



# San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center

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## 2014 SFVJACC PRESIDENT PAUL JONOKUCHI



2014 CC President Paul Jonokuchi (on left) and his family.

The Board of Directors elected Paul Jonokuchi to serve as President of SFVJACC in 2014. He has served as past President in 1994, and 2007-2009. He was born in Hiroshima, Japan and then in 1957, the family decided to move to the United States, first settling in West Los Angeles and later moving to the San Fernando Valley. He resides in Mission Hills and recently his wife passed away from pancreatic cancer. He has four sons, Richard, a registered nurse, Howard, an EMT, Scott who is in USANA Health product sales, and Andrew, a registered nurse. Paul graduated from San Fernando High School, attended Pierce College and graduated from CSULA. After returning from military service, he attained his teaching credential and worked for LAUSD.

Paul taught at King Middle School, Van Nuys High School and Canoga Park High School as an Industrial Arts teacher, focusing on woodworking, crafts, and stage craft. A few years before his retirement from the district, he was offered a position to teach Japanese at Canoga Park High School and develop programs and courses for the foreign language/business magnet program. In the evening, he

also taught Japanese at Mission College and Moorpark College.

In 1994, Paul and his wife Nobuko opened Wakaba Japanese Language School and served as a Principal and director for the school. The school was specially designed to teach Japanese as a heritage language to English speaking students. The students were able to receive High School credit and the school lasted close to 20 years.

Paul is very active in the community serving as a past President of the SFVH Buddhist Temple and SFV Japanese Language Institute. Currently, he is a Board member of the SFV JACL, Meiji Senior Citizens Club, Nikkei Village Housing Corporation and an active vice-president of the Hiroshima Kenjin-Kai of Southern California. In addition, he serves as Chairman of the Coordinating Council planning activities and programs for the community. He is also involved with JACL's summer youth summer camp "Suzume no Gakko" as a school Principal and being the Japanese language instructor.

Paul is looking forward to the challenge of serving as president and his goal and vision is to fulfill the Community Center's mission statement — *"To promote the Japanese culture and preserve the Japanese American experience through education, events and activities for our community"*.

## 2014 SFVJACC BOARD & CABINET



(L-R): President Paul Jonokuchi, Chuck Itagaki, Doreen Kawamoto, Akiko Manaka, Genevieve Lew, Denise Tanaka and Danny Okazaki.

### MISSION STATEMENT

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



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Paul Jonokuchi

Happy New Year! I hope everyone is having a prosperous and healthy New Year. I would like to thank the Board for electing me to serve as President for the coming year. It's always a great honor to serve and even though I have been down this road before, each time is always different, challenging, and rewarding. It's very tough to follow Nancy Oda's act but I'll do my best to continue to move this Center forward. Nancy Oda has done a marvelous job by bringing her leadership skill as a school administrator to help advance this Center. We appreciate all her devotion, dedication and service to everyone. Thank you very

much, Nancy.

This year's New Years Luncheon was overwhelming with so many people attending the event. We would like to give special thanks to Lois and Tadao Okui, Gene and Genevieve Lew, the Jr. Board and Team Mirai just to name a few, for their time and effort in organizing and planning and making this event successful every step of the way. To all the volunteers and helpers who came to lend a helping hand, our hats go off to you!

Recently, I went to this particular restaurant in which they had a fabulous menu and the food and service was first class. I thought to myself if the Center was like a restaurant and had great programs, events and good public service, the community would be willing to come and perhaps be actively involved with the Center. On that note, the Center needs to operate in a similar manner to a restaurant operation so that the Center will grow in popularity.

Secondly, we need to focus on the future of the Center. The Issei pioneers provided the foundation for the facility and the Nisei has continued to preserve the Japanese culture. For the Sansei/Yonsei generations we need to look forward and beyond for our children and grandchildren to have a greater opportunity to be involved with their Japanese-American heritage and culture. With new programs and facility improvements will hopefully lead to a brighter future for the next generations. In Japanese "Kodomo No Tameni" means for the sake of our children and that is our future goal.

Thirdly, we have new young talented Board members with fresh knowledge, ideas and enthusiasm to bring to the meeting table. I'm looking forward to working with our older board members and to nurture and develop these young board members so that they will become our future leaders of our Center.

One thing you will notice the next time you come to the Center is our newly installed surveillance video cameras indoor and outdoors for the safety and security of our members. Added surveillance, hopefully, will give piece of mind to our members while on/off the premises.

If you look at the 2014 calendar we have a variety of programs and activities provided for you. This year in May, we are going back to the traditional old-fashion family picnic for the whole family to enjoy. Mark your calendar for May 17, at Gabrieleno/Orcas Park and make sure to bring your blanket, lounge chairs and picnic basket with a home-cooked lunch.

On that note, we will be striving forward for our future planning. So, let us all work together for the common goal of making this community center a great place to remember.



Nancy Oda passed the gavel to new president Paul Jonokuchi.

## Shorai ni tsuite (About the Future),

By Nancy Oda, Out-going SFVJACC President

We are now upright and ready to make a five year plan. So, we need leaders to help us sustain and improve our center and embrace our diversity. Now that the next generations are professionals as a result of the sacrifices of their parents, it is time to take that talent and energy to make a meaningful contribution to the center.

We need to seek and understand the history of our people and their journey to better appreciate what we have. Each generation must talk story about their experiences. The issei pioneers who are now deceased were true examples of endurance crafting their vision more than 60 years ago. Our elders worked hard to rebuild their lives after the war and created this gathering place. We sadly lost more than 20 members this year, many who overcame much and persevered to achieve their dreams for their descendants.

Now five days a week, our young seniors enjoy the Pioneer Center playing, singing, dancing and eating together. Our Thanksgiving luncheon is a feast that has become a new tradition. Twice a week Hot Meals serves more than 200 members who come to be together

and *talk about their kids or grand kids*. Six nights a week the younger people play basketball from 6:00-12:00 pm in a beautiful well lite gym. The CC is not, however, a recreation center, we are about relationships, lifelong relations.

