

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER

Website: www.sfvjacc.com

Issue 69

May/June 2023



Introducing 2023 SFV JACC Queen

Kaili Inouye has been selected as the SFVJACC Queen for 2023. She is 23 years old and will be graduating in June from UCSD, with a Master of Science in Biology. She plans to continue her job as a biology teacher and research assistant, while applying to medical school. Kaili is interested in the fields of immunology, gastroenterology, and pulmonology.

Her association with the SFVJACC began with her grandparents. During the 1960s, her grandparents were actively involved in establishing the Nanka Kagoshima Kenjinkai and the Shigin Club within the SFV. Her father, Eric, played in the SF Athletics baseball and basketball programs.

While in elementary school, Kaili, played for the SF Athletic's basketball program. During her high school years, she participated in the SFV Hongwanji Buddhist Temple Junior YBA program. She also participated in the Rising Stars program.

By May Wood

Kaili graduated from Louisville High School in Woodland Hills. Not only was she a star athlete in the varsity cross country and in track and field, but she also served as team captain during her junior and senior years. Her parents, Eric and Yvonne Inouye, live in Simi Valley.

Kaili attended the SFVJACC Memorial Service on Sunday, May 28 where she was introduced to our Community Center members. Congratulations to Kaili!

Margaret Nitta Takimoto Recognized as Woman of the Year

Sunday, May 07, 2023, Quiet Cannon

The sun rose high in a bright blue sky above the hills of Montebello to celebrate and honor inspirational women leaders from all walks of life. The Japanese Women's Society of Southern California and the Downtown Los Angeles Japanese American Citizens League (DTLA JACL) have recognized the achievements of Japanese American Women since 1963. The 2023 honorees are Kyuka Kanesaka, (AKA Yukari Kanesaka), Matsutoyo Sato, Fumiyo Stark and Margaret Nitta Takimoto. Sixty-five members of the SFVJACC, SFV JACL, SFV ATHLETICS, and friends and family joined in supporting our hometown heroine.

Among the four women honored is Margaret Nitta Takimoto who was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley to Emiko and Kenji Nitta. With her siblings, Eugene, Dianne, and Teri, she played in the dusty streets of small town, San Fernando when there were no freeways. She sat at the feet of Issei



Margaret and her son, Curtis Takimoto

and Nisei parents who wanted to establish a strong Japanese American Community among the orange groves, farms, and chicken ranches in the San Fernando Valley. The Japanese American Pioneers such as her parents had the vision to create a place where Japanese Americans could gather and feel pride in their community, culture, and language. dreams became a reality when the pioneers moved the Japanese Language School, Judo Dojo, and meeting rooms from the City of San Fernando to the property in Pacoima. There was plenty of room to grow and set down roots.



Continued on pages 2.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Community Center Membership,

It is great to see all of you continuing to return to our CC and participating in our programs and services. Thank you very much for everyone's patience and support through our processes to reconnect all of us in a safe manner. Our Children's Day celebration was very well received with a good turnout and support that excites us to expand the program ever more next year.

Congrats to all of our 2023 graduates! It was a privilege and honor to award, in person, this year's SFVJACC Scholarships with our Co-President, Jeremy Tsuneishi. Our Board of Directors were

equally excited that evening as we all got together for our first in-person meeting.

We were pleased to hold the Grateful Crane Concert and SFVJACC Memorial Day Service. It is wonderful to gather together and honor our family and friends that provided all of us our opportunities to succeed as we pass on their knowledge and experiences to our future generations.

This summer, as the CC builds on the momentum of last summer, with upcoming events, including the SFV Hongwanji Buddhist Temple (SFVHBT) Obon Festival June 24th and 25th. Join us at Dodgers Stadium for Japanese Heritage Night on July 8th. We had a great turnout last year and it was wonderful to see so many CC members sitting together enjoying each other's company. Aloha! Our Luau Fundraiser is scheduled for August 19th.

Please continue to visit our website <u>www.sfvjacc.com</u> to view our Calendar and Activities. Thank you for your unwavering support to embrace our community. We look forward to seeing you at the CC!

Sincerely,

Charles Muranaka Co-President SFVJACC

Margaret Nitta Takimoto - Woman of the Year - Continued from Front Page.

After graduating from UCLA with a degree in Microbiology, Margaret, her husband, Dick, and her children Jamie and Curtis became active at the SFVJACC. Margaret stepped up to the plate and took the visions of the pioneers even higher. Her mother-in-law, Mabel Miyamoto Takimoto was a career woman as well and encouraged the family endeavors to allow the Japanese American community to thrive.

Like so many women of her generation, Margaret chose to continue her work in her field while raising her daughter, Jamie, and her son, Curtis. While at Northridge Hospital Medical Center (NHMC), she became a licensed Clinical Laboratory Scientist overseeing PCR testing and developing a phlebotomy training program to improve the onsite services at NHMC. Margaret is a woman who balanced her career while becoming a parent representative for her children's basketball teams, a Commissioner for the SFVJACC Athletics, and creating the Pee Wee Clinic with the participation of high school age coaches. Her giving spirit continued as she became the Scholarship Chair for Athletics, started a ZUMBA class for parents, somehow slipped in a role as Co-Chair of the SFVJACC Future Planning Committee (FPC), and finally accepted a role as Board Member of the Rising Stars Leadership Program based in Little Tokyo.

