

# THE GRAPEVINE

Volume XLV—No.4 July/August 2018

SONOMA COUNTY JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

## Calendar of Events

### July

**No Board Meeting in July**

**8- Enmanji Teriyaki**

**14- Obon Odori**

**18-22 National JAACL Convention**

**17- Redwood Empire Food Bank**

**20- Yuki and Taro (See Article for time)**

### August

**4-Enman No Tomo**

**5 - Nuclear Remembrance Day**

**11 - Yuki and Taro (See Article for time)**

**16- August Board Meeting**

## ENMAN NO TOMO NEWS

We had a couple of very enjoyable Enman no Tomo meetings on May 5th and June 2nd. In May, the tables were decorated with lovely flower arrangements and accompanied by various plants like cilantro and wax beans that were ready for people to take home and plant in their garden. What a clever idea! This was presented by Kinu Iwamoto and Keiko Furusho. And in June, the summertime tables were decorated with summer stars and stripes and of course pinwheels to welcome the summer season. This was presented by Twinkle Yagi and Clare Shimizu

We again started with lively and fun exercise routines arranged by Diane Ono. Since this was Cinco de Mayo, Diane introduced several dance steps like the salsa and cha cha to entice people to get moving. And in June, Diane got us ready for the obon odori in July by presenting several of the usual Japanese folk dancing.

In June, we were fortunate to have Kevin Iwamura and his wife, Lindy Day, come and perform a variety of musical selections for all of us to enjoy. Not only did they entertain us for the regular program but they were already there to greet everyone when they came in with their music. You can really tell that they enjoy music so much. They used several musical

instruments and different accompaniments to enrich our day. And they offered their CD's to take home and donated the proceeds to Enman no Tomo.

In May, lunch was prepared by Twinkle Yagi, Mitsy Sanders and their crew with fish and fresh vegetables prepared to complement all the dishes offered by our members. The link cod was provided by Toshie Morita and caught by her grandson, Sam Morita. In June, we had many vegetable dishes to complement the Italian dishes that were provided. And we had a fruit basket birthday cake for Yae Furusho provided by her family to satisfy our sweet teeth. Thank you for sharing, and may you have many more wonderful birthdays and good health, Yae.

After lunch, we returned to our usual lively bingo games with Darryl Yagi calling and Tan and Sokpha helping out our seniors.

For the raffle, besides the plants from the centerpieces, there were also very healthy tomato plants donated by Ray and Caroline Yamasaki. Thank you for giving us a head start to healthy tomatoes!

Everyone who went on our field trip on May 16th to the MIS Museum in the Presidio of San Francisco and of course Nihonmachi for lunch

and shopping were treated to an informative tour and a delightful day. It was also nice to have one of our members, Don Watanabe, attend since he was a member of the MIS during World War II. Thank you, Don, for your service and friendship.

A monetary donation was received from Gerry Shimazu and Gail Horita Gee and memorial donations were received from Margarette Murakami and Darryl & Twinkle Yagi imo Michi Rodgers and from Sachi and Clare Shimizu imo Lloyd Yamasaki.

We would like to express our sincere condolences to the family of Norma Sugiyama who recently passed at the age of 92. She was always a smiling participant and helper with Enman no Tomo, and thought nothing about volunteering to help with the membership signups and making cookies and craft projects for our family Christmas parties in December. She will definitely be missed.

We will be taking July off due to the teriyaki, but will return on August 4th with a tentatively scheduled presentation and talk by Bruce Shimizu on the processing of sake. And on September 1st, there will be a discussion and talk on the 442nd regiment from World War II. And on October 6th, there will be line dancing. Stay healthy and active, and have a great summer!!

## KAMISHIBAI PROJECT

We had very productive months in May and June. Our activities included piloting the project by going into classrooms as Storytellers. We visited first, third, fifth, and sixth grades. In all classes after reading the story, discussions were encouraged to talk about civil rights and how to be more compassionate with others. The first graders felt sad for the people in the story and thought it was unfair. The third graders said we should treat others the way we want to be treated. The fifth and sixth graders expressed concern for civil rights. In all it is thought that we reached most of the students. In all classes we did a cultural activity such as recognizing kanji or origami.

Other presentations were given at Matsuri on May 6th and at the JAACL District Council meeting in Gilroy on May 6th.

On May 20th Sachiko Knappman and Becky Brendlin Sugiyama represented the project in an interview with Robert Handa on the Asian Pacific America program on television.

We finished all of our obligations for the Legacy Grant and turned in our final report. The last responsibility was to upload the entire project onto Google Drive and alert the other chapters across the nation as to

its availability. As of this date we have shared this with the following chapters: Arizona, Seattle, New England, San Fernando Valley, Fort Lupton, and Sacramento. We expect more requests to come when we get closer to the school year.

On June 23rd a special presentation was held at the Glaser Center in Santa Rosa. All 20 paintings were on display and the story was read to about 30 people. There was a lively discussion that followed.

