



**THE GRAPEVINE**  
Volume XLIV–No.3 May- June 2020  
**SONOMA COUNTY JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE**

**May**

**Calendar of Events**

**April**

**Please continue to check our website and the website for the Enmanji Buddhist church for updates on events that have been cancelled or rescheduled.**

**ENMAN NO TOMO NEWS**

To all our members and friends: May this short note find you along with your family, friends and loved ones all safe and healthy at home. As reported in our letter to you earlier, since March, Enman No Tomo has been cancelled due to the spread of COVID-19. When we have the all clear message and when it is safe to do so health-wise, we will let you know when Enman No Tomo will resume. Currently, we are engaged in a

challenging time. Please stay well and let us all follow the safe-distancing order. If you have any questions or need assistance, do not hesitate to contact Nancy Davlin at [nrdavlin@yahoo.com](mailto:nrdavlin@yahoo.com) or call (707) 235-6326 or Kinu Iwamoto at [kinuiwamoto@comcast.net](mailto:kinuiwamoto@comcast.net) or call (707) 795-7920 . Thank you.

ENMAN NO TOMO BOARD

**To Our JAACL Friends,**

As you all know, Sonoma County is in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. While under this shelter-in-place order, we hope you are safe and healthy. Please stay informed as this is a fluid and scary time. Below are the state and national websites that provide up-to-date and important information.

State of California's COVID-19 Response Site: <https://covid19.ca.gov/>

The Center for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

As we're all impacted by the spread of COVID-19 to some degree, Sonoma County JAACL wants to support you and your families during this time. Please let us know about community members that may need or want assistance during this health crisis. We would like to work with you to generate ideas on how to help our community – now and when we return to something closer to "normal." We welcome your feedback and suggestions.

We appreciate you being a part of the JAACL and look forward to reconnecting once things are safer for all of Sonoma County.

Best regards, Sonoma County JAACL Board

Contact us at: [SonomaCountyJAACL@gmail.com](mailto:SonomaCountyJAACL@gmail.com) or [info@sonomacojaacl.org](mailto:info@sonomacojaacl.org)

## **New PBS documentary series about Asian Americans, May 11 & 12**

Explore the impact of Asian Americans, the fastest-growing population in the United States, on the country's past, present and future, told through individual lives and personal histories.



### **EPISODE 1: BREAKING GROUND**

In an era of exclusion and U.S. empire, new immigrants arrive from China, India, Japan, the Philippines and beyond. Barred by anti-Asian laws they become America's first "undocumented immigrants," yet they build railroads, dazzle on the silver screen, and take their fight for equality to the U.S. Supreme Court.

**PREMIERES MONDAY, MAY 11, 8:00-9:00PM ON PBS**

### **EPISODE 2: A QUESTION OF LOYALTY**

An American-born generation straddles their country of birth and their parents' homelands in Japan and Korea. Those loyalties are tested during World War II, when families are imprisoned in detention camps, and brothers find themselves on opposite sides of the battle lines.

**PREMIERES MONDAY, MAY 11, 9:00-10:00PM ON PBS**

### **EPISODE 3: GOOD AMERICANS**

During the Cold War years, Asian Americans are simultaneously heralded as a Model Minority, and targeted as the perpetual foreigner. It is also a time of bold ambition, as Asian Americans aspire for the first time to national political office and a coming culture-quake simmers beneath the surface.

**PREMIERES TUESDAY, MAY 12, 8:00-9:00PM**

### **EPISODE 4: GENERATION RISING**

During a time of war and social tumult, a young generation fights for equality in the fields, on campuses and in the culture, and claim a new identity: Asian Americans. The war's aftermath brings new immigrants and refugees who expand the population and the definition of Asian America.

**PREMIERES TUESDAY, MAY 12, 9:00-10:00PM**

### **EPISODE 5: BREAKING THROUGH**

At the turn of the new millennium, the national conversation turns to immigration, race, and economic disparity. As the U.S becomes more diverse, yet more divided, a new generation of Asian Americans tackle the question, how do we as a nation move forward together?

