overcame challenges during their life. The student selected will receive the award to be applied towards his or her college education.

## SFV JACL SCHOLARSHIPS

In our commitment to youth empowerment, our chapter has offered scholarships to graduating high school seniors for over 50 years. We are embarking on a new phase that includes an internship program.

## Applications will be available at a later date.

For more information, go to https://sfvjacl.weebly.com/scholarships-and-internships.html

## 2nd Annual USC Women's Basketball Tomodachi

By Bing Lau

The 2nd Annual USC Women's Basketball Tomodachi event was held at the USC Galen Center on January 15, 2023. Families from the SFVJACC Tigers and Tanookis teams participated in the event, where they were treated to an exciting game as the USC Women of Troy upset the #2 ranked Stanford Cardinal, 55-46!

With the support of the USC Athletics department, families attending the Tomodachi event were allowed to shoot around on one of the Galen Center practice courts before the game. Alyson Miura (#25), a guard on the USC Women's Basketball team, made several appearances on the practice court to meet, play and take pictures with the attendees. In addition to that, attendees were given USC beanies, had



the opportunity to meet the entire team and have team posters autographed after the game!

It was an amazing opportunity to meet a player of Japanese American heritage playing on a major Division 1 basketball team! Whether memories of either getting onto the Jumbotron or how their parents made them take pictures with a girl that might have cooties, I'm sure the kids will have memories of this event for years to come!

SFVIACC ATHLETICS' ANNUAL

# PANCAKE BREAKFAST

SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 2023 | 7:30 AM - 11 AM

JOIN US FOR DELICIOUS STICKY STACKS AT THE SFVJACC AND SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR OUR YOUTH PARTICIPATING IN THE ATHLETICS PROGRAM

\$5 DONATION PER PERSON













# Caregiver ( Conference

Discovering Your Inner Caregiver

Join us for the 2023 Caregiver Conference!

Saturday, March 18, 2023 | 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Wintersburg Presbyterian Church

Visit www.keiro.org/caregiver-conference or scan this QR code for more information. Registration Deadline: February 24, 2023



For more information, contact programs@keiro.org

keiro.org (f) (f)









## WELCOME **NEW MEMBERS**

Iyen Amayo Bernardo Barcelona Chika Brock Teresa Cedeno Teresa Humphries Machiko Katsuda Austin Pham Matthew Regner Larry Rhodes Alan Kazu Shimasaki Kazuko Urayama



We meet the first Monday of every month in the Conference Room at the Center from 12 - 3 PM.

Contact Liz Doomey for more information at 818-429-4096 or lizdoomey@yahoo.com

Potluck Lunch We view various movies followed by discussion.

**Boys and Girls** can join the

## **BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**



Sign up and bring your child along for the adventure.

We need at least 5 people and 3 parents so we can start planning a troop.

> **Contact Kyoko at** nancy\_oda@sfvjacc.com

## **DEMENTIA CAREGIVERS** SUPPORT GROUP

**Sponsored by Little Tokyo Service Center** 

"Are you a caregiver for someone affected by Alzheimer's disease or other dementias? Our non-judgmental, confidential group meets on the first Saturday of the month to share concerns, experiences and ideas."

Group meetings are being done virtually.

Contact Coleen Nakamura at cnakamura@ltsc.org if you want to attend or want more info.



## SAN FERNANDO VALLEY HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

9450 Remick Avenue, Pacoima, CA 91331 818 899-4030 sfvhbt@sfvhbt.org www.sfvhbt.org

> Supervising Minister: Rev. William Briones

Temple President: Eric Reardon

Services continue to be held via Zoom, with hybrid (in-person and Zoom) services twice a month or so. Please contact the temple about in-person service guidelines or if you wish to be included on the Zoom invitation list. Please check our website for updates. Thank you, and be safe and well.

**February** 

5 10:00 am Shotsuki monthly memorial service (hybrid)
12 10:00 am Nehan-e: Shakyamuni Buddha's memorial service (hybrid)
19 10:00 am Regular service
26 10:00 am Temple clean-up (no

service)

March

5 10:00 am Shotsuki monthly memorial service (hybrid)
12 10:00 am Spring Ohigan service and seminar (hybrid)
18 5:00 pm Chili Cook-off and Bingo fundraiser
19 10:00 am Regular service
26 10:00 am Regular service

April

2 10:00 am Shotsuki monthly memorial and Hanamatsuri service, Hatsumairi (hybrid)
9 10:00 am Regular service (format TBD)
16 10:00 am Regular service (format TBD)
23 10:00 am Regular service (format TBD)
30 10:00 am Regular service (format TBD)

## Obon Festival - June 24-25

Your donations gratefully accepted:

- Zelle to sfvhbt@sfvhbt.org
- PayPal on sfvhbt.org or



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.crosswaysfv.org

## **English Department**

Pastor Raynold Nakamura

## Japanese Department

Pastor In Hyun

We are now doing hybrid services and have resumed gathering on campus while maintaining the online streaming presence on Sundays at 10:00 am. For more information, email info@crosswaysfv.org



## Chatsworth West United Methodist Church

### Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

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

E-mail: chatsworthumc@juno.com FAX: 818 341 1271

Pastor: Eric Iki

Lay Leader: Jim Melichar

Due to the changing times of the COVID-19 pandemic, services are being held on Sundays at 10 am and bible study on Thursdays at 10 am and 7 pm through Zoom.