Last November 2012, the board members of Nikkei Village donated all of the proceeds from its sale to help Nikkei Senior Gardens enlarge its memory support unit; forgave and eliminated all of our debt, so we could have a fresh start. Their board members served 28 years. That is a huge sacrifice. The funds we received will be placed in an endowment so we can assure the next generation a place that they can be proud of.

Do we have the endurance, perseverance of our forefathers, a sense of duty, willingness to sacrifice like the VFW Post 4140? Do we have an appreciation of the center enough to help sustain and improve it in small and/or big ways? Our intergenerational composition is a powerful mix because we can learn so much from each other.

As I hand the presidential gavel to Mr. Jonokuchi, I personally have learned from our elders, nisei, sansei, yonsei, shin issei, got a taste of the aloha spirit and, in the Japanese tradition, tried to leave the center a little better.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

### **Months of November and December 2013**

#### **Donations**

Brenda Reitz and Family  
In memory of father Steven Everding  
SFV VFW Post 4140  
In appreciation of receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award  
Teri (Yamane) & Mark McClure  
For 2 bronze leaves (Donation Recognition Tree)  
Dr. Sanbo Sakaguchi Estate  
From koden received  
Terry Uyehara and Family  
In memory of husband Sam Uyehara  
SFV Dance Club  
Year end donation  
Richard Bertain, Jr.  
Donation to Super Bingo Fundraiser  
Yuki Isa  
For the repaving of the back parking lot  
Jean Tsutsui  
In memory of husband Arthur Tsutsui  
Mieko Yamashita  
For the SFV VFW Lifetime Achievement Award  
Paul Rosete  
From the sale of donated items  
American Assoc. of Japanese University Women  
In memory of Helen Kaneko  
Grace Iwamasa  
In memory of husband Gilbert Iwamasa  
Manabu & Eleanor Minami  
Bill & June Takeshita  
Greg Kimura  
United Way Charitable Contribution  
Gary & Irene Sumida  
Yas & Lily Nagatoshi  
From the sale of donated items  
Kay Saevivat  
Anonymous  
IBM Charitable Contribution

#### **Use of Facilities**

Nikkei Senior Gardens  
Hitomi's Cooking Class  
Yonsei Basketball Association  
Masako Rodriquez & Family  
Wednesday Nite Basketball  
Ondo Class  
Ping Pong Club  
Ikenobo Ikebana (Ritsuko Shinbashi)  
Jan & Co (Yoshi Mastuda, Barbara Nakatsu, Jan Schuetze, Toji Hashimoto, Brian Matsuda)  
Tuesday Exercise Class  
Poker Club  
Kaleleonalani Hawaiian Civic Club  
Japanese Calligraphy  
Nancy Oda (Tuna Canyon)  
SFV Dance Club  
Zumba  
Seniority

Yoga Class  
Hula Wahines  
Harmonica Class  
SF Lakers  
Paul Jonokuchi

#### **Miscellaneous**

Hisako Hazard..... Sm. Box of Splenda  
Roger & Linda Itaya 1.25 lb. Coffee and 1 box black tea  
Ping Pong Club ..... 2 (2.5 lbs) Coffee  
Yone Takimoto ..... 2 lbs. Coffee

### **DONATIONS TO HOT MEAL**

#### **FOR THE MONTHS OF NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2013**

Paul Rosete..... Nov. birthday cake in Bea's memory  
Roy Imazu ..... Sliced persimmons for Friday lunch  
Musashi Restaurant ..... 100 lbs. rice, 5 gal. oil & 2 pkgs. chopsticks  
Jean Yamada ..... Persimmons  
VFW Post 4140 ..... 27 pkgs. of chopsticks  
Yone Takimoto ..... Tsukemono for Tuesday lunch, takuwan (3 times), & fukujinzuke  
Marian Murphy & ..... Assorted cookies for kitchen volunteers (2 times)  
Marilyn Oda  
Kei & Bert Inoue ..... 5 double size musubi makers  
Kathy & Ted Fukuda ..... Persimmons for Friday lunch  
Toshi Sugii ..... Flowers for kitchen volunteers  
Robert & Setsuko Sato ..... Monetary donation  
Pastor Ruy Mizuki & ..... Pumpkin pies for Thanksgiving lunch  
Chatsworth West United Methodist Church  
Greg & Maebelle Librando ..... Monetary donation  
Flo Sato ..... December birthday cake to celebrate her birthday  
Musashi Restaurant ..... 100 lbs. rice, 5 gal. oil & 2 pkgs. chopsticks  
Walt Fujimori ..... Hot Armenian donuts for kitchen volunteers  
Sylvia Yamashita ..... See's chocolates for kitchen volunteers  
Grace Iwamasa ..... Cream puffs for kitchen volunteers  
Chiz Morita ..... Tea cakes to celebrate her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday  
Lorraine & Rex Shimizu ..... Homemade chocolates for kitchen volunteers  
Yoko & Ken Nomura ..... Homemade bundt cake for kitchen volunteers

#### **Fish donations:**

Lynn Freed – Canoga Park ..... Yellow fin tuna  
Robert Michener – Oxnard ..... Yellow fin tuna  
Bill Walsh – Chino Hills ..... Yellow fin tuna  
Greg Librando, Ike Matsuda ..... Use of Karl Nobuyuki's truck to & Geoff Arai pick fish in San Diego

Continued

*Thank you for all your generous donations!*

# SFVJACC 2014 NEW YEAR'S LUNCHEON



Tamlyn Tomita was entertaining as the MC.



The students of the JACL Suzume no Gakkou Summer Camp performed Japanese songs taught at the camp.



Mabel Takimoto did the New Year's toast—Kampai!



Consul Izuru Shimmura, Kenji Watanabe and Paul Jonokuchi getting ready to break open the sake barrel before the Kampai toast.



