



San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center

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Issue 11

September/
October
2013



Yoshiko Yamaguchi

Yoshiko Yamaguchi Recipient of the Pioneer Award

Article taken from the event program.

Yoshiko Yamaguchi was one of six recipients who was honored at the annual Pioneers Luncheon on August 14, 2013 in Little Tokyo. The Nisei Week Foundation recognizes elders who have contributed years of leadership in the Japanese American community.

Yoshiko Yamaguchi was born in Nishinomiya, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan. After majoring in English Literature at Kobe College, she received her bachelor's degree in economics from Kansei Gakuin University. Upon graduation she worked at the Osaka Headquarters of C. Ito Trading Company in research and wrote market and merchandize trading reports. While visiting the United States in 1969 to help her Fulbright scholar sister at Stanford University, she met her husband, Hiroshi Yamaguchi. They later married and moved to Los Angeles where he became an aerospace engineer. Busy raising two children, Ken and June, she started to teach Japanese; first at Los Angeles-based Kyodo Systems and later at the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center (SFVJACC) Japanese Language Institute. While her kids were in elementary school, Yoshiko went to graduate school at UCLA, first in the School of Oriental Language, then switching to the School of Social Welfare. In 1971, while getting her degree, she started to volunteer at the SFVJACC to provide social services to the community. She later joined the Human Services staff as Program Coordinator.

Yoshiko graduated from the UCLA School of Social Welfare with a master's degree in social welfare and soon thereafter obtained her Clinical Social Worker's License (LCSW) from the State of California. She started to work for the State of California Department of Social Services, which later merged with the North LA County Regional Center (NLACRC), to provide assistance to developmentally disabled clients as a case manager.

After retiring from the NLACRC in 1993, she became an adjunct professor of Japanese Language at Pierce College and also taught at LAUSD Adult Extension and at the Japanese Community Pioneer Center in Little Tokyo as an instructor of ESL and U.S. citizenship. Over the past 30 years Yoshiko has helped numerous Japanese immigrants obtain U.S. citizenship by teaching them U.S. history and civics to prepare for the Department of Homeland Security Immigration and Naturalization interviews. Her interest in the welfare of the Japanese community extends beyond work related issues. As a court appointed social worker, Yoshiko used to advocate for defendants in cases where international cultural customs were at the core of the trial.

In the 1980s Yoshiko became interested in Japanese folk dancing and joined the Kikuta Kai Genchi Minyo group under the tutelage of Madame Kikuta. Yoshiko was eventually granted the title of "Shihan" (minyo teacher). Today she participates in various minyo and contemporary dance performances at community events.

Yoshiko has been a member of the Japanese Community Pioneer Center since 1993 and is currently its first vice president and sits on its board of directors. She is responsible for coordinating and planning various programs for senior citizens, including health related lecture series and cultural classes. Yoshiko is also an active vice president and board member of the Japanese Women's Society of Southern California.



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 Nancy Oda

Welcome to the new families from Japanese Language Institute and SFV Athletics! You represent the youth movement that renews us each year. Many members reserve space for family reunions, birthdays, and anniversaries for \$100 to "save the date". Hurry to secure space for your holiday parties! This is a reminder that organizations should start working on their calendars for 2014 as it is due before November 2013.

The CC cleanup day is coming up on October 19. Despite the fact that the gym floor looks terrific or you think that the place looks better, community spirit is what is important. When we work and play together, we share a common vision and affection for our Center. We will start the day with a "coffee break" at 8:30 and tackle a job in the garden, the pioneer center, judo dojo, or the gym. The SFV JACL will kindly make chili dogs and salad for the early lunch. We need one lead for the four quadrants. Please call if you will help me out.

During the CC Retreat held on September 7, we talked about the strengths and weakness of our center. The Board and representatives of many invited organizations also talked about obstacles, opportunities, and threats. Mrs. Mabel Takimoto, the CC's First Lady President, commended the group for its synergy and was thrilled that younger members participated.

We are making communication easier with the new website. You may also send messages that will get quick responses, too. Clubs and organizations may submit good photos online or to nancyoda@juno.com. By the way, donating to the Community Center has become easier with PayPal on the website. You will get an automatic receipt. If you prefer personally bringing donations in, that's okay, too.

We hope that you like the new Elkay water fountains installed in the gym and hall. Thanks to young Franklin Reitzas for finding just the right type for sports bottles for the gym users. Please use it carefully!

Did you know that Tommy Uyeda and the Ping Pong Club met the new Mayor of Los Angeles, Eric Garcetti, on "a pot hole campaign" in front of the Center? Once again, I am amazed with the vigor of our senior citizens that I witness each day. Hats off to you all!! Gambare!!

Finally, my personal thanks to the hard working Board of Directors, Lois, and the members who helped make the Tribute to Dr. Sanbo Sakaguchi an expression of our respect and appreciation.



Catch the Spirit!