Her son, Curtis spoke of his mother as a tireless worker who despite the rigors of work and family, enjoyed travel. If she thought his plans were doable, she was ready to go. She has a can-do spirit that refuses to stop. When she was struck by a terrible illness in 1991, she relearned her life skills and continued to charge ahead of the pack. Margaret was never one to let her family, friends, or community down.

A child of Kibei Nisei Japanese American Pioneers, Margaret extends her parents' vision, hopes and dreams further into a future that will reinforce a strong foundation for generations to come. Bring it on.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Olga Diaz Ken & Julia Katayama Walter Nishinaka Janice Thompson Sadako Walker

SENIOR HOT MEAL MENU

June 2023

MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE
LUNCH WILL BE SERVED AT 11:45 AM • NO TAKEOUTS

June 2 - Chicken Stir Fry June 23 - No lunch (Obon)

June 9 - Beef Stew June 16 - Fish

June 30 - Cabbage Roll

Donations Muraoka, Victor \$500.00	<u>Acknowledgements</u>		Donations to Veteran's Memorial Fund	
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2023 SFVJACC Scholarship Recipients

By Leslie Shirasawa

On May 3, 2023, the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center held an awards ceremony and awarded scholarships to eight deserving applicants.

We are grateful to Nina Oda Abe, Dr. Daniel T. Nagasawa, Dr. Sanbo Sakaguchi, and Dr. Andy Thibodeaux for their generous scholarships.

Congratulations to all!

SFVJACC Scholarship Committee - Kyoko Oda, Chisato Kanagi and Leslie Shirasawa



L-R: Wesley Ishida, Xander Rhee, Troy Kadonaga, Enzo Kato, Rebecca Yonemura (SFV JACL Scholarship recipient), Hana Chiba, Samantha Nakano, Jordan Lac. Not pictured: Andy Okazaki.



JORDAN LAC, is the daughter of Luc Lac and Nancy Huynh. She is the recipient of the Dr. Sanbo Sakaguchi Scholarship. Jordan attends Taft Charter High. She played on the school's junior varsity basketball team and was team captain. She is an AP scholar with distinction and involved in many extra curricular activities. As a Girl Scout she

received both the Silver and Gold Awards. Jordan will attend Brown University, majoring in Political Science.



XANDER RHEE is the son of Stephen and Hannie Rhee. He is awarded the Kay Kazuko Sakaguchi Scholarship. Xander attends Academy of the Canyons and College of the Canyons. He has applied to several institutions known for Visual Arts & Digital Media, which is his field of interest. He has been a member of the National Honor Society.

He has also received the Westflix Award, a student run film festival and part of the Cyberpatriot team that placed in Silver nationally. He currently plays basketball with the SF Blakers.



HANA CHIBA is the daughter of Kimiaki and Sayoko Chiba. She attends El Camino Real Charter Academy. Hana has participated in several community center activities. She will be attending San Francisco State University with an interest in studying Biomedical Science. Hana is the recipient of the Lily Thibodeaux Scholarship.



SAMANTHA NAKANO has been awarded the Lily Thibodeaux Scholarship. She is the daughter of Takashi and Lauren Nakano. Samantha attends Calabasas High. She played on her high school basketball team and is a Scholar Athlete and member of the National Honor Society. She was a founding member of the SFVJACC Girl Scouts

and received a Silver Award. She has been accepted into several college institutions and plans to major in Business.



WESLEY ISHIDA is the son of Masanori and Victoria Ishida. He attends Sierra Canyon High. Scholastic honors include the Cum Laude Society and he is president of the National Honor Society. Wesley participates in several other clubs at his school as well. He has been involved

with the SFV Japanese Language Institute and volunteered for Operation Gratitude. Wesley is also a very talented pianist. He will attend UC Berkeley majoring in Astrophysics. He is the recipient of the Kay Kazuko Sakaguchi Scholarship.



TROY KADONAGA is the recipient of the Daniel Nagasawa Scholar Athlete award. He is the son of Craig and Jenny Kadonaga. Troy attends Chatsworth High and played on his high school basketball team. Awards include AP Scholar, Scholar Athlete and member of the National Honor Society. Troy has participated in the Rising Stars Leader-

ship Program and plays on the SF Blakers. He will attend USC majoring in Applied Mathematics.

SFVJACC Scholarship Recipients - Continued from Page 4.



ENZO KATO is the son of Nina Kato and awarded the Lily Thibodeaux Scholarship. He attends Taft Charter High. He has been accepted to Cal State Northridge and Pierce College. He is undecided on a major. Enzo has been participating in karate at the Community Center. He has also been active in many

Community Center events and plans to continue his involvement in the many activities offered at the Center.



ANDY OKAZAKI has been awarded the Daniel Nagasawa Scholar Athlete Scholarship. He is the son of Daniel and Yumiko Okazaki. He attends Calabasas High where he plays baseball, basketball and volleyball. He is a member of the CA Scholarship Federation. He has participated in the Rising Stars Leadership Program and is a team member of the LA Blakers. He has

been accepted to UC Riverside, Cal State Long Beach and University of Oregon. He plans to pursue a major in Aerospace Engineering.

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 Dojo. We do Rubber Band Resistance, Stretch, Balance, some cardio and Light Free Weights.

<u>Movie Review Club</u> - 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 for June is *My Neighbor Totoro*, Japanese animation. July 10th 2nd Monday because of the Fourth of July has not been selected yet, maybe Big Hero 6 or Casablanca. We will vote at June meeting.

