



SAN FERNANDO VALLEY
JAPANESE AMERICAN
COMMUNITY CENTER

San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center

www.sfvjacc.com

Facebook: San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center

Issue 5

September/
October
2011

YONSEI EXPERIENCE



Back row (L-R): Travis Fukumoto, Garret Arikawa, Jared Yamasaki. Front row (L-R): Alex Lee and Kara Tanaka.

From July 31 to August 9, 2011, five players from San Fernando Athletics and their families had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to travel to Japan as members of the Yonsei 18 (Y18) basketball team. They traveled to Tamana city in the southern-most island of Kyushu where the players did a five-day home stay and played three games before visiting Hiroshima. Their opponents were challenging (as were the heat and humidity!), but both the boys and girls teams each came away with a win. Most importantly, each player experienced life as a Japanese teenager and brought home memories that will endure forever. They are very grateful for the generous support of the SFVJACC community and would like to share some highlights of their trip.

Read about each of their experiences on page 5. In the year 2012, they will each host a player from the city of Tamana and give them a glimpse of what life is like in the USA.

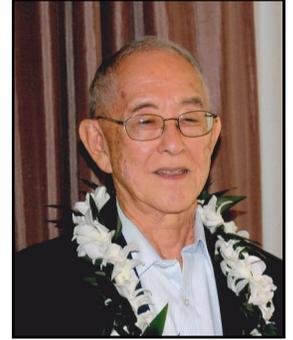
SFVJACC Mission Statement

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

JACK TAKESHITA— Live a Life of Gratitude

By Nancy Kyoko Oda

Jack Takeshita was toasted by 175 friends, family, and members upon receiving the SFVJACC Lifetime Achievement Award at the Odyssey Restaurant in Granada Hills.



Dignitaries included State Assemblyman Felipe Fuentes, Los Angeles City Councilman Tony Cardenas' field representative, and Rev. Patty Usuki from the San Fernando Valley Buddhist Temple. Dr. Jack Fujimoto, retired president of Mission College, spoke about Jack's activism that opened many doors for Asians while at LACC. The Sakamoto Family was also remembered in Jack's life story video produced by CC President, Karl Nobuyuki. In the early days, Jack designed flyers depicting Michael, his son, as a model for the San Fernando Athletics Association basketball program. He was an integral member of the CC newsletter staff for twelve years. CC giant, Frank Tanaka, VFW Commander, saluted Jack with appreciation. Kenji Watanabe spoke about Jack's amazing body of work that included logos using the architecture of the gym for the CC logo, a lantern for Nikkei Senior Gardens, a torii or gate for Nikkei Village, a sparrow for JACL Suzume no Gakkou Summer Camp, as well as thirty five technically perfect kata posters for SFV Judo. Further, Mr. Watanabe recounted the many San Fernando Valley Buddhist Temple obon posters but most lasting will be the Dharma wheel that graces the temple's entrance. Members from his high school club called the Sires as well as the Nikkei Widowed Club were in attendance. Jack's legacy will live on through his children, Keiko Kuratomi, Robert and Michael whose careers exemplify excellence and service. Granddaughter, Traci flew in from Washington, DC, and thanked him on behalf of his five grandchildren. Jack volunteered at the CC because he loves his children, and understands that it takes a village or in this case a community center to raise a child. Jack Takeshita concluded the day with words of appreciation and urging the youth to live a life of gratitude. He is an inspiration to all for his forty years blending his profession in design with his volunteerism.

Congratulations, Jack!

Photos of Jack's family on page 4.



The Editing Board

By Karl Nobuyuki

Turning the Corner

Early in September, our Board met for what is becoming an annual gathering, the Board Retreat. Here we take a full day to discuss CC issues and begin planning for our coming year. We ask the question HDWD ("how did we do?") and talk about lessons learned. It appears that we have turned the corner.

I can say that the Board drew consensus on our past achievements and with a few exceptions felt good about where we've come; and we began to look to things we can do to enhance the CC. **Nancy Oda** indicated that a review of membership suggests that seniors make up 50% of our base and a good deal of our programs are for seniors thanks to the **Meiji Club**. Likewise, it will be up to the Board to come up with venues and activities for the other 50%. We talked about how members are our priority and that we should look to the Center to serve as a gathering place for our members. Some suggestions made included:

- Hosting early evening events in our new patio area, which **Timbo Whitesel** has recently covered with nursery netting. The events could be a coffee shop gathering with live entertainment such as a small concert. We could offer a wine tasting party and perhaps contract with a caterer truck to provide a light meal.
- We talked about adding some potted trees to the patio to serve as wind-breakers and add some mood to the area.
- During an earlier meeting **Ray Miyagawa** from Athletics noted that the explosion of social networking media (i.e., Facebook, Twitter) has added a new dimension to the activity profile of many seniors and of course younger people. Many seniors it seems cannot handle the long drives as in earlier days and prefer to meet friends and family online. While we have a Website (www.sfvjacc.com) that takes on over 20,000 hits per month and thanks to **Linda Yamada**, a blog (Facebook/San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center), we are not yet maximizing their use. Consequently, we will soon be announcing some proposed computer classes in basic computing and Internet access. We can also use some help with website updating and will be looking for a youthful Webmaster. Likewise with all the digital cameras and camera cell phones around, we will be proposing classes in video editing and digital slideshow production.

These are just a few of the suggestions tossed around...

