



# SAN FERNANDO VALLEY JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER

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

Issue 50

March/  
April  
2020



Dear Members and Friends,

The CC board closed our Center on March 5 after consultation with Dr. Richard Kang who explained the dangers of the surging COVID-19 outbreak. Thank you to SFVJACC member Dr. Kang, Bing Lau, and Jeremy Tsuneishi for their leadership and to the Board of Directors for this unanimous decision to lock it down. We need everyone to comply with the guidelines of the State of California, Los Angeles Department of Public Health, and the Center for Disease Control.

We will not reopen until we think it is safe for all. We will consider reopening once the infection curve flattens and starts to go down significantly. Remember to check [www.sfvjacc.com](http://www.sfvjacc.com) or Facebook for Community Center updates.

Our goal is to keep our members healthy during this pandemic.

YOU MUST:

- STOP NON-ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES which require you to leave your home.
- MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING at all times even with family members.
- SELF ISOLATE if you're sick or if you think you have any of the symptoms and call your doctor.

It is important for the younger and/or healthy people to be cautious because they are the key to prevent the spread to the elderly and to those who have health problems. The chances of bringing in the COVID-19 into a household are serious. You might not feel sick but you can innocently infect others.

It is important for the younger and/or "healthy" asymptomatic people to be cautious because they are the key to prevent the spread to the elderly and to those who have health problems. The chances of bringing in the COVID-19 into a household are serious. You might not feel sick but you can innocently infect others. Think like you have the virus that could affect your grandparents, parents, and all those you love.

Please patronize the following restaurants and tell your friends too because they have supported us for many, many years. These establishments have been very generous to the growth and success of the SFVJACC.

Chiba Restaurant 818 765-9119    Katsuya 818 678-1700    Musashi Restaurant 818 360-8884  
Small Island 818 341-1884    Sushi Dragon 818 394-9313

If you need help with groceries or pharmacy pickups, or want to volunteer, please contact me at 818 935-2603 or register on the SFVJACC website (<http://www.sfvjacc.com/covid-19-response.html>)

We are truly looking forward to seeing you all soon at the Center.

Sincerely,

Kay Oda, President



## San Fernando Valley Japanese Language Institute

### STATEMENT FROM THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE REGARDING SCHOOL CLOSURE

March 5, 2020

To Our Students, Parents and Teachers,

As you may have heard, the Japanese Language Institute made a decision to close the School from March 5 through April 1, 2020. The decision was made in response to the spreading coronavirus pandemic. The Board will continue to monitor the public health concerns created by the coronavirus and decide as soon as possible whether to or not to reopen School after 1<sup>st</sup>.

Please understand the JLI Board did not make its decision to close the School lightly. Initially, the SFVJACC Board met to consider what the Community Center should do in light of the public health issues created by the coronavirus. The SFVJACC Board unanimously decided it would be in the best interest of the members to completely close the Community Center to help prevent the potential community transmission of the coronavirus.

Two of the JLI board members participated in the SFVJACC Board discussion on this matter. Immediately after the SFVJACC Board made its decision, the JLI Board met to discuss how the School should respond to the public health emergency. The JLI Board agreed the School should be closed immediately and remain closed at least through April 1.

I know you have many questions which the Board has not answered. But the extraordinary public health concerns created by the coronavirus pandemic have forced the Community Center's Board and the School's Board to make their decisions on closing the Community Center and the School before all of the questions could be answered. The School Board's primary concern was and remains the safety of our students, teachers and parents. In light of the public health emergency declared for the City and County of Los Angeles, the School's Board decided it should take action immediately to close the School.

Over the next few days, the School's Board will discuss whether and how the School can mitigate the effect of the closure on everyone concerned. As soon as we have answers to your questions, we will provide additional information.

Sincerely,  
Kiyo Watanabe  
President, SFV Japanese Language Institute

### We want you!

We have many choices for you to enjoy, starting with culture rich activities such as Japanese Language, taiko, calligraphy, judo, Ikebana, mah jong, hanafuda, ondo, and karaoke. This is just the tip of the iceberg of what we offer that costs \$40 for singles and \$60 for families.