In August we will have an article in the Pacific Citizen. It will include photos of our interview with Robert Handa as well as other photos.

Anyone wishing to be a part of the kamishibai project as a storyteller is welcome to attend an informational session on August 11, 2018 in the Sonoma County JAACL office in the Uyeda Center, 515 Petaluma Blvd, Sebastopol. The meeting will be held from 2 to 4, refreshments will be served. [See flyer]

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to our local Sonoma County JAACL chapter for their financial support and encouragement throughout the growth of the project.

# Do you like to read stories to children?

## “Yuki and Taro”

A Teaching Unit on the Incarceration of Japanese Americans During WWII



**Storytellers are needed** by The Speakers Bureau  
to go into classrooms and read the story of Yuki and Taro,  
a teaching unit on the incarceration during WWII.

This story is read kamishibai fashion using a wooden stage and illustrations.

- The story is written for you in an easy to read format •
- Story can be modified to fit all age groups •
- All supplies provided •
- Support from other speakers is available •
- \*Facilitate discussions •
- Share cultural activities with the students •

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**August 11, 2018**

**2-4 pm.**

**JACL office**

**515 Petaluma Avenue  
Sebastopol, CA 95472**

• (707) 568-5381 • [kamishibai@sonomacojacl.org](mailto:kamishibai@sonomacojacl.org) • [sonomacojacl.org](http://sonomacojacl.org) •

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Your hosts: • Sachiko Knappman, author • Cynthia Kishi, author •  
• Becky Brendlin Sugiyama, artist •

## 2018 DAY OF REMEMBRANCE ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

Each year, the Sonoma County JACL invites Sonoma County, Mendocino County and Napa County high school and middle school students to participate in an essay contest to commemorate the Day of Remembrance (DOR), February 19. Executive Order 9066 was initiated on this day, which led to the incarceration of over 120,000 American Citizens and those of Japanese ancestry during World War II. The Day of Remembrance is observed annually to remind us of this unfortunate incident in the history of the United States and the need for continued vigilance to avoid such an occurrence in the future.

The following students are the Essay Contest Winners for this year. It is always an inspiration to read how thoughtful and perceptive the students are when they write their essays.

### HIGH SCHOOL

- 1- Sirena Nordstrom Miranda - \$400  
Roseland Collegiate Prep – Santa Rosa
- 2- Elijah R. Judd - \$300  
Tomales High School - Tomales
- 3- Cora Thorp - \$200  
Analy High School - Sebastopol

### MIDDLE SCHOOL

- 1- Andrew Riku Gilman - \$300  
Adele Harrison Middle School - Sonoma
- 2- Isaac Yoshio Rodrigues - \$200  
Twin Hills Charter Middle School - Sebastopol
- 3- Sakiko Pizzorno - \$150  
Sunridge Charter - Sebastopol

## REDWOOD EMPIRE FOOD BANK

In November, after a tour of the Redwood Empire Food Bank, Alice and George Kashiwagi found that there was a need at REFB for help to process foods for many Sonoma County residents especially since the October fires. A call went out to recruit JACL Members to volunteer. Since November, the volunteers have bagged various fruits. These fruits have included oranges, tangerines, apples, pears and last month potatoes were bagged.

We do have room for more volunteers The building is spacious and clean. So far our group is 11 strong, made up of Gordon and Michi Shimizu, Tomio and Kinu Iwamoto, Nancy Davlin, Phyllis Tajii, Barbara Nishimoto, Caroline and Ray Yamasaki, Alice and George Kashiwagi. If you would like to volunteer, you are most welcome to join us at the Redwood Empire Food Bank at 3995 Bridgeway Blvd., Santa

Rosa on Tuesday, May 8th from 9-11 AM. If you wish, you may stay longer but our group has found that a 2 hour shift is quite enough and we are ready to call it quits after 2 hours. The time spent there is pleasant and rewarding knowing that we are making a difference for many of our fellow Sonoma County residents.

Won't you join us? We welcome Enmanji Members as well. If you would like, please call either Alice or George at 823-7053 or agkashiwagi113@gmail.com to leave a message. We would love to have you join our team. The commitment has been once a month and the need is present and urgent.

### Current United States Immigration Policy

The United States limits the number of immigrants allowed per country, per year. First preference goes to immediate relatives of U.S. citizens or Permanent Residents (grandparents, aunts, uncles, in-laws, and cousins do not qualify in this category). For Fiscal Year 2018, Mexico has 25,620 spaces for 1,258,080

people on the Immigrant Waiting List. It can take up to 20 years for a relative from Mexico to be processed for immigration. For those not in the preferred category, legal immigration is out of reach as the number of the applicants in the preferred category far outnumbers the openings every year.

### Immigration Then and Now: A Personal Connection

I am a Japanese-American, a grandchild of an “illegal immigrant,” and I sympathize with the immigrants today who are targeted with hateful rhetoric that assumes they are rapists, drug dealers and terrorists.