Kudos to SFVJACC members who are seeking donations from grants or awards like Jack Carver whose volunteer hours as an assistant coach earned a competitive Disney Award of \$1,000 for Athletics. Rich Nakajima donated \$1,000 which his company received from Wells Fargo Bank to be given to a non-profit that he is passionate about. Our past Nisei Week Queen, Tamlyn Tomita, secured a \$675 donation from the MA and Josephine Grisham Foundation and Rochelle Silsbee arranged an annual giving from So Cal Gas. Way to go!!

Zen Garden Rebirth

Many years ago, professional landscaper, Frank Tanaka, designed the Japan inspired gardens at the Center. Many youngsters marvel when Landscape Gardeners members Ken Shinbashi, John Kobayashi and Fumio Nakama climb up the trees on Clean Up Day. Each year, the SFV Bonsai Club faithfully maintains its shape with skill. Senior citizen, John Yamada, waters the thirsty trees. Roy Imazu, is the guardian of our beautiful spaces who fixes sprinklers, reduces weeds and plants seasonal colorful flowers at the entrance. In memory and respect for the Isseis, gardeners and deceased veterans we have begun to redo the benches and reduced the clutter. Parents, please review the following rules with your children.

1. Keep off the granite markers and out of the gardens.
2. Make sure that no one damages the redwood benches.



CC CLEAN-UP
OCTOBER 19
9 - 12 NOON

IF YOU CAN HELP CALL THE
 CC OFFICE (818) 899-1989



SFVJACC
GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP
MEETING

DECEMBER 7, 2013
9:00 - 10:30 AM

JOIN US FOR THIS INFORMATIVE MEETING!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Months of July and August 2013

Donations

Yone & Jane Takehara
MA and Josephine Grisham Foundation
Grant secured by Tamlyn Tomita
Jeri Okamoto, Mamie Kosaka & Families
In memory of mother Hisako Okamoto/Use of Hall
Minoru Sasaki
LTSC Community Development Corp.
Emiko Suyehiro
In memory of husband George Suyehiro
Roger Itaya, Randy Itaya & Families
In memory of father Ray Itaya
James & Rose Higashida
In honor of granddaughter Cameron Amano, CC
Scholarship Recipient
Sylvia Yamashita
Greg Kimura
United Way Charitable Contribution
Anonymous
IBM Charitable Contribution
Minoru Sasaki
Cars 4 Causes

Use of Facilities

SFV Hongwanji Buddhist Temple
Central Productions, LLC
Nikkei Senior Gardens
SFV JACL
Ballroom Dance
Thursday Nite Basketball
Yoga Class
Tuesday Exercise Class
Line Dancing
Mae Sakamoto
Monday Nite Basketball
Tuesday Nite Basketball
Wednesday Nite Basketball
Seniority
Jan & Company
Barbara Nakatsu, Yoshi Matsuda, Janet Schuetze,
Toji Hashimoto & Brian Matsuda
Poker Club
Hanafuda
Jeri Okamoto & Mamie Kosaka
Maebelle Librando
Mah Jong
Manzanar High School Reunion
Rich Nakajima
Ping Pong Club00
SFV JACL
Yonsei
Harmonica Class
Chocolates for East Japan
Country Western Music
Wahines
Paul Jonokuchi

Continued on next column.

Miscellaneous

Don Akamine.....2 (2 lbs) Coffee
Eli Coronado Creamer, sugar, 3 pkgs. Napkins
Kimiko Ishida..... 5 Japanese DVDs
Yukiko Kimura..... 4 Bags of fabric
Ping Pong Club3 (2.5 lbs) Coffee
Curly & Flo Sato..... 3 (2 lbs) Decaf Coffee
Yone Takimoto..... Box of 36 individual bags (8 cup
serving size) of coffee, 2 lbs. Coffee
Buster Yano 5 Jigsaw puzzles

DONATIONS TO HOT MEAL

FOR THE MONTHS OF July – August 2013

Dr. Bo Sakaguchi..... July birthday cake in memory of his
brother Dr. Sanbo Sakaguchi
Musashi Restaurant.....100 lbs. rice, 5 gal. oil & 2 pkgs.
chopsticks
Yone Takimoto..... Tsukemono for Tues. lunch, takuwan
2 times & cucumber tsukemono
Kiyo Tomomatsu..... Fresh peach pie for kitchen
volunteers
Tatsuko Nomoto..... 30 lbs. rice
Marian Murphy..... Birthday cake to celebrate her
mother Tomiko Oda's 89th birthday
Marian Oda..... Cucumber tsukemono for kitchen
volunteers
June Imamoto..... Knives, kitchen utensils & chop-
sticks
Ken Nomura..... Tomatoes for kitchen volunteers
Harriet & Tim Elliott..... 2 large cans of coffee
Dr. Bo Sakaguchi..... August birthday cake to celebrate
his birthday
Kathryn Frye..... Monetary Donation in honor of
her dad, Dr. Bo's birthday
Musashi Restaurant.....100 lbs. rice, 5 gal. oil & 2 pkgs.
chopsticks
George Matsumoto..... Fruit cups for kitchen volunteers
Dr. Shigeo Sumida..... Monetary Donation in memory of Dr.
Sanbo Sakaguchi
Hiromi Seele..... 2 freezer bags of tomato sauce

