



THE GRAPEVINE

Volume XLIV—No.6 November- December 2020
SONOMA COUNTY JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

November

Calendar of Events

December

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

It has been a long time since we have met for Enman no Tomo, but we want everyone to stay safe and healthy so we encourage everyone to continue to shelter in place, wear your masks, keep your social distancing to at least six feet, continue to wash your hands frequently, and try to stay positive by remembering all the good times with friends and family. Unfortunately, we have to cancel our family Christmas party and since we don't have a meeting in January, it will be at least February until we can get together. But we will wait until it is safe for everyone. We will let you know as soon as we can resume our get-togethers in a safe manner.

We would like to acknowledge monetary donations received from Mark and D. Midori Hanus in memory

of her parents, Gary and Kimie Paulson, a special donation from Julie Kawahara whose father James Kawahara recently joined Enman no Tomo, a special donation from Gerry Shimazu and a donation from Jan and John Loo in memory of their mother, Alice Shimazu. Thank you all for supporting us during this difficult time.

If anyone has any ideas on how we can socialize or connect safely during this time, please let us know. We would love to keep in touch with everyone.

Please stay safe at home and we will all get through this together. We are all thinking of you and wish you all a safe and healthy holiday season.

ENMAN NO TOMO BOARD

"KEEP SAFE" KEIRO KAI

Sunday, October 11, 2020

We want to thank all those who participated in our "Keep Safe" Keiro Kai that was held on October 11th. Due to the pandemic restrictions, we were unable to host our usual luncheon in the Hall at Enmanji. But to let people know that we are still thinking of them, we felt that it might be an opportunity to reach out to our senior honorees and their families and offer them a bento lunch from Kyoto Restaurant and a bag of goodies to keep them safe and relieve them from boredom. We passed out 190 bento lunches and bags of goodies to 84 honorees and we hoped to do a curbside pickup in the parking lot of Kyoto Restaurant in Rohnert Park. Due to the sheer number of lunches to prepare, people had the chance to enjoy the clear air and sunshine, and wearing their masks safely visit with others they have not seen in a while. We would like to thank Annie Wang from Kyoto Restaurant and her staff for all their help and support in preparing all the lunches. Also, thanks to the committee: Becky and Gary Sugiyama and Gail Seymour as well as volunteers: Jean and Mike Uyeda, Alan Murakami, Janel Sugiyama, Darryl Yagi, who delivered 32 meals, and Marie Totman, who helped Annie prepare the lunches. Also, would like to recognize our newest members of MIRAI: Adrian Chang, Erin & Derek Wilkins and Josh Chernin, who helped with the deliveries. Finally, would like to acknowledge and thank the following for their generous donations: Dennis & Susan Fujita, Gerry Shimazu, Ralph & Keiko Furusho, Mikki Schmidt-Petersen, Carole Otani, Ray & Caroline Yamasaki, Jimmy Yamakawa, Tom & Darlys Perry, Liliane Rains, Jan Otani, Henry Kaku, Marie Totman, Yukiko Lopez and Milt & Judy Yoshioka. We hope that you all had a wonderful meal, and remember that we are still a strong community full of caring and thoughtful people. Stay safe and healthy.

OBON SEBASTOPOL CEMETERY NOVEMBER 1, 2020



November 1, 2020. A special group of Sonoma County JACL members honored the Japanese people buried at Sebastopol Lawn. Darryl Yagi presented interesting history about the Japanese graves and some of the people buried there and presided over a Buddhist ceremony and meditation. The members of Generation Mirai, Joshua Chernin, Adrian Chang, and Erin Wilkins with Sachiko Knappman and Gail Seymour, raked the grounds and scrubbed the headstones. The headstones revealed the names of the deceased and beautiful Japanese script. Darryl suggested that we connect with the spirit of each person whose headstone we cleaned. Too often we may not think of those who no longer walk this earth as people. They were people like us who had families, joys, disappointment, fear, oppression, hope,

optimism and dreams. One grave holds a deceased one year old boy whose birthday was the day before, October 31st. Another holds that of a 12 year old child. Their parents and families stood on these plots decades ago in grief as they buried their children. Most lived and died during the late 19th century through the early to mid 20th century. Many headstones and graves have subsided into the earth over the years so many more exist than we could not see.

This project was originally planned for August 16, 2020 as part of Obon. The catastrophic dry lightening storms that occurred that morning and started the Woodbridge fire in northern Sonoma County, put the project on hold. However, Gen Mirai was determined to implement the project and carried it through. The project coincided with Dia de los Muertos, Day of the Dead. Mother Nature gifted us with warm, calm, smokeless weather for a spiritual and memorable day honoring and wondering about these people who deserve our attention and gratitude for their contributions and influence on our lives today.

The day ended with Gen Mirai adorning the graves with flowers and contemplating future projects for the care of Asian gravesites in Sonoma County.