On another matter, many of us attended the **2011 Lifetime Achievement Award** luncheon on Sunday September 25th at the Odyssey Restaurant, honoring **Jack Hiroshi Takeshita**. Admittedly, "I didn't know jack" about Jack until this gathering. Jack it appears is a "behind the scenes" man and has contributed so much to our Center, the Buddhist Church, The Judo Club, JACL, Nikkei Village, Nikkei Senior Gardens and a long, long list of other Center related groups and events. This recognition says a lot about the quiet people who give so much of their time and energy to the CC and ask for nothing in return. Jack is a true pillar of our CC.



Meiji New Year's Luncheon
will be held on
January 14, 2012

Tickets will be available
toward the end of October, 2011

Save the Date!!



Flu Shot Clinic
November 4, (Friday)
9:00 - 11:00 AM
For seniors and people with
chronic illness.

Sponsored by
the LA County Health Dept.

Acknowledgements

August-September, 2011

Donations:

Frank Iwasaki Insurance
Rebate from Insurance Customers
SFV JACL
Orei for 2009, 2010
SFV Meiji
Toward Pioneer Hall floor waxing
Hot Meal
Toward repair of freezer
Yuki Isa
In memory of Rodney Isa
Hikowo Hashimoto
In memory of Sao Hashimoto
Emiko Suyehiro
In memory of George Suyehiro
Jennifer Hahn
Mr. & Mrs. Bryan Bradley
In memory of Howard Fujita
Greg Kimura
Barbara J. Nakada
Copy Machine use
Coffee Donations

Use of Facilities:

SFV Hongwanji Buddhist Temple
Orei for Obon
Isabelle & Harvey Negoro
Line Dance
Mon. & Wed. Bridge
Nikkei Senior Garden
Use of copy machine
Crescent Bay sports League
Jamie Joyce Hagiya
Tues. Nite Basketball
Thur. Nite Basketball
SFV JACL
For Manzanar the Musical
Mon. Nite Basketball
Wed. Nite Basketball
SFV Holiness Church
Use of copy Machine
Tues. Exercise Class
VFW 4140
Use of copy machine
SFV Quilt Assoc.
Manzanar Hi Reunion
Jena Iwata Andres
Poker Club
Mandolin Group
Harmonica Class
Jan's Hula Class
SFV JACL – Suzume no Gakko
Will Nakada
Use of copy machine
Community Police Advisory Board
For coffee fund
Yasuyuki Takatsuka

DONATIONS TO HOT MEALS

FOR THE MONTHS OF JULY – AUGUST 2011

Musashi Restaurant..... 200 lbs. rice, 10 gal. shoyu, 10 gal. oil &
4 pkgs. chopsticks
Marian Chun.....3 large cans coffee
Masako Rodriquez.....Cucumber tsukemono for kitchen
volunteers
Harriet Nishizaka.....Monetary Donation
Ben Ogami.....Japanese caviar for Tuesday lunch
Dr. Bo Sakaguchi.....August birthday cake to celebrate his
birthday
Sylvia Yamashita.....Monetary Donation
Walt & Windee Fujimori.... Takuwan for Friday lunch, 2 pkgs.
dinner size plates & Armenian donuts
for kitchen volunteers
Grace & George Goto.....Tsukemono for kitchen volunteers
Yone Tanimoto.....Takuwan served for Tuesday lunch
Ron & Jan Kondo.....Cake to celebrate their 55th wedding
anniversary
Tom Honma..... Monetary Donation

Fish donation:

Ron Heil – Portland, OR... Bluefin tuna
Mike Meier – La Mirada.... Bluefin tuna & yellow tail
Bob Hagan – Ramona..... Bluefin tuna
Greg Librando, Harris.....Use of Karl Nobuyuki's truck to pick up
Yoneoka & Geoff Arai fish in San Diego

Thank you all for your generous donations!

Other Donations:

Yone Takimoto3 lb Coffee &
Large bag of Candies
Curly & Flo Sato.....2 cans (3 lb Coffee)
Toshie Sugii.....3 lb. Coffee, 1 pkg. plates,
1 pkg. napkins & 1 bag forks
For the "A Matter of Balance Class"

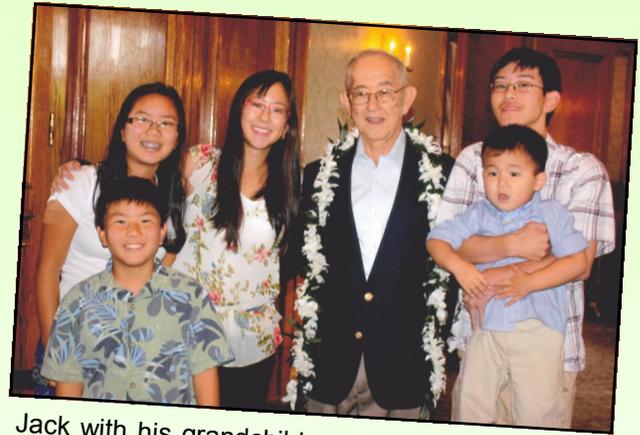
*Thanks for your
generous donations.*

Jack Takeshita

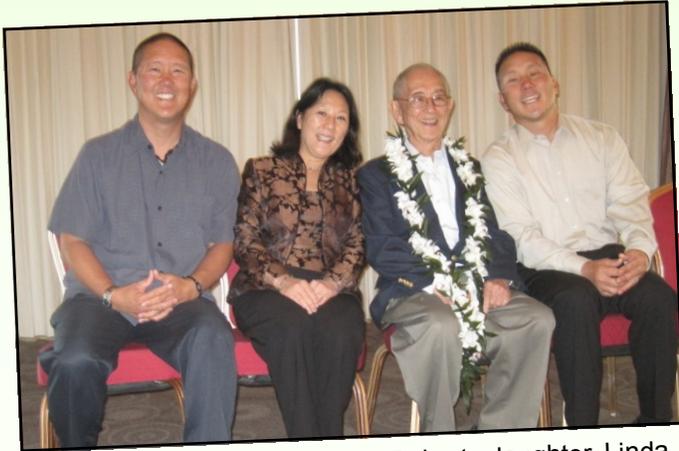
Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient



Live a Life of Gratitude
(Jack's guiding principle)



Jack with his grandchildren (L-R): Bryan, Robyn, Traci, Cory with Blake.