Fish Donations:

Bob Hagan - Ramona, CA..... Yellow fin tuna
Mike Meier - La Mirada, CA..... Yellow fin, yellow tail & blue fin tuna
Greg Miller - San Clemente..... 73 lbs.
John Luttringer - Riverside..... 217 lbs.
John Sparrow - Lake Elsinore.... Blue fin, yellow fin & yellow tail
Jim Kostelecky - Pasadena..... Blue fin, yellow fin & yellow tail
Greg Librando, Harris..... Use of Karl Nobuyuki's truck to pick
Yoneoka, Bert Inoue & up fish in San Diego
Geoff Arai

Omission from May-June donation list:

Chiz Morita..... Birthday cake to celebrate her sister
May Rivera's birthday

Thank you for all your generous donations!

DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF DR. SANBO SAKAGUCHI

Yoshio/Nat Akiyama
George Baba
Marie Ball
John/Liz Doomey
Tom/Nobi Fujimoto
Momoyo Fujii
James/Rose Higashida
Harry/Misako Honda
Hideo/Aiko Ishimaru
Doreen Kawamoto
Akira Kimura
Emiko Kobayashi

Linda Kuratomi
Ethel Mayekawa & Family
Evelyn Mitarai
Yoshiko Monji
Ken/Priscilla Mui
Setsuko Mukai
George/Frances Murakami
Harry Nakada
Fumio/Kazuko Nakama
Henry Nakamura
Mark/Joanne Nakamura
Kay/Nancy Oda

Masao/Tsukimi Okamoto
SFVJA Fishing Club
Sachiko Sakamoto
Don/Tina Shimabukuro
Shoji/Shari Takeshima
Denise Tanaka
Frank/Marge Tanaka
Katie Tanijiri
Garrett/Angela Tatsumi
Glenn/Cindy Tatsumi
Kinya/Shizuye Tatsumi
Michiko Tokunaga Kus

Art/Jean Tsutsui
Herbert/Reiko Tsutsui
Teruko Uyehara & Family
Kenji/Kyoko Watanabe
Takashi/Toshiko Watanabe
Sumi Yamaguchi
Ruby Yamaoka
Bryce/Rosie Yokomizo

DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF HELEN KANEKO

Craig & Nancy Arihara
Stanley & Jean Furuta
Gayle and Dale Hachiya
Lily Inatomi
Neal Nakagiri
Yone Takimoto
Teruko Uyehara & Family
Margaret Yoshida



SFV Senior Meiji Club New Year's Party

Saturday
January 11, 2014



Pine Tree Pruning

The SFV Bonsai Club and the Sho Chiku Bai Porter Ranch Bonsai Club did their annual pine tree pruning on Sunday, August 18. Thank you to the following for their time and labor. The trees look beautiful!

Ms. Toshie Kawaguchi
Akira Kimura
Shigetaro Murata

Daito Ono
Takeshi Sumida
Shogo Wakamatsu

Osamu Yakura
Walter Zipusch



Karl Nobuyuki's 40-Year Journey With AADAP (Asian American Drug Abuse Program)

By Rahimah Shah, AADAP Administrative Assistant



The early 70's was a period when groups of people assembled to repair and heal the damage of addiction that many youth and adults struggled with. This was also a time of conflicting philosophies. In hindsight, the ramifications of addictions may have not been able to be foreseen, but what is for sure is that there were key grassroots leaders that paved the way to allow us to do the work we are able to do today. One of those individuals is Karl Nobuyuki, AADAP's Board Member and long time supporter. After a critical role in its formation and thirteen dedicated years on the Board, Karl's retirement will be honored at this year's Annual Board Meeting in August.

Karl played a huge role in AADAP's history. In the 1970's most drug abuse treatment centers were dealing with heroin oriented cases, however, the Asian American population was dealing more with barbiturates. There was a dire need for treatment in an Asian American community that, at the time, was receiving absolutely no services. Indeed, there was a great denial of the problem itself among the older generations. Karl shared, "Parents were actually cleaning their kids up to make them look like they died in their sleep." There was such an entrenched shame towards drug addiction.