**PREMIERES TUESDAY, MAY 12, 10:00-11:00PM ON PBS**

## SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP RATES DURING COVID EPIDEMIC

**Dear Sonoma County JACL members,**

We hope this letter finds you and your loved ones well and safe.

This is an extraordinary and unprecedented time, bringing many challenges to our lives. We understand many people are experiencing health and financial challenges in ways we have never faced before due to the covid-19 pandemic.

We have been offering a special discounted individual membership fee of \$10 for new members for the last couple of years. The Sonoma County Chapter of JACL Board has approved extending this discount to all members for one year beginning in April of 2020 through March of 2021. This means that all memberships, new and renewals, for individuals will only be \$10 and \$20 for couples. If you want to receive the printed copy of the Pacific Citizen, the \$17 fee still be an additional fee. We will reevaluate the situation early next year.

This is a way to show our appreciation to members who have been supporting JACL for so many years, and to make sure we are not going to lose any members due to financial challenges people might be facing. We also hope this will continue to help us grow our membership.

If you would like to still continue to send a full amount, we will accept anything above the discounted dues as a donation to National since they are also experiencing financial challenges.

I thank you for your continued support and if you have any questions, please contact me by phone or email. Please take care and continue to be safe.

## ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

The Oral History Committee has received requests to give virtual presentations. Henry used Zoom to connect with a 7th grade class on Monday May 4th and on Wednesday May 13th he will present to a 4th grade class using the Kamishibai power point presentation.

## SCHOLARSHIP GRANT DEADLINES

Don't forget to apply for the many scholarships available through Sonoma Co. JACL. Most are available to members and or relatives of Sonoma Co. JACL members and a few are open to the public. There are several available to high school seniors who are graduating this year, college students who want a one-time upper class scholarship, students in the medical field who would like to apply for post-graduate medical programs scholarships and even a general grant available for members who just want to take a class in something that sounds interesting. Details and applications will be on the Sonoma Co. JACL website soon. Undergraduate applications must be postmarked or received by April 15, 2020 and Faye Uyeda Medical Scholarship applications must be postmarked or received by May 1, 2020. Apply now

### **FIGHT COVID 19 WITH UNITY AND KINDNESS, NOT HATE AND DIVISIVENESS**

As the community faces the COVID 19 pandemic, it has become apparent that we won't be able to get through this unprecedented challenge without unity and kindness. It gives us hope to learn that many community members are trying to find ways to support each other.

Nevertheless, Sonoma County Japanese American Citizens League is appalled at the recent increase of race based hate crime and xenophobic incidents against people of Asian descent across the country. Even in Sonoma County, we see these incidents. For example, at a recent city council meeting, an audience member singled out an Asian American staff member and asked if she was "safe" (to be around). Another Asian American woman, while walking her dog in her neighborhood, heard someone yell "Coronavirus!" at her.

Racist labels such as Chinese Virus, Wuhan Virus and Kung Flu stigmatize Asians and Asian Americans, encouraging anti-Asian bias and violence. These labels are reminiscent of the racial slurs and attitudes toward Chinese and Japanese immigrants more than a hundred years ago that led to the Chinese Exclusion Act and the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. These labels create hate against Asians and paralyzes the community with fear. Finger-pointing at Asians and Asian Americans divides us at a time when we need to come together to get through this pandemic.

Sonoma County Japanese American Citizens League condemns the use of harmful, racist labels for the virus and urges the community to stop or interrupt race based hate incidents. COVID 19 is a global pandemic that attacks everyone, regardless of nationality, race, or religion.

During WWII many people in Sonoma County went out of their way to save the properties of their Japanese American neighbors who were forced from their homes to live years in internment camps. Because of their neighbors' kind actions, Japanese Americans in this area had homes where they could return.

