



generations

Winter 2009
Newsletter

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NEW UPCOMING EVENTS (NOTE: Events in bold are WVJACL/NG Events)

January 31 – JACL District Meeting at San Juan Bautista JACL Hall

February 7 – JAMSJ Visionaries Gala 6 p.m. at Holiday Inn

February 9 – WVJACL Board Meeting (Nominations/Approval of 2009 Board)

February 14 to 16 – JACL Tri District Conference in Clovis

February 15 – Nihonmachi Outreach Committee - San Jose's 29th Annual Day of Remembrance program 5:30 p.m. at San Jose Buddhist Temple

April 26 – 32nd Annual Nikkei Matsuri in San Jose Japantown – Sign up to help with strawberry shortcake booth (see article on page 5 for further details).

Senior Club Donations August 19 – December 31, 2008

Birthday donations:

Mrs. Kiku Okamoto

Mrs. Chizue Noda

Mrs. Shirley Ogisaka

Mrs. Ruth Sakai

Mr. Masami Kusumoto

Mrs. Toshiko Takemoto

Mr. Art Ogisaka

Mrs. Shirley Otsuka

In Memory Of (IMO)

Takata Family IMO Masakichi & Yoko Takata

Jean Kurasaki IMO Henry & Fusae Kurasaki

Other

Mary Sasaki for birthday cake

Mr. and Mrs. Shunsuke & Suzie Sato

Mrs. Toshiko Takemoto for Christmas Party

Ms. Kay Kawahara

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest & Sharon Handa

Mr. and Mrs. Tom & Sadie Sakamoto

In Kind Donations

Mrs. Yoshie Skrabutenas

George Tanikawa

Mrs. Misako Ogi

Tom Taniguchi

Mary Kawahara

JACL Donations

Anonymous - \$200

Colleen Oda - \$200

JACL Other Contributions:

Thank you to John Kaku and volunteers for landscape work done for clubhouse recently.

Mochitsuki – by Art Okuno

The annual *mochitsuki* was held at the Club House on Saturday, December 6, 2008. We were assisted by students from Cupertino and Lynbrook High Schools and many other volunteers. We apologize if we have omitted anyone or misspelled your names.

Cupertino High Volunteers:

Gene Park, Vi Viet, Allen Zhou, Kevin Zhao, Francis Shung, Kaoru Hori, Kevin Lin, Saki Komoto, Laura Chin, Viola Ko, Rebecca Wang, Natsuko Igarashi, Julie Kitahara, Angela Floreza, Emily Matsunami, Karen Sugano, Jaymi Jinguji.

Lynbrook High Volunteers:

Megan Lee, Rachel Yung, Jimmy Sugino, Alvina Lin, Akshay Maheshwari, Teresa Lin, Michael Cai, Erica Kenney, Michael Wu, Karen Way, Annie Mei, Derek Lu, Daniel Wang, Kirstie Yu, Austin Yu.

Senior Club and WVJACL Volunteers:

Colette Palacios, Shogo Hikido, Mary Kawahara, Art Okuno, John Kaku, Randy Shingai, Roshiko Takemoto, Lorraine Tokimoto, Mary Sasaki, Hiro Nakagawa, Janet Kaku, Rose Tsunekawa, Ernest Handa, Sharon Handa, Anna Morinaka, Hank Morinaka, George Shimada, Aiko Asato, Rose Watanabe, Colleen Oda, Esther Oda, Mary Kakinami, Kay Uyehata, Tomoko Mitchell, Toshiko Hardouin, Taye Kurashige, Mrs. Shimazaki, Yaeko Matsuo, Kay Kawahara, Aiko Nakamura, Fran Togami, Shirley Otsuka, Ruth Sakai, Tom Taniguchi, Sue Koyanagi, Joe Furusho, Aron Murai, Shizue Kitahara, Shirley Ogisaka, Grace Uriu, Ron Watanabe, Tokuko Sato

Thanks very much for your help toward another successful *Mochitsuki* Event.

Annual Senior Club Christmas Party – by Art Okuno

Seventy-two seniors and friends of Senior Club were present on Tuesday, December 2nd at the Super Buffet Restaurant in San Jose for the annual holiday party hosted by Mary Kawahara. The party began with Mary welcoming the attendees. Then the W.V.J.A.C.L. Senior Club presented Mary with an orchid corsage and orchid plant. This was followed by the buffet lunch and a gift exchange—each attendee brought a gift for the exchange. Finally, Mary thanked the attendees and presented beautiful poinsettia plants to Mrs. Shimazaki and her lunch helpers, Janet Kaku, Terri Kaneko, Mrs. Kumagai, Art Okuno, Mrs. Toshiko Takemoto, Tom Taniguchi and Ron Watanabe. This restaurant was chosen because they were able to provide a private room with a PA system.

Thank you, Mary, for again hosting this annual party.