Minyo performed by Matsutoyo Kai.



Eiko Muto (on right) was honored with the Volunteer Appreciation Award. She is pictured with her daughter, Janet Yamamoto.



Kenji Watanabe opened the program with a New Year's greeting.

## THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATION TO THE NEW YEAR'S LUNCHEON

- Chatsworth West United Methodist Church
- Jill Clever
- Roger & Linda Itaya
- Ken Kageyama
- Harold Kameya
- Doreen Kawamoto
- Judy Matsuzaki
- Yo Monji
- Ken & Priscilla Mui
- George Murakami
- Harry Nakada
- Fumio & Kazuko Nakama
- Lisa Ooka
- SF Athletics
- SFV Bonsai Club
- SFV Japanese Language Institute
- SFV Meiji Senior Citizens
- SFV VFW Post 4140
- Ritsuko Shinbashi
- Mabel Takimoto
- Valley Japanese CC
- Kenji & Kyoko Watanabe
- Hiroshi & Yoshiko Yamaguchi

## THANK YOU TO THE VOLUNTEERS THAT HELPED—

- Judo Club** - Andrew Avila , Christian Avila, Raul Bravo, Donnavin Zepeda Carrasco, Marco Carrasco
- Jr. Board** - Fuyumi Hashimoto, Chuck Itagaki, Akiko Manaka, Danny Okazaki, David Sumida, Denise Tanaka, Erin Yokomizo
- Team Mirai** - Linda Duong, Gina Kunihiro, Aya Makino, Brandon Takehara

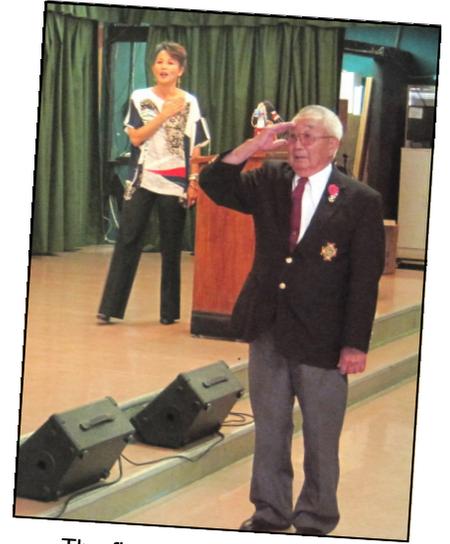
# SFVJACC 2014 NEW YEAR'S LUNCHEON



L.A. Matsuri Taiko performed the Lion Dance.



Ritsuko Shinbashi arranged the beautiful floral piece.



The flag salute was lead by Frank Tanaka.



Paul Jonokuchi presented thank you gifts to out-going president Nancy Oda.



Over 200 people attended the luncheon.



Rev. Paul Iwata of Sunrise Foursquare Church gave the invocation.



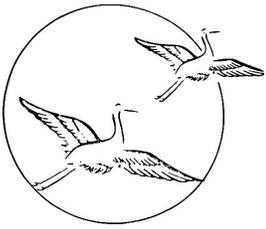
"Mirai"  
Future

## DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF STEVEN EVERDING

Jane Baugh      Diane Farnsworth  
David Bore      Virginia Solorio Ramirez  
Rena Clark      Mark & Melanie Sandnes  
Creative Graphics - Jeff Nicholson

## DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF DR. MARY ODA

Dr. & Mrs. Yoshio Akiyama	Dr. Kenji Irie	Victor & Lois Muraoka	Katie Tanijiri
Geoff & Sachi Arai	Yuki Isa	Masako Niizawa	Dr. Andrew Thibodeaux
Jean-Paul DeGuzman	Aiko Ishimaru	Fred & Gladys Oda	Dr. & Mrs. Reggie Thibodeaux
John & Liz Doomey	Sumie Kimura	Helen Oda	Takashi & Toshiko Watanabe
Kathryn Frye	Pat Kubota	Dr. Mary Oda Estate	Ronald & Sheila Wolf
Teruko Furuyama	Joline McQuillan	Fred & Amy Oshiro	Ruby Yamaoka
Hikowo & Etsuko Hashimoto	Robert & Akiko Moriguchi	Tom & Kinu Shishido	Sylvia Yamashita
Tsuneo Honma	Evelyn Motoyama	Toshihiko & Toshiye Sugii	Takao & Martha Yoneyama
Takeyoshi & Kumiko Inoshita	Priscilla Mui	Sumiko Taguchi	



## SFV MEIJI SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

SFV Meiji Senior Citizens Club had a successful New Year's Luncheon on January 11, 2014 with over 260 members and friends in attendance. The entertainment was provided by Hula Wahines, Ping Pong Club Singers, Japanese Dance and Ondo Dancers.

Honorees Mo Fujiu and Mark Nakamura were recognized for volunteering over 30 combined years. Twelve 85 year old members were inducted into the 85 Year Young Club.

Thank you Ken Kumagai for serving as Meiji president for the past 2 years.



Year of the Horse



*Thank you very much for your generous donations and support for the Meiji New Year's Party.*

Chiba, Kimiaki & Sayoko  
 Fujimoto, Kisui  
 Furushiro/Sakamoto Families  
 Gohata, Yas & Nancy  
 Honma, Tsuneo  
 Hori, Fukashi  
 Inaba, Ken & Shigeiko  
 Itaya, Roger & Linda  
 Kimura, Sumi  
 Komoto, Clara  
 Longworth, Wally & Joy  
 Matsuda, Ikuo & Yoshiko  
 Mitarai, Evelyn

Monji, Yoshiko  
 Morita, Chizuko  
 Nakada, Harry  
 Nakama, Fumio & Kazuko  
 Nakamura, Mark & Joann  
 Nakamura, NJ  
 Nakano Nursery  
 Nakata, Tomiko  
 Oda, Kay & Nancy  
 Ohara, Eddie  
 Okamoto, Masao & Peggy  
 Pasadena Nikkei Seniors  
 Sakaguchi, Dr. Bo & Ikuyo  
 Sato, Robert & Setsuko  
 Seinan Senior Center  
 SFV Hongwanji Buddhist Temple  
 SFV Japanese Language Institute  
 SFV Landscape Gardeners Assoc.