<u>Arts and Crafts</u> - Mondays, from 10 AM to 12 Noon in the conference room. Come learn different crafts from our members. Beginning on June 12th and every other Monday thereafter, May Wood and Kay Kami will be instructing on water color painting. Registration is required so we will have enough material for you to use.

Arts and Crafts will have a booth in the Bingo Hall during the Temple's Obon, June 24th and 25th. We are requesting any donations to sell or your support when purchasing any variety of crafts.

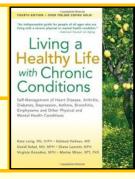
"Dining with the Chef" - Chef John Nishio will be demonstrating how to make Chawanmushi and Shrimp in Lobster Sauce on Sunday, June 4th from 2–4:30 PM. \$20 per person. Space is limited so register as soon as possible.



<u>Upcoming Keiro Forums</u>: Tuesdays at 2:00 - 3:00 PM - Register at Keiro.org

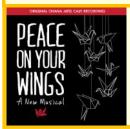
When you register for one it will automatically register you for all the month's forums.

June 6, 2023 - Simple Tools to Declutter Your Mind June 13, 2023 - What is YOUR Best Practice to Rejuvenate Your Mind



Get Your Free Copy of "Living a Healthy Life with Chronic Conditions" Offered by Keiro

If you are interested, contact Liz Doomey (818) 429-4096 or email her - lizdoomey@yahoo.com



"Peace on Your Wings", an Ohana Arts original musical based on the true story of Sadako Sasaki and her 1,000 paper cranes, written by Ohana Arts - Keiro is providing in-kind support for the musical performances of at the JACCC Aratani Theater on Saturday, August 5 and Sunday, August 6. All NSN members are eligible to receive a special discount applicable to general admission ticket purchases. This exclusive discount may be applied to any of the three scheduled performances. Please refer to the attached documents for more information.

VETERANS MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

By Liz Doomey



2023 was our second year to have an in-person service since the pandemic. Over 125 members and their families attended this event to honor our deceased veterans. Jennifer Hamamoto was our emcee for the evening event and welcomed our members and their families. Bing Lau, the SFVJACC Administrative Director, opened with a message of our reason for honoring the veterans for their service. Eddie Ohara lead the group in the pledge of allegiance and Rev. James Iwata gave the invocation and benediction. Each

Coordinating Council representative and family members of the deceased veterans gave a floral presentation. We would like to thank Brian and Ruth Yamaoka for donating the flowers from Yamaoka Nursery in Carpenteria.

David Honjio played his heartwarming rendition of taps. We were honored to have Helen Ota as our guest speaker. She told the guests how she became involved with the Go for Broke organization and was part of the group that began their creation. Working with the veterans, she learned about the legendary 100th infantry battalion and the 442nd Infantry Regiment who fought valiantly against the enemy while their families were kept in camps during WWII. After our bento dinner from Nijiya Market, Ariel Immamoto, introduced our SFVJACC Queen, Kaili Inouye, grandniece of Ritsuko Shinbashi, who will represent our Center in the Nisei Week Pageant in August. Kaili was crowned by Ariel with the help of past SFV queens, Jacklyn Tomita and Kendra Motoyasu. Liz Doomey, Chairperson of the Coordinating Council, presented a check to help Kaili with her Nisei Week expenses. Cake from Rosie's Bakery was served at the end of the evening.

Thank you to all the volunteers who made this event a success.















Bing Lau

Jennifer Hamamoto

Rev. James Iwata

Eddie Ohara

Helen Ota

David Honjio





L-R: Jaclyn Tomita, Kendra Motovasu, 2023 SFV Queen Kaili Inouye and Ariel Imamoto





Memorial Day Volunteers

Dana, Brandon & Lucas Chow Liz Doomev Audrey Fukunaga Scott Hamamoto Jennier Hamamoto Ariel Immamoto Bing/Diana Lau Kendra Motoyasu Doug Nakada

Eddie Ohara Tadao/Lois Okui **Barbie Porter** Ken/Ritsuko Shinbashi Nancy Takayama Denise Tanaka Jaclyn Tomita Kiyo, Patti, Tenka & Asuka Watanabe Kay Yamada



SFVJACC Children's Day "Kodomo No Hi"

The SFVJACC held it's 1st annual Children's Day event on April 29, 2023. Children's Day or "Kodomo No Hi" is a Japanese holiday to celebrate the healthy growth of children, as well as their happiness for the year.

About 30 children and their parents attended and participated in the activities offered. Later that afternoon, Taiko instructor, Walter Nishinaka, brought his drums for the kids to

try. Everyone had fun while learning about the Japanese traditions of Kodomo no Hi.

We would like to thank all the donors for their donations and the volunteers for their help and time to make the Children's Day a wonderful event. Due to the overwhelming response to help, we cannot list everyone's names.



Making Kashiwa Mochi, a sweet rice cake filled with red bean paste.







Sensei Walter let the kids try the Taiko drums.



Painting of koinobori or carp streamers, the traditional decoration for the holiday.



Painting the coffee filters oak leave for the Kashiwa Mochi.



Kamishibai, the traditional Japanese storytelling done with picture cards, was read by Toshi Toda.

Origami, the Japanese art of paper folding.





Ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arranging.



