



SAN FERNANDO VALLEY JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER

Website: www.sfvjacc.com

Issue 71

September/
October
2023

ISLAND VIBES AND GOOD TIMES AT THE CC LUAU

By Bing Lau

August 19, 2023 - The magic of the SFVJACC community transformed Sakaguchi Hall from a location in the Valley into a beach front hall located in the islands. As you walked into the hall, you were greeted by tropical ocean views and beautiful palm trees (generously provided by Eric Estada from the SFV Judo Club). The experience was enhanced by Mark Watanabe, who set the mood with his Island sounds. The smell of "Ono" food filled the hall. The atmosphere was relaxed even for those that had to wait longest for their food!



Sakaguchi Hall was transformed into a beach front.

There was a great turnout for the event with over 300 people attending! Boutique vendors sold Leis and hand crafted specialties around the room which contributed to the atmosphere.

The main feature of the night was our hula group, OHANA NĀ PU'UWAI NANI. They performed with special guest, Kimo Williams, and put on an amazing show for the packed room. One of the many highlights of the night was the audience participation portion of the show.



SFV Queen, Kendra Motoyasu, was an amazing emcee for the event.

Congratulations to the lucky winners of the top prizes for the Raffle Opportunity Drawing: Scott Hamamoto, Lynn Yoshizumi and Duane Koyano.

The ultimate goal of the fundraiser was to raise money to repair the Pioneer Building roof and we were successful in raising a significant amount towards that goal. Through the Raffle Opportunity Drawing, silent auction, vendor sales and direct donations from our generous members, we are making steady progress.

The SFVJACC is lucky to have such a caring community who donate not only monetarily but also their time and efforts. Without them, fun events such as these would not be possible.



Acknowledgements and more photos on page 4 & 5.

Photos courtesy of Bill Inoshita and Kyoko Oda.



Mark Watanabe opened and closed the program.

The organizers of the CC Luau Fundraiser, Liz Doomey and Bing Lau.



OHANA NĀ PU'UWAI NANI



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We welcome you all to our Fall Season of events here at the CC. Not a moment too soon as our Keiki are back in school, morning traffic patterns are back to normal (not a good thing), and these unseasonably hot and humid summer days appear to be finally past us. Ideal weather just in time for our CC Clean Up Day. Please join us Saturday, October 7th, starting at 8:00 am. We greatly appreciate your time and effort, working together, to take care of our facilities that support all of our community groups.

Your CC Board of Directors are focused on addressing much needed repairs and maintenance with a clear, focused understanding that deferring is not a solution. As our newsletter is being published, the parking lots at the CC are currently being resurfaced and final decisions are being made for the replacement and repair of the roofs of the Nikkei Pioneer Building as well as our kitchen facility.

A CC favorite event, Super Bingo, will be Saturday, November 4th, starting at 5:00 pm. Let's pack the hall for this fun-filled event with all of your proceeds going towards the necessary projects mentioned above.

In light of some recent events, I had the privilege of participating in the meeting of the minds. It is absolutely appropriate to speak to the importance of respect and honor not only of our Community, but equally so to all our members that volunteer countless hours to build successful programs that benefit our entire CC membership. Our Members don't just build good programs, we build the best programs under the mantra that leading by example is the ultimate way to encourage other community groups to do the same for their memberships. Take the time to thank your fellow members and appreciate them with positive words of appreciation and motivation. Mahalo to all!

When I joined the Board of Directors a few years ago, I was unsure how I could help effect change, or how my skill set, if any, could serve our Community. All of us on the Board probably have felt this way at one time or another. In reflection, I am very appreciative and thankful that our Community thought highly of me enough to ask me to join the Board. I invite you to share in this remarkable feeling of Community with us on the Board of Directors. We are looking for nominees for our upcoming Board of Directors' election coming up this November. Additional information will follow on our nomination process.

Keep each other safe. Be well and thank you for your continued support of your CC.

Sincerely,

Charles Muranaka, SFVJACC Co-President



THE DIRECTOR'S VIEW

A short time ago, I had an idea that I presented to Lois. "How about if I write a small article/blog for the newsletter." I can give some quick thoughts on my view of the SFVJACC. Well, it sounded like a good idea at the time. Then as I started writing this, I remembered that I'm not really a writer. So please bear with me and my rambling as I work to gather my literary footing. (This could take a long time.)

I think the SFVJACC has some positive momentum these days. Attendance at the past couple of events have been tremendous and response to these events has been fantastic. Starting with the Luau, we had planned around pre-pandemic attendance numbers of about 250 people. Interest in the Luau ended up being greater than the 350 person capacity we could handle. Unfortunately, I had to turn people away. The most recent event, Steak Night, was close to exceeding capacity and that was with very little promotion. It was greater than our prior planning numbers of 250 people. It's estimated that 300 steaks were cooked.

I'm still analyzing the data, but what I hope this means for the CC is that we are trending in the right direction in terms of membership growth. The other way to look at this is that the SFVJACC members just really like to eat. It's likely a combination of both. So maybe, my question for the SFVJACC members is...How do we increase our seating capacity and what do you want to eat at the next CC event?

Bing Lau, SFVJACC Administrative Director



NISEI WEEK
Foundation

NISEI WEEK FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES

By NJ Nakamura

After experiencing social distancing and cancelled activities, it was great to be part of the celebration for the 81st Nisei Week (NW) Festival in Little Tokyo.

Many Community Center (CC) members were there on parade day, Aug 13. Kisui Fujimoto and Eddie Uehara rode in the back of an army truck, as honored military veterans. Kyoko Oda was able to ride in two different convertible cars. In the first car, she was honored as a NW Pioneer. The second car identified her and her husband, Kay as being on the WWII Camp Wall Board. Our 2023 SFV JACC Queen Kaili Inouye, was recognized as a princess on the NW Queen and Court float.

At the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, Ritsuko Shinbashi displayed her beautiful Ikenobo Ikebana flower arrangements.