SFV Memorial Post VFW 4140  
 SFVJACC  
 Shigekuni, Phil & Marion  
 Shimizu, Rex & Lorraine  
 Shinbashi, Ritsuko  
 Shinsato, Ray & Jean  
 Tanaka, Frank & Marge  
 Tanaka, Craig  
 Tanijiri, Katie  
 Umeya Rice Cake Co.  
 Valley Japanese Community Center  
 Watanabe, Kenji & Kyoko  
 Yamada, John & Kay  
 Yamaguchi, Hiroshi & Yoshiko  
 Yamaoka, Ruby  
 Yamashiro, Rose  
 Yamashita, Sylvia  
 Yoshida, Margaret

## Manzanar Pilgrimage Planned By Team Mirai

People forget that other people can make mistakes. No individual is perfect; we all make them. Back in 1942, it just so happened that the President made one. When President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed his mistake into action - Executive Order 9066 - it began the movement of over 120,000 Japanese Americans to special military zones: internment camps.

Could you imagine a world in which it was acceptable to tear people away from their homes simply because of their ethnicity? Yet, this is exactly what happened a mere 70 years ago. Thrown from their homes and their properties, the Japanese of the West Coast were taken to the internment camps with only a suitcase of things in each hand.

Of the ten camps, Manzanar is arguably the most known to Los Angeles residents, where over 10,000 Japanese Americans were forced to live in a mere 1 square mile housing. Whether they were born in the US or in Japan, many Japanese families were relocated; even within our community center today, we have people that were directly affected by this horrifying nightmare.

But, it is important to see that they were overreactions from people that were scared. "Two wrongs don't make a right" - yet here we have an attempt at just that. The US Government had taken civil liberties and their rights. Sure, there are those who viewed the Japanese - Asians as a whole - negatively, but to those that were wrongly stripped of their freedom and imprisoned, Manzanar remains as a tribute and a reminder of what happened. It is important because of the wrongdoings that were put on innocent people. And, it is important, because as Japanese Americans, family and friends were put away for a mistake - a mistake that never should have happened.

On Saturday, April 26, 2014, Team Mirai will lead this unique trip to visit the Manzanar internment camp. For this day-long trip, you will have opportunity to walk in their shoes and capture a glimpse of what they had seen. This step back in time will

show you what the Japanese Americans endured and, later on, accomplished. These heart-breaking yet inspirational stories of the Japanese Americans that overcame their suffering in those camps, whose very descendents continued to thrive and integrate in the nation that held them, are the stories that our generation must recognize and learn from. Marking the beginning of an important time in Japanese American culture, these camps helped direct the way that Japanese Americans live even today. "Who are we as Japanese Americans?" and "What is this culture that we should be preserving?" are questions that we hope will be answered. Through this trip, everyone will have an opportunity to join with your peers; discuss your thoughts; and hear what others felt, appreciated, and realized.

Please contact Team Mirai at [info@teammirai.com](mailto:info@teammirai.com) for further questions and on how you can join Team Mirai for this sure to be memorable day.



**About Team Mirai:** A new group of young adults is developing! Our goal - to bridge today's Japan to the U.S while preserving the Japanese American culture through the San Fernando Japanese Community Center. We understand the importance and at times difficulty with maintaining your Japanese ideas and customs with your American ones. We are here to bring these two cultures together to educate everyone on the history, practices, and possibilities one can accomplish through our meetings and events.



**Team Mirai (L-R):** Kevin Sato, Brandon Takehara, Aya Makino, Mentor Rich Nakajima and Ritter Grauert.

## 2013 DR. SANBO SAKAGUCHI SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEE UPDATE



### Kristi Nishida

As a college student at a large University at times it may be hard to find your niche. But once you've found your niche with friends who you can relate to, it's a blast. I found my niche on the University of California Davis's Women's Rugby Team. Trying something new is always uncomfortable, but in due time, I grew to love the team and the sport. For our second tournament of the year the team took a trip down south to San Diego for Scrum by the Sea. Friday

after class we set out in our vans of teammates and took the long road trip to San Diego. This tournament and trip is so far my favorite as although it was a long eight hours of driving, the time we spent throughout the drive and stay in San Diego brought us closer together as a team. Families who lived in or near San Diego even opened their homes for the team to stay overnight showing the incredible kindness and generosity of the players on the team. Although we did not win the tournament, we gained experience and improved our game as well as our team chemistry. I'm excited we will be starting our official rugby season this Winter Quarter, Aggie Rugby, Aggie Pride!

I wish the best of luck to you graduating seniors in whatever endeavors you choose. And remember that no matter where you go, it's up to you to make the best of it. That means going out of your comfort zone and trying new things as well as forcing yourself to stay in sometimes to study!



### Jenna Matsushita

Since winning the SFVJACC Scholarship in May, I have been enjoying my independence while attending the University of San Francisco. Besides my classes, which included Japanese Language, I have been exploring the city with my roommates and new friends.

In September I had the opportunity to apply for the Terasaki Winter 2013 tour of Japan. To my surprise and delight, I was accepted. This educational tour is subsidized by Dr. Paul Terasaki and his foundation in West LA. This was my very first trip to Japan, and it was unforgettable. On my two week tour, I explored a wide spectrum of the country from the rural peaceful countryside of Minami Sanriku, to the hustle and bustle of the Shibuya Crossing in Tokyo. In all, we visited four cities; Sendai, Tokyo, Kyoto, and Hiroshima. During the tour I also had the opportunity to visit several universities, attend lectures, and interact with university students which is one way this opportunity is so unique.