District Council Meeting Hosted by West Valley JACL – by Sara Shoji

On November 2nd of last year, West Valley hosted the quarterly District Council Meeting at the Yu-Ai Kai building in Japantown. The turnout was very good with about 25 chapters attending from all over Northern California. There were 37 delegates and boosters, 15 from the Executive Board and Staff, 11 Youth members, and 5 volunteers. Registration started at 9:00 AM and the day ended at 4:00 PM. Highlights of the meeting included a presentation by guest speaker Paulette Salisbury regarding "When Generations Collide", a presentation of strategies to connect generational groups (WWIIers, Baby Boomers, Xers and the Millenia), who are active in our non-profit organizations. The Youth Group filmed and presented important messages that they wanted to pass on to the public. It was a great presentation enjoyed by all. Volunteer Leon Kimura also led the Youth and Youth advisors on a tour of Japantown landmarks which also included a preview tour of the Japanese American Museum in San Jose (to be completed February 2009). All participants received a goodie bag which included a piece of Shuei-Do manju, a Winter Boutique advertisement card (WV Seniors will sell their crafts), Nikkei Matsuri advertisement card (West Valley and San Jose chapters participate), a Japantown Directory from the Spirit of Japantown Festival, and a map of the Japantown landmarks. Pam coordinated the goodie bags – thank you Pam for doing this.

West Valley volunteers included Gordon Koo and Pam Yoshida, Vicki Taniguchi (Tom's granddaughter), Sara Shoji, Colleen Oda, and Randy Shingai along with Leon Kimura and Betty Harada (from Yu-Ai Kai). A big "thank you" to everyone that helped out. Volunteers helped set up the meeting room and prepared food in the morning, handled registration, helped pass out bentos, and also helped to clean up afterwards.

West Valley provided breakfast (home-made) for all attendees which included coffee and tea, breakfast breads and muffins, juice, and fresh fruit. Lunch bentos were provided by Santo Market and snacks (also home-made) included Mini Blueberry Cheesecakes, jello desserts, and (of course) leftover Halloween candy.

Pam Yoshida also coordinated a Beard Papa fundraiser in which proceeds benefited the District Youth programs. Thanks Pam!!

From a cost perspective, we basically broke even and managed to come in a little under the budget of \$15 per delegate. Boosters and Youth/Youth advisers paid for their own food.

It was a fun day and I really enjoyed listening to current issues faced by the district, the Youth Program, as well as seeing all of the camaraderie between the participants.

District Council Meeting by Pam Yoshida, WVJACL Delegate

West Valley JACL hosted a District Council meeting on Sunday, November 2. This quarterly meeting is hosted by each chapter on a rotational basis and we have the opportunity every five years to host this meeting for all the Northern California JACL chapter delegates. It is a great time to welcome delegates to our area to tell them about the West Valley JACL. A gift bag packet was given to each delegate to give them an introduction to our San Jose Japantown. In addition to a Spirit of Japantown booklet, were gifts symbolic to the West Valley JACL: manju (to symbolize our Manju Madness event for the WV Senior Club Shinneikai) and a bid invitation to the Nikkei Matsuri (of which we are participants). Thanks to: Nikkei Traditions for donating the gift bags to us, for each delegate, Shuei Do Manju-ya for the discount of the delicious manju and to JBA for the brochures.

It was a very full agenda. Each host chapter is given an option of making a short presentation at the meeting. Because of the diversity of not only our JACL, but many other chapters, we invited a speaker, Paulette Salisbury, who presented a great talk about 'Navigating the Multi-Generational World'; or 'When Generations Collide'. This was discussion of how the generations: the WWIIers, the Baby Boomers, the Next Gens and the Millenials communicate differently. The way each generation communicates within their group varies and there are very strategic pairings to get the best results. We speak often of 'generation gaps' and the discussion explained how the groups can consciously bridge this gap by being understanding and flexible with their communication skills. Basically: We all need to change! Our speaker was personable and knowledgeable of why each generation manages situations differently. The business meeting was highlighted by guests, newly appointed Joshua Spry, National JACL Secretary/Treasurer. Tim Koide, JACL staff member for membership also attended and joined Emily Teruya with an open discussion about membership.

JACL Youth gathering: Unique to this meeting, a youth meeting in conjunction with the DC meeting was held in an adjacent room. After attending the early portion of the DC meeting, the youth held their own session. After lunch, they were given an introduction of the current growth situations of San Jose Japantown including new developments in Japantown: the Japanese American Museum-sj (JAM-sj) and the Boys and Girls Club Center. After lunch, we scheduled a docent led tour of the new five Japantown Landmarks by Leon Kimra. In the afternoon, Youth produced a You Tube commercial to promote JACL Youth.

Beard Papa Fund Raiser: An internal Beard Papa Fund Raiser for the District Youth Programs by the district delegates. The sale of cream puffs generated \$87 in revenues with the support of the delegates attending the meeting.