SFV Meiji Senior Citizens Club News

MEET THE NEW MEIJI PRESIDENT, TOSHI TODA

By NJ Nakamura

Lights, camera, action! Those words are very familiar to Toshi Toda. Toshi is a stage and big screen actor who has performed in Tokyo and now in the USA.



Today, his newest role is serving as the President of the SFV Senior Citizen Meiji Club. His vision is to increase the membership by having new and exciting Meiji activities. Toshi would also like to restart the games of bridge, mahjong and hanafuda, as well as the musical forms of harmonica and karaoke.

Toshi was born and raised in Tokyo, Japan. In Tokyo, he performed as a stage actor in many plays for the Gekidan Shikia Company. In 1974, he moved to New York City, where he continued to work as an actor. Then in 1991, he moved to Los Angeles.

Toshi recently appeared in the new Perry Mason TV series. You will also have the opportunity to see him in several episodes of the new TV Mini Series, Shogun, which is currently in post-production.

Let's all support Toshi as he works with everyone to provide fun times for the "forever young seniors."

Attention everyone, there will be an important general meeting for the Meiji Club members on July 14, which is also the day of the Friday Hot Meal lunch. The Meiji Club By-laws, a document describing the rules and regulations for this non-profit group, will be discussed. Some changes to these by-laws, must be approved by the majority of the members who are at the meeting. Toshi is asking for as many members as possible, to attend this important meeting.

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Congratulations to the winners of the Meiji Club Bingo Games held on April 14th. The big winners were Harris Yoneoka (\$45); Rose Ikeda (\$45); Diane Yoneoka (\$45); Richard Nakamura (\$45); Takie Ono and Kathy Campos (\$22 each).

Meiji Senior Club upcoming Events



June 9, 2023 - Bingo after Hot Meal

Las Vegas Thip

August 7-9, 2023

GRANT UPDATE

By Garry Monji

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES SUPERVISOR KUEHL GRANT

The County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors awarded the SFVJACC a discretionary grant from former Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's office in the amount of \$25,000. This grant will be used to upgrade and integrate the electronic infrastructure of the Community Center. As a result, all areas within the grounds will have improved internet reception and connection. This will also allow the Community Center to have or receive improved electronic reception in the Kitchen, Judo Dojo, Japanese Language Institute, Gym (Memorial Hall) and Sakaguchi Hall.

Bing Lau and John Tsunada, who are leading the, have received contractor bids for the tasks that they will need assistance with to complete the project. Bing has researched the items and we anticipate purchasing the materials to begin during the month of June. Kiyo Watanabe is also assisting with this project. Thank you to this group for their collective efforts.

KEIRO 2023 GRANT SENIOR MEAL DELIVERY KICKS OFF ON JUNE 20, 2023

The first of two Keiro grants that we received will provide meal delivery to Seniors who would benefit from meals delivered to their residences, twice per week. The project focuses on providing nutritional meals to Seniors who live alone, no longer drive, have undergone recent surgery affecting their ability to get out, have a caregiver or family member providing care who might need a respite period, or otherwise may experience food insecurity. This program will start on Tuesday, June 20th.

We are happy to announce that John Kagawa of Fish King (Glendale) has offered to provide the meals for the Tuesday delivery day. The Kagawa family has been long time supporters of the Community Center and we thank them for our continued support. The Friday meal will be provided by Hot Meal Director, Kei Inoue and her tireless kitchen volunteers.

We would also like to thank Masami and Alan Kosaka for the generous donation of hot/cold bags for the meal delivery. Their PCSC Corporation has been generous supporters of the Community Center and we thank them for their continued support.

Any new program requires the support of volunteers. Individuals have eagerly volunteered to assist in packaging meals, delivering meals and purchasing the various additional items we will add to the meal (beverage, fruit and water).

GRANT UPDATE - Continued from page 8.

To date the volunteers will include Liz Doomey, Audrey Fukunaga, Joy Longworth, Pauline Kaku, Reiko Moriguchi, May Rivera, Jean Shinsato, Lei Shinsato, and Tadao Okui.

We have about 20 individuals identified and the program can easily handle additional seniors. Recipient names will remain confidential.

If you are interested in volunteering for this twice per week meal delivery program, or know of anyone who may benefit from this program, please contact garry.monji.1509@gmail.com or text/call (626) 818-1509.

COVID TEST KIT DISTRIBUTION UPDATE

At this time we anticipate that the County of Los Angeles free COVID Test Kit Distribution agreement with manufacturers whose COVID test kits will expire in the near future.

The Community Center has received over 12,000 Rapid COVID Tests through this County of Los Angeles program for non-profit organizations. A special order has been placed to ensure that we have an adequate supply for Obon and other evets scheduled at the Community Center.

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

If you or your organization needs COVID test kits, please contact Bing Lau at Center office (818) 899-1989.

San Fernando Valley Japanese Language Institute By Kiyo Watanabe, PTA President

As we approach the end of school year, we must remember last few events at the SFVJLI with whole community. Our Spring Yard Sale fundraiser were another success. We raised over \$1,200.00 from this sale alone. We appreciate all the donations, volunteers who started very early morning hours to the end. Special support came from Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez's office for providing us with a large rollaway trash container that made our clean up much efficient and time saved. Thank you everyone.

SFVJLI Undokai (Athletic Event), April 29

It was our first time coming back since the pandemic and the kids had a chance to compete between Team White and Team Red in our Undokai games. It was nice to see everyone outside for a change in the great weather, Bert Corona's outside field were perfect for our competition. We finished Undokai with Yummy Bento and Ice cream to share. We had a chance to share Bento and Ice cream with Community Center's Children's Day event. April 29th turned out to be a very active day for our community.