In this pandemic crisis, where we are all under attack, the least we can all do is to treat each other with respect and support one another. Please check in with your friends and neighbors and offer words of support if they have experienced any race based discrimination or hate incidents.

If you have experienced or witnessed discrimination or hate incidents against any individuals, businesses, or organizations based on the race or nationality due to COVID 19, you can report it to the website Stop AAPI Hate <http://www.a3pcon.org/stopaapihate>. The website was set up by Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council (A3PCON), Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA), and San Francisco State University Asian American Studies Department. It is available in several Asian languages. In its first week of operation from March 19 to March 27, more than 750 incidents were reported.

Let us all remind ourselves it is with unity and kindness, not hate or divisiveness, that we can come out stronger on the other side.

The Sonoma County JACL was organized in August of 1934. It is dedicated to educating the public about the Japanese American experience, monitoring legislation affecting minority human and civil rights, and fostering Japanese American culture. Sonoma County JACL has an Oral History Project and a Speakers Bureau, which sends volunteers out to classrooms and organizations to talk about the Japanese-American experiences.

## TSURU FOR SOLIDARITY: MAY UPDATE

It's been a while since our last communication. In fact, it was March 12 when we postponed 11 events scheduled and another 4-5 organizations working on scheduling dates. The outpouring of support was overwhelming and shows the community's compassion and unity for the Tsuru for Solidarity (TFS) cause.

In a recent National TFS update, although the Pilgrimage to Washington DC was postponed, like minded supporters of the TFS cause have continued to fold cranes and WE DID IT! We achieved our goal of 125,000 cranes! According to a TFS newsletter, "we not only hit that number, we blasted through it". The total crane count is currently 213,277. Wow! With such success National TFS has therefore decided to set a new goal of 400,000 additional tsuru – the number of immigrants incarcerated annually – to add to our initial goal of 125,000. That brings the new goal to 525,000. That's a lot! But we are already almost half way there! Here locally, Nancy Davlin reported that the Sonoma County JACL Tsuru for Solidarity effort have folded over 1800 cranes toward the goal. So, I encourage you to continue folding. Because of shelter in place restrictions, please hang on to the tsuru you fold until our community facilities begin to open up, or the Pilgrimage to Washington DC is rescheduled and we develop a plan for tsuru collection. If you need materials, please contact me at rjtajii@gmail.com and I will get you additional supplies of origami paper.

In other National TFS news, if and/or when the Pilgrimage to Washington DC will be rescheduled continues to be in the air, as most of our lives are. But in the meantime there have been other appropriately socially distance events occurring including fold ins at regional TFS chapters such as Berkeley, Chicago, and Seattle via zoom, and vehicle drive by protests at local ICE detention centers. In lieu of the Pilgrimage to Washington DC, National TFS is planning on June 6-7 a "Close the Camps, On Line" that they describe as "an online gathering of Nikkei in a weekend of solidarity, healing, and direct action to close the camps!" More details will be provided in the future, but there is a plan to symbolically hang a string of Tsuru on the White House fence and plans to do the same at all ICE Detention Centers across the US on June 6. Please refer to the Tsuru for Solidarity website, or follow Tsuru for Solidarity on Instagram for more information and updates.

Hopefully you will view the upcoming PBS series "Asian Americans" on your local PBS station, scheduled for May 11 and 12. The 5 hour series tells the story of Asians in America and while each story is unique to each individual and ethnic

group, you will also see shared experiences among all immigrant groups. In particular, Satsuki Ina, co-founder of Tsuru for Solidarity is featured in the series and you will see why the Tsuru for Solidarity movement is so important not just to the Japanese American community, but to all Americans.

Although most of us are still under a Shelter in Place order, immigrants and asylum seekers are still being retained in ICE Detention Centers. This past week the first reported death due to COVID-19 occurred in the Otay Mesa ICE detention camp. In a statement on the recent death, ICE wrote that the agency "is firmly committed to the health and welfare of all those in its custody and is undertaking a comprehensive agency-wide review of this incident, as it does in all such cases." However, last month, activists and advocates delivered hundreds of masks to the detention center to help protect detainees. ICE didn't accept the donations.

