August 6, 2019 For Immediate Release
David Inoue, Executive Director    Sarah Baker, VP Public Affairs

Washington, DC - This past Sunday marked the conclusion of the Japanese American Citizens League’s 50th convention and the celebration of the organization’s 90th anniversary, which was held at the Little America Hotel in Salt Lake City, Utah. Notably, this is the same hotel where the JACL first committed itself to engaging in redress and reparation efforts in 1978. The highlights from this year’s convention included a recognition of the 25th year since JACL’s support of marriage equality, an open mic night hosted by the local youth, a trip to the Topaz incarceration site, and a myriad of other activities and workshops. The convention concluded with the Sayonara Banquet in which the JACL honored local basketball legend, Wat Misaka, social justice advocate and Los Angeles teachers union leader, Arlene Inouye, and United States Senator Mazie Hirono. The JACL extends its deepest appreciation to its JACL staff members, the local convention committee, and all of the volunteers who worked tirelessly to make this past week an outstanding one.

This year, the JACL made history. During its National Council session, the JACL members in attendance discussed and debated a number of topics, including a resolution in recognition and apology to Tule Lake Resisters. Over the course of numerous days of JACL members participated in spirited dialogue, late-night conversations, educational workshops, and a lively debate on the convention floor – all of which culminated into the JACL’s National Council voting to approve this historic resolution.

The National Board of the JACL additionally issued a statement expressing the need for JACL to continue its work towards further reconciliation between JACL and those incarcerated at Tule Lake. The National Board emphasized the need for improved education on the Tule Lake experience and affirmed the National Board’s commitment as a governing body to explore sustainable, multilateral efforts toward seeking community-based reconciliation.

JACL National President Jeffrey Moy emphasized, “It is imperative that we bring our community together in order to build power to face the civil rights challenges of today. The diverse experiences of Japanese Americans should be celebrated as a strength, not as something divisive.” He continued, “JACL has long embraced the incredible legacy of our Japanese American veterans and their valor in fighting for a country that did not fully see them as American. The passage of this resolution signals our intention to be more inclusive of all of our community, particularly those who resisted the incarceration.”

Haruka Roudebush, JACL Vice President for Membership who worked with the committee in the drafting of the resolution added, “This is just one step in a process JACL must go through to achieve reconciliation within our community. The years of distrust and pain between the JACL and Tule Lake’s incarcerees as a result of JACL’s wartime strategy are not wounds that will be healed with one resolution or one offered apology. We are committed to continuing with this process by reaching out to Tuleans and working together to repair and rebuild relationships in order to achieve long-term healing in the community.”

It is through the continued efforts of our members that the JACL strives to remain at the forefront of civil rights and social justice issues. While we cannot change history, we can make an impact on how we will shape our future.
SONOMA COUNTY JACL SUPPORTS DIVESTMENT RESOLUTION

August 19, 2019

Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
575 Administration Drive, Room 100A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Re: Divestment of Sonoma County funds from immigrant detention companies

Dear Sonoma County Supervisors:

The current crisis at immigrant detention centers calls for your immediate and urgent action. As you know, Sonoma County currently holds nearly $95 million in investments in Wells Fargo Bank and $100 million in BNP Paribas (Bank of the West). Wells Fargo and BNP Paribas are core investors in CoreCivic and GEO Group, the corporations operating the private immigration detention centers on the U.S. border. CoreCivic and GEO Group are caging people under inhuman conditions and profiteering by charging the U.S. government $775 per person per day.

The JACL, in full decent conscience, must support actions that will terminate the atrocious acts of cruelty upon migrant children and adults implemented at our borders. We have the moral authority to use our voice. Therefore, the JACL is in full support of the DIDIC coalition (Divest from Immigrant Detention Centers) and the request for Sonoma County to divest its funds from Wells Fargo and BNP Paribas (Bank of the West).

A major objective of the JACL locally as well as nationally, is to educate citizens on the incarceration of Japanese American citizens and residents during WW II with hope that history will not repeat itself. It is of great sadness and shock, that the current incarceration of migrant children and adults is indeed a repetition of history. Furthermore, the treatment of these people is heinous and barbaric. It is in complete violation of human rights and a travesty of the American justice system. And as a recent National JACL press release stated, “We remember the lives impacted: the dreams ended, the families torn apart, the lives destroyed.”

The JACL Board of Directors respectfully requests that the resolution presented by the DIDIC be adopted by the Board of Supervisors Agenda as early as possible. The JACL Board urges you to use your influence in this matter. This action will influence other Boards of Supervisors in counties throughout the State and beyond. Sonoma County has a progressive reputation of inclusiveness and compassion.

Obviously, protests by American citizens and even Congressmen and Congresswomen throughout the country have not terminated the offenses at the detention centers. The movement of funding is direct and highly influential and will make a significant difference toward that end.

Sincerely,

Marie Sugiyama, Co-Chair Sonoma County JACL

Mark Hayashi, Co-Chair Sonoma County JACL

[Signatures]
Private companies, GEO Tech and CoreCivic, are cashing in on ICE’s Detention Centers.

According to the NPR article of 30 June 2019, “Under Siege and Largely Secret: Businesses That Serve Immigration Detention”:

- Wayfair Furniture
- SunTrus
- Barclays
- BNP Paribas

According to “wearyourvoicemag.com”, the five biggest shareholders of CoreCivic:

- Vanguard Group
- Blackrock
- Fidelity/FMR LLC
- State Street Corp
- Prudential Financial, Inc.