The Nisei Week Festival is a spectacular event for the JA community because it brings family and friends together as they enjoy the Japanese traditions and culture.



Kaili Inouye

Acknowledgements

For the months of July, August & September

Donations

Higaki, Kuniko	\$4,650.00
For the Hot Meals freezer	
Nagasawa, Daniel	\$2,000.00
For the Daniel T. Nagasawa Scholar Athlete Scholarship	
Iso, Christine	\$1,315.75
For Project Nozomi - 10% of her commission from the sale of a CC member's house (Tadao/Lois Okui)	
Ozawa, Robert	\$1,000.00
For the Legacy Fund - In memory of Roy and Yuko Ito	
Oda, Kay	\$291.47
Donating mileage reimbursement from the Keiro Senior Meal Delivery Program back to CC	
Monji, Garry and Joy	\$200.00
Morikawa, Dean	\$200.00
Date, Stan and Diane	\$100.00
In Memory of May Arakawa	
Sakaguchi, Ikuyo	\$100.00
Watari, Sachiko	\$100.00
In memory of Wally and May Arakawa	
Yamada, JoAnn	\$100.00
Niwa, Amy	\$60.00
For roof of the Nikkei Pioneer Building	
Chan, Nancy	\$50.00
Keiro	\$50.00
In appreciation of advertising their Keiro Need Survey	

Donations Made to the CC Luau Raffle Fundraiser

For the Nikkei Pioneer Building Roof

Yoneoka, Harris and Diane	\$245.00
Noda, Cheryl	\$200.00
Muraoka, Victor	\$150.00
Isa, Yuki	\$100.00
Ishimoto, Mary	\$100.00
Matoi, Joann	\$100.00
Murata, Noriko	\$100.00
Murphy, Marian	\$100.00
Okazaki, Danny	\$100.00
Miyata, Isabelle and Negoro, Harvey	\$70.00
Doomey, John and Liz	\$50.00
Gohata, Yas and Nancy	\$50.00
Hamashita, Randy	\$50.00
Kadonaga, Dale	\$50.00
Kido, Chester	\$50.00
Wood, May	\$50.00
Yamada, Jean	\$50.00
Oda, Jon & Monique	\$30.00
Lowe, Jane	\$25.00

 Donated back her Luau raffle prize

Use of Facilities

SFVHBT	\$2,500.00
Taiko	\$358.00
Ping Pong	\$350.00
Tai Chi Class	\$220.00
Thursday Nite Basketball	\$200.00
Volleyball Kyoko	\$200.00
Aloha Club	\$179.00
Hawaiian Hula	\$148.00
Nakamura, NJ	\$51.20
Ikenobo Ikebana	\$50.00

*Thank you for your generous donations.
We apologize if your donation has not been acknowledged.
We are still in the transition stage!*

SENIOR HOT MEAL MENU
October 2023
MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE
LUNCH WILL BE SERVED AT 11:45 AM • NO TAKEOUTS

October 6 - Meatloaf
October 13 - Chicken
October 20 - Beef Stew
October 27 - Fish

THANK YOU TO KUNIKO HIGAKI FOR THE NEW FREEZER



Kuniko donated a new freezer to the Hot Meals Program after the old one broke down. She also bought new tables for the kitchen last year.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Kazuko Taylor	Ellen Endo
Hisako Kokubo	Troy Cruz
Eileen Kiyomiya	Ben Tashima



The SFVJACC's own Ukulele club hit the stage while guests ate their dinner.



**A Special Thanks To
The Following People and
Organizations Who Generously
Donated to our Event**

Shuko Akane
Arts & Crafts Club
Aloha Allure
Barbara Dempsey
Liz Doomey
Exercise Class
Ken Mui
Nikkei Senior Gardens
Oda Family
SFV JACL
SFVJLI
SF Athletics
SFV Meiji Club
Lorraine Shimizu
Harris & Diane Yoneoka



People from the audience were called to participate in this dance.

Thank You to the Following for Supporting the CC Luau Raffle Opportunity Drawing

Akamine, Suzan
Amano, Eiko
Asaoka, Mitsuru
Asuncion, Jean
Campos, Rudy
Carden, Douglas
Corpuz, Marlene
Daniels, Joanne
Date, Stan & Diane
Delander, Suzi
Docken, Terry & Shirley
Doomey, John and Liz
Emmons, Penny
Endow, Gary & Noreen
Fong, Jean
Fujimoto, Kisui
Hara, Jane & Fujioka, Fred
Fukuda, Theodore
Furutani, Peggy
Gohata, Yas & Nancy
Goto, Grace

Gotori, Mary
Hamamoto, Hideko
Hamamoto, Jennifer
Hamamoto, Scott
Hashimoto, Hitomi
Hazama, Yo
Hazard, Mary An
Hirayama, Yasumasa
Hironaka, Harvey
Hiura, Grace
Hollowell, Masako
Hori, Susan
Iida, Lorraine
Ikeda, Rosie
Isa, Derrick
Ishimoto, Mary
Itagaki, Chuck
Iwamasa, Grace
Johnson, Lauri
Kadonaga, Dale

Kadonaga, Larry
Kaku, Dick & Pauline
Kami, Kay
Kane, Josephine
Karimoto, Lorraine
Kawada, Yoshiko
Kawamoto, Raymond
Kido, Chester
Kim, Crystal
Kimura, Sumie
Kishi, Marilyn
Kobata, Bette
Kobayashi, Don & Joanne
Kodani, Powell & Faye
Komoto, Jayne
Koyano, Duane
Kuratomi, Linda
Kuroda, Miyako
Kus, Michiko Tokunaga
Kushida, Al & Mitzi