According to NPR, 425 detainees had tested positive for the coronavirus as of the end of April. Advocates fear that the virus is much more widespread, since ICE had only tested 705 detainees out of the more than 30,000 in detention at that time. Many cases have been filed by the ACLU and other organizations nationwide demanding that ICE release detainees with chronic health conditions who are at higher risk of contracting COVID-19 because of the crowded conditions. Many of these cases have resulted in judges ordering release of detainees or at a minimum improved conditions. ICE has since released several hundred detainees.

If the results at the few prisons which have done extensive testing are any indicators, it is obvious that the ICE facilities cannot be any better. Now, more than ever, the detainees need our help. If we can release suspected criminals or allow the early release of convicted criminals from our prisons because of humanitarian pandemic concerns, surely we should consider the release of people whose crime is to seek asylum from unimaginable situations or are only looking for a better life for their families and themselves. Please continue to find ways to support incarcerated immigrants. Consider writing your congressional leaders, pleading for the release of these immigrant detainees, support petitions sponsored by like minded organizations, stay vigilant and keep up to date on immigrant issues and events. If you have the capability, continue to financially support groups that are actively fighting for immigrant rights, such as the ACLU, Tsuru for Solidarity, National JACL, RAICES and/or any others of your choosing. Thank you and most important, stay safe, because we have a long fight in front of us.

NPS Awards \$3.1 Million in JACS Grants



"The National Park Service is pleased to announce more than \$3.1 million in Japanese American Confinement Sites grants that will fund preservation, restoration and education projects throughout the country. The 22 projects funded will help tell the stories of the more than 120,000 Japanese Americans, two-thirds of whom were U.S. citizens, imprisoned by the U.S. government during World War II following the attack on Pearl Harbor by the nation of Japan in 1941."

Read Full article here:

<https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1207/04-27-2020-nps-awards-grants-to-preserve-and-interpret-wwii-japanese-american-confinement-sites.htm?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=eddf99bd-16a0-4acb-b32b-f5c11cf7a53d>

**I**f you have any suggestions for future activities you would like to include in our programs, food demos, movies, bowling, social-business expo, you name it. Please let us know!

Send us a message thru our website, [www.sonomacojacl.org/contact-us/](http://www.sonomacojacl.org/contact-us/)

## SONOMA COUNTY JA CL CHAPTER

515 Petaluma Avenue  
Sebastopol, CA 95472

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

### THE GRAPEVINE

Sonoma County JA CL Newsletter

515 Petaluma Ave.  
Sebastopol, CA 95472

#### Annual Membership dues:

Single \$65; couple \$110  
Student (18 to 23 yrs) \$30  
75+ senior single \$35.00  
75+ senior couple \$55.00  
1000 Club Individual \$200.00  
1000 Club W/ Spouse \$232.00  
Century Club \$350.00  
Century Club Spouse \$382.00  
Millennium Club \$1,000.00  
Millennium Club Spouse \$ 1032.00  
One time membership payment:  
Thousand Club Life \$3000  
Thousand Club Life Spouse \$3032.00  
Century Club Life \$5000  
Century Club Life Spouse \$5032.00

Your membership includes a digital copy of the Pacific Citizen Newspaper. If you wish to receive the PACIFIC CITIZEN by mail, please add \$17.00

### SPECIAL DISCOUNTED MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

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### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Please send your  
renewal forms  
and checks to:

Sonoma County JA CL  
c/o Membership Chair  
515 Petaluma Ave.  
Sebastopol, CA 95472

Membership chair will deposit your check into our account and then submit your membership info and National dues to National JA CL HQ office. This step is required because we have the extra requirement of submitting the balance due for those senior members whose membership dues are subsidized.