But to serve you 30-40 somethings we should have more clubs at night after work hours. So we are seeking new and returning members with fresh ideas to sign up. It's easy! Go to [www.sfvjacc.com](http://www.sfvjacc.com) and join the fun.



### 60th Anniversary T-Shirt

Limited supply

Honoring Our Founders

\$10 per T-Shirt

Call the CC office (818) 899-1989 or  
email

lois\_okui@sfvjacc.com  
christine\_inouye@sfvjacc.com



**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**For the Months of March & April 2020**

**Donations**

SFV Meiji Senior Club .....  
 Year end donation  
 Facebook Giving Tuesday.....  
 Anonymous .....  
 In memory of Bob Kanemura  
 The Gene Haas Foundation.....  
 Grant secured by Jenna Matsushita for the Building Fund  
 Amy Goka.....  
 In memory of her husband Robert Goka  
 Facebook Giving Tuesday.....  
 Dexter Frye.....  
 Leonor Bennett.....  
 George Abe and Helen Oda Abe .....  
 In memory of Robert Goka  
 SFV JACL.....  
 Frank and Marge Tanaka .....  
 In memory of Robert Goka  
 John Tanaka.....  
 Minoru Tonai .....  
 John Goka .....

**Donations In memory of Yone Takimoto**

Shuko Akune.....  
 Linda Alston.....  
 Bill Chin .....  
 Rush and Hiroko Culbertson .....  
 David and Deborah Doomey .....  
 John and Liz Doomey.....  
 Susan Doomey.....  
 John and Melinda Glowacki .....  
 Toji and Hitomi .....  
 Fuyumi Hashimoto .....  
 Hikowo and Etsuko Hashimoto .....  
 Grace Iwamasa .....  
 Kay and Nancy Oda .....  
 Julio and Linda Rodriguez.....  
 Lipo and Dorothy Rosero .....  
 Samuel and Melanie Rosero .....  
 Ken and Ritsuko Shinbashi .....  
 Dick and Margaret Takimoto .....  
 Mabel Takimoto.....  
 Denise Tanaka .....  
 Lorraine Wheeler.....

**Use of Facilities**

SFV Judo Club .....  
 Aloha Cub.....  
 SFV Ballroom Dance Club .....  
 Lipo and Dorothy Rosero .....  
 Ping Pong Club .....  
 Kupunas .....  
 Maddy Corpuz .....  
 Tuesday Exercise Class.....  
 Thursday Nite Basketball .....  
 Tai Chi Class .....  
 Friday Exercise Class.....  
 Senior Arts & Craft .....  
 Hula Wahines .....  
 SF Blakers.....  
 Mandolin Classes .....

**Miscellaneous**

Coffee Donation.....  
 Copier Donation.....  
 Hot Meal Program..... 1 (3 lbs) Coffee  
 Stan Rivera and Marjorie Taylor.....  
 ..... 11 Reams of copy paper  
 Eiji and Marge Sato .....2 (3 lbs) Decaf coffee

**DONATIONS TO HOT MEALS**

**For the Months of March & April 2020**

Maddy Corpuz ..... Donuts for the kitchen volunteers  
 Ray Kawamoto ..... 20-Cup Zojirushi Rice Cooker  
 Marian Murphy and ..... 1/2 lb. Ginger, 1/2 lbs. Poke sauce  
 Marilyn Kishi  
 Musashi Restaurant..... 200 lbs. Rice, 5 gals. Japanese  
 Vinegar, 4 pkgs. Chopsticks  
 Stan Rivera ..... Miscellaneous kitchen equipment  
 and supplies  
 Franklin Shimizu ..... Tangerines  
 Paul Shimizu and..... Clementine oranges  
 David Shimizu  
 Naomi Suenaka ..... Cake for her mother's, Haruyo  
 Suenaka, 98th birthday  
 John Tanaka ..... Large bag of tortilla chips

*Thank you so much for your generous donations!*

**Thank You So Much!!!**



We would like to thank Mr. Tom Gentle and Nature's Bakery for their generous donation of 336 cases Nature's Bakery fruit bars.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Hazel Caillier  
 Jackie Flashberg  
 Bruce & Kristen Schaefer  
 Tisna Tjahjana  
 Dave & Jennifer Trax  
 Karen Yum





# SFV MEIJI SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB NEW YEAR'S PARTY

By Liz Doomey

The Meiji Senior Citizens Club is grateful to the SFVJACC Board for making the decision to close the Center due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Many of our members are in the susceptible age group and it only takes one person to test positive and spread the virus to many of our at-risk members so all scheduled Meiji events have been cancelled until such time that is safe to resume.