Ito, Laura
Levelier, Nelli
Lew, Gene & Genevieve
Lowe, Jane
Lustig, Bill
Mahony, Marcia
Malunao, Gloria
Masuda, Diane
Matsuda, Ike & Yoshi
Matsumoto, George
Matsumura, Rose
Measles, Anna
Minami, Janet
Mitarai, Evelyn
Miyagishima, Kevin
Miyagishima, Richard
Miyagishima, Sharlene
Miyake, Bruce & Carol
Moriguchi, Reiko
Moriguchi, Akiko

Thank You to the Following for Supporting the CC Luau Raffle Opportunity Drawing

Morikawa, Dean	O'Neill, Coleen	Sugii, Toshiye	Tomita, Randall
Mui, Ken & Priscilla	Ono, Daito & Takie	Sujishi, Michi	Tomita, Jaclyn
Murakawa, Setsuko	Otake, Julie	Suruki, Setsuko	Uyeda, Tom & Keiko
Muraoka, Victor	Plaskow, Diane	Sussan, Yoshimi	Uyehara, Mark
Murphy, Dennis & Marian	Rosero, Lipo & Dorothy	Suzukawa, Jo Ann	Wakano Chinn, Joyce
Naito, Masashi	Saito, Gary	Suzuki, Michael	Watanabe, Kyoko
Naka, Frank	Sakaguchi, Hiroyo	Tagawa, Yukari	Wood, May
Nakada, Doug	Sanwo, Aaron & Carolyn	Taguchi, Jean	Xua, Jodie
Nakamura, Richard & NJ	Sasaki, Stephen & Karen	Tajiri, Ed & Margaret	Yamada, Kay
Nakamura, Joanne	Sato, Eiji & Marge	Takayama, Robert & Linda	Yamamoto, Janet
Nakata, Sam & Rumi	Sato, Mickey & Jane	Takaaze, Florence	Yamamoto, Gary & Sandra
Nakatsu, George & Barbara	Sato, Setsuko	Takemoto, Kiki	Yamamoto, Howard & Tricia
Nicklaus, Garland & Debbie	Schuetze, Janet	Takeshima, Shoji & Shari	Yamani, Frank
Nishida, Kазzy	SFV Judo Club	Takeshita, Hiroshi	Yamaoka, Emmy
Nishimura, Patricia	Shimizu, Lorraine	Takimoto, Margaret	Yamaoka, Ruby
Niwa, Amy	Shimizu, Paul	Tanabe, Roy	Yamasaki, Dave
Nomura, Kenso	Shinbashi, Ken & Ritsuko	Tanaka, Denise	Yamashita, Mas & Norma Jean
Oda, Kay & Kyoko	Shinsato, Ray & Jean	Tanaka, Leonard	Yoneoka, Harris & Diane
Oda, George	Shiotani, Tami	Tatsumi, Glenn & Cindy	Yoshimoto, Minoru & Yukiko
Oda, Fred	Shirtcliff, Yukie	Yamane, Teddy	Yoshizumi, Rich and Lynn
Okazaki, Danny	Shishido, Anna	Teramura, Sueko F.	
Okita, Dennis & Barbara	Sogabe, Ikuko	Toda, Toshi	
Okumoto, Matsuko	Suenaka, Naomi	Tokuhara, Burt	

**Thank you to the following
volunteers for helping make
the CC Luau a success!**

Doug Carden
Shirley Docken
Liz Doomey
Audrey Fukunaga
Hitomi Hashimoto
Bill & Luke Inoshita
Glen & Diane Julian
Chisato Kanagi
Anne & Bryce Koga
Linda Kuratomi
Diana & Tre Lau
Gene & Genevieve Lew
Joy Longworth
Sharlene Miyagishima
Linda Miyamoto
Kay Oda
Julie Otake
Tiffany, Ryan & Josh Pearlstein
Kiyo, Tenka & Asuka Watanabe
Janet Yamamoto



SAVE THE DATE!

SUPER BINGO FUNDRAISER

NOVEMBER 4, 2023 — SEE FLYER & ORDER FORM ON PAGE 14 & 15.



SFV Meiji Senior Citizens

It is already September! I thought this year had just begun, but I realized that TIME passes too fast.

I started this year as the president of the Meiji Club, which has almost 60 years of history. I felt a heavy responsibility and I tried to make all the seniors happy. It was and is very difficult.

I read the bylaws of the Meiji Club and I realized the need to update these bylaws. The Meiji membership number is shrinking, and it is not easy even to keep the board members intact.

Thank you for your votes at our general meeting on July 14th. We were able to get the members to approve reducing the number of board members from 30 to 20, and to beat this inflation.

When this club was started, many members were, I believe, Issei Japanese. They had to help each other to survive then. Times have changed. Many Japanese are scattering all over the USA and don't stay in the SFV community anymore.

But I think when you get older, you will need friends and people you feel comfortable with. So, our SFV community is still very important to keep and to be active. I encourage you to talk to your friends and acquaintances who are not Meiji members yet. Please ask them to participate in our activities. Help to keep our Japanese culture alive!

If you like to sing Karaoke style, you can join the Karaoke Club every two weeks on Thursdays. You can sing Japanese songs or American songs. Let's have happy lives together.

The winners for the Meiji Bingo on August 11 were: Linda Takayama, Eva Dabu/Anne Gaynor (a tie), Margie Sato, Reiko Moriguchi and May Sakamoto. The prize for each game was \$47. Congratulations!

Toshi Toda, Meiji Club President



Toshi Toda with Kimiko Rasmussen and Kimiko Miseroy.

to raise the membership annual fee from \$5 to \$10,

Senior Activities

By Liz Doomey

Contact information to register for events: lizdoomey@yahoo.com or 818-429-4096

Exercise Class - Tuesdays 9-10 AM in the Sakaguchi Hall and Fridays 10-11 AM in the Judo Dojo. Rubber Band Resistance, Stretch, Balance, some Cardio and Light Free Weights. Mrs. Hiroyo Sakaguchi provides Japan exercise videos for us to follow. These exercises can be adapted to chair exercises also.