Japanese Sports Vay







SFVJLI's Curry Rice Sale was another success! Volunteers from our school, the Community Center, and Hot Meal worked together and helped at this event. Everyone got along in the kitchen to create enough Curry and Yummy Rice to fulfill over 120 orders. Hope you enjoyed our Curry Rice.

The school year will come to an end on June 3rd with the annual Speech Contest and award Ceremony, followed with a Potluck Lunch. We have our 100th Anniversary Yearbook photo shoot on June 4th, even though school is officially over on the day before.

SFVJLI will host the Somen Booth at the SFV Buddhist Temple Obon Festival on June 24 & 25. We hope you stop by our booth. See you then and thank you for your support.

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SF Athletics Basketball

San Jose Ninja Tournament



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

(L-R): Alyssa Badua, Alex Yoshimura, Jamie Lac, Madelyn Geromini, Pressley Huie, Maddie Smith, Quinn Tamashiro

West LA Youth Club Invitational Scholarship Tournament

SF Sunburst - 1st Place Champions Girl's 4th Grade Division



(L-R): Coach Koso Nakagawa, Lily Tsuneishi, Mina Doung, Emma Tan, Elizabeth Teraoka, Leia Nakasugi, Shanna Hamidi, Sofia Kwan, Aila Low Coach David Teraoka

SF Dragon Ballers

1st Place Champions Boy's 5th Grade Gold Division

Front (L-R): Cole Magcase, Drew Ezaki, C.J. Ito, Izaiah Lara, Brayden Maranan, Miles Magcase

Back (L-R): Max Kadotani, Jackson Moffat, Sola Evans



FOR Tournament



SF Dominators

1st Place Champions Boy's 6th Grade Silver Division

Front: Lucas Kwan, Devan Lama, Dexter Rhodes, Bivan Shrestha, Hayes Geromini, Kyle Nakaza, Evan Yoshizawa, Aaron Yeom

> Back: Coach Justin Yoshizawa

SF Shinobi Slayers

1st Place Champions Boy's 5th Grade Silver Division

Front Row (L-R): Blake Robertshaw, Cameron Bernardo, Mark Tam, Zachary Tam

Back Row (L-R): Coach Paul Morales, Coach Greg Wah, Benjamin Yi, Jaden Morales, Nathan Altre, Landon Wah, Coach Peter Bernardo



SF Bombers - 2nd Grade Boys Division



Front Row (L-R):
Bruce Magcase,
Austin Andreas,
Ethan
Charmaraman,
Jace Guevara,
Caiden Choi,
Ezra Okui, Miles
Badion, Eli
Patikamanant
Tashi Foucht

Back Row (L-R): Coach Tommy Patikamanant, Coach Bernard Badion, Jon Okui

NYABC (Not Your Average Basketball Camp)

On April 30th, Not Your Average Basketball Camp (NYABC) held a special-needs basketball clinic for the members of the Japanese-Speaking Parents Association of Children with Challenges (JSPACC) at the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center (SFVJACC). This was NYABCs first camp since the start of the early 2020. Everyone was excited to see each other again.

The camp, which began in 2014, was created to provide a safe space for special needs children to participate and play basketball as well as meet other children in the community.

Every participant was partnered with at least one "buddy" or volunteer. The group of volunteers consisted of past participants and friends of the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center. During this session, the participants ran through an array of drills including agilities, passing, dribbling, and shooting with encouragement from their coaches. "I am excited for what is to come! NYABC provides such a valuable space for our athletes and volunteers." Said Danny Rios, the new director of NYABC. "We are looking forward to having more sessions this year! Stay tuned."

The participants were all smiles as they challenged themselves in physical activity and had the opportunity to spend time with new friends.

Comments from NYABC participants.....

"Thank you so much for your support yesterday. We really appreciate it. The Kids are so happy playing with NYABC and the time with the buddies and Curtis. - Yukari Wissing (JSPACC parent)

Following are the thank you notes from the kids for the SFVJACC newsletter."

"Today we did a basketball camp and many of us had fun learning the skills of basketball and shooting hoops. The fun part for me was shooting because that is the most familiar activity for me. I also learned good amount about different dribbles like V-dribble. I also saw two Rising Stars alumni from my year RS19 which made me happy. The coaches did a really good job teaching us. The pizza was good too. I would like to thank San Fernando Valley Athletics, NYABC and JSPACC Buddy program." - Evan Taiga Young

"I had a lot of fun today at Basketball Camp. My partner Peyton was really fun to work with and he taught me how to dribble, how to pass back and forth, shoot the basket, and other things. My favorite part was shooting the basket. Thank you so much for today and I would to see next year for basketball camp! Gigantic pizza was fun to see!!! It was so delicious!! Thank you Margaret San!" - Felix Harder

"I liked the basketball camp because there were snacks and pizzas. Sean was nice and very sociable with me. It was fun and good exercise. I learned how to dribble. I was tired but I can't wait for basketball camp again next year." - Lindsay Wang

"I enjoyed playing basketball and one of the coaches helped me. I learned some new exercises. We ate food and pizza was good." - Kyle Tien

"I love running with my buddy fast with the ball and learning how to dribble faster. Payton was really fun and helped me. The pizza was excellent!" - Christina Wissing

A special thank you to our all of our volunteers, San Fernando Athletics for providing a safe space everyone to come together, JSPACC for all the and communication!