Companies profiting from ICE contracts and detention centers:

- Sales force    Microsoft
- Pen-Link       Amazon
- Palantir       Comcast
- Time Warner Cable Thomson Reuters Special Services
- Motorola      Ceros
- Canon          Dell
- The Nakamoto Group Deloitte
- John Hopkins University Bethany Christian Services

Companies that have stopped loaning money to the ICE/detention industry:

- American Airlines
- Bank of America
- JPMorgan Chase (but as of October 2018, is still a shareholder)

Wells Fargo - According to CNN (08July2019), Wells Fargo is “paring back” but although cutting back on loaning money to CoreCivic, it still owns a large number of shares in CoreCivic.

Most credit unions such as, Redwood Credit Union, are not invested in GEOTech and CoreCivic.
August 3, 2019 - Around 44 members and guests came to celebrate summer. The tables were decorated by Clare Shimizu and Twinkle Yagi. It is always fun to see what the colorful decorations will be.

Diane Ono led us with exercises designed to get our bodies moving again after taking last month off. Of course, for those who went to Obon dance practices in July, it was a lot easier. Thank you, Diane, for taking care of us and for preparing us for the obon odori in July.

Our program today was a presentation on gardening tips from our own George Kashiwagi and Ray Yamasaki. They delivered a very interesting talk and tips on how to prepr your garden and ways to make things easier using drip watering and frames to help the plants grow and thrive. Thank you, George and Ray, for all of the valuable information. Then we enjoyed a refreshing lunch including the cold somen prepared by Mitsy Sanders, Twinkle Yagi and crew. It was delicious along with the healthy salad and the various other dishes brought by our members to share with each other. Thank you, Twinkle, for buying and preparing the barbecue pork for our somen. It was so colorful and delicious.

After lunch, we had our usual bingo games called by Darryl Yagi and Tan Luong, who writes the numbers on the board so that members can check the numbers on their cards. Thank you to Sokpha Lim for covering for Tan with the numbers. Since it was a smaller crowd, the excitement grew as people realized that they could win the big prize.

We would like to thank Gail Horita Gee for her monetary support of our group as well as bringing the goodies to share. We would like to express our condolences to the families of Amy Tsurumoto and Don Watanabe. They were both gentle souls and brought happiness whenever they were around. They will be missed.

Our next meeting will be on September 7th, and we will have to have a surprise program. On October 5th, we will be rocking with the Zumba group coming to energize us.

Please stay healthy and active, and we will see you on September 7th.

REDWOOD EMPIRE FOOD BANK

Our team of Enmanji Buddhist Church members and Sonoma County JACLers have now been volunteering at the Redwood Empire Food Bank since November 7, 2017. So, for over a year and a half now we have been steadfast in our drive to let our fellow Sonoma County residents know that we care about them.

Our job is to bag either fruits or vegetables in allotments of 4 pounds each at the REFB’s warehouse located at 3990 Brickway Blvd, Santa Rosa, CA. Our assignment is a 2 hour shift and we meet as a team the second Tuesday of every month. Our goal is to serve fellow Sonoma County residents to help meet their nutritional needs. And, when the staff at REFB sees us arriving on our day, they are truly happy to see our team. We do, indeed, go right to work. In the month of April, our impact report stated that during that 2 hour shift, there were 5,506 pounds of apples bagged for the REFB distribution sites! We do accomplish much in a short time and all the while, enjoy a good time. Our efforts are truly appreciated.

You are welcome to join us, please call:
  Alice or George at 823-7053 or email us at agkashiwagi113@gmail.com.

GENERAL MEETING 2019

SAVE THE DATE!

Sonoma County JACL General Meeting will be held on November 9, 2019 at the Memorial Hall in Sebastopol.

If you have any suggestions for future activities you would like to include in our programs, food demos, movies, bowling, social-business expo, you name it. Please let us know!

Send us a message thru our website, www.sonomacojacl.org/contact-us/
Keiro Kai, Sunday, October 13th

The Sonoma County JACL will again like to honor our seniors 70 years old and over on Sunday, October 13th. The honorees must be a member of the Enmanji Temple, the Sonoma Co. JACL OR the Enman no Tomo group. Since we do not ask the age of the Enmanji members or the Sonoma Co. JACL members, we need your help. If you know of anyone (including yourself) who is a member of one or more of the 3 groups listed above and they did not receive an invitation last year, and they are 70 or older, please contact Nancy Davlin at 762-2355 or nrdavlin@yahoo.com so we can insure that they receive an invitation this year.

We would like to invite as many of the possible honorees as we can. Also, on the honoree invitation, if you are unable to attend the event as an honoree, please indicate that you would like to have a meal delivered and we will try to accommodate your request. We would like to send out the invitations to the honorees by sometime in September to allow for enough time to RSVP. Also, any guests who are not eligible to be an honoree and would like to come, there is a minimal charge of $10.00.

Here are some of the details:

Keiro Kai event, Sunday October 13th at the Memorial Hall at Enmanji

Photos and appetizers start at 11:30; lunch starts around 12:00. We would like to take pictures of all honorees and additional pictures can be taken of honorees with their family or friends.

Meal will be prepared by our members and friends including dessert. A short entertainment program will follow lunch.

Keiro Kai order form for NON-HONOREES:

Name(s): ____________________________________________

Number of People attending: _______ @ $10.00 = __________

Please make checks payable to Sonoma Co. JACL

Please send in by October 6th to: Keiro Kai orders

c/o Nancy Davlin, 113 Banff Way, Petaluma, CA 94954
MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

We would like to be notified of any names of people over 70 that should be honored and if notified, will be sent an invitation. This year this applies to any Sonoma Co. JACL member, any Enmanji temple member or any Enman no Tomo member who are 70 or older.

Please contact Nancy Davlin at 762-2355 or nrdavlin@yahoo.com.

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.