Movie Review Club - First Monday of each month (unless it's a holiday then the 2nd Monday). From 12 Noon to about 3 PM. Bring a lunch, watch a variety of movies, and discuss them. Movie on October 2nd will be **Gate of Hell** and November 6th will be **A Majority of One**.

Arts and Crafts - Mondays, from 10 AM to 12 Noon in the Conference Room. Come learn different crafts from our members. Every other Monday Kay Kami will be instructing on water color painting. Kay Yamada (just in time for the holidays) will be giving classes on making greeting cards. Contact Liz Doomey for dates of these classes.

"Dining with the Chef" - CC Kitchen; Chef John Nishio demonstrated how to make Shrimp in Lobster Sauce on Sunday, September 10th. Chef Nishio will return on Sunday, October 29, 2023 from 2-4:30 PM. \$20 per person. He will be demonstrating a traditional Japanese Chicken Stew. Space is limited so register as soon as possible.



Dining with the Chef Class with John Nishio



San Fernando Valley Japanese Language Institute

By Kiyo Watanabe, PTA President

The SFVJLI 2023-2024 School Year started on August 19th with quite a few new families joining our school. We have about 60 students in grade level this year, up from the 40 last year and 11 students in the Adult Conversation Class. We are letting students enroll even though the new semester has already started, so please spread the word that SFVJLI is always looking for more students (Both grade level and Adults).

Existing teachers with three new teachers make up our new faculty team in all the grade level classes. The PTA, with more members to volunteer, will make up our school operation.

On September 9th, we had our Open House, along with a Welcome Forum, so students and parents could get acquainted with the school. We have created and updated the adjustment of grade level students and classes, school email assignments, along with a new school roster.

The JLI Halloween Costume Contest will be on October 28th and we will be inviting other CC children to participate. More details and announcements will be coming soon.

100th Year of SFVJLI

This school year is our 100th year since the founders started in 1924. Our 100th year Celebration, the 100th Anniversary Yearbook, 100th year t-shirts, jackets, and patches are being designed and will go into production. It is going to be a very busy and important year for JLI. We would like to thank you in advance for your continued support.



SFVJACC Grant Updates

By Garry Monji

Community Center Projects Infrastructure Upgrades Completion in October 2023 - In late 2022, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors awarded discretionary grant funds so our electronic infrastructure could be integrated and updated. Bing Lau and John Sunada took the lead for the Community Center buildings and Japanese Language Institute, respectively. Bing has coordinated the ordering of needed equipment and hardware for Sakaguchi Hall, the gym, Judo Dojo, kitchen, and the Japanese Language Institute. He will continue the hands on work required and will utilize outside sources as needed. John is coordinating with Bing and will be the lead for Japanese Language Institutes infrastructure improvements. Completion is projected for October 2023. As a result of Bing and John's expertise, Community Center groups and visitors will see improvements in Network Security, Isolated Networks, Wireless Performance, and the CC will have an Internet Landing Portal, laying the foundation for future upgrade. The Japanese Language Institute will have improved internet speed and connectivity in their classrooms and in the administrative area. In addition, the improvements will allow for current and future communications hardware for improved online instruction. These improvements have been in progress and are expected to be completed in October of 2023. We are grateful to the expertise, time and efforts of Bing and John.

CC Board Votes Funds To Continue The Senior Meal Home Delivery Program - The Senior Meal Home Delivery program started through funds awarded to the Community Center by Keiro. Meals have been delivered to Seniors at their homes since June. There has been a dedicated group of volunteers purchasing supplies, food products, packing meals and making deliveries on Tuesdays and Fridays. Kei Inoue's Hot Meal volunteers have been providing the Friday meals. After seeing firsthand the need in our community, the CC Board has authorized additional funds to allow the program to continue once grant funds were exhausted. Surveys were taken of the meal recipients and the program volunteers to make refinements to the program as it grows in the future. As a result of the surveys, we have established criteria for program participation and fine tuned other parts of the program.

Continued on page 8.

SFVJACC Grant Updates - Continued from page 7.

Meal recipients must meet **one** of the following criteria:

- 1) Mobility issues or have other conditions limiting their Activities of Daily Living
- 2) Have a current DMV Disabled Placard
- 3) No longer drives and is essentially homebound
- 4) Lives alone or provides caregiving for a spouse, parent or child with a disability
- 5) Experiencing Meal Insecurity
- 6) Recuperating from surgery or other medical procedures (temporary).

Meals will continue to be delivered on a Tuesday and Friday basis. Outside food sources will be used to provide the meal recipients with a variety of types of meals being delivered. Hot Meals will participate in the meal delivery program on select days identified by the Hot Meal Program head, Kei Inoue. The program will remain cost free to the meal recipients but effective September, donations will be accepted to support the programs operational costs.

As the program continues to expand additional volunteers are needed. Volunteers will let the program coordinator know the days they may be available.

If you are or know of someone in need of this service, or if you are interested in volunteering to the part of this program, please contact the SFVJACC Office at (818) 899-1989 or email garry_monji@sfvjacc.com

COVID Test Kits Received For Summer And Fall Events

The Community Center received an additional 3,200 COVID tests during the week of September 11th, 2023. The rapid COVID Test kits have been received free of charge through a generous program run by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health. The Community Center has now received over 18,000 tests and continues to distribute them to our member organizations and with other organizations serving our community. If you need Rapid Covid Test Kits for a family gathering, community event or just to have a supply at home, please stop by the Community Center office and see Bing Lau or contact the Community Center Office at (818) 899-1989.

Honda Foundation Grant Proposals Due No Later Than Midnight 10/15/23 - The Honda Foundation Grant applications opened on 09/01/2023 and will close 10/31/2023. This is an extremely competitive grant with numerous applicants nationwide.

The SFVJACC Board will be applying under the Community Pillar Category. The focus of the Community Centers application will be on our youth, toddlers through 12th grade. Our proposal will request \$50,000 in Grant funding.