On another note - March 4th, Meiji Club had our Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at Vegas Seafood Buffet. This is our way to say *Thank You* for helping at our events in 2019 and the beginning of 2020.

In the meantime, please be safe and make good decisions regarding any outings you undertake.



*arigato!*

Thank you to all the people who volunteer teaching the Meiji sponsored classes and activities and to the ones who give their time to be on the Meiji Board and plan and help at the events.

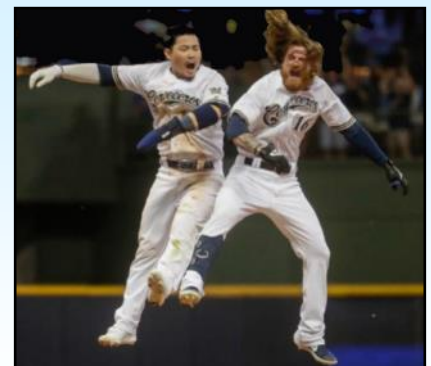


Keston Hiura

## Save the date! July 20

We would like to have a large cheering squad for **Keston Hiura of the Milwaukee Braves** when he comes home to play the Dodgers on Monday, July 20. He hit .303 during his first season in the majors with a promising career ahead.

During his early years, Keston played basketball at the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center with the SF Trailblazers that Danny Takehara coached back in the day. Later he went to Valencia High School and



UCI.

We only have 100 tickets in the reserved section 16 that will be available soon at \$32 each. Game time: 7:10. If you're interested in going, contact Kay Oda at [kaysoda1@gmail.com](mailto:kaysoda1@gmail.com)



# SF Athletics Tournament Results

## SF WARRIORS

### CBO Jamboree

#### 3rd Grade Division - Sportmanship Award

L-R: Spencer Matsumoto, Devan Lama,  
Grant Harwood, Dylan Chi  
Not pictured: Ryan Dao, William Kim, Lucas  
Kwan, Sean Chang, Josh Choi



## Megalopolis Invitational Tournament

The Megalopolis basketball tournament encompasses the Crescent Bay Optimist, South East Youth Organization, and Community Youth Council sports leagues. The SF Samurai represented the CBO section. The eighth grade games were held in Huntington Beach and Garden Grove on March 7-8.

## SF GUARDIANS

### 3rd Grade Division 3rd Place

Left to Right: Coach Vince  
Magcase, Lucas Padua, Drew  
Magcase, Justin Ezaki, Finn  
Komives, Grayson Padua,  
Aiden Duong, Kai Gonzalez,  
Coach Nancy Duong (not  
pictured: Coach Ethan Ezaki)



## SF Samurai

### 8th Grade Division 2nd place



L-R: Coach Craig Yahata, Coach George Suarez, Evan Wong, Kyle Oda, Kaden Sasaki, Spencer Chinn,  
Lucas Chow, Jaren Yee, Harrison Hirota, Nolan Suarez, Carsen Yahata



# CC 60th Anniversary Celebration







## Hawaiian Overprint Dollars

By Old Wakaba, Bud Sagara

My wife and I always enjoy spring because we can put away our heavy comforter, be outdoors more and plant our vegetable garden. It seems that we were just celebrating New Year a while ago and now the official start of summer, Memorial Day, is just around the corner. We look forward to the Memorial Day service at the CC because it combines the solemn remembrance of the sacrifices our fathers, grandfathers, uncles, brothers and neighbors gave in service to our country with the gladness of sharing a meal with old friends and family. Hopefully, the coronavirus does not postpone this most encouraging CC event.

This article had its genesis months ago when my mother-in-law, who has lived all her life in Hawaii, was on the phone with my wife talking about some old dollar bills that her mother had given to her. She told my wife that they were "Hawaiian dollar bills" which led me to think back to the Hawaiian monarchy, but the paper money she was talking about was real US currency printed during WW II specifically for the state of Hawaii. The front of the bill has a familiar look with one exception, the name "HAWAII" is printed vertically on both sides next to the seals. On the reverse of the bill, the name "HAWAII" is printed in large letters across the entire side. These are collectors' items commonly known as Hawaiian overprint dollars. So what's the story behind this unusual currency?