### Some highlights of my trip by city include:

**Sendai** - We had the opportunity to visit the Nozomi Project; a social enterprise providing women affected by the earthquake and tsunami with a source of income, a circle of friends, and hope. The women make jewelry from shards of pottery found post-tsunami. For me this visit was fun and inspiring. It was fun to see these unique products and such a creative use of shattered remains. It was also encouraging as the women of the Nozomi Project are so grateful for all the organization has done not only for them, but for this once devastated community as a whole. Listening to the women's stories of how they became involved in the company from the day of the tsunami to the present day was both heartbreaking and amazing to see the resilience of these women.

**Tokyo** - Visiting Tokyo University, also known as Todai, was another great experience. Todai has an extremely good

Continued on next page.

## Jenna Matsushita - Continued from page 8

reputation in Japan, and it was cool to be an honorary Todai student for the day. At the university we listened to three lectures all relating to Japanese and Japanese American cultures. In addition to these lectures we also got a tour of the school and a chance to interact with students. Some of the students were even able to meet us and show us around Tokyo, which was great to get a more local perspective of a city with such a tourist-y reputation.

**Kyoto** - The Center for PS Cell Research of Kyoto University was another destination of our tour. This is the lab of Dr. Shinya Yamanaka, a Nobel Prize winning doctor, so it was a real privilege to get a tour of the facility. While at the lab we listened to lectures from Drs. Saji and Kimura about the research done at the facility as well as a recap of some Japanese culture.

**Hiroshima** - Our last destination of the tour was Hiroshima. Here, we were given a tour of the Peace Memorial Park and the Peace Memorial Museum by Mr. Isao Aratani; a survivor of the bombing in Hiroshima. Walking through the museum was a rush of conflicting feelings being Japanese American. With that said it was an enlightening experience to hear the Japanese perspective of the bombing.

Although I did not know anyone at the beginning of the tour, by the end of the trip every one of us had bonded with one another. We really became a family. I know after these two weeks I have made friends for life, and experienced the trip of a lifetime.

I would highly encourage anyone who is interested in the program to apply for either the winter or summer program. You can find more details about the program at: <http://terasaki.org/nibei/educationaltours>



Statue of Hachiko



Mount Fuji



"Year of the Horse"

### WELCOME NEW CC MEMBERS

Jean Asuncion  
Katherine Campos  
Irene Cardenas  
John & Renee Davidson  
Donna Ellis  
Christopher Evans  
Leo Fong  
Tracy Kaku  
Lorraine Kaneshiro  
Rose Matsumura  
Marlies McDonald  
Reiko Moriguchi  
Yoshitaka Morioka  
Jerald & Delphine C. Porter  
Gina Romero  
Nobuo & Michiko Sugahara  
Florence Takaaze  
Shigeko Tanabe  
John Tanaka



## SFVJACC Scholarships

The SFVJACC High School  
Scholarship applications are now available.

Deadline will be April 1, 2014.

Pick up your applications at the CC or go to our  
website - [www.sfvjacc.com](http://www.sfvjacc.com)

### Seeking Queen Candidate:

Would you like the opportunity to learn more about yourself and also have fun meeting members of the local communities? It's the chance to learn about your culture and traditions, while representing the San Fernando Valley Japanese-American Community Center as their queen representative in the 2014 Nisei Week Queen Coronation.

If you are a single female, never married and without children, are between the ages of 19 to 25 years, and are at least 50% Japanese ancestry, born in the United States or naturalized as a permanent U.S. resident, please consider this offer. For more information, contact NJ Nakamura as soon as possible or by February 28, 2014. You may contact NJ at 818-893-6503 or [njnakamura@aol.com](mailto:njnakamura@aol.com)



SFVJACC 2012  
Queen Lauren Arie  
at the Nisei  
Week Parade

# SFVJACC Athletics Pancake Breakfast



**Saturday, March 15, 2014**

**7:30 – 11:00 am**

*(Donation \$3 per person)*

**RAFFLE  
PRIZES!**

**RAFFLE  
PRIZES!**

12953 BRANFORD STREET, PACOIMA, CA 91331

**PANCAKES, SAUSAGES, OJ, COFFEE!!!**

PLEASE SUPPORT THE CC YOUTHS IN OUR ATHLETICS PROGRAM.

## SAVE THE DATE FOR FAMILY FUN

**Saturday—May 17, 2014**

### Family Day Picnic

**Place: Gabrieleno Equestrian Center/Orcas Park**



Watch your children race for their prizes.

**Games for adults and kids**

**Entertainment**

**Children's playground**

**Hot Dogs and Drinks**

**Bento boxes for purchase or  
Bring your own lunch**

**More details later!**



**Mom's Rules** By Bud Sagara

Mothers are notorious for laying down hundreds of rules that have been drilled into us since before we could remember anything else. Many of the rules were not rules at all, but simple “don’t do that” or “do this” commands for the moment like “Don’t you dare bring that lizard inside the house,” or “Clean up that mess you made.” Other general rules regarding brushing your teeth, washing your hands or “don’t jump off the garage” were given to ensure good health. Taken all together, they form the boundaries that you probably used to set rules for your kids. As a grandparent, it is kind of amusing to observe our daughters use the same phrases when giving directions to their children that we used on them. Kids may not appear to be attentive when their parents speak to them, but they are listening and watching what you do, so try

to set good examples.

It was difficult for me to comply with the “sit up straight” rule because of my natural tendency towards slouching. My poor posture today may be a result of my slumping defiance of Mom’s rules, or because of a bad back suffered at the San Fernando Valley Judo *dojo*, or when the rest of me fell apart after years of playing baseball for the San Fernando Aces. Anytime one of us would get a sore back or shoulder, we had to use a Salonpas patch and then beat the sore area with that Japanese flexy-thingy that has a rubber ball on the end. Does that thing really do any good? Another rule was that we had to take a jacket with us anytime we left the house. This rule was supposed to help us avoid catching colds or worse. I remember having to take a jacket to the *Obon* carnival at the CC even when it was 98 degrees outside. My Mom said that anytime a kid runs around outside and gets all sweaty, that’s when he’ll catch a chill and die. I still put a jacket or sweatshirt in the car anytime I leave the house, just in case. Another rule that Mom had was to make us change clothes whenever we got home. There were two categories of clothes, “good clothes” and “play clothes”, and the two categories could never be intermingled. Good clothes were for going to church, school, or to events at the CC. They were not to get dirty. Play clothes were for helping Dad at work, doing chores around the house, or for actual playing.