(L-R): Jack with oldest son, Robert, daughter Linda Kuratomi and youngest son, Michael.



JACK'S DESIGNS



Takeshita Family



Hello. My name is Grant Arikawa, and I play for the Rockets. My favorite part of my Yonseï trip was the home stay with Toru and Makoto; they're twins. When we first met, Toru and I got along really well, while Makoto was kind of quiet and shy even though he was a very fun person. They couldn't speak English very

well, but they could write English OK. Sometimes we used a computer to translate for us. On the second day we went and ate really good Chinese food. After that we went back to the house and stayed up till 11:30 talking to each other with the computer. The day after that we went to a "farmers market" and got some cheese custard. It was SO DELICIOUS!!! That night we ate all the custard and talked till 12:30. What was really fun was having Toru talk to his girlfriend on the phone while Makoto joked around about her. The very last day, we went to a festival by their house. It was really nice, but then it started to rain on us. I got to meet all of Toru and Makoto's friends. Then we went to the train station. It was the saddest day of my trip, but we will get to see each other again.



Hi. I'm Travis Fukumoto and I play for the Dragons. Yonseï was definitely an UNFORGETTABLE trip for me. Honestly, my favorite part of the trip was the home stay. They really treated me well, showed me a fun time, and shared their Japanese lifestyle with me.

The most unforgettable moment on the trip for me is when we saw the Tamana fireworks show. It was an hour long; nothing like Disneyland or anything you've ever seen before. It literally blew my mind! I really had a great experience and I wish I could do it all over again! Thank you San Fernando for all your support!



Hi. My name is Alex Lee, and I play for Tenshi. My favorite part of the whole trip was the home stay experience. My home stay was a twelve-year-old girl named Saya. She had two younger siblings named Seri and Shuhei and she lived with her parents and grandparents. They were such a great family.

My favorite thing I did with them was going to Greenland amusement park. My home stay and my Yonseï teammate Kelly's home stay were best friends, so our families went together. Greenland was huge and there were no lines on any of the rides. It was nice having someone to speak English to while I was there. I ended up staying with Kelly and her home stay, Nanoko, a lot and I became very close with them too. We also got to see the once-a-year Tamana fireworks show. Our home stays dressed us all up in *yukatas* (Japanese style outfits). It was the biggest fireworks show any of us or our parents had ever seen in our lives. It was amazing. I now know what it's like to be a teen living in Japan. Everyone is so

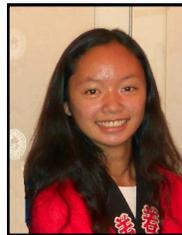


CC Fall Clean-up
Saturday
October 29, 2011
8 am - 12 noon

**Help us beautify
and maintain our Center.**

Lunch will be served.

welcoming and kind. It was so hard saying good-bye to the home stays; my teammates and I cried and cried as we boarded the bullet train and left them.



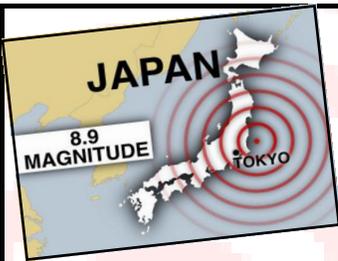
Hi! My name is Kara Tanaka and I also play for Tenshi. I had a great time on the entire Y18 trip, especially while staying with my homestay, Saki Karashima, and her family. My favorite part of the trip was when the Karashima family took me to the Tamana Noryo Fireworks Festival that brings over 10,000 people to

Tamana each year. Watching the Japanese *hanabi* (fireworks in Japanese) at the festival was an amazing experience. It was better than watching an hour-long Fourth of July fireworks finale in the U.S.! I also cherish dressing up in a yukata for the festival just like the local people and learning to tie an obi. The most valuable lesson that I learned from the trip was to be open to new things (like eating raw horse meat and learning a little bit of Japanese). My trip to Japan with Y18 was an exciting and truly life-changing experience that I will remember forever!



Hi, this is Jared Yamasaki from the SF Dragons. Japan was amazing. I had a great time playing basketball, eating good food, hanging out with my Yonseï family, and doing just about everything else. I have to say that the homestay was the best part of the trip though. My homestay's name was Hisho. He is 13

years old and a beast at playing soccer. During the time I spent with him, we went to the Greenland waterpark (Greenland is a theme park), a BBQ with some Yonseï teammates, and to Round 1, which is like a better version of the ESPN Zone. Overall, the trip was great and I have so many memories. I'll never forget the new friends I made, the time I spent with my homestay, how crazy the Hiroshima Carps games are, how hot Japan is, and all the hilarious memories that were made in Japan.



JAPAN RELIEF EFFORTS

Paige Negoro went to Japan on July 3, 2011 with her mother's friend, Yasuko Sakamoto (from Little Tokyo Service Center), to help with the earthquake and tsunami clean-up and to take donations they received from family and friends. They returned home on July 18th. Here is an account of her experiences...