However, among the activists of the Asian American Movement, the drug problems in the community was a great concern, and they initiated many actions, educational, and volunteer activities to address the problem. There was not a great consensus on what to do. Indeed there was a great deal of controversy. Karl was Director of The Youth and Community Services (YACSO) in the City of Gardena. When 31 Japanese American youth overdosed in Los Angeles County, the City Council "freaked" and approached Karl to do something. Working with others, and through the support of Gardena Councilman Mas Fukai, who was also a deputy to Supervisor Kenny Hahn, ten beds for residential treatment dedicated to Asian Americans was established. This formed the foundation of the Asian Joint Communications. Karl emphasized Mas Fukai's unwavering dedication to Asian American issues. He said Mas was fearless, and despite criticism, he would not be deterred, even writing a \$2,000 personal check for the incorporation. Further organizing and collaboration led to two efforts to submit proposals to the federal National Institute of Mental Health. Karl was the principal author of these efforts, while K. Patrick Okura, and Dr. Ford Kuramoto played principal roles in educating NIMH and Congress about the need for these services. The late Ester Soriano, Dick Wong and Roy Morales were all heavily influential in collecting vital statistical data needed for AADAP. Funding was finally approved in 1972, and the agency was incorporated in 1973. Karl moved to lead the Japanese American Citizen's League in 1977 and was its National Director until 1980. He considers one of his biggest accomplishments his writing of The Commission on Wartimes Internment of Civilians Act, which became law in 1980. He continued his active support of the agency throughout his other careers and in 2000 returned to the Board to formally engage in its development. He reviewed the staff salary surveys conducted by Dean Nakanishi, Administrative Director. He reviewed and edited Personnel Policies. As a professional Webmaster and training video producer for the Los Angeles Fire Department for seven consecutive years, he greatly assisted AADAP with the agency's 35th Anniversary video and website. He was a leading voice in many important policy discussions, and engaged in the long and intense strategic planning process.

Karl's involvement in AADAP has spanned the length of his active working career. His contributions cannot be separated from the growth and success of the organization. It's hard to see him depart, but we know he will always be part of the AADAP Family.

GIRL SCOUTS AT THE CC!!!



On Thursday, September 19th, the Jr. Board hosted an orientation meeting for those interested in forming a Girl Scout troop. The CC decided to go for it and will be starting one! If your daughter is interested and would like to be a part of this wonderful program, call the CC office at 818 899-1989.

Tribute to Dr. Sanbo S. Sakaguchi

By Nancy Oda



Naming a newborn is a big responsibility. The Sakaguchi named their third boy, *Sukenobu*, meaning miracle worker, generous, and trustworthy. He grew up to be that and more. A mother's dream to have her children become doctors was realized when five of her children became medical doctors or dentists, including Dr. Mary Oda. Even today, that is an amazing accomplishment. But in those days, it was a handful as described in the book called, "Silent Scars of Healing Hands", by Naomi Hirahara and Gwen Jensen.

The event was an opportunity to remember a giant in our community whose integrity set the bar high for those of us who follow. He even worked past midnight on New Year's Eve recounted Aiko Ishimaru, RN. Ralph Ahn said that Dr. Sakaguchi loved his wife. He loved his community and he loved his country.

Dr. Sakaguchi's uncomplicated mantra, was "to like and love everything you do".

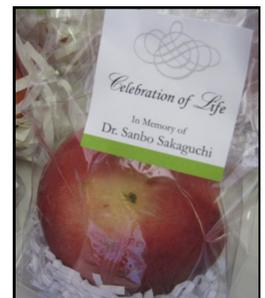
The Asia America Youth woodwinds set the tone for the day with "Auld Lang Syne". It was really touching to listen to young Molly Srcour who had recently received a Kay Sakaguchi Scholarship. Distinguished guests all spoke of his indefatigable loyalty. Val Noguchi also brought condolences from the Japanese American Medical Association. Dr. Hafeez Parray said that Dr. Sakaguchi would give him a bag of avocados in appreciation. Min Tonai recounted the doctor's contributions to the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center. He also talked about Doctor's military service after he had already returned to serve Japanese, Latino and Black patients in the Valley. Herb Kawahara explained Doctor's devotion to UCLA sports for fifty years. Priscilla Mui read letters from scholarship winners who were finishing medical school without worrying about finances as the Sakaguchis endowed the Theta Kappa Phi sorority scholarship program.

Kenji Watanabe told a few "fish stories" and how much the doctor's strong legs helped him catch the biggest fish on record in Australia for one day. Black belt, Timbo Whitesell, recounted doctor's dedication to SFV Judo Club during the Kohaku tournaments, Olympics, and overseas assignments. He was grateful that the doctor saved his life by performing a five way bypass surgery. Phil Shigekuni, family friend and SFV JACler, spoke about the Sakaguchi Family in Manzanar where three members passed way within eight months including his beloved father.

Finally, Dr. Bo expressed appreciation from the family members including Dr. Mary Oda, sister-in-law, Martha Furuta, Etsuko Fukushima and Grace (Yutaka) Shiraishi and many nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Reverend Doctor Greg Kimura, JANM CEO and President, read a letter from Marquette University where Doctor received training and ended the program with a beautiful prayer.

Leslie Ito, CEO and President of JACCC, was in charge of the reception desk. Troop 719 scouts posted and retired the flags. Thank you to everyone who made his day an elegant yet simple way to show our gratitude. Mrs. Ritsuko Shinbashi designed a gorgeous *ikebana* arrangement which was even more meaningful since the doctor's mother used to be a student of *Ikenobo Ikebana*. The lovely dessert table held homemade cookies made by members of the Theta Kappa Phi, banana *dango* made by Ruth Nakamura, and *mochi* by Hitomi Hashimoto. The SFV JACL made huge bowls of cut fruit for the very hot summer day. SFV *Judoka* helped serve water while Geoff and Sachi Arai, prepared tea to accompany the delicious *sushi*, *nigiri*, *gomoku*, cucumber salad, shrimp, *teriyaki* chicken prepared by Musashi Restaurant. Dr. Sakaguchi's siblings, Dr. Bo and Dr. Mary Oda, made sure that no one went home hungry.