If you would like to join the services or bible study meetings, call (818) 341-1270 or email at chatsworthumc@juno.com



## SUNRISE JAPANESE FOURSQUARE CHURCH

Church address: 5853 Laurel Canyon Blvd. Valley Village, CA 91607

> Pastors: Rev. Paul Iwata Rev. James Iwata

Join us for our worship services on Sundays at 10:30 am through Facebook at

https://www.facebook.com/pg/ sunrisejapanesechurch/posts/? ref=page\_internal

<b>COORDINATIING COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONS - MEETINGS - C</b>	ONTACT PERSONS
Coordinating Council3rd Wed., 7:00 PMLiz Doomey	818 429-4096
Community Center1st Wed., 7:00 PMCall CC Office	818 899-1989
Athletics3rd Tues., 7:30 PMMargaret Takimo	
CC NewsLois Okui818 892-1487Email: lo	
Chatsworth West United Methodist Church	
2nd Sun., 1:00 PMPastor Eric Iki	
Crossway Church2nd Sun., 12:30 PM	818 896-1676
Nikkei Senior Gardens2nd Thurs. (even months), 7 PMTadad	
SFV Bonsai Club4th Sun., 8 AM-12 PM Kazuhiko Naka	
SFV Hongwanji Buddhist Temple2nd Mon., 7:30 PMEric Reardon	
SFV JACL2nd Wed., 7:00 PM Nancy Takayan	na 818 601-6296
SFV Japanese Language Institute2nd Sat., 8:30 AMKiyo Watana	be 818 237-8540
8	18 896-8612 (Office)
SFV Judo Club4th Wed., 7:03 PM Kenji Couey	818 381-7232
SFV Meiji Senior Citizens Club 1st Fri., 12:30 PMToshi Toda hei	wa.toshit@gmail.com
Senior Hot MealsFri., 11:30 AMCC Office	
Sunrise Japanese Foursquare ChurchReverend Paul Iw	
Valley Japanese Community Center	
2nd Fri., 7:00 PM Joy Longworth	818-270-6833

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

Call Tadao Okui at (818) 517-7907 or email: tadao\_okui@sfvjacc.com

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

Email: lois\_okui@sfvjacc.com

CC Deadline: The 15th of every odd month.

## SPECIAL CLASSES

Aloha Club (Poker)	Tuesday (11 AM-3 PM)/	Friday (12:30-3:00 PM)	CC Office 818 899-1989
Ballroom Dance			
Bowling*, (Winnetka Bowl)	Tuesday	9:30 AM	Sandra Yamamoto
Country Western Music*	Tuesday	10:00-11:15 AM	Janet Schuetze 818 767-1819
Exercise Class			
Exercise Class	Friday	10:00-11:00 AM	Liz Doomey 818 892-7381
Hawaiian Hula (Ohana Pu'uwai Nani).	Monday	11:00 AM-12:00 PM	Suzan Akamine 818 367-1723
Hitomi's Cooking Class	2nd Tuesday	7:00-9:00 PM	NJ Nakamura 818 893-6503
Ikenobo Ikebana	2nd/4th Wednesday	10:00 AM-12:00 PM	Mayumi Dennis 818 224-3346
Karaoke*			
Kokusei Shigin Class	Tuesday (J-School)	10:00-11:30 AM	Shigeru Kamimura 818 992-4673
Line Dancing*	Thursday	10:00-11:15 AM	Call CC Office 818 899-1989
Movie Club	1st Monday	12:00-3:00 PM	Liz Doomey 818 892-7381
Nikkei Bowling League	Friday (Winnetka Bowl).	8:00-10:00 PM	Stan Date 818 701-6607
Ondo Dancing*	2nd/4th Friday	7:00-9:00 PM	Janet Yamamoto 818 365-8361
Ping Pong Club	Thursday/Tuesday	10:00 AM-3:00 PM	Aaron Sanwo 661 755-0584
Senior Arts & Crafts			
SFV Judo Club	Mon/Wed/Fri	6:00-9:00 PM	Kenji Couey 818 381-7232
Tai Chi Class*	Monday	9:00-10:00 AM	Florence Takaaze 310 202-6693
Ukulele Club	Friday	10:00-11:30 AM	Call CC Office 818 899-1989
Zumba			

Note: The classes and services in red are not yet meeting at the CC.

## **YOUTH SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS**

## **SUPPORT GROUPS & SERVICES**

Online only Little Tokyo Service Center Contact her at cnakamura@ltsc.org Blood Pressure Screening\*......3rd Friday ......9:30-11:00 AM ......Nikkei Pioneer Conference Room

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

## **UPCOMING IN-PERSON EVENTS AT THE CC**

**February 4, 2023** 

SFV Japanese Language Institute New Year's Party

**February 5, 2023** 

SFV Judo Tournament

February 10, 2023

Senior Health & Home Safety Presentation -"Senior Driving Tips"

February 17, 2023

Senior Health & Home Safety Presentation -

"Life After Cancer"

March 4, 2023

SF Athletics Pancake Breakfast

March 5, 2023

Cooking with the Chef with John Nishio

March 25, 2023

SFV JACL Presents Dan Taguchi's Big Band Music

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<sup>\*</sup>Meiji Senior Citizens' Activity or Service



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## **SFVJACC Mission Statement**

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

## San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center

## **2023 MEMBERSHP FORM**

(Membership Period: January 1 to December 31, 2023

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1. Complete the information below.				Eamily Mambarahin \$60,00
2. Make check payable to "SFVJAO	CC".		ш	Family Membership - \$60.00
3. Send your check and this form to	: SFVJACC See Address in the uppe hand corner of this page			Single Membership - \$40.00
(Please Print)				
Name			_ Phone	
(Last Name)				
Address				
City		State	Zip	Code
Email Address				
Emergency Contact		Phone		
If you would like a paper copy of t	the newsletter mailed to y	ou, please chec	k the bo	х. 🗆
If you do not want to be listed in fo	uture CC Membership D	irectories, plea	se check	the box.
For information, please call SFVJ.	_	_		