GENERATION MARAI

During the Summer of 2020, amidst a catastrophic pandemic, the era of Zoom, the most important election year of our lives, and forecasts for the worst wildfire season in the western U.S. that proved to be true, Generation Mirai was born ! Three progressive, inspirational, and motivated young adults of Asian heritage founded this sub-committee of the Sonoma County JACL. These three, Joshua Chernin, Adrian Chang, and Erin Wilkins, make up the think-tank we were looking for. They are enthusiastic in learning from JACL elders about culture, traditions and our social justice mission while sharing their progressive ideas and insights that will enliven our organization and attract new young members to carry on our mission into the future.

In only a few months, Gen Mirai members have become an integral part of our local JACL by participating in Keiro Kai 2020 by delivering bento lunches to our senior members; Obon project - honoring Japanese deceased and cleansing headstones at Sebastopol Lawn cemetery; revitalizing our website; actively sharing photos and information on their Generation Mirai Instagram platform; and participating in JACL board meetings.

Gen Mirai has been an uplifting and optimistic force for our board. We look forward to our connection with this next generation and look forward to introducing them to our local, District and National JACL members.

With gratitude,

Gail Seymour, SCJACL Board Member

JACL Supports the Neighbors Not Enemies Act

October 06, 2020

Hirono, Booker, Markey, Sanders Announce Neighbors Not Enemies Act

This week, a companion bill to Representative Ilhan Omar's House Resolution 5734 was introduced to the Senate by Senator Mazie Hirono. These bills, titled The Neighbors not Enemies Act, seek to repeal the Alien Enemies Act (AEA) which was signed into law over 200 years ago in 1798. The AEA has been used to deport, incarcerate, and withhold the rights of foreign nationals in the United States during times of war. The JACL supports the Neighbors not Enemies Act.

In 1918, on the outbreak of World War I, the AEA was revised and used again as the United States declared war on Germany. During the war, the act was used to enact laws against German nationals in the United States to curtail possible acts of espionage and sabotage.

The largest use of the AEA was in World War II, however, when it was used as a legal basis to imprison and deport, German, Italian, and Japanese immigrants in the United States. Executive Order 9066 followed on February 19, 1942, expanding the scope to create exclusion zones from which those deemed a threat might be forcibly removed. Once the exclusion orders were issued, the scope had expanded to include "non-alien," a euphemism for US citizens. As a result nearly 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry were incarcerated.

Most recently, the AEA has been used as a justification by the current administration for the creation of the "Muslim Ban." With the AEA still in effect, it allows for the legality of these policies and laws to be put in place.

Such an outdated and xenophobic law has no place in our nation. It is past time we repeal the Alien Enemies Act and we applaud Representative Omar and Senator Hirono for their leadership in addressing this failure in our laws.

DIGGING BENEATH THE SURFACE

Digging Beneath the Surface

by Lina Hoshino, Santa Rosa Press Democrat, July 26, 2020

This story did justice to the Chinese people of Petaluma in the 1800s in contrast to decades of racial mischaracterization. The archeological dig uncovered how the portrayal of the Chinese residents - as opium addicts and criminals - was deceptive and unfounded.

Archeologists Bill Roop and Kathy Flynn not only provided material artifacts, they also chose to expose how the historical facts are "white-washed". How many people know that the Chinese factory workers were vital during the Civil War (1861-1865) and provided 90% of the labor that built the first transcontinental railroad (1869) that revolutionized the growth and wealth of the United States, yet the "Big Four" received all the credit? The Chinese workers suffered oppression at every level of society. These labors were paid back with discrimination, suffering, and the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882.

We applaud archeologists Bill Roop, Kathy Flynn, reporter Lina Hoshino, the Petaluma Argus Courier, and the Santa Rosa Press Democrat for publishing this honest account that vindicates the people of Petaluma's historic Chinese community.

Good reporting tells the story and tells the truth.

Gail Seymour - Sonoma County Japanese American Citizens League



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 28, 2013

Contact: Carol Kawase
E-mail: info@sonomacojacl.org

The Sonoma County JACL Urges the City of Santa Rosa To Preserve the Ruth Asawa Fountain

Santa Rosa, CA - Sonoma County JACL Chapter expresses concern regarding Santa Rosa's city plans to deconstruct the Ruth Asawa fountain located in the Courthouse Square. This fountain is one of only a dozen public commissions that Ms. Asawa has completed throughout Northern California.

Many Asian American community members are aware of Ms. Asawa's importance in art history. The chapter reiterates the importance of her contributions to our community.

Ruth Asawa is known in the Bay Area as the "fountain lady." Her work is included in prominent art collections such as the Guggenheim Museum, Whitney Museum of American Art and the deYoung Museum <http://deyoung.famsf.org/blog/ruth-asawa-1926-2013>. She has been honored for her work with many awards and has been the subject of numerous publications.

With the passage of E.O. 9066, her family was incarcerated along with 120,000 other Japanese Americans as a result of war hysteria, racism and lack of political leadership. Ruth's father, Umakichi, was arrested by FBI agents. Ruth would not see him again until 1948. The remaining family members lived in a horse stall at the Santa Anita racetrack assembly center for much of 1942, then transferred to Rohwer War Relocation Center in Arkansas. She spent her youth years in an incarceration camp, graduating from an ill staffed and under equipped internment center high school. She attended Milwaukee State Teachers College intending to become an art teacher, but was unable to get hired for the requisite practice teaching to complete her degree due to the post-war prejudice of the time.