It was definitely an enlightening and saddening experience for me to see such devastation in a place that we in America could substantially identify with. As I looked around me in Kesennuma and Oshima Island (a 20-minute ferry ride from Kesennuma), both near Sendai, and Iwaki City in Fukushima prefecture, the heartbreaking sight was almost too much to bear. It looked like sets at Universal Studios of destruction scenes from War of the Worlds; homes were completely washed away leaving only the foundation, cars were on top of other cars, and huge boats were ashore, requiring our taxi driver to maneuver around them.

Yasuko and I were able to assist in the clean-up of two houses damaged by the earthquake and tsunami on Oshima Island. The island is so small that it was pounded by the tsunami on two sides, destroying many buildings and homes.

The following are photos that Yasuko and I took. Please remember that this is four months after the disasters...



I must say that I was amazed by how resilient the people are as everyone perseveres in the best way they can, helping one another to rebuild their jobs, homes, and lives. It was also very encouraging to see many other volunteers coming to help with the clean-up from other parts of Japan and even America. The owners of the homes we helped clean up were so grateful for our help, always bowing to us and smiling, while they are the ones who have deeply suffered.

In Kesennuma, Yasuko and I visited an orphanage and a center for developmentally disabled children. I was fortunate that I had the opportunity to play and interact with the children at both places. We also gave donations to both of the children centers. The orphanage is home to around 70 children, from about ages five to eighteen, but the director explained to Yasuko and me that they are anticipating a greater influx of orphaned children who are currently being cared for by their grandparents who, due to their advanced age, may not be capable of caring for them long term. The effects of the terrible earthquake and tsunami are seemingly endless...



These two photos are of me. Broken pieces of glass had to be picked up by hand for recycling.



We gave a donation to the Oshima Island city hall/volunteer center.

We traveled on to Iwaki City to visit Yasuko's family, several of whom were greatly affected. Two of her family members lost their homes in the tsunami. I cannot express in words the overwhelming sadness I felt when I saw the many hollowed homes and buildings, tenuously standing and completely surrounded by the remnants of these people's shattered lives. But even worse was to hear of the radiation leakage and how it is affecting every aspect of their lives.



Farmers and fisherman in Iwaki City are struggling to make a living as they cannot sell their goods due to fear of radiation and other toxins, and parents who lost their homes are wondering whether to rebuild elsewhere for their children's safety.



From this experience, I have a greater appreciation of my life, my family, and my friends. I have also learned that we are interdependent. It is hope and the enduring human spirit that enable us to survive.



We gave our fourth and final donation to the city hall in Iwaki City.

DUO RAISES FUNDS FOR JAPAN



Heather Wattles and Abigail Connon

Heather Wattles is a 13 year-old violinist who has been playing since she was 7. Heather is now in the 9th grade at Harvard-Westlake Middle School in Los Angeles and has played in prominent youth orchestras local to Los Angeles.

Abigail Connon just turned 13 and is currently in the 8th grade at Immaculate Heart Middle School in Hollywood and has been playing violin since she was 4.

Under the instruction and direction of Christine Honsinger, the founder of The Violin Revolution, they play the traditional Suzuki Method selections, typically classical pieces, as well as folk tunes from Ireland, Eastern Europe and Scandinavia. They have performed in numerous venues in Southern California, including each year at Disneyland. They developed a duo program specifically to raise money for the Earthquake victims in Japan.

Through their efforts, they were able to donate \$2,108 to our JET Relief Fund by raising \$408 playing their violins at Fairfax Farmer's Market and then raising another \$1,700 from family and friends. Thank you Heather and Abigail!

JAPANESE SCHOOL

New School Year

San Fernando Valley Japanese Language Institute (SFVJLI) is now in session for the 2011-2012 school year! We would like to welcome new and returning students back to J-school for another fun year of studying Japanese and exciting activities. As in prior years, we are planning many fun activities such as cooking classes, Girls Day/ Boys Day activities, mochi tsuki, etc.

We are still taking new students. If you or your children are interested in the SFVJLI, come visit us (we are next to the CC) or visit our website at SFVJLI.com. We also offer teen/adult classes. For those in high school, he/she may earn high school language credits.



SFVJLI Yard Sale is Saturday, November 5th starting at 9 am at the Community Center parking lot. Come donate your “slightly used stuff” and browse around to find some “treasures”!



SFVHBT Mochi Sale 2011



The San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple will hold its annual MOCHI SALE on **Sunday, December 11th**. Temple members will be producing the delicious hand made mochi to supply our community for the holiday season. Please let your friends know, too!

- Ko-mochi (1 lb. pkg.) \$4.00**
- An-mochi (bean-filled, 3/pkg.) \$4.00**
- Kagami-mochi (Okasane set) \$4.50**

Please place your order by Sunday, December 4th

Lenny Kono..... (818) 767-8469 Temple..... (818) 899-4030
 Paul Jonokuchi....(818) 894-5327 or sfvhbt@gmail.com

Please pick up your order on Sunday, December 11th between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. at San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, 9450 Remick Avenue, Pacoima 91331.