CC Retreat

On September 7th, the CC Board & Cabinet met to brainstorm about the direction of our community center in terms of programs, needs and vision. Members of the Jr. Board, Asset Management Committee and joined in on the discussion.

Attending the Retreat were:

Kimi Chiba	Doreen Kawamoto	Phil Shigekuni
Liz Doomey	Akiko Manaka	Nancy Takayama
Jill Fukumoto	Gene Matsushita	Mabel Takimoto
Roy Imazu	S. Murata	Denise Tanaka
Chuck Itagaki	Karl Nobuyuki	Kenji Watanabe
Paul Jonokuchi	Nancy Oda	Kay Yamada
Yoshiko Kawada	Danny Okazaki	Erin Yokomizo



PeeWee Basketball Clinic

By Margaret Takimoto



SFVJACC Athletics held their 7th annual Pee Wee Clinic for 4 Saturdays in July 2013.

28 youngsters (4-7 yrs) attending the clinic where the children learned basketball fundamentals. Camp director, Curtis Takimoto, along with camp counselors worked with the kids on dribbling, passing and shooting skills. All the participants enjoyed the program and were given a certificate of participation along with a popsicle party on the last day. The Pee Wee clinic is held every summer to introduce new players to game and to encourage new players to join the SFVJACC Athletics in the fall.

Special thanks to the following junior, prep player and alumni of the SFVJACC Athletics:

Travis Fukumoto	Kevin Sato
Tyler Fukumoto	Michael Taheri
Brandon Isa	Curtis Takimoto
Ryan Itagaki	Dayna Tanaka
Dustin Niizawa	Kara Tanaka
Jayson Niizawa	Lindsey Tse
Kellie Ogimachi	Allison Yamada
Kylie Ozawa	



2013 HOLLYWOOD DODGERS TOURNAMENT (LAS VEGAS)

SF Y2K 7TH/8TH GRADE CHAMPIONS



Back row (L-R): Coach Erin Iwahashi, Mackenzy Iwahashi, Megan Ikemoto, Stephanie Nimura, Meagan Pham, Coach Karl Iwahashi **Front row:** Janelle Doi, Kayla Chong, Justyne Nakano, Aya Perrichon

SF ANGELS 9TH GRADE CHAMPIONS



Back Row: Genessa Bedoya, Lindsey Tse, Kate Tokuhara, Alyxis Nakano, Sydne Kaku
Front Row: Allison Yamada, Dayna Tanaka, Cassidy Sera, Sydney Arikawa

SF JAGUARS 4TH GRADE CHAMPS

Back row (L-R): Coach Leah Chong, Jessica Deng, Isabella Shimizu, Dariya Paull, Angeli Paull, Tarnia Murphy, Coach Karen Yoshino
Front row (L-R): Emily Chong, Taylor Yoshino, Tiauna Vasquez, Kimiko Katzaroff

SF HAWKS 5TH GRADE CHAMPS



Back row (L-R): Kyle Okui, Hale Chiba, Devon Oda, Clyde Seo, Jarrett Hiji, Coach Gregg Kita **Front row (L-R):** Nicholas Maekawa, Tyler LaMarsna, Benny Reitzas, Sage Kita, Mickey Imamura **Missing:** Justin Carver

SF DRAGONS 10TH GRADE CHAMPIONS



Front row (L-R): Jared Yamasaki, Dillon Liu, Travis Fukumoto, Christian Carating **Middle row:** Colby Kaneshiro, Monroe Gorden, Tyler Miyagishima, Tyler Nakamoto **Back row:** Coach Dave Yamasaki, Coach Dennis Fukumoto





HALE HAYATO ZEYA CHIBA

By Nancy Oda

Hale Chiba was nominated to receive the Inner Strength Award during the Dale Inouye Basketball Tournament. Here is his story.

Hale joined the Hawks team as a kindergartner and will always be a Hawk. Watching him grow up, it is clear that he has inner strength. Hale's great attitude towards life is shown in his actions. His academic excellence in both Japanese School and at Justice Street Academy is exemplified by perfect test scores. At his culmination, he named each of his teachers and described how each of them helped him. He thanked his parents, grandparents and sister. He said that she was more than a sister, "you are one of my best friends".

On the court, he is always ready to play and contribute to the team. He has attended basketball camp at Pierce College to further improve his skills and conditioning. Coach Gregg Kita says, "Although Hale may not be the star player and may not be in at the end of close games, he is always there with a good attitude to cheer on his teammates. You never hear a single complaint. He works hard and shows improvement but it's his SPIRIT that stands above all else."