Each Community Center group will be asked to present an idea on the development of a program that will involve expanding or creating culturally oriented programs with a focus upon youth. Each proposed program will require a detailed description and an itemized budget including costs for equipment, materials, audio-visual requirements, instructor or speaker honorariums, and scholarships for participants with more limited finances.

Community groups will have until midnight, October 15th to submit their proposals and detailed itemized budgets. No requests will be accepted after that date. Each group should be aware that we will apply for \$50,000 in grant funding. Actual grantees often receive awards at a much lower amount than originally requested, so each group should have a scaled down plan ready to be implemented if the SFVJACC is awarded a grant.

Email garry_monji@sfvjacc.com or text (626) 818-1509 with any questions or should you need any additional information.

Keiro Cultural Senior Trips Sign Up Sheets Posted In Sakaguchi Hall - Keiro awarded a grant to the Community Center authorizing bus trips for Seniors to Culturally sensitive sites to the Japanese American Community. The three sites to be visited will be:

- 1) Santa Anita Assembly Center (Santa Anita Racetrack)
- 2) Terminal Island Monument and Museum
- 3) CSU Fullerton (Memorial to Japanese American Farmers)

Dates and other logistics are being finalized at this time. Sign Ups sheets are posted in Sakaguchi Hall. If you are interested in signing up for one or all of these trips or need additional information, email garry_monji@sfvjacc.com or text (626) 818-1509. Space may be limited so please sign up or contact us as soon as you can.



SFVJACC Annual General Membership Meeting

**Wednesday, December 6, 2023
6:00 - 8:00 PM**

Topics to be discussed—

- Financial Reports
- Endowment Committee Report
- Future Planning Committee - Future Projects/Visions
- Reports from the SFVJACC Coordinating Council Organizations

**Please join us for this informative
meeting.**

Dinner will be served.

**To make reservations, email
events@SFVJACC.com or call the
CC office (818) 899-1989**

Autism Spectrum Disorder

By Old Wakaba, Bud Sagara

When we learned that our three-year-old granddaughter, Yumi, was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), there was initially shock and then sadness that quickly morphed into the family pulling together in support of our daughter and her husband as they began the long journey of finding therapists and programs to help Yumi prepare for her life ahead. The diagnosis of ASD by the specialist physician clearly explained why Yumi had not achieved common behavioral milestones common to young children and why she acted so differently than any of our other grandchildren.

Autism, or autism spectrum disorder (ASD), refers to a neurological and developmental disorder which is characterized by challenges in social skills, behaviors, learning, speech and nonverbal communication. According to the Centers for Disease Control, autism affects an estimated 1 in 36 children in the United States. The experts agree that there is not one type of autism but countless subtypes, mostly influenced by a combination of genetic and environmental factors. People with ASD may behave, communicate, interact, and learn in ways that are different from most other people. There is often nothing about their physical appearance that sets them apart from others. The abilities of people with ASD can vary significantly. For example, some people with ASD may have advanced conversation skills whereas others may be nonverbal. Some may need a lot of help in their daily lives, while others can work and live independently.

Although autism can be diagnosed at any age, it is described as a developmental disorder because symptoms generally appear in the first two years of life. After doing some research on our own, we learned that some of the behaviors we observed in Yumi fall within the category of ASD such as: avoids eye contact, doesn't respond to her name, doesn't show facial expressions (like happy, sad, or surprised), follows a routine, gets upset when the routine is disrupted, has obsessive interests in certain things, unusual eating or sleeping habits, doesn't respond when others are hurt or angry, and delayed language skills.

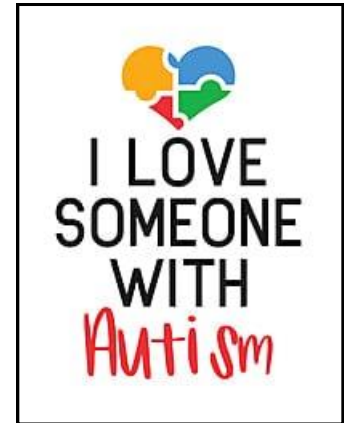
Because autism is a spectrum disorder, each person with autism has a distinct set of strengths and challenges. Some successful contemporary people diagnosed with ASD are: Bill Gates, Sir Anthony Hopkins, Elon Musk, and Satoshi Tajiri. Historians speculate that Albert Einstein, Thomas Edison, Emily Dickenson, Leonardo Da Vinci, Ludwig van Beethoven and Sir Isaac Newton may also have been on the autism spectrum. Hans Asperger, a pioneer in ASD studies, wrote in his 1944 doctoral thesis, "It seems that for success in science or art, a dash of autism is essential. For success, the necessary ingredient may be an ability to turn away from the everyday world, from the simply practical, an ability to rethink a subject with originality so as to create in new untrodden ways, with all abilities canalized into the one specialty."

The list of people who excel in life in spite of autism is certainly impressive, but that doesn't mean there will be success for everyone with ASD. The reality is much different for most autistic kids. They won't grow into adults able to advocate for themselves, share their needs, or inquire about yours. These children won't make headlines for graduating college or launching a startup that employs others with ASD. For those on the low-functioning end of the spectrum, daily activities such as bathing themselves, tying shoelaces, or putting on clothes can be huge challenges. It's unrealistic to assume that every autistic person will learn to communicate, live on their own, or understand the world around them.

Stereotyping, stigma, and discrimination are challenges people with any disability face every day. Much of the disabled community faces exclusion from taking part in common societal activities that people take for granted. Have you ever been excluded from something? Maybe you were the last person picked in gym class, or maybe you weren't invited to an event everyone else seemed to be attending. If you've been in a situation like that, could you pinpoint any reasons why you were excluded? How did being left out make you feel? Exclusion because of a disability is treating a person or group as though they were "less than others" so they may be marginalized and deemed not worthy of attention. It's heartbreaking that our Yumi may face these societal issues in addition to her challenges with ASD.