Mochi Order Form

Name _____ **Phone** _____

I wish to order _____ pkg(s) of *Ko-mochi* @ \$4.00/pkg. _____

I wish to order _____ pkg(s) of *An-mochi* @ \$4.00/pkg. _____

I wish to order _____ set(s) of *Okasane* @ \$4.50/set _____

Total: \$ _____

*Please enclose your check with this order, payable to **SFVHBT** and send to 9450 Remick Ave., Pacoima, CA 91331. Thank you!*

Inner Strength Award

By Nancy Kyoko Oda

The Dale M. Inouye Basketball Tournament has inspired and will continue to inspire us to be our best self. Dale who was a member of the FOR Pacers team passed away after battling Leukemia for seven years. The newly formed DMI Foundation transformed its loss to bring youngsters grades four through eight together to have fun, encourage players to be positive, grateful, appreciate life while educating Asian families about the fight against cancer. Thoughtfully, the DMI Foundation designed a tournament where there are no trophies for the "winner" because each child is considered a winner receiving generous gifts such as a basketball, shirt, and most importantly, a wrist bad with the theme, Inner Strength, to remind players about Dale. Each year, the organization ends the tournament with the Inner Strength Award presented by Dale's parents that brings home the short time we have to enjoy our growing families. It is not the largest tournament but is the most meaningful as it speaks to youth during their formative years about character. This year, **Justin Mayeda**, a fifth grader from the SF Celtics, was selected for his perseverance, sportsmanship, and inner strength. His coach, Bing Lau recommended Justin because he demonstrated a high level of patience throughout the year playing up on a 5/6th grade team with two new guards that reduced his playing time. When you think how does this positive attitude comes about, it is easy when you see the Mayeda entourage that is led by 85 year old grandmother who comes from the state of Washington as well as his parents, Stan and Jolyn, aunts and uncles, cousins, and his brother, Marcus, wildly cheering for him! The Mayeda Family is to be commended for their expressed values for perseverance and sportsmanship.

Mickey Imamura from the SF Hawks was nominated as well. He attends every practice on time. Mickey contributes to his team by fearlessly guarding opponents, rebounds, passes, and shoots. He is also admired for his academic achievement in English and Japanese. Both Justin and Mickey attended the Jamie Hagiya Camp at the CC this summer honing basketball skills for the upcoming season.

In the entire world of JA basketball, there is no other tournament like the DMI Tournament that teaches us what is most important in life-**Inner Strength**. The third annual will be held on August 3-4, 2012, at Cal State Dominguez Hills. Donations in Dale's memory are made to Mattel Children's Hospital at UCLA, Jonathan Jacques Children's Cancer Center in Long Beach, and Asian for Miracle Marrow.



Pictured: Justin Mayeda with Juliann, Wade, and Derek Inouye

SF TIGERS

8th Grade Gold Division Champs
Hollywood Dodgers Las Vegas Invitational



Back row (L-R): Spencer Isa, Raffy Verano, Ryan Kaneshiro
Front row (L-R): Andrew Vasquez, Russell Nakajima, Roman Morales, Earl Sato, Kyler Motoyasu, Coach Derrick Isa

GYM CLOSURE



DECEMBER 19-31

THE GYM WILL BE
CLOSED FOR 2 WEEKS
FOR RE-PAINTING.

What's your story? By Nancy Kyoko Oda



Jamie Hagiya, former USC player

During the day, Jamie Hagiya may be seen in Little Tokyo wearing a shiny crown and dress as 2010 Miss Tomodachi. She has an easy smile, warm personality, and grace. But as you can see here, she has the eye of a tiger when she is holding that round ball. Jamie spends much of her time like Superman taking her tiara off and wearing Trojan shorts over her muscular frame at night. This summer, she was the star personality at camps in the South Bay, Seattle, and San Jose.

During the week of August 8th, the Jamie Hagiya Camp was held at the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center where she put thirty young athletes ranging from grade 2-12 on their heels learning drills, and most of all, the mental game. Jamie emphasized repetition of basic skills such as dribbling, passing, shooting, and free throws.

She talked about helping your team by working hard. She enjoys training JA youth to be leaders on the court as well as at school. Believe it or not, she did this camp while taking time to do a press conference for the *Budokan Sports Facility* in Little Tokyo and rehearsing for the Coronation Ball held on August 13. Jamie is well known as the two time MVP for the Women of Troy and playing abroad professionally in Greece.

On August 30, this bundle of energy did a clinic for kids from 4:30-5:30 before the WBA Sparks vs Seattle Storm game at 7:30 pm. Kids wore their team jerseys and basketball shoes. She drew almost 1,000 people from all areas of Southern California that night. Her dream to be a professional basketball player may come true. Don't you think that it is time for an Asian to make it to the big leagues, especially Jamie? She is a terrific role model and the future looks bright for her.



(L-R) Assistant Coaches Marcus Mayeda, Trent Miyagishima, and Ryan Itagaki with Jamie Hagiya.



The afternoon group (7th—12th grades)



The morning group (2nd—6th grades)



You're invited to
San Fernando Valley Holiness Church's Annual

THANKSGIVING DINNER



BEGINNING AT 5:30PM
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH, 2011

SFVJA COMMUNITY CENTER
12953 BRANFORD STREET
PACOIMA, CA 91311

KIDS AT STAPLES CENTER



On August 30, SF Thunder & Lightning (and many others San Fernando players) attended Jamie Hagiya's basketball clinic at Staples Center before the WNBA Sparks game. About 250 kids throughout Southern California came to participate. If Jamie was able to draw a large number of people to this event, she could have a chance to try out for the Sparks. Almost 1,000 people came to support her that evening. We hope to see her on the roster next season!

Joe Bryant, the Sparks coach (and Kobe's dad), spoke to the kids and also answered questions after Jamie's clinic.



A NEW VISION

Do you recognize this place? It's the large area between the Nikkei Pioneer Building and the Judo Dojo, where we do the barbequing for different events. Our vision is to make this space a nice place for people to sit, eat and visit (such as the basketball teams after their games on Sundays). Picnic tables were purchased through the Future's Fund and thanks to **Timbo Whitesell and Juan**, a shade screen was installed. We would like to add small trees and plants to give the area a peaceful atmosphere. And who knows, maybe we can do an outdoor concert one day.