We are looking forward to hosting our next camp soon! For more informationon future camps, please reach out to notyouraveragebasketballcamp@gmail.com

Or visit the website at — www.notyouraveragebasketballcamp.com

Curtis Takimoto





Thank you, Volunteers!

Aren Barles Peyton Carlson Lauryn Chang Nick Covino Kamryn Endow Peyton Endow Lindsay Kadonaga Bryce Koga Aila Low Parker Low Peyton Motoyasa Evan Muranaka Jonathan Paloma Maggie Paloma Kayla Tanijiri Aubrey Tomita Sean Wimmer Alana Yeck Kaclyn Yoshizawa





FISHING IN MANZANAR

By NJ Nakamura



Most kids enjoy trout fishing and Sets Tomita was just like any other kid. As an 11-year-old, confined behind the barbed wire fencing at the Manzanar internment camp, Sets & his two brothers, Mas and Makio, would fish at Bears Creek. Bears Creek was located inside the camp and it was far enough away from the guard towers that the soldiers couldn't see them. They would sneak out at night to go to their favorite fishing spots along the creek and were sworn to secrecy by big brother Makio.

During the week, they would dig for earthworms to use as bait. All of the worms were stored in an old tin can. Sets remembered that other kids used rice balls as bait.

While walking to the creek, they would cut long straight willow branches. After stripping off the bark, they would tie on a 10 to 12 foot leader line. Then, Makio would tie on a swivel and a hook.

The swivels and hooks were purchased by Makio, in the nearby towns of Independence and Lone Pine. As a trusted driver for the camp management, Makio was allowed to drive into town to deliver legal papers to the post office. While in Lone Pine, he would go to the Pioneer Market to buy this and that.

Sets and Mas only went fishing when big brother Makio wanted to go. Sadly, after Makio developed a fondness for girls, their fishing trips stopped.

Sets still has so many good fishing stories to share and most of those stories are in the documentary "The Manzanar Fishing Club." When the Bart Hall Outdoor Sports Show was held in Long Beach on March 29 to April 2, Sets was asked to make a guest appearance. The booth for the Manzanar Fishing Club, displayed a sign which read, "Appearing Today, Sets Tomita, a Manzanar internee fisherman." The sign, as well as the documentary, were made by Cory Shiozaki.

If you have the original DVD of that movie, hold onto it. Cory said, "It will become a collector's item." The DVD format was discontinued because it is now more common to view the movie through "streaming." The ability to download by scanning a QR (Quick Response) code and then streaming the movie will be available soon.







The Best Bowling League In Town

By Stan Date

The Nikkei Bowling League's Fall Season at Winnetka Bowl came to an end on April 28th. The league closes every season with an awards meeting complemented with desserts and finger foods galore. There are 54 bowlers making up 18 three man teams that bowl every Friday night from 7:00 to 9:15. In addition to the award winners pictured below, 16 bowlers walked away with \$50 from our weekly 50/50 raffle. Lots of laughter, fun and prizes.

If you're interested in bowing with us, please contact Stan Date (<u>standate@gmail.com</u>) for more information. We guarantee good fellowship and just plain FUN!





Week's Stars – Paul Shimizu (707 series), Santana Mitchell (688)



299 Games – Duane Koyano, James Geri (2)



Champions – Eugene Lew, Asako Giegold, Gary Yamamoto



High Series – Bing Lau (858), Kimiko Rasmussen (867)



High Game – James Geri (319), Sandy Yamamoto (315)



Highest Average – Jacey Opiana (204), Duane Koyano (222)



Free Bowling Ball – Jacey Opiana, Brenna Maxfield



Most Improved – Pricilla Yamanaka (+14), Tyler Minami (+56)



Last Place Champs – Donny Chitwood, Diane Date, Paul Shim



Don Kobayashi (Pres), Tami Shiotani (VP) Mike Willis (Mgr), Stan Date (Sec)



THE KIND GROCER

By Old Wakaba, Bud Sagara

Have you noticed that people today spend an inordinate amount of time staring at their cellphones? This is especially true for teenagers and young adults who don't seem to engage in verbal conversation anymore. When I was at that age back in the 1960's, there were so many other things to occupy our time when we were not in school or on the truck helping Dad. During the summer, we might head to the Yamamoto's house or the Ito's house to go swimming or hang out with friends wherever they had gathered in the neighborhood. The houses on our block in Sun Valley sat on huge lots which allowed for plenty of open space to play. The official baseball sandlot was in our backyard, the football field was at the Ito's house, basketball courts were at multiple houses and the streets were our bike paths to adventure.

In playing any game or sport, one always had to be wary of the laundry poles and lines that were present in everyone's backyard. Many of my friends found out the hard way that laundry poles are anchored in cement and do not budge upon impact. Laundry lines were actually ahead of their time in terms of their eco-friendliness. Drying clothing on a laundry line does not use any gas or electricity, does not pollute the atmosphere, and actually results in your clothes lasting longer. No wonder corporate America made them disappear!

Continuing with our eco-friendliness from the past, our mode of transportation in those days was by bicycle. I don't see kids today riding bicycles all over the place like we did. A trip to Fernangeles Park or all the way to Poly High School was no sweat for us. To make our bicycles sound cool, we would attach the baseball cards of crummy players in the spokes with wooden clothes pins to make a clattering sound as we rode.