Only with the passing of time will we see what kind of life Yumi will have as an adult. We pray that she will be on the higher end of the autism spectrum that creates geniuses like Albert Einstein instead of on the severe end that includes adults unable to do anything on their own. Through this experience, we will learn to trust God for his provision and to hold fast to his promises. Psalm 115:13 says, "He will bless those who fear the LORD, both the small and the great." Not everyone will be great in the eyes of the world, but God loves them all, including Yumi. God chooses the marginalized and weak to challenge the strong and powerful, demonstrating that God's values are so different from human values.

We believe that God placed Yumi into the lives of our daughter and her family and he will also give them everything they need to love and to care for her. So why did God make Yumi the way she is? Would it bring us any satisfaction to know God's reasons or would that put us in the position to judge God? Seeking to know the "why?" of Yumi's autism is unproductive. Instead of asking "why?" we should only ask "who?" The sooner we recognize that God is fully sovereign over all things, the sooner we can trust Him in all phases of our lives. By faith we believe that Yumi is not a burden, but a special gift from God. God is in control and didn't put her into our family to ruin our lives, for God promises to work all things for good for all those who are called according to his purpose. It's hard for us to see "the good," in Yumi's autism and we may never understand until we stand before God face to face. But, by faith we trust that God is working all things for good. This is how Yumi is not our family tragedy, but God's triumph. He did not make a mistake, nor was He punishing us. Nothing comes into a believer's life without first coming through the hands of our loving heavenly Father. The more we hold fast to the grace, love and mercy of God, the more we will praise him in the storm.



Hollywood Dodgers Las Vegas Invitational Tournament
August 12-13, 2023

SF Dominators - 3rd Place - Boy's 6th Grade Gold Division



(L-R): Coach Justin Yoshizawa, Aaron Yeom, Bivan Shrestha, Lucas Kwan, Hayes Geromini, Evan Yoshizawa, Parker Low, Dexter Rhodes, Devan Lama, Ethan Adjei



SF Ninja Stars
Girl's 5th Grade Division

Back row (L-R): Walter Louis (head coach), Kiko Cheng (assistant coach), Zoey Ramos, Jayleene Nishimoto, Kimiko Cribbin, Lauren Okuyama, Michela Okuyama (assistant coach)

Front row (L-R): Summer Ng, Kaylee Louie, Noa Cheng

Hollywood Dodgers Las Vegas Invitational Tournament
August 12-13, 2023

SF Shooting Stars - 1st Place Champions - Girl's 8th Grade Division



L-R: Coach Wesley Tanijiri, Caylee Fuentes, Alana Yeck, Allyson Nagatsuka, Kayla Tanijiri, Kaelyn Yoshizawa, Sarah Louie, Joey Takiguchi, Marlise Fenton, Asst Coach Justin Yoshizawa.

SF Emeralds
1st Place Champions
Girl's 9th Grade Division

Back row (L-R): Coach Luc,
Madelyn Geromini, Maddie Smith,
Quinn Tamashiro, Alexis
Yoshimura, Coach Patrick

Front row (L-R): Jamie Lac, Alyssa Badua,
Abbey Chang, Pressley Huie



Congratulations, Kai Sugahara Strahl, 1st Place Winner of the Tuna Canyon Detention Station's Marc Stirdivant Scholarship For Justice Award



Kai Sugahara Strahl's Winning Essay

Note: Tuna Canyon Detention Station (TCDS) was the site of the unjust World War II incarceration of Japanese, German, Italian aliens, and others. TCDS preserves this history by encouraging creative media. They hope this will enable us to reflect on our past and become better people. Marc Stirdivant, for whom this scholarship was established, believed in the power and effectiveness of diverse coalitions as well as preserving places which remind us of the importance of social justice for all.

9th-12th grade students submitted essays on how they envision their role in ensuring that the violations that occurred at Tuna Canyon Detention Station doesn't recur. Along with their essay, each student submitted an art piece that enabled people to fully understand the history of the Tuna Canyon Detention Station and have them feel deeply enough to stop future civil liberty violations or do a video that showed how they envision their role in ensuring that the violations that occurred at Tuna Canyon Detention Station doesn't recur.

Kai Sugahara Strahl is the daughter of Roy Sugahara and the granddaughter of Nobuo and Michiko Sugahara. Below is her winning essay that explains her artwork.

My picture demonstrates the forced and devastating stripping away of cultural identity that Japanese and Japanese American people faced when being imprisoned in internment camps. The woman in the fading kimono symbolizes how Japanese culture in America had to be hidden and secreted away during that shameful time in our nation. The woman's kimono as well as the young boy's and man's personal clothing items are melting away into cherry blossom petals floating up to the moon. In Japanese culture, the moon represents timelessness and enlightenment, and in my piece, the moon is receiving everything the people being forced into the camps are losing and keeping it safe in the moon's timelessness. This adds magical realism that represents the internal strengths of the detainees and their irrepressible internal devotion to their culture. In other words, while physical items can be destroyed and forcibly removed, the beloved and sacred values, traditions, and beliefs of Japanese culture could not be destroyed by detainment.

The chains are a visual reminder of the violence and inhumanity of Japanese people being forcibly put into detention centers. The chains are wrapping around the subjects in this drawing like snakes constricting their prey. And it was very hard to "stop the chains from pulling them in" hence the young boy struggling to break free but to no avail. This represents the impossibility of escape.

I attempted to make the setting of my piece very similar to actual photos available of the Tuna Canyon Detention Station. From the mountains surrounding it to the oak trees, from the tall fence to the dry, desolate grounds, there is historic accuracy paired with my artistic style.

An important aspect of my piece is that almost everything is radiating some kind of color. The barrack is giving off a shadowy, ominous color, while the people are giving off a light, pure color showing that they have done no wrong.

Also seen in my picture are oak trees with a slight glow around them. This symbolizes how today, only the oaks remain at the Tuna Canyon Detention Station. They hold the memories of the injustice and discrimination that occurred there. The glowing around them is them absorbing those disheartening yet important memories; "a reminder of the importance of social justice for all."