SFVJACC UPCOMING EVENTS

October 2011

Board of Directors
Nominations

October 15, 2011

CC Benefit Dance

October 29, 2011

CC Fall Clean-up

November 2011

Board of Directors Elections

November 5, 011

Super Bingo Fundraiser

November 12, 2011

SFV Holiness Church
Thanksgiving Dinner

December 3, 2011

CC Annual General
Membership Meeting

January 7, 2012

SFVJACC New Year's Party

January 14, 2012

SFV Meiji Senior Citizens
Club New Year's Party

February 4, 2012

SFV Japanese Language
Institute New Year's Party

Fall

By Old Wakaba, Bud Sagara



Fall is my favorite season. The nights are cool and the mornings have a crisp chill. It is a time when everything seems to be tucking itself in for the winter. We used to have a huge silver maple tree and a tall ash tree in our backyard while growing up in Sun Valley. Our humble version of fall colors was when the leaves of the maple would turn brown and the leaves of the ash would turn yellow. I did not mind raking up those leaves, and actually enjoyed making huge piles of them in the corner of the yard. These trees were great for climbing; and although I was not at the top, I could see the whole neighborhood. Just imagine what the view would be like from an airplane. Riding in an airplane was out of reach for our family when I was a kid as mass commercial air travel was just starting and the cost was way beyond our budget.

Nowadays, my wife and I are blessed to be able to fly to the New England states and Colorado for the fall colors. In autumn, there is an explosion of colors around every bend in the road. From the rolling hills to single trees in the parkways of small villages, there is an amazing display of blazing red, gold, purple, yellow, and orange. It is a beauty that is warmly comforting. You could view the fall colors in magazine photographs or on the internet, but they do not do justice to witnessing one of God's creations in person. As the leaves begin to fall, they lay down blankets of fiery red, yellow and orange around each tree that lend that distinctive crunchy sound as one walks among the trees. Combine all this with the smell of morning rain mingled with a distant wood burning fireplace to create a calming bouquet for the senses.

I also associate high school football with the fall, although much of the football season is played during the hot month of September. Neighborhoods across the nation succumb to a unifying force to root for their home team on Friday nights. The atmosphere of game night is charged with pure energy. School colors are everywhere, cheerleaders and songleaders lead the student body into fervor, and even the stale popcorn and rubbery hot dogs taste good. Just for that moment, students in the marching band, some of whom are not particularly part of the in-crowd in school, are All-Stars in the spotlight and receive a standing ovation from the crowd just for marching onto the field. When the football teams finally run onto the field, people just go bananas.

San Fernando High School versus John H. Francis Polytechnic High School is a Valley rivalry that has gone on for generations. Long ago, as a proud member of the Fighting Parrots of Poly High, I remember getting tackled hard by a San Fernando Tiger only to discover it was one of my CC friends who played third base for the Wakabas. Later, I was knocked senseless by another Tiger who was the Wakaba's catcher and fellow judoist at San Fernando Dojo. There were CC friends like Gary Yamamoto, Mike Ikeda, Jerry Tanaka, Kenji Yoshino, Ed Nishikawa, Ryan Mito, Howard Yamamoto, Tim Ito, Gary Ogimachi, Don Iwanaga, Lenny Kono, Jason Takemoto, Rex Oda, Don Okura and others on both sides of the Tiger-Parrot line who acknowledged each other only with a silent nod. After every play in which they tried to destroy each other, a hand would be extended to help the opposing player up. There was an unspoken bond formed at the CC that was and still is stronger than any San Fernando vs. Poly rivalry. My remembrances are not unique by any means because the power of this fellowship still lives each season somewhere in the city.

Fall also brings about harvest festivals and farmers markets. Everything seems to be decorated in shades of orange. That reminds me of pumpkin pie, which I adore, and Halloween which is right around the corner. Halloween is a magical time for kids to make a costume, eat candy, and do the goofy things with friends that make memories. It also signals the start of the holiday season when the days whiz by in a blur. Before you know it, it's New Year.

Prior to the holiday rush, I invite you to allow yourself some quiet time under the intense blue sky to savor the fall season. You could perhaps take a walk on a nature trail or set your feet on a cornerstone rock and look towards heaven. Let the world and its desires pass away and strive for love, peace, joy, and gentleness. Wouldn't it be wonderful to just let yourself continue down this path to see where it leads?