Off the court, Hale made a warm, fuzzy blanket for seniors at Nikkei Senior Gardens in March and more recently, made a gift scroll for them in June. Hale and his friends sang Japanese children's melodies and danced in bright green Hapi coats to the delight of the residents. He was always willing to put chairs away for the other campers every day at Suzume no Gakkou Summer Camp.

We nominate Hale because he is a role model who demonstrates kindness, friendship, good sportsmanship and promotes team spirit at every practice and at every game.



FLU SHOTS

**Friday
November 8, 2013**

9:00 - 11:00 AM

For seniors and people with chronic illness.

Sponsored by the LA County Health Dept.

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

THANKSGIVING DINNER

Beginning at 5:30pm
Saturday, November 16, 2013

SFVJA Community Center
12953 Branford Street
Pacoima, CA 91311



VALLEY JAPANESE COMMUNITY CENTER

Valley Japanese Community Center, located on Lankershim Blvd. in Sun Valley, will be celebrating their 60th anniversary on November 17, 2013 with a buffet luncheon at The Odyssey Restaurant. Join them in this extraordinary event as they celebrate the past 60 years and embrace the future of the Valley Japanese Community Center.

Sunday, November 17th at 11:00 AM

The Odyssey Restaurant

15600 Odyssey Drive, Granada Hills, CA

Call (818) 366-6444 for directions.

Cost: \$40 per person, Under 17: \$20 per person

Entertainment for the afternoon: Taiko by Walter Nishinaka,
Chikara Taiko, Matsutoyo Kai Minyo, Bando Hiromisa, classical dance.

This will be an afternoon you won't want to miss. A Group photo will be taken after the event. For more information or to receive a reservation form, please contact Christine Inouye at christineinouye@yahoo.com or 818.825.9583. RSVP's must be received by October 18th, 2013.

SFVHBT Mochi Sale 2013



The San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple will hold its annual MOCHI SALE on **Sunday, December 8th**. 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

Lenny Kono lkono@gmail.com or (818) 767-8469

An-mochi (bean-filled, 3/pkg.) \$4.00

Paul Jonokuchi (818) 894-5327

Kagami-mochi (Okasane set) \$4.50

Temple sfvhbt@gmail.com or (818) 899-4030

Please place your order by Sunday, December 1st

*Please pick up your order on Sunday, December 8th 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/pkg. _____

Total: \$ _____

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

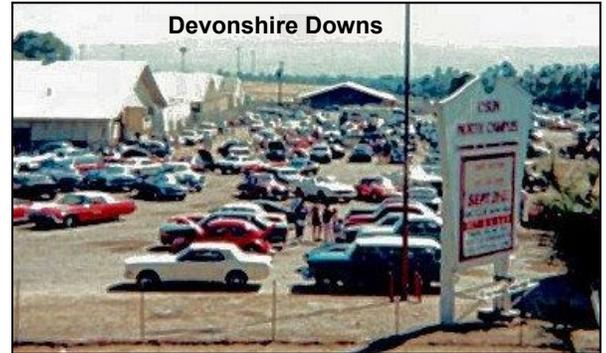


Things That Are Not Here Anymore

By Old Wakaba, Bud Sagara

Members of the CC who grew up in the San Fernando Valley have witnessed it change over the years. Some of the places and the things that we did with our families when we were kids are not here anymore. For example, cruising down Van Nuys Boulevard was the cool thing to do in high school in the 1950's and 60's. After going bumper to bumper and breathing in high octane exhaust fumes, a stop at Bob's Big Boy was a tradition. The experiences of those summer nights bring back fond memories of what once was. Van Nuys Boulevard is still there of course, but the allure that it had to draw teenagers from all over the Valley is gone.

Devonshire Downs was a 40 acre fairground that sat on the corner of Devonshire and Zelzah. It had a horse racing track and it hosted the Scout Craft Fair among other events such as an annual fireworks show. The San Fernando Judo Club was asked to put on judo demonstrations at the Scout Craft Fair in front of hundreds of spectators as part of the program. Devonshire Downs also hosted the largest outdoor rock concert until Woodstock broke that record. A crowd of 200,000 watched Jimi Hendrix, The Animals, Marvin Gaye and other performers in 1969. Busch Gardens, located at the present site of the Budweiser Brewery on Roscoe Boulevard, was another entertainment center which featured boat rides, a brewery tour on an overhead tram and a bird sanctuary. The offering of free beer made this a very popular spot in the 70's. There was also a Schlitz Brewery located on Woodman Avenue in Van Nuys during the 50's.



The Lockheed Corporation facilities in Burbank and General Motors assembly plant in Van Nuys were huge economic drivers of the Valley by providing jobs for hundreds of families. Because of lingering prejudice from WWII, Japanese Americans were not drawn to these jobs in great numbers. It was hard for people to forget the war years when they were reminded of them every last Friday of the month at 10 a.m. by the sounding of air raid sirens throughout the Valley.