The power of this piece is the unification of the various elements. There is the sadness and loss of the three individuals whose body language reflects their innocence. That imagery next to their dissolving clothing emphasizes the deep injustice of what was happening. The moon having to receive and guard their losses (because there were no loved ones free to take on that role) reflects the devastating isolation of detention while also reinforcing the innocence of the detainees - nature is pure. Lastly, the chains and the darkness of the camp make it clear that this is a scary, unwelcoming setting of profound wrong-doing. The overall intent is to create in the viewer an emotional response as they recognize the great personal loss, deep moral failure, and inexcusable inhumanity tied to the Tuna Canyon Detention Station; so that we collectively ensure that such a travesty never occurs again.

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."

All meetings are confidential.

Group meetings are being done virtually.

If you are interested in attending or want more info, please call Little Tokyo Service Center at 213-473-3035.

CC MEMBERSHIP FEES TO INCREASE IN 2024

The CC membership fees have remained the same for over 20 years. With rising costs, the CC Board reluctantly, decided to raise the fees to the following:

Family Membership - \$75.00
Single Membership - \$50.00

SUPER BINGO FUNDRAISER

**Saturday, November 4, 2023
5:00 PM**

**Dr. Sanbo Sakaguchi Hall
12953 Branford Street, Pacoima 91331**

- Cash & Other Prizes for Each Bingo Game
- Blackout Game Prize - \$500
- Top 3 Raffle Prizes - \$500 Each
Plus Many Other Raffle Prizes
- 50-50 Raffle
- Silent Auction

**\$125
Per Person**

*Gold Package includes
5 Bingo Cards,
5 Raffle Tickets &
One Bento
Dinner*

Deadline is Monday, October 23.

For more information, email Liz

Doomey at lizdoomey@yahoo.com or

call (818) 429-4096 or call the CC office (818) 899-1989.

***All Proceeds To Go Towards Replacing The Nikkei Pioneer
Building Roof and The Repairing Of The Kitchen Roof.***

Thank You For Supporting the SFVJACC!

ORDER FORM IS ON THE NEXT PAGE.

San Fernando Valley
Japanese American Community Center

Super Bingo

Saturday, November 4, 2023 at 5:00 PM

Order Form

Deadline Monday, October 23, 2023

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Email Address _____

- **Please print legibly and fill out information completely.**
- Make check payable to "SFVJACC" and note "Super Bingo" on check.
- Gold Package is \$125.00 and includes 5 Bingo Cards, 5 Raffle Tickets, 1 Dinner and 1 Gift Bag

Please give me _____ Gold Package(s) @ \$125.00 each. \$ _____

Total amount due \$ _____

***Bingo cards and raffle tickets will be handed out at the door.**

Please mail check and this entire form to: SFVJACC
Super Bingo
12953 Branford St.
Pacoima, CA 91331

Any questions, contact Liz Doomey at (818) 429-4096 or email lizdoomey@yahoo.com
Or call the CC office (818) 899-1989.

*All the proceeds will go towards replacing the Nikkei Pioneer
Building roof and repairing the Kitchen roof.*

Thank you for your support!



**DON'T MISS OUT
ON HANDMADE MOCHI!
ORDER
BY
NOV. 10 DEADLINE!**



SFVHBT MOCHITSUKI FUNDRAISER 2023

The San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple will hold its annual **MOCHITSUKI FUNDRAISER** on **Sunday, December 10, 2023**. Temple members will prepare delicious, handmade mochi to supply our community for the holiday season. Please let your friends know, too.

*******DEADLINE DATE TO ORDER IS FRIDAY, NOV. 10*******

MOCHI ORDER PICK-UP: SUNDAY, DEC. 10 (11AM-1PM)

At San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple - 9450 Remick Avenue, Pacoima

HOW TO ORDER

- 1) E-MAIL - sfvhbt@sfvhbt.org 2) PHONE - temple (818) 899-4030 3) MAIL IN - Completed order form below
(write "mochi" on envelope)

- SFVHBT MOCHI ORDER FORM -

NAME _____ PHONE OR EMAIL _____

ITEM	QTY <i>(Please make sure your Order is received or Postmarked by Nov. 10)</i>	PRICE	TOTAL DUE
KO-MOCHI (1 LB PKG)		\$8.00	
AN-MOCHI (3 LB PKG)		\$8.00	
OKASANE SET		\$8.00	

Please mark method of payment below:

1. Check included with this form _____
2. Zelle to sfvhbt@sfvhbt.org _____
3. Payment on Pick-up date (*exact cash or check*) at SFVHBT (*Sunday, 12/10, from 11am-1pm*) _____

Mail pre-order form and check (*payable to SFVHBT*) to: **SFVHBT**
9450 Remick Avenue
Pacoima, CA 91331

Thank You for your Support. In Gassho ~ San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

SFVJACC CLEAN UP DAY

Saturday, October 7, 2023

8 am - 12 pm

Please help us do repairs and beautify the CC grounds.
We're still trying to catch up on things that were neglected
during COVID so come join us on this day.

Lunch will be served.



SAVE THE DATE!

SFV JACL & JAPANESE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE
INVITE THE COMMUNITY TO
A HALLOWEEN PARTY

Saturday, October 28, 2023
11:30 am - 2:30 pm

MAD SCIENTIST SHOW, LUNCH, GAMES, CRAFTS,
COSTUME CONTEST
& PRE-CRAVED PUMPKIN CONTEST

FLYER TO FOLLOW

Keiro's Quality of Life Classes

October 2023 - CONNECTEDNESS

▶ **A Little Tokyo Walking Tour: Connecting With Community and Each Other***

Tuesday, October 10, 2023 | 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

**Please Note: This class is an in-person event. Additional details to follow upon registration.*

▶ **How to Prepare for an ER Visit**

Tuesday, October 17, 2023 | 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Visit keiro.org/qol to register for FREE and for class descriptions.