COORDINATING COOUNCIL ORGANIZATIONS-MEETINGS-CONTACT PERSONS

Coordinating Council.....	1st Wed., 7:00 PM.....	Paul Jonokuchi	818 894-5327
Community Center.....	1st/3rd Wed., 7:00 PM.....	Karl Nobuyuki.....	818 892-9103
Athletics.....	3rd Tues., 7:30 PM.....	Margaret Takimoto	818 701-7628
Bonsai Club.....	4th Sun., 8 AM-12 PM.....	Ken Inaba	818 349-6555
Chatsworth West United Methodist Church.....			
.....	2nd Sun., 1:00 PM.....	Doreen Kawamoto.....	818 764-8850
CC News.....	Laura Fujita.....	818 648-2652/ Lois Okui.....	818 892-1487
Credit Union.....	2nd Tues., 7:00 PM.....	Mayko Martinez	818 362-0680
Fishing Club.....	3rd Mon., 8:00 PM.....	Lance Updyke	805 660-6262
JACL.....	2nd Wed., 7:00 PM.....	Doreen Kawamoto	818 764-8850
Japanese Language Institute.....			
.....	Sat., 9:30 AM-12:30 PM.....	Kimiaki Chiba.....	818 590-3362
Judo Club.....	4th Wed., 7:03 PM.....	Mike Murakami....	818 648-6044
Landscape Gardeners.....	1st Mon., 7:30 PM.....	Nob Tamai.....	818 347-3912
Nikkei Senior Gardens.....	1st Tues., 7:00 PM.....	Toji Hashimoto	818 897-4216
Nikkei Village.....	4th Mon., 7:30 PM (at CC)...	Kenji Watanabe....	818 892-1308
SFV Holiness Church.....	2nd Sun., 12:30 PM.....	Diane Date	818 701-6607
SFV Hongwanji Buddhist Temple.....			
.....	2nd Mon., 7:30 PM.....	Neil Higashida	818 360-7420
SFV Meiji Senior Citizens.....	1st Fri., 12:30 PM.....	Kay Yamada	818 763-4861
Sunrise Foursquare Church.....		Reverend Paul Iwata	818 782-8738
Valley Japanese Community Center.....		Neil Hashiba	213 792-2507
.....	2nd Fri., 7:30 PM.....	Christine Inouye.....	818 825-9583
VFW 4140.....	1st Fri., 10:00 AM.....	Frank Tanaka.....	818 361-8951



**Want to reserve the
Community Center
for an event?**

Call Tadao Okui at
818-892-1487 or email:
tadokui@aol.com

**Want to submit an
article for the CC
Newsletter?**

Email:
loisokui@aol.com
or
XxAkiyomi24xX@aol.com

SPECIAL CLASSES

Arts & Crafts*	Monday	9 AM-12 PM	Sally Hamamoto	818 361-2902
Bridge*	Mon/Wed	12:00-4:00 PM	Ray Shinsato	818 767-5550
Country Western Music*	1st /3rd Tuesday	10:30-11:30 AM	Janet Schuetze	818 767-1819
Exercise Class*	Friday	10:00-11:00 AM	Reverend Leo Fong	818 618-4368
Exercise Class*	Tuesday	9:00-10:00 AM	Ralph Ahn	818 897-1322
Guitar Class*	Tuesday	10:15-11:30 AM	Greg Librando	818 896-6503
Hanafuda*	Friday	1:00-3:00 PM	Yone Takimoto	818 765-6735
Harmonica Class*	Friday	11:00-11:30 AM	Don Akamine	818 367-1723
Hawaiian Hula*	Friday	12:30 PM	Carmen Postrzech	818 367-8045
Hawaiian Ukulele Class*	Friday (Gym)	10:00-11:30 AM	Greg Librando	818 896-6503
Hawaiian Ukulele Class*	Friday (Hall)	9:30-11:00 AM	Wendee Fujimori	818 352-1075
Ikenobo Ikebana Class	2nd Thurs	10:00-1:00 PM	Ritsuko Shinbashi	818 892-0470
Japanese Classical Dance	Friday	1:00-6:55 PM	Diane Fukuwa	310 217-0443
Karaoke*	1st/3rd Thurs	10:00 AM-12:00 PM	Walter Fujimori	818 352-1075
Line Dancing*	Thursday	8:30-10:00 AM	Mark Nakamura	818 363-3038
Mah-Jong*	Tuesday	1:00-3:00 PM	Yoko Kawamura	818 765-3513
Obon Dancing	2nd/4th Fri	7:00-9:00 PM	Masako Rodriguez	818 899-8777
Ping Pong Club*	Thursday	10 AM-3 PM	Burt Tokuhara	818 469-8934
SFV Judo.....	Mon/Wed/Fri	7:00-8:30 PM	Mike Murakami	818 648-6044
Tai Chi Class*.....	Monday	9:00-10:00 AM	Florence Takaaze	310 202-6693
JACL Beginners Ballroom Dance	Tuesday	7:00-8:30 PM	Nancy Gohata	818 899-4232

*Seniors' Activity

SUPPORT GROUPS

Alzheimer's Support Group 1st Saturday 10:00 AM-12 PM
For more information, call the Center at (818) 899-1989.

Facilitator: Isabelle Miyata



**SAN FERNANDO VALLEY
HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE**

9450 Remick Ave. Pacoima
899-4030 www.sfvhbt.org

Rev. Patricia Usuki:
Temple President: Neil Higashida
Dharma School - Sunday 11:00 am

Buddhist Temple Calendar

October

- 1 Seminar: "Trans(-cending) Gender: Shinran and Kannon" with guest, Rev. P. Nakai of the Buddhist Temple of Chicago, 1:30 p.m.
- 2 Shotsuki: Monthly Memorial Service & Eshinni-ko/Kakushinni-ko: Memorial for Buddhist women Service. Visit by WLABT and Oxnard BT 10:00 am (Japanese message at 9:30 a.m.)
- 9 Regular Service 10:00 am
- 16 Pet Memorial Service 10:00 am
- 23 Regular Service 10:00 am
- 30 Family Service 10:00 am

November

- 6 Shotsuki: Monthly Memorial Service 10:00 am
- 13 No Service: Chow Mein Fundraiser
- 20 Eitai-kyo: Ancestors' Perpetual Memorial Service and 90th Anniversary 10:00 am
- 27 Thanksgiving Service 10 am

December

- 4 Shotsuki: Monthly Memorial Service & Bodhi Day (Shakyamuni Buddha's enlightenment), 10 a.m.; Oseibo taikai (annual appreciation luncheon)
- 11 No Service: Mochisuki fundraiser
- 18 Regular Service 10:00 am
- 25 No Service
- 31 (Sat., 6 pm) Joya-e: New Year's Eve Service. (Sun., Jan. 1, 10 am) New Year's Day Service



**San Fernando Valley
Holiness Church**

9610 Haddon Avenue
Pacoima, CA 91331
(2 blocks east of Laurel Canyon Blvd.
between Branford and Osborne St.)

Office Phone: 818-896-1676

Please refer to our website for more information: www.sfvhc.org

English Department

Pastor Roland Hazama
Associate Pastor Raynold Nakamura

Sunday Schedule

- 9:30 AM.....Kid Venture Children's Ministries (infant -6th grade)
Adult Sunday School
- 10:30 AM.....Coffee Fellowship
- 11:00 AM.....Worship Service (childcare for infants-Pre-K)

Youth Fellowship & Parent Night
Friday, 7:30 PM

Meetings at the church for Jr. High, Sr. High and Parent of Teens.