I grew up in Sun Valley, so our family shopped at places near the CC like Bob's Market, Dale's Market or White Front on Laurel Canyon. We bought fresh baked bread and other goodies from the yellow Helm's Bakery trucks that came into our neighborhood. There was nothing quite like the aroma and visual delight caused by the opening of those long wooden drawers at the back of the truck. To go with the bread, do you remember when big blocks of surplus government cheese were distributed at the CC years ago? The taste of the cheese was not that good; but for free, no one complained. At Christmas time, Mom would take us kids to the Panorama City shopping center where we could have our picture taken with Santa Claus and see live reindeer in cages among piles of artificial snow. Also in Panorama City was the Moongate Chinese restaurant owned by actor Phil Ahn, who usually played the Japanese bad guy role in old black and white WWII movies. CC dinner functions would occasionally be held at this popular restaurant.



The smell of cows hung around the CC in the early years because the Roger Jessup Dairy was right across the street. If an event that parents were attending at the CC was too boring, kids could cross Branford Street to walk around the holding pens and watch the cows eat or being milked. The Valley was also served by the Manfull Dairy that was located in Pacoima on Wentworth Street until it closed in the 70's. It seems strange today that there were dairies in the Valley, but just a couple of generations ago, the Valley was mostly orchards and vegetable or flower farms.

Sadly, another CC institution, VFW Post 4140, is not here anymore. Each member, past and present, embodied the same "Go for Broke" spirit in service to their country and later to the CC.

They served with honor and distinction. They fought for the freedom of total strangers in foreign lands; and by their sacrifice, they preserved the freedom for us at home. The sorrow comes not only from the closing of VFW Post 4140 itself, but that the comrades will meet no more to share stories of military history and lots of tall tales. They join the images of gray columns of young soldiers, with ancient eyes, silently marching toward the front lines along muddy roads in central Italy, in the bitter cold of the Korean peninsula, or in the jungles of Vietnam. Then they were gone, as if they had just faded away.

Things that are not here anymore are never really lost if they are kept within your heart. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow writes at the end of his poem, *My Lost Youth*:

"My heart goes back to wander there,
And among the dreams of the days that were,
I find my lost youth again."

WELCOME NEW CC MEMBERS

Benjawan Chaiyawon
Rosito Go
Jeri Okamoto

Yoshio Shinozaki
Diane Yamashita

The Civil Liberties Act and American Democracy

By Jean-Paul deGuzman*

The journey to the 1988 Civil Liberties Act grew out of the foresight and dedication of Japanese Americans and their allies who sought to unearth the tragedies of World War II and etch that important, but neglected, history into America's consciousness. Here in the San Fernando Valley we have our own redress activists including Phil Shigekuni, Karl Nobuyuki, Nancy Gohata and Paul Tsuneishi among many others. What began as a series of earnest conversations in community centers, churches, temples, and living rooms blossomed into a movement that reverberated throughout the nation and the Valley itself. In 1975 a handful of Japanese Americans primarily from the Valley established "EO 9066, Inc." as a vehicle to advocate for action on redress and reparations. Later that year, the Valley JACL chapter convened a panel discussion at the CC with the iconic Edison Uno, whose father had been detained at the Griffith Park Internment Camp. Over 200 people attended that session.

As consciousness spread across Japanese American communities, more and more Nisei came forward to share their experiences with the war. They uncovered long buried stories of tragedies and in doing so displayed resilience and upended stereotypes of the "quiet Americans." The inimitable Dr. Mary Sakaguchi Oda lent her personal encouragement to the Japanese Americans in the San Fernando Valley to excavate their pasts when the Commission on the Wartime Internment and Relocation of Citizens (CWIRC) came to Los Angeles. Dr. Oda participated in the CWIRC hearings and, in September 1981, published this appeal to the readers of the *Community Center News*:



Dr. Mary Oda

'Physician, heal thyself' is a saying attributed to Hippocrates, the father of Medicine, 2200 years ago. The healings had this effect on me, particularly as I had become a witness and was able to expiate the shame, anger, humiliation and pain inflicted by our government's Executive Order 9066. After 3 days of listening to the devastating effects of relocation and shedding buckets of tears, I feel born again and have regained my identity as a Japanese-American and for the first time feel a special closeness to other Japanese Americans and minority people.

I'd like to take this opportunity to urge all the Japanese-Americans to write to the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians to do the same. Write 2-3 pages, double spaced concerning your pre-evacuation, evacuation, and post-evacuation experiences. The testimony will go into a permanent Archive recording this important historical event. Every testimony will be read by the Commission.



In 1988 President Ronald Reagan signed into law the Civil Liberties Act, which provided monetary remuneration and established an educational fund. This was a clear victory and provided for thousands of Japanese Americans validation of their innocence, recognition of their patriotism, and a sense of catharsis for a terrible chapter in our collective history.

Yet, the passage was also a time to reflect on some difficult questions. Can \$20,000 really make up for the destruction of daily lives, wealth (modest as it may have been), security and citizenship itself? Because only living persons could claim redress monies, were

the descendants of the proud and determined Issei and Nisei who had passed to another world before 1988 not worthy? And, because of that requirement, what precedent did the Civil Liberties Act set for people seeking justice for other past wrongs such as Japanese Latin Americans, African Americans and indigenous peoples?