On December 7, 1941, the US was brought into World War II with the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor. The Territory of Hawaii was isolated both geographically and politically, and with the great losses at Pearl Harbor, there was a real fear of a Japanese invasion. Martial law was declared within hours of the attack. The military drew up a worst-case-scenario in which the Hawaiian Islands were taken by Japanese forces. Should that scenario unfold, the invading Japanese could seize hundreds of millions of dollars in currency from Hawaiian financial institutions. With federal spending still in the tens of billions, such a diversion of dollars would have caused significant damage to the US economy. The plan was simple: should Hawaii fall into Japanese hands, these Hawaiian dollars would no longer be legal tender in the United States. All regular US currency was exchanged for these overprint bills in early 1942. American leaders appear to have prioritized protecting US money over the welfare of citizens and residents of Hawaii.

There have been only a few occasions in US history in which American citizens have been placed under martial law for more than a few months. Martial law comes with complete control by the military of a population, citizens and aliens alike, and the suspension of many constitutional rights. For nearly three years, until October 1944, the people of Hawaii endured martial law. Never in all of American history were U.S. citizens of one state kept under martial law in such numbers or for so long a time. This was an astounding period in American history because of the complete disregard for due process for anyone of Japanese ancestry, citizen or not, in Hawaii and on the mainland United States.

There were approximately 37,000 Japanese aliens (*Issei*) in Hawaii who were ineligible for citizenship because of the Supreme Court's decision in *Ozawa v. United States* in 1922. There were also 121,000 Japanese-American citizens (*Nisei and Sansei*) living in Hawaii which tallied almost 37 percent of the total population. The Hawaiian economy would have collapsed without the contributions of the ethnic Japanese, so it was not feasible to lock them up in internment camps like the leaders did on the mainland. The large population and unsubstantiated doubts about their loyalty in a war with Japan led President Franklin Roosevelt to justify martial law as a solution for the "Japanese problem" in Hawaii.

Hundreds of general orders that impacted all facets of civilian life were issued by the military overseeing the martial law in Hawaii; for example, curfews and blackout were instituted and ethnic Japanese could neither meet in groups greater than ten nor be outdoors during the blackout period. The military censored the press and closed all Japanese language newspapers and radio broadcasts. All Japanese language schools were shuttered and all civilians, except small children, were required to be registered and fingerprinted and to carry identification cards at all times. People of Japanese ancestry were restricted from traveling or changing residences without permission from the military. Fishermen of Japanese ancestry lost their livelihood because they were not allowed to go to sea because the military feared they would commit espionage. All civilians were ordered to turn in their firearms, flashlights, portable radios and cameras.

Almost 2,000 aliens and citizens of enemy ancestry in Hawaii, mainly Japanese, were held in internment camps run by the War Relocation Authority for the duration of the war with no real evidence against them. In Hawaii as on the mainland, within hours of the Pearl Harbor attack, without presenting any charges, and often without warrants; the army, FBI, and local police moved quickly to round up leaders of the Japanese community. These individuals were usually told they would be gone a few hours, but many of them were imprisoned for the entire war.

When the military draft was reinstated in October 1940, several thousand men from Hawaii became members of the 298th and 299th Regiments of the Hawaii National Guard, with half of the soldiers being of Japanese descent. Immediately after Pearl Harbor, they were deployed to defend the islands against a possible Japanese invasion, but each soldier was given only a single clip containing five rounds of ammunition because of unfounded fears they would turn against the US. How could a soldier be expected to stop an invading army with only five bullets? When re-enforcement troops arrived from the mainland, the 289<sup>th</sup> and 299<sup>th</sup> Regiments were sent to Camp McCoy in Wisconsin and re-commissioned as the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion. Their highly publicized heroic exploits in combat in Italy changed the minds of military and political leaders who had banned the enlistment of Japanese Americans. This paved the way for Japanese American soldiers to serve their country and they did so with honor. The 100th became a part of the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the most decorated unit in US military history.