Mid-Week Home Groups

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

Japanese Department

Pastor Robert Tsujimoto
818-896-1676

Sunday Schedule

- 11:15 AM Worship Service
Lunch and Fellowship
After worship service on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays

Wednesday, 10:00 AM.....Prayer Meeting @ church

Please ask about other weekday meetings 818-899-4115



**Chatsworth
West United Methodist Church**
(Formerly West Valley UMC merged with Chatsworth UMC)

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: Ruy Mizuki
Lay Leader: Jim Melichar

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

Bible Study Thurs @ 10AM & 7:15PM
Tuesdays @ 1PM

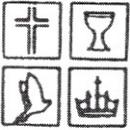
Choir practice 1st and 3rd Wednesday @ 3:00PM
Musical Director: Steve Foreman

Japanese Class – 2nd & 4th Sunday @ 9AM
Instructor: Junko Wayama

Shotokan Karate of America
Fri. @ 6:30 PM Rm.1
Instructor: April Warynick
www.ska.org
1 213 437 0988

Electrobattles Dance for children
Fri. evening, Rm. 5
Instructor: Sharon James

Chi Fung Mind & Body Fitness
Tuesday @ 9AM Rm.2
Instructor: Leo Fong



**SUNRISE
FOURSQUARE
CHURCH**

"Connected to God-Connected
to One Another"

Pastors:

Rev. Paul Iwata
Rev. Haruko "Spring" Iwata

Meeting Address:

5853 Laurel Canyon Blvd.
North Hollywood, CA 91607

Mailing Address:

14705 Wyandotte St.
Van Nuys, CA 91405

Sunday

10:30 AM Worship Services
English: Rev. Paul Iwata
Japanese: Rev. Spring Iwata
12 noonPotluck Lunch

Thursday

7:00 PM.....Prayer Meeting and
Bible Study

Friday

6:00 PM.....Prayer Meeting at Court
Yard Assisted Care Living Center

7:30 PM.....Youth & Young Adult
Meeting at Church

Home Meetings

Yukio Masai's 2nd Wednesday
7:00 PM in Gardena
310-329-1586

Pastoral counseling is available for
individuals, couples, and families.

Pastor Spring's artwork is displayed in
the 2010 Springwater Calendar with
scripture for every month in English
and Japanese. Call for orders at a
donation of \$10 per calendar.

Phone: 818-782-8738

818-642-2332

Email: pmiwata1@hotmail.com

Website:

www.sunrisejapanesechurch.org

SAN FERNANDO JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER

SUPER BINGO FUNDRAISER

Saturday, November 5, 2011

5:00 PM

Nikkei Pioneer Building

12953 Branford St • Pacoima 91331

Gold Package - \$100.00

includes

5 Bingo Cards, 5 Raffle Tickets & 1 Dinner

Sesame Chicken, BBQ Short Ribs, BBQ Pork, Grilled Salmon, Potato Salad, Spicy Tuna &
California Rolls, Green Beans with Miso Dressing, Tsukemono, Fruits & Assorted Desserts

Deadline is Saturday, October 30, 2011

Additional Dinners - \$20.00/person (pre-order only)

Additional dinners purchased after deadline will be \$25.00/person

For more information, call Lois Okui 818-892-1487

or Email: tadokui@aol.com



All proceeds will go towards the Nikkei
Pioneer Building Air Conditioning and Heating Fund.

Thank you for your support!!

Some Little Tidbits...by Tadao Okui

Our Super Bingo Fundraiser is approaching quickly; make sure you send in your reservation because we will cut it off once we reach 350 people due to fire regulations. Remember, the Gold Package is \$100 and additional dinners are \$20 only if you purchase a Gold Package.

Some of the items we have for our Silent Auction are:

- ➔ 4 Disneyland Park Hopper Tickets
- ➔ 4 Front of the Line Universal Passes
- ➔ 4 USC Football Tickets
- ➔ Andre Ethier autographed baseball from the Dodgers
- ➔ Basketball autographed by Derrick Fisher and other Pros

Buy your Gold Packages—come have a good time playing bingo and socializing with friends.



SAN FERNANDO VALLEY JAPANESE
 AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS
 12953 Branford Street, Pacoima 91331
 818 899-1989 Fax 818 899-0659

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San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center

2011 MEMBERSHIP FORM

(Membership period: January 1 to December 31, 2011)

1. Complete the information below.
 2. Tear off the membership card for your records.
 3. Make check payable to "SFVJACC".
 4. **Send your check and this form to: SFVJACC – Membership**

Family Membership - \$55.00

 Single Membership - \$35.00
- 12953 Branford Street**
Pacoima, CA 91331

(Please Print)

Name _____ Phone _____
(Last Name) (First Name)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email Address _____

* For information, please call SFVJACC at (818) 899-1989. Thank you for supporting our Community Center.
 FAX is (818) 899-0659.