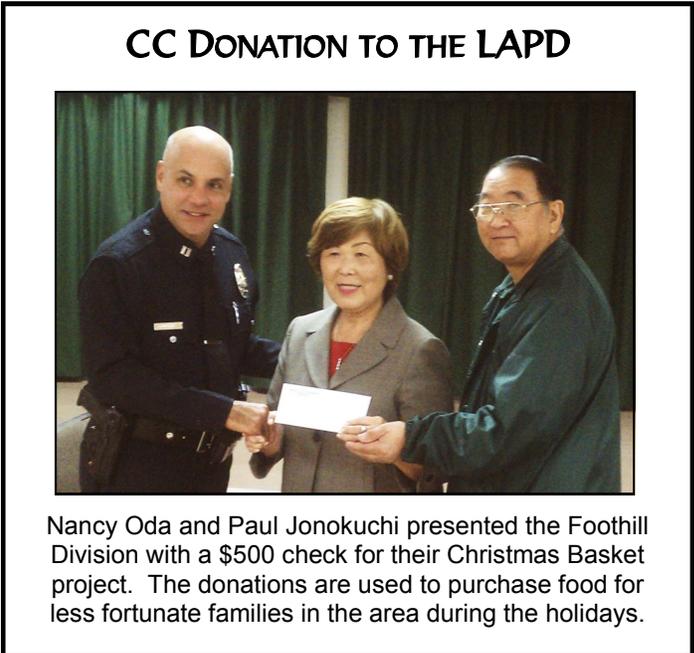


Another rule that was puzzling is the “don’t eat that because it will spoil your dinner” rule. I learned later that this rule was in direct conflict with the internationally accepted concept of *hors d’oeuvres*. How could I possibly comply with this rule when every time I visited my Japanese American friends in the neighborhood, snacks would be offered and a bag of fruit or vegetables was given to me to take home? There are many endearing traits about Japanese American families that involve food and what to do and what not to do. For example, you can’t start eating until you have a bowl of rice, you know countless ways Spam is served, or food always tastes better when you use chopsticks. When vegetables are prepared, they are invariably cut on an angle and only Best Foods brand mayonnaise is used to mix with *shoyu* to make a dipping sauce. A small bottle of *shoyu* is the only thing that is used from the condiment tray on the dining table. You’ve been eating Chinese chicken salad long before it was popular and there will probably be ambrosia, macaroni salad, or multi-layered finger Jell-o served at any family potluck. Hot water for tea is dispensed from an air pot thermos and cold drinks are served from an ice chest. When the meal is finished, there will be a stack of washed Styrofoam containers available so that each guest can take home leftovers.

There are even more rules if you go out to dinner. It doesn’t matter if you are celebrating an event or with whom you are dining, you must vigorously fight to pay the bill. If you lose that fight, you must try to stuff money in the pocket of the person who paid the bill. After attending a funeral, you must go out to eat Chinese food. You must never take the last piece of anything served, no matter how much you want it. *Enryoi!*

If you visit someone’s home, you always take off your shoes and bring a bag of fruit or vegetables for the hosts. If one receives visitors, a cup of hot tea or cold drink must be offered accompanied by *senbei*. Each Japanese American home is required to have at least one bag of *senbei* on hand at all times. If one is going to an event at the CC you must, of course, take a bag of fruit or vegetables to give to a friend or relative who is also attending. We share these odd quirks of Japanese American society, so isn’t it nice we have a place like the CC where everyone is alike. We know the same people or at least one of their relatives, and we even know someone who ran for Nisei Week Queen. We try to attend the *Obon* carnival even if we live outside of the Valley, and if we went to Japanese School, we must admit that our best subject was probably recess.

Old Wakaba note: Source for many of the JA quirks from Jenni Kuida and Tony Osumi.



Nancy Oda and Paul Jonokuchi presented the Foothill Division with a \$500 check for their Christmas Basket project. The donations are used to purchase food for less fortunate families in the area during the holidays.

SFV JACL

## Suzume no Gakkou Summer Camp

For kids entering  
grade 2 to 6.

Camp is  
scheduled for  
June 16-20, 2014.



## Chocolates for East Japan

Note: Chocolate for East Japan (C4EJ) is a small group of CC members that raise money doing the year to buy chocolate candy at Christmas time for the children in the devastated areas of Japan. The project is in it's second year.

In 2013 winter, C4EJ was able to deliver the 800 chocolate bars to Miyagi and Fukushima Prefectures. Without your support we could not have done it.

It was very heartwarming when a chocolate bar was given to Ojizo-sama, the guardian dieties of children. The three dieties represent the three children who lived there and were tragically lost in the tsunami. You are welcome to see other photos reflecting the magic touch a chocolate bar can have in uniting supporters in the USA with the people of Japan.



Thank you very much for your warm support.

Yoshiko Kawada  
2013 President



## MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

The Memorial Day service will continue at the SFVJACC in the future with the help of old and new veterans of the community and other community volunteers who will help in continuing this solemn event.

The service will be held during the Memorial Day weekend on Sunday, May 25, 2014. We ask all community center organizations participate in the service remembering valley veterans who have passed away and honoring them for their service to their country.

Though VFW Post 4140 is in its last year as a post (we will be merging with Gardena Nisei Memorial VFW Post 1961), we will continue until the merger is final in July, 2014. Helping to run this program will be David Sumida, Donnie Fujimoto, Teri Tanaka, Kay Yamada, Yo Monji and others. Older vets who will help include Frank Tanaka, Jun Ogimachi, Tomi Muranaga, Victor Muraoka, Darrell Vivian, Johnny Yamada, Elmer Boomhower and other VFW members.