Something in NCWNP JACL for Young Professionals! We had a great presentation by our Youth Representatives, Megumi Kaminaga and Jenn Suzuki for this newly formed group within the district JACL. All I can say is: check out: www.nakayoshi-jacl.blogspot.com <<http://www.nakayoshi-jacl.blogspot.com/>>!

The next District Council meeting is January 31, hosted by San Juan Bautista JACL. Anyone is welcome to attend these meetings and if you are curious about JACL or the district, I encourage to contact. Reservations are required; please let me know if you are interested. February 14-16 are the dates for the Tri-District Conference in Clovis. See: www.jacl.org <<http://www.jacl.org/>> for more information.

WVJACL Fundraiser (Strawberry Shortcake for 32nd Annual Nikkei Matsuri)- By Kellie Takagi and Colleen Oda

It is time to sign up for the West Valley JACL Strawberry Shortcake Booth!!!! It is time to reconnect with old friends, make new friends, and raise money for West Valley JACL senior activities and programs. 32nd Annual Nikkei Matsuri Japanese American Cultural Festival will be held on Sunday, April 26th in San Jose Japantown at 5th and Jackson Street. Japantown's annual arts and crafts festival will feature artists with clothing, jewelry, pottery, toys and dolls. The festival will also include live entertainment, exhibits, health faire, Odori (Japanese classical dance), Suzume No Gakko (children's faire), and Nihonmachi (Japantown) Run/Walk. Food booths will sell everything from snow cones, tempura, and even strawberry shortcake. Contact Kellie Takagi at ktakagi1@msn.com, or Colleen Oda at colleenoda@sbcglobal.net.

Important Information: All volunteers who are helping with slicing strawberries meet at the San Jose Buddhist Church kitchen. Please bring a paring knife/cutting board. Health Department stated that ALL food workers MUST wear a hat.

Saturday, April 25th at 10:00am-12:30pm Construction (set up tent and booths)	Sunday, April 26th Booth Shifts (assemble and sell strawberry shortcake and water)
1 We need 2 volunteers	9:30am to 12:00pm
2	1
Saturday, April 25th at 11:00am (Pick up 35 crates of strawberries in Watsonville at 11:00am and deliver to San Jose Buddhist Church by 12pm	2
1	3
Sunday, April 26th at 7:00am-10:00am Set Up (chairs, tables, signs)	4
1 We need 1 volunteer	12:00pm to 2:00pm
	1
Sunday, April 26th at 7:00am-10:00am Food Preparation (Slice strawberries at San Jose Buddhist Church Kitchen)	2
1	3
2	4
3	2:00pm to 4:30pm
Need 15 volunteers to slice strawberries	1
Need 2 volunteers to wash strawberries	2
	3
Sunday April 26th at 8:00am-9:30am Set Up (strawberry shortcake booth, hang signs)	Sunday, April 26th Deconstruction (clean up, take down tent and booths)
1	4:00pm to 7:00pm
2	1 We need 3 volunteers
	2
	3

Membership News by Pam Yoshida, Membership Chairperson.

Changes with your membership:

Some of you may have noticed some changes with your JACL membership. After several years of trying to standardize the membership renewals at West Valley JACL-I decided to let National JACL administer the renewal process once again. There are many reasons for this:

1. National JACL now appears to be stable with a staff member in charge of membership.
2. National JACL can send renewal notices to the individual members just as well as I can.

The reason why we changed to the centralized form of membership was to encourage members to have direct contact with West Valley, rather than to go through National JACL. We attempted to have one mass renewal at the start of the year instead of having members renew at their anniversary date. However, for this to work, every member needed to 'buy in'- which did not happen. Therefore, at this time-at the risk of losing direct contact with our membership through the membership process, the membership will be collected by National JACL again. On the bright side, this gives me more opportunity to focus on membership recruitment and renewals. The only thing that you will notice is that your membership renewal will come directly from National JACL.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Membership continues to be a priority in JACL. This is something that each and every member needs to support-we cannot do this alone. We need you to help strengthen our membership by inviting your family members and friends to join our organization. You can even 'gift' a membership! It is unfortunate that the importance and significance of JACL is not understood or appreciated. But, we know that you understand the importance of supporting JACL, right?

The past year, I have had the great pleasure of being exposed to opportunities to learn and understand the 'history of redress'. The road was long, with lots of curves and dead-ends, but what was achieved was so extraordinary; something that no other ethnic group has ever achieved. What Redress left us, is the legacy of strength and a lesson of empowerment to all people so that no one would have to suffer the injustice of internment again. We, as Japanese Americans and descendants of the Issei and Nisei who endured this experience, have the responsibility to tell the story and never let this happen to another group. This is the responsibility we have to all Americans: to make sure everyone understands the importance of protecting the rights of others. This was something that failed: the rights of the internees and the fact that no one spoke up for the internees. By supporting JACL as members, we can assure that we will be informed and will protect the rights of others.

This is one of the many reasons why we need to support JACL and share the legacy.