While it is impossible to even begin to provide answers to those heady questions, what remains clear is how the struggle for redress remains relevant today, as it ever has been. The trials and tribulations of World War II and the subsequent redress campaign demonstrate the fragility of American democracy and how race is a central feature of our history as well as our present. For many Japanese Americans, the passage of the 1988 Act was less a "mission accomplished" moment but more of a catalyst to further fight against injustice and inequality.

In recent years those same activists and their countless progressive mentees remain vigilant in their defense of civil liberties and the rights of the disenfranchised. Most notably, the lessons of World War II and the struggle for redress have been central to reframing the discourses surrounding "homeland security" in our post-September 11, 2001 era as racial profiling of and hate crimes against Muslims, Arab Americans and South Asian Americans continues. Organizations such as the JACL Pacific Southwest District and Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress have consistently worked towards building bridges across diverse ethnicities and faiths. Through policy advocacy, these groups and others have ensured the wholesale destruction of civil liberties based on the color of one's skin does not happen again.

The need to protect our democracy against the forces of political, social, and economic inequality remains ever present as people are organizing around diverse issues such as challenges to the National Defense Authorization Act that allows for the indefinite detention of civilians, including US citizens; comprehensive immigration reform; economic justice for workers; and the protection of ethnic neighborhoods facing gentrification. Therefore, the most fitting way to celebrate the redress movement is to act steadfastly to ensure ours is an equitable, democratic, and inclusive society.

* Big shout-outs to those who made this research possible: Thanks to Nancy Gohata for providing me with access to archived issues of the *Community Center News* and to Phil Shigekuni for sharing with me his memories and records from EO 9066, Inc.

COORDINATING COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONS-MEETINGS-CONTACT PERSONS

Coordinating Council.....	1st Wed., 7:00 PM.....	Paul Jonokuchi.....	818 894-5327
Community Center.....	1st/3rd Wed., 7:00 PM.....	Nancy Oda.....	818 786-0914
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.....	Lance Updyke.....	805 660-6262
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.....	Patrick Kelly.....	818 808-5514
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.....	Rod Kuratomi.....	.....
SFV Meiji Senior Citizens.....	1st Fri., 12:30 PM.....	Ken Kumagai	818 363-6468
Sunrise Foursquare Church.....	.....	Reverend Paul Iwata	818 782-8738
Valley Japanese Community Center...2nd Fri., 7:30 PM.....	.....	Christine Inouye	818 825-9583
.....	.....	Neil Hashiba	818 732-5837

**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
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

October

- 6 Shotsuki: Monthly Memorial & Eshinni-ko/Kakushinni-ko: Memorial for Buddhist women Service 10 am
- 13 Regular Service 10 am
- 20 TBA
- 27 Pet Memorial and Family Service 10 am

November

- 3 Shotsuki: Monthly Memorial & Eitaikyo: Ancestors' Perpetual Memorial Service with WLABT sangha (at SFVHBT) 10 am
- 10 No Service—Chow Mein Fundraiser
- 17 Regular Service 10 am
- 24 Thanksgiving Service at WLABT 10 am



**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

English Department

Pastor Roland Hazama
Pastor Raynold Nakamura

Sunday Schedule

9:30 AM
Kid Venture Children's Ministries
(infant -6th 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
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.

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

Email: pmiwata1@hotmail.com

Website:

www.sunrisejapanesechurch.org

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE CC

October 12, 2013
Craft Workshop - Canceled

October 19, 2013
CC Clean-up

November 2, 2013
Super Bingo Fundraiser

November 16, 2013
SFV Holiness Church
Thanksgiving Dinner

November 23, 2013
Craft Workshop

December 7, 2013
CC Annual General
Membership Meeting

December 21, 2013
SFV Japanese Language
Institute Holiday Program

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER

SUPER BINGO FUNDRAISER

Saturday, November 2, 2013

5:00 PM

Nikkei Pioneer Building
12953 Branford St • Pacoima 91331

**EARLY BIRD SPECIAL—\$100.00
ENDS OCTOBER 16**

Cost of Package After October 16—\$125.00

**GOLD PACKAGE
INCLUDES**

5 Bingo Cards, 5 Raffle Tickets & 1 Dinner

- Cash & Other Prizes for each Bingo Game
- Blackout Game Prize - \$500
- Raffle - 1st Prize - \$1,000 ♦ 2nd prize - iPad Mini
- Plus Many Other Raffle Prizes!!

**Huge
Silent
Auction!**

Deadline is Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Additional Dinners (limit 1 per package) - \$25.00/person
(pre-orders only)

For more info, call Lois Okui 818-899-1989 or email: tadokui@aol.com

All proceeds will go towards the cost of repaving the back parking lots.

Thank you for your support!!



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".

Family Membership - \$55.00

4. **Send your check and this form to: SFVJACC – Membership**
12953 Branford Street
Pacoima, CA 91331

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.