It was a treat to have a meal at a restaurant in those days. We didn't go out to eat that often mainly because it was not in the family budget. If we did go, the first choice would be the coolest place in the Valley - Bob's Big Boy on Van Nuys Boulevard, or to others of less coolness. There was always Aki's Japanese Restaurant or Piece O Pizza in Sun Valley, Scott's for a 19 cent hamburger and fries or Phil Ahn's Moongate in Panorama City, Rusty's Hacienda or Hody's Coffee Shop in North Hollywood. All these restaurants disappeared a long time ago.

My mom usually shopped for groceries at Bob's Market on Laurel Canyon Blvd. near Sheldon Avenue or at Dale's Market at Laurel Canyon and Osborne Street. In those days, they were considered big grocery stores. There also were many small, family run grocery stores sprinkled around the neighborhoods that became obsolete by the 1970's when supermarkets and malls came onto the shopping scene. I recall walking many times to the small liquor/grocery store near our house whenever we needed a loaf of bread or to turn in an empty glass soda bottle for the two cent redemption value. Two cents could buy two pieces of candy in those days or you could save the pennies and then purchase a pack of five baseball card with a slab of pink bubblegum for five cents. All the kids in the neighborhood were certainly the original glass bottle recyclers.

I read a wonderful story about a grocer and his wife who owned a neighborhood store for many years in Colorado. The grocer would warmly greet everyone who entered the market and would check up on how the regular customers and their family were doing. Whenever the grocer heard that someone had lost their job or was experiencing hard times; he would let them put their groceries on a tab to be paid back when they were able. It was not uncommon for him to give away groceries to those in need by telling them something like, "These cans of beef stew have been on the shelf and no one

wants to buy them. You would be doing me a big favor if you took them off my hands." The grocer also had a tender spot for the children of the neighborhood and he used his baseball card collection to get to know each of them. The children loved to come into the store to trade baseball cards with him because they thought it was so easy to outsmart the grocer. He would always trade for the cards of players that probably should have ended up in the spokes of bicycles in exchange for the cards of better players. On top of that, the kids would usually receive a piece of penny candy after the trade.

The grocery store eventually closed to make way for a strip mall and the kind grocer and his wife came to the neighborhood no more. Years later, a simple obituary in the local newspaper announced the passing of the kind grocer. At the funeral, the grocer's



wife was truly touched that so many people from the store's neighborhood had come to pay homage to her husband. Familiar customers had aged and those who were children at that time were now adults with children of their own. After all the people had offered their condolences, the funeral director approached the grocer's wife with puzzlement. He held a handful of baseball cards that had been left near the photograph of the kind grocer. "Do you know anything about these?" he asked. The wife glance at the baseball cards and with a knowing smile replied, "We made just enough money at the store to get by, but my husband and I were the richest people in Colorado." The funeral director walked away even more puzzled as the wife carefully placed the baseball cards in her purse.

The kind grocer had experienced the joy of life that comes from sincere love for others described by the Apostle Paul in his letter to the Romans. Verses 12: 9-10 say, "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves." Most of us have learned how to speak kindly to others and how to take an interest in them, but sometimes these encounters are superficial. God calls us to show sincere love for others that goes well beyond pretense and politeness. Sincere love requires real effort to help others in need and comes with a cost to us in time, money and involvement. Look for ways to help others who need your help and show them the love that God has for each of us. God's love is like the ocean. We can see it and feel it where it comes to meet us, but even if we look as far as we can, we will never see its end.





2023 San Fernando Pee Wee Basketball Clinic

For Boys and Girls, 4 through 7, ready to learn the basics and meet new friends! Five Sundays of fun!

Sundays (July 9,16, 23, 30 & August 6)

Registration at 9:00 am, Clinic 9:30-11:30 am SFV Japanese Community Center 12953 Branford Street, Pacoima, CA 9133

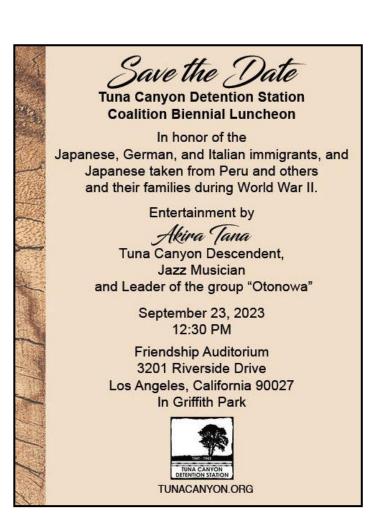
Clinic Director: Alana Yamauchi

Director 1 yr/Assistant at Pee Wee Clinic 4 years; Coaching SFV Tigers team for 5 years (currently 4th grade); Played for Granada Hills Charter High School (3 years); Played club ball at GHCHS (3 years); Played with SFVJACC Wildcats and Y2K (9 years); Played at Balboa Park & Recreation (6 Years); Refereed for SFVJACC Sure Shots Summer League (2 years)

\$75 (includes Coaching by SF Coaching Staff, Jersey and Basketball!!)
Register Today! (There's space for only 20 boys and girls! First come, first served!)

TO REGISTER: Go to www.sfvjacc.com/sf-athletics.html
For more information contact or text Margaret Takimoto @ (818) 621-8670
or email: JNCMOM@aol.com

All forms and payment due by June 15, 2023







Join us for live entertainment featuring local older adult performers, interactive activities, access to JANM exhibitions, food, and more!