How did all of this happen? There was blatant racial prejudice and injustice behind these events of WW II because the Japanese were viewed by American leaders as different. The sinful nature of man makes what took place just another episode of the continuing saga of broken humanity. In his letter to the Galatians, the Apostle Paul wrote in verse 3:28, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." This is not to say that all the people in the church are the same, but they all have been made one in Jesus Christ. The gospel message has a radical impact on society by breaking down the barriers of culture, class and gender that separate people into factions that sometimes causes war amongst them. Faith in Christ transcends any differences we may have to unite rather than to divide.



**SAN FERNANDO VALLEY  
HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE**

9450 Remick Avenue, Pacoima  
818 899-4030 sfvibt@sfvibt.org  
www.sfvibt.org

Resident Minister: Rev. Patricia Usuki  
Temple President: Carolyn Sanwo  
Sundays, 11:00 am Dharma School

*Please check our website for updates.  
Due to the COVID-19 situation, the  
temple is currently suspending activities  
at least through May 10. Rev. Usuki will  
be available but please call or email.  
Events listed below are tentative.*

- May**
- 16 9:30 am Dharma Discussion
  - 10:00 am DME – Hike, Amir’s Garden
  - 17 10:00 am Regular service
  - 21 10:30 am Service at Nikkei Senior Gardens [TBC]
  - 24 10:00 am Memorial Day service, temple
  - 11:45 am Memorial Day service, Forest Lawn, Hollywood Hills
  - 30 9:30 am Dharma Discussion
  - 31 10:00 am Regular service



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](http://www.crosswaysfv.org)

**English Department**

Pastor Roland Hazama  
Pastor Raynold Nakamura

**Sunday Schedule**

9:00 - 9:45 AM  
Sunday School for ages  
junior high through adult

10 - 11:15 AM  
Worship Service  
(childcare for infants - Pre-K)

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

11:15 - 11:45 AM  
Coffee Fellowship

**Youth Fellowship**

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

**Mid-Week Home Groups**

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

**Japanese Department**

Pastor In Hyun

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

**Sunday Schedule**

10:00 AM  
Worship Service

Lunch and Fellowship  
after worship service on the  
1st Sundays

Wednesdays, 10 am  
Prayer @ Pastor’s house



**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](mailto:chatsworthumc@juno.com)  
FAX: 818 341 1271

**Pastor: Karen Murata**  
**Lay Leader: Jim Melichar**

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

**Bible Study Thurs @ 10 AM & 7 PM**

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

Instructor: April Warynick  
Tommy Matsuda  
[www.ska.org](http://www.ska.org)  
818 999-0412

**Electrobattles Dance for children**  
**Sat. @ 11 AM Rm.1**

Instructor: Sharon James

**Chi Fung Mind & Body Fitness**  
**Tuesday @ 10 AM Fellowship Hall**

Instructor: Leo Fong

**Fellowship @ High Noon Lunch & Activity - Wednesdays**  
**For info call Lowell (818) 694-1046**





**SUNRISE FOURSQUARE  
CHURCH**

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

Pastors:  
Rev. Paul Iwata  
Rev. James Iwata

Meetings and Addresses:  
Sunday Morning Service – 10:30 a.m.  
(Prayer for Healing – 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays)

Sunday Evening Service – 6 p.m.  
Thursday Night Bible Study – 6 p.m.  
In the Prayer Chapel at  
14705 Wyandotte St.  
Van Nuys, CA 91405

Worship Praise and Service Preparation  
every Saturday at 3 p.m.

Monthly Events:

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – Board Meeting  
After the service at church

Prayer on the last Friday of the month from  
8 p.m. in the Prayer Chapel

Counseling is available for individuals,  
couples, and families. Please call.

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

Email: [pmiwata@gmail.com](mailto:pmiwata@gmail.com)

[www.sunrisejapanesechurch.org](http://www.sunrisejapanesechurch.org)

Newsletters in English and Japanese are  
posted on our website.

**UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE CC**

**All CC Activities and Events Are  
Canceled Or Postponed Due To The  
Coronavirus. The Center Will Reopen  
When the CC Board feels It's Safe To  
Do So. Please Check The SFVJACC  
Website For Updates On The  
CONVID-19 Situation.**