SFV community members are asked to submit names of deceased veterans so that their names may be inscribed on the memorials located in the Kiyoshi Muranaga Veterans Memorial Garden. Qualifications include: Service of any branch of service, service may be anytime served whether in peacetime or war, family of the deceased must be a resident of the San Fernando Valley, and family member must apply by calling Marge Tanaka 818-361-8951 or emailing at [fjmat1@verizon.net](mailto:fjmat1@verizon.net).

We also ask community organizations to verify that they are attending and give Marge Tanaka the name of the representative.

The details are listed below:

Date: Sunday, May 25, 2014

Time: 5:00 P.M.

Place: Memorial Courtyard, SFVJACC 12953 Branford Street

A small dinner will follow the services in the Dr. Sanbo Sakaguchi Memorial Hall

For information please call Darrell Vivian 818-356-0299, Frank or Marge Tanaka

818-361-8951 or Victor Muraoka, 818590-6724 email [v.muraoka@verizon.net](mailto:v.muraoka@verizon.net)

**COORDINATING COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONS-MEETINGS-CONTACT PERSONS**

Coordinating Council.....	1st Wed., 7:00 PM.....	Nancy Oda .....	818 786-0914
Community Center.....	1st/3rd Wed., 7:00 PM.....	Paul Jonokuchi .....	818 894-5327
Athletics.....	3rd Tues., 7:30 PM.....	Margaret Takimoto .....	818 701-7628
Bonsai Club.....	4th Sun., 8 AM-12 PM.....	Daito Ono.....	818 349-1310
Chatsworth West United Methodist Church.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	2nd Sun., 1:00 PM.....	Doreen Kawamoto.....	818 764-8850
CC News.....	Lois Okui.....	818 892-1487.....	Email: loisokui@aol.com
Fishing Club.....	3rd Mon., 8:00 PM.....	John Goka .....	.....
Golf Club.....	2nd Tues., 7:00 PM.....	Mas Yamashita.....	818 368-5315
JACL.....	2nd Wed., 7:00 PM.....	Doreen Kawamoto.....	818 764-8850
Japanese Language Institute.....	Sat., 9:30 AM-12:30 PM.....	Kimi Chiba.....	818 590-3362
Judo Club.....	4th Wed., 7:03 PM.....	Mo Barrera .....	818 331-9444
Landscape Gardeners.....	Sat. of every other month.....	Nob Tamai .....	818 347-3912
Nikkei Senior Gardens.....	2nd Thurs., 7:00 PM.....	Toji Hashimoto .....	818 897-4216
Nikkei Village.....	.....	Stan Date .....	818 701-6607
Sho Chiku Bai Porter Ranch Bonsai Club.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	1st Sun., 9 AM-12 PM.....	Walter Zipusch.....	818 746-6677
SFV Holiness Church.....	2nd Sun., 12:30 PM.....	Diane Date.....	818 701-6607
SFV Hongwanji Buddhist Temple.....	2nd Mon., 7:30 PM.....	Roger Itaya .....	818 899-4030
SFV Meiji Senior Citizens.....	1st Fri., 12:30 PM.....	Kay Yamada.....	818 363-6468
Sunrise Foursquare Church.....	.....	Reverend Paul Iwata .....	818 782-8738
Valley Japanese Community Center .....	.....	.....	.....
.....	2nd Fri., 7:30 PM.....	Neil Hashiba ..	818 732-5837
VFW Post 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

CC Deadline:  
2nd Friday of  
every odd month.

**SPECIAL CLASSES**

Arts & Crafts.....	Monday	9:00 AM-12:00 PM	Sally Hamamoto	818 361-2902
Ballroom Dance.....	Tuesday	7:00-8:30 PM	Nancy Gohata	818 899-4232
Bowling*, Mission Hills Bowl.....	Thursday	9:30 AM	George Seko	818 998-0682
Bridge*.....	Mon/Wed	12:00-4:00 PM	Ray Shinsato	818 767-5550
Japanese Calligraphy.....	1st/3rd Thursday	9:30-11:00 AM	Yuriko Muso	818 726-8935
Country Western Music*.....	1st /3rd Tuesday	10:30-11:30 AM	Janet Schuetze	818 767-1819
Hitomi's Cooking Class .....	4th Tuesday	7:00 PM	NJ Nakamura	818 893-6503
Craft Workshop.....	2nd Sat, even months	10:00 AM-12 PM	SFVJACC@hotmail.com	818 899-1989
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	Call CC office	818 899-1989
Hawaiian Hula.....	Friday	12:30 PM	Jan Kondo	818 888-5124
Hawaiian Ukulele Class.....	Friday (Gym)	10:00-11:30 AM	Greg Librando	818 896-6503
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
Kokusei Shigin Class.....	Thursday	7:00-9:00 PM	Lily Kumagai	818 367-2711
Line Dancing*.....	Thursday	8:30-10:00 AM	Mark Nakamura	818 363-3038
Mandolin.....	Friday	9:30-11:00 AM	Call CC office	818 899-1989
Mah-Jong*.....	Tuesday	1:00-3:00 PM	Yoko Kawamura	818 765-3513
Ondo Dancing* .....	2nd/4th Friday	7:00-9:00 PM	Masako Rodriguez	818 899-8777
Ping Pong Club.....	Thursday, 2nd/4th Tuesday	10:00 AM-3:00 PM	Burt Tokuhara	818 469-8934
SFV Judo Club.....	Mon/Wed/Thurs/Fri	7:00-9:00 PM	Mike Murakami	818 648-6044
Tai Chi Class*.....	Monday	9:00-10:00 AM	Florence Takaaze	310 202-6693
Yoga Class.....	Wednesday	10-11 AM/7:30-8:30 PM	CC Office	818 899-1989
Zumba.....	Monday	7:30-8:30 PM	Margaret Takimoto	818 701-7628