Ms. Asawa once said of her incarceration years, "Sometimes good comes through adversity." She used personal life experiences to guide her vision in her art; the fulfillment of life through adversity. Her art activism strove to make art accessible to all, especially young people. The fountains and murals were her way of allowing the people to feel connected to the art piece and experience its' peaceful beauty. Ms. Asawa would go on to serve on the California Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, and become a trustee of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. As an arts advocate, her focus was always on arts education.

Ms. Asawa recently passed away which makes her life's work that much more precious to preserve. It seems a shame to have such a prominent piece of art in Santa Rosa deconstructed with the potential of damage due to the fragile nature of the sculpture's panels. The Sonoma County JACL Chapter strongly urges the planning committee to maintain this particularly eminent element of the Courthouse Square by preserving it in its original form.

###

JACL The JACL, founded in 1929, is the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization in the United States. The Sonoma County Chapter 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. www.sonomacojacl.org

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.

ENMANJI SERVICES AVAILABLE ONLINE

ENMANJI SERVICES can be accessed on the Enmanji website at www.enmanjitemple.com

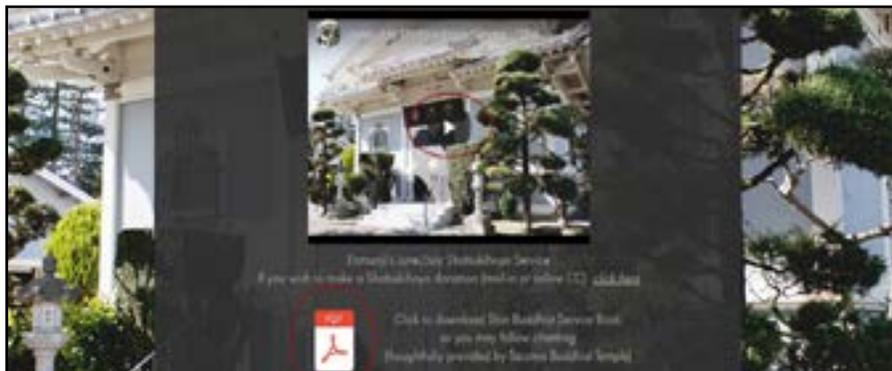
Here you can find various links to church services and lectures.

TO ACCESS ENMANJI SHOTSUKIHOYO SERVICE for June and July: log onto the Enmanji website at www.enmanjitemple.com

click on "click here to view"



ENMANJI SHOTSUKIHOYO SERVICE Click on triangle view to video of service
Click on PDF icon to download service manual for songs and chants



TSURU FOR SOLIDARITY

Here's some news for the Tsuru for Solidarity Project.

Tsuru For Solidarity Bay Area has held a couple of Zoom meetings, the latest on August 27. The meetings are open to anyone interested in what is currently happening, primarily in the Bay Area. Besides news, participants are broken into smaller groups to discuss topics of interest or possible activities. Future meetings are posted on Instagram or you can sign up for email updates through their website.

A new project was agreed to at the Bay Area meeting, "Tsuru for Jacob", an effort to send 1,000 tsuru to Jacob Blake in Wisconsin as a message of support, solidarity and wishes for his healing and strength. Rather than taking from the tsuru already collected, it was decided to fold tsuru especially for Jacob, so that they can be folded with intention for his healing and strength. An email went out to Bay Area participants for tsuru and within a day, commitments for over 1,000 were made. The Wisconsin JAACL enthusiastically agreed to deliver the tsuru to Jacob, and is currently working with local community groups regarding how to most effectively do this.

Tsuru for Solidarity is sponsoring a series of lectures/discussions on JA relations called "Community Conversations". The first community conversation was "Japanese American Identity & Intergenerational Trauma". This July 25th program was recorded and can be watched via a link from the Tsuru Website (link https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7H1Kqsj_NeA&feature=youtu.be). You can get more information and register on the Tsuru for Solidarity Website under the Tsuru Rising tab, Community Conversations pick.

There was Tsuru for Solidarity "Tsuru for Solidarity Next Gen Coalition Meeting", on Saturday, September 19, 2020. This meeting was an introduction to the Tsuru for Solidarity movement, a nonviolent, direct action project of Japanese American social justice advocates working to end detention sites and support front-line immigrant and refugee communities. During this session for newcomers, a history of the movement and organizers from all over the United States spoke about their ongoing projects with TFS. Get connected to the Tsuru for Solidarity community and find out how you can get involved! Register at <https://bit.ly/IntrotoTFS>

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 or info@sonomacojacl.org

If 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/

O BON SEBASTOPOL CEMETERY NOVEMBER 1, 2020



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

The Sonoma County Chapter of JA CL Board has approved extending a 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.

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. Take care and continue to be safe.

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.