**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 are hybrid (in-person and Zoom). 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.

October

- 1 10:00 am Shotsuki monthly memorial and Eshinni-ko / Kakushinni-ko service
- 8 10:00 am Temple clean-up (no service)
- 15 10:00 am Buddhism class; Fall tea party
- 22 10:00 am Regular service
- 29 10:00 am Pet Memorial service

November

- 5 10:00 am Shotsuki monthly memorial and Eitaikyo service
- 12 10:00 am Regular service
- 19 10:00 am Regular service
- 26 10:00 am Regular service

December

- 3 10:00 am Shotsuki monthly memorial and Bodhi Day service

Save the dates:
11/18 (Sat.), 5 pm - Curry dinner & bingo
12/10 (Sun.) - Mochitsuki

Your donations gratefully accepted:

- Zelle to sfvhbt@sfvhbt.org
- PayPal on [sfvhbt.org](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?url=https://www.sfvhbt.org) or
- check mailed to SFVHBT (address above)



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

COORDINATING COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONS - MEETINGS - CONTACT PERSONS

Coordinating Council	3rd Wed., 7:00 PM.....	Liz Doomey.....	818 429-4096
Community Center.....	1st Wed., 7:00 PM.....	Call CC Office.....	818 899-1989
Athletics.....	3rd Tues., 7:30 PM.....	Dana Chow.....	818
CC News		Lois Okui	lois_okui@sfvjacc.com
Chatsworth West United Methodist Church.....			
.....	2nd Sun., 1:00 PM.....	Pastor Eric Iki	818 341-1270
Crossway Church	2nd Sun., 12:30 PM.....		818 896-1676
Nikkei Senior Gardens.....	2nd Thurs. (even months), 7 PM.....	Danny Okazaki.....	
.....			818-899-1000
SFV Bonsai Club	4th Sun., 8 AM-12 PM	Kazuhiko Nakanishi ..	805 492-3439
SFV Hongwanji Buddhist Temple.....			
.....	2nd Mon., 7:30 PM	Eric Reardon.....	818 899-4030
SFV JACL.....	2nd Wed., 7:00 PM.....	Nancy Takayama.....	818 601-6296
SFV Japanese Language Institute.....	2nd Sat., 8:30 AM.....	Kiyo Watanabe.....	818 237-8540
.....			818 896-8612 (Office)
SFV Judo Club	4th Wed., 7:03 PM.....	Glen Whitesell	661-436-6374
SFV Meiji Senior Citizens Club ..	1st Fri., 12:30 PM.....	Toshi Toda	heiwa.toshi@gmail.com
Senior Hot Meals	Fri., 11:30 AM.....	CC Office.....	818 899-1989
Sunrise Japanese Foursquare Church		Reverend Paul Iwata.....	818 782-8738
Tuna Canyon Detention Station.....		Kyoko Oda.....	nancyoda64@gmail.com
Valley Japanese Community Center			

Want to reserve the Community Center for an event?

Call CC Office at (818) 899-1989 or email: bing_lau@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
Bowling*, (Winnetka Bowl)	Tuesday	9:30 AM.....	Sandra Yamamoto
Country Western Music*	Tuesday	10:00-11:30 AM.....	Janet Schuetze
Exercise Class	Tuesday	9:00-10:00 AM.....	Liz Doomey
Exercise Class	Friday	10:00-11:00 AM.....	Liz Doomey
Hawaiian Hula (Ohana Pu'uwai Nani)....	Monday	11:00 AM-12:00 PM	Barbara Dempsey
Hitomi's Cooking Class	2nd Tuesday	7:00-9:00 PM.....	NJ Nakamura
Ikenobo Ikebana	2nd/4th Wednesday	10:00 AM-12:00 PM	Mayumi Dennis
Karaoke*	1st/3rd Thursday	10:00 AM-12:00 PM	Janet Yamamoto.....
Line Dancing*	Thursday	10:00-11:15 AM.....	Call CC Office
Movie Club.....	1st Monday	12:00-3:00 PM.....	Liz Doomey
Nikkei Bowling League.....	Friday (Winnetka Bowl) ..	8:00-10:00 PM.....	Stan Date.....
Ondo Dancing*	2nd/4th Friday	7:00-9:00 PM	Janet Yamamoto.....
Ping Pong Club.....	Thursday/Tuesday.....	9:00 AM-3:00 PM	Aaron Sanwo
Senior Arts & Crafts	Monday	10:00 AM-12:00 PM	Liz Doomey
SFV Judo Club.....	Mon/Wed/Fri	6:00-9:00 PM.....	Kenji Couey
Tai Chi Class*	Monday	9:00-10:00 AM.....	Florence Takaaze
Ukulele Club	Friday.....	10:00-11:30 AM.....	Call CC Office
Zumba	Monday	7:00-8:00 PM.....	Margaret Takimoto....

YOUTH SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Girl Scouts..... 3rd Saturday 2:00-4:00 PM..... Troop Leader: Akiko Manaka

SUPPORT GROUPS & SERVICES

Dementia Caregivers Support Group... 1st Saturday 10:00 AM-12:00 PM Facilitator: Coleen Nakamura, Little Tokyo Service Center
 Online only Contact her at cnakamura@ltsc.org

Blood Pressure Screening*..... 3rd Friday..... 10:00-11:00 AM..... Nikkei Pioneer Conference Room

*Meiji Senior Citizens' Activity or Service

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

UPCOMING IN-PERSON EVENTS AT THE CC

October 7, 2023
 CC Clean Up Day

October 22, 2023
 SFV Bonsai Club - Pine Tree Trimming

November 4, 2023
 Super Bingo Fundraiser

November 18, 2023
 CC Craft Boutique

December 6, 2023
 CC General Meeting

December 16, 2023
 SFV Judo Christmas Party

January 6, 2024
 CC New Year's Installation

January 13, 2024
 SFV Meiji Senior Club New Year's Party