**SUPPORT GROUPS & SERVICES**

Alzheimer's Support Group.....	1st Saturday	10:00 AM-12 PM	Facilitator: Isabelle Miyata
Blood Pressure Screening*.....	3rd Friday	9:00-11:00 AM	Nikkei Pioneer Conference Room
Podiatrist*.....	2nd Saturday	12:30 PM-?	Nikkei Pioneer Conference Room

\*Meiji Senior Citizens' Activity or Service

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



**SAN FERNANDO VALLEY  
HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE**

9450 Remick Ave. Pacoima  
818 899-4030 www.sfvhbt.org

Rev. Patricia Usuki:  
Temple President: Rod Kuratomi  
Dharma School - Sunday 11:00 am

**BUDDHIST TEMPLE CALENDAR**

**February**

- 2 Shotsuki: Monthly Memorial Service 10 a.m.
- 8 **(Sat.) Udon Fundraiser**
- 9 Nehan-e: Shakyamuni Buddhist's Memorial Service 10:00 am; Annual General Meeting - All Members
- 15 **Rummage Sale (at CC)**
- 16 Joint svc at WLABT 10:00 am
- 23 Regular Service 10:00 am

**March**

- 2 Temple clean-up
- 9 Shotsuki: Monthly Memorial Service 10 am
- 15 Ohigan Seminar with Rev. Dean Koyama, Palo Alto BT 1 pm
- 16 Shunki Higan-e Spring Equinox Dharma Service 10 am
- 22 **Chili Cookoff/Bingo Fundraiser**
- 23 Regular Service 10 am
- 30 Temple retreat (no service at temple)



**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 (English)  
(818) 899-4115 (Japanese)

Please refer to our website for more information: [www.sfvhc.org](http://www.sfvhc.org)

**English Department**

Pastor Roland Hazama  
Pastor Raynold Nakamura

**Sunday Schedule**

9:30 AM  
Kid Venture Children's Ministries (infant -6<sup>th</sup> grade)  
Sunday School for ages junior high through adult

10:30 AM  
Coffee Fellowship

11:00 AM  
Worship Service  
(childcare for infants-Pre-K)

**Youth Fellowship**  
Friday, 7:30 PM

Meetings at the church for Jr. High and Sr. High

**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 In Hyun

**Sunday Schedule**

11:00 AM  
Worship Service  
  
Lunch and Fellowship  
After worship service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays

Wednesday, 10:00 AM  
Prayer Meeting @ church

Please ask about other weekday meetings.



**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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday @ 3:00PM**  
Musical Director: Steve Foreman

**Japanese Class – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday @ 9AM**  
Instructor: Junko Wayama

**Shotokan Karate of America**  
**Fri. @ 6:30 PM Rm.1**  
Instructor: April Warynick  
[www.ska.org](http://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 noon .....Potluck 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 ..... 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday  
7:00 PM in Gardena  
310-329-1586

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

**Phone:** 818-782-8738  
818-642-2332

**Email:** [pmiwata1@hotmail.com](mailto:pmiwata1@hotmail.com)

**Website:**

[www.sunrisejapanesechurch.org](http://www.sunrisejapanesechurch.org)

**UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE CC**

**February 1, 2014**

SFV Japanese Language  
Institute New Year's Party

**February 15, 2014**

SFV Hongwanji Buddhist  
Temple Yard Sale

**February 22, 2014**

Nikkei Federation Roundtable

**March 1, 2014**

Chocolates For East Japan Group  
Yard Sale

**March 15, 2014**

SF Athletics Pancake Breakfast

**March 22, 2014**

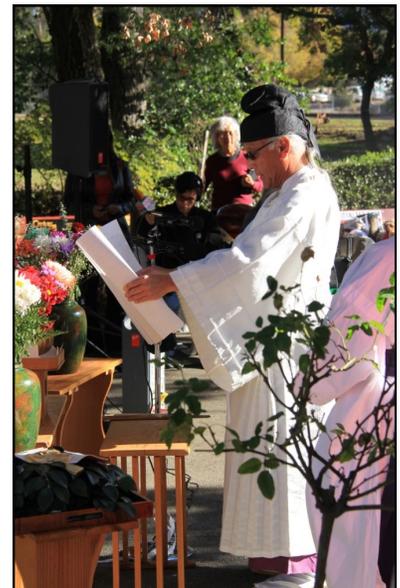
Craft Workshop

**Discovering History in Your Own Backyard: Tuna Canyon Detention Station**

On March 30, the SFV JACC and SFV JACL will be host to members, JA community, and CSUN students interested in the Tuna Canyon Detention Station story. It was designated as a Historical Cultural Monument #1039 last June 2013 by the City of Los Angeles. The event will take place in Dr. Sakaguchi Hall from 1:00-3:00 in the afternoon. John Paul DeGuzman will moderate the panel that includes Grace Shimizu, an expert from the Japanese Peruvian community, who will extend our knowledge about the immediate arrests and interrogations. Dr. Jessica Kim and Dr. Tomo Hattori's CSUN students will be attending en mass. Dialogue between generations will take place during the open mic segment.

The newly formed Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition consists of residents of the Sunland-Tujunga residents, Little Lander's Historical Society and leaders of the Japanese American community. Since the site is so close to the Center, it is a likely place to educate our youth about its history as the first place where Japanese, Italians, Germans, Japanese Peruvians and others were held.

The Coalition's contributing scholars will present the vetted text that will be submitted to the Cultural Affairs Department of the City of Los Angeles for approval. Please come and support our effort to preserve Japanese American history. Admission is free. Light refreshments will be served. Photos are from its recent Shinto Purification Ceremony held on December 16.





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

### 2014 MEMBERSHIP FORM

(Membership period: January 1 to December 31, 2014)

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

(Please Print)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last Name) (First Name)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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