Registration opens Monday, July 3, 2023. Visit keiro.org/knh for more information.

For questions or concerns, please contact programs@keiro.org or 213.873.5708.





SAN FERNANDO VALLEY HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

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

> Supervising Minister: Rev. William Briones

Temple President: Eric Reardon

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

Your donations gratefully accepted:

- Zelle to sfvhbt@sfvhbt.org
- PayPal on sfvhbt.org or
- check mailed to SFVHBT (address above)

June

4	10:00 am	Shotsuki monthly memorial
		service (hybrid)
11	10:00 am	Regular service (Zoom only)
18	10:00 am	Regular service (hybrid)
20	6:00 pm	Obon dance practice
22	6:00 pm	Obon dance practice

Obon Festival - June 24-25

Jul	V	
2	10:00 am	Summer service (format TBA)
9	10:00 am	Shotsuki monthly memorial
		and Obon/Hatsubon service
		(hybrid)
16	10:00 am	Summer service (format TBA)
23	10:00 am	Summer service (format TBA)
30	10:00 am	Summer service (format TBA)

Your donations gratefully accepted:

- Zelle to sfvhbt@sfvhbt.org
- PayPal on 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

COORDINATIING COUNCIL ORG	ANIZATIONS - MEETI	NGS - CONTACT PERS	SONS I	
Coordinating Council	Wed., 7:00 PMLi Wed., 7:00 PMCall Tues., 7:30 PMDan:Lois O nurchSun., 1:00 PMPaste Sun., 12:30 PMThurs. (even months), 7 I Sun., 8 AM-12 PM Kazuh Mon., 7:30 PMEric F Wed., 7:00 PMNancy 2nd Sat., 8:30 AMKiy Wed., 7:03 PMKenj Fri., 12:30 PMToshi To 11:30 AMCC Of	z Doomey	-4096 -1989 818 c.com -1270 -1676 -7907 -3439 -4030 -6296 -8540 Office) -7232 il.com -1989 -8738 il.com	Want to reserve the Community Center for an event? Call Tadao Okui at (818) 517-7907 or email: tadao_okui@sfvjacc.com Want to submit an article for the CC Newsletter? Email: lois_okui@sfvjacc.com CC Deadline: The 15th of every odd month.
SPECIAL CLASSES	Fri., 7:00 PM Joy Lo	ongworth 818-270-	6833 L	
Aloha Club (Poker) Ballroom Dance Bowling*, (Winnetka Bowl) Country Western Music* Exercise Class Exercise Class Hawaiian Hula (Ohana Pu'uwai Nani) Hitomi's Cooking Class Ikenobo Ikebana Karaoke* Kokusei Shigin Class Line Dancing* Movie Club Nikkei Bowling League Ondo Dancing* Ping Pong Club Senior Arts & Crafts SFV Judo Club Tai Chi Class* Ukulele Club Zumba	Tuesday	7:00-9:00 PM 9:30 AM	Barbara Sandra ` Janet So Liz Door Liz Door Suzan A NJ Naka Mayumi Janet Ya Call CC Liz Door Stan Da Janet Ya Aaron S Liz Door Kenji Co Florence Call CC	Okita 818 784-5128 Yamamoto 818 767-1819 chuetze 818 892-7381 mey 818 892-7381 kamine 818 892-7381 kamine 818 893-6503 Dennis 818 224-3346 amamoto 818 365-8361 Kamimura 818 899-1989 ney 818 892-7381 te 818 365-8361 amamoto 818 365-8361 anwo 661 755-0584 ney 818 892-7381 uey 818 381-7232 a Takaaze 310 202-6693 Office 818-899-1989
Note: The classes and services in YOUTH SERVICE ORGANIZATION		g at the oo.		
Girl Scouts	3rd Saturday	2:00-4:00 PM	Troop Le	eader: Akiko Manaka
SUPPORT GROUPS & SERVICES Dementia Caregivers Support Group. Online only		10:00 AM-12:00 PM	Little To	or: Coleen Nakamura, kyo Service Center her at cnakamura@ltsc.org
Blood Pressure Screening*	3rd Friday	10:00-11:00 AM		

UPCOMING IN-PERSON EVENTS AT THE CC

June 24-25, 2023 SFV Hongwanji Buddhist Temple Obon

*Meiji Senior Citizens' Activity or Service

June 3, 2023

SFV Japanese Language Institute Culmination

August 19, 2023 CC Luau Fundraiser

September 16, 2023 CC Steak Dinner

CC Clean Up Day (Date to be Determined)

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

November 4, 2023 Super Bingo Fundraiser

December 6, 2023 CC General Meeting



Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage **PAID** Van Nuys, California Permit No. 21

SFVJACC Mission Statement

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

San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center

2023 MEMBERSHP FORM

(.	Wiembership Feriod. January	to December	31, 202	23
 Complete the information below. Make check payable to "SFVJAC" 	C".			Family Membership - \$60.00
3. Send your check and this form to:	SFVJACC See Address in the upper left hand corner of this page.	t		Single Membership - \$40.00
(Please Print)				
Name]	Phone	
(Last Name)	(First Name)			
Address				
City		State	Zip	Code
Email Address				
Emergency Contact		Phone		
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If you do not want to be listed in fu	ture CC Membership Direct	ories, please	check	the box.
For information, please call SFVJA	_	_		