Today’s hateful words against immigrants are reminiscent of the rhetoric toward Japanese immigrants in the first half of the 20th century, culminating in the forced evacuation and incarceration by the U.S. government of more than 110,000 men, women and children of Japanese descent during World War II, more than 70,000 of whom were U.S. citizens.

Japanese and Mexican immigrants have more than hateful rhetoric linking our histories. Both experienced the same pingpong effect of politics, in turns being welcomed and rejected.

America welcomed Japanese immigrants after Chinese laborers fell victim to “Yellow peril” paranoia. However, Japanese “Yellow peril” fear soon led to the U.S.-Japan Gentlemen’s Agreement of 1907, and Japan no longer granted its laborers emigration to America.

Without the Japanese labor force, America encouraged Mexican laborers to come here, and during World War II the Bracero program began. It lasted more than 20 years.

The geopolitical policies not only linked the histories of Japanese and Mexican immigrant groups, it also affected my family’s history. One of my grandfathers was an illegal immigrant. In the early 1900s, he crossed the border from Mexico to work in America. But he wasn’t Mexican; he was Japanese. Due to the Gentlemen’s Agreement, his entry to America had been denied, so he sailed to Mexico and then crossed the border into California.

Intolerance and discrimination remain problems for people of color and for anyone different from the majority, including recent immigrants. Those undocumented are particularly targeted with intimidation such as increased Immigration and Customs Enforcement activity. Since January, there have been hundreds of ICE arrests in Northern California,

with many of those arrested having no criminal convictions. More unnerving is ICE activity not making the news, such as a report in the community of a father who was arrested leaving a store in Petaluma and jailed by ICE, which is reminiscent of the sudden individual arrests of Japanese community leaders shortly after Pearl Harbor, months before the mass incarceration of the Japanese-American population.

It is easy to demonize those who look and sound different from us, but the newest immigrants have the same dreams and hopes as those who have come before, leaving a homeland situation that does not offer a future and might even be life threatening, searching for a better life for oneself and family.

The national Japanese American Citizens League, the oldest and largest Asian-American civil rights organization in the U.S., commented on the president’s State of the Union address: “Although stated in measured tones, there is no mistaking the continued attack on immigrants from President Trump. ... Our country has a long history of pitting our nativist tendencies against the most recent immigrant group. ... The President prefaced his remarks about immigration by painting a picture of immigrants as pouring into the country illegally, taking low paying jobs from Americans, and committing violent crimes. ... JACL deplores the President’s use of demagoguery to paint immigrants as people to be feared.”

As a descendant of immigrants, including an illegal immigrant, I, Phyllis Tajii, along with the Sonoma County chapter of JACL, join the national JACL in rejecting the idea that immigrants should be feared. I hope that Americans can look beyond differences to see fellow human beings who have endured incredible hardship and sacrifice for the chance to contribute to our society and pursue the American Dream.

- Phyllis Tajii

## SONOMA COUNTY JACL CHAPTER

515 Petaluma Avenue  
Sebastopol, CA 95472

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL



Sonoma County Peace Crane Project presents  
**AUGUST 5, 2018**  
**NUCLEAR REMEMBRANCE DAY**  
PICTURE A WORLD FREE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS  
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC 11:30 - 3:30  
Helen Putnam Plaza, Downtown Petaluma

Music Performance by **Elliot Kallen**  
Dance Performance by **Ten Ten Taiko**  
Japanese Tea Ceremony by **Sachiko Knappman**  
Origami workshop  
Hiroshima Mayors for Peace Exhibit  
Ema: Japanese Prayer Plaque Workshop  
[www.socopeacecrane.org](http://www.socopeacecrane.org)

### THE GRAPEVINE

Sonoma County JACL Newsletter

515 Petaluma Ave.  
Sebastopol, CA 95472

#### Annual Membership dues:

- Single \$65; couple \$110
- Student (18 to 23 yrs) \$30
- 75+ senior single \$35.00
- 75+ senior couple \$60.00
- 1000 Club Individual \$200.00
- 1000 Club W/ Spouse \$232.00
- Century Club \$350.00
- Century Club Spouse \$382.00
- Millennium Club \$1,000.00
- Millennium Club Spouse \$ 1032.00
- One time membership payment:
  - Thousand Club Life \$3000
- Thousand Club Life Spouse \$3032.00
- Century Club Life \$5000
- Century Club Life Spouse \$5032.00

Your membership includes a digital copy of the Pacific Citizen Newspaper. If you wish to receive the PACIFIC CITIZEN by mail, please add \$17.00

### DO YOU LIKE TO READ STORIES TO CHILDREN?

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### Redwood Empire Food Bank

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### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Please send your renewal forms and checks to:

Sonoma County JACL  
c/o Membership Chair  
515 Petaluma Ave.  
Sebastopol, CA 95472

Membership chair will deposit your check into our account and then submit your membership info and National dues to National JACL HQ office. This step is required because we have the extra requirement of submitting the balance due for those senior members whose membership dues are subsidized.