



SONOMA COUNTY JACL BOARD MEETING & MISSION STATEMENT



The Sonoma County Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League is committed to the protection and advancement of civil rights and community development for Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

PRESENT: Lauren Morimoto, Ron Tajii, Janet Tajii, Sachiko Knappman, Gail Seymour, Phyllis Tajii, Bruce Shimizu, Gary Sugiyama, Becky Sugiyama, Meg Mizutani

Absent: Nancy Davlin

- I. Call to Order 7:06
- II. Personal Appearances
 - A. Commander Andrew LeMarQuand
 - B. Lina Hoshino,
 - c. Reyna Yagi,
- III. Approved the Jan 4, 2021 minutes as distributed
- IV. Announcements
 - A. Informational items – see additions and addendums below
 - B. Upcoming events
- V. Correspondence - none
- VI. Committee and Subcommittee Reports
 - A. Finance, *Janet Tajii*
 1. Uyeda Center Building, *Ron Tajii*

Motion made to allocate up to \$25,000.00 for a new furnace at 511 Petaluma Ave, Sebastopol, CA. 2nd. Approved Unanimous
 2. Treasurer's report, *Nancy Davlin*

Suggestions for budget are due February 10, 2022

Nancy will bring papers to appropriate people to sign to be added to the Redwood Credit Union as signatories
 3. Funding requests (New Business item too)
 - a. small toys for children getting COVID vax (see Appendix A)

Motion made to allocate \$1,000.00 to provide toys for children who are being vaccinated in pop-up clinics. 2nd. Approved unanimous.

Clarify the age groups and select the toys.

There is the possibility of members (board and general) for passing out the toys.
 - b. Museum of Sonoma County to support Ansel Adams exhibition

Motion made to donate \$1,000.00 to the Museum of Sonoma County for the Ansel Adams Exhibit. 2nd. Approved unanimous

*There will be three private tours of ten members of the Sonoma County JACL. One will be on a Thursday evening, one will be on a Saturday morning, one will be on a Saturday afternoon.

*Henry Kaku will ask for two more private tours to be added or for the tours to include fifteen people.

*SoCoJACL willing to subsidize at least 20 people's entrance fees.

*Is there a press release, poster, or other advertising?

4. Grants subcommittee – Legacy Grant

Lina Hoshino finished production of the first of five video interviews entitled “Embracing Diversity Within the Asian American Pacific Islanders Community “. The focus is on first generation immigrants. Sachiko Knappman was the subject of the first video. There is an evaluation form available. Dissemination ideas are: the JACL General Meeting; at a Day of Remembrance event; SoCoJACL host a special event; contact locally produced television station KRCB; and at the JACL National Convention. Andrew LeMarQuand suggested an event at the Veterans building in Petaluma hosted by the VFW. Other ideas are appreciated.

B. Membership

C. Report on membership: looking into mailchimp, vertical response, and one other email server. Programs, Civil Rights and Social Justice, **ALL TABLED**

1. Human and Civil Rights Committee,

- a. Sonoma County Human Rights Commission, G. Yamamoto Seymour
- b. United in Kindness

D. AAPI Coalition,

E. Programs, Community and Culture,

1. Scholarship Committee, **TABLED**

2. Enman No Tomo – suspended due to COVID-19

3. Education Committee

- a. Speakers Bureau and Kamishibai, received 9 requests.

4. Tea Garden Subcommittee

The schedule for volunteers is

MAY – APRIL weeding crew of 6-8

JUNE – JULY wedding crew of 6-8

MAY – JUNE put up shade cloth crew of 2

OCT – NOV remove shade cloth crew of 2

*Nagasawa Celebration in February or March TBD

*Tea Ceremony event – Spring or Fall?

*There is a plan to build a fence around the tea garden with a Tori style gate. Plans include an interpretive plaque.

* The landscape for the Japanese Garden will have the look of Kagoshima, Nagasawa's place of birth.

*Donations and discounts will be pursued.

F. Public Communications, **TABLED**

1. Newsletter Committee, **TABLED**

2. Social Media Committee **TABLED**

- a. Website subcommittee **TABLED**

- b. Facebook, **TABLED**
 - 3. Rapid Response **TABLED**
 - G. District Council, **TABLED**
- VII. Unfinished business **ALL TABLED**
- A. Procedures for funding requests
 - 1. Revive use of and/or revise fund request form?
 - 2. Request a report about use of funds for requesters?
 - B. Preview new website (in construction)
 - C. Revise and approve updated by-laws, on-going (20 min)
 - D. Collaborate with Museum of Sonoma County to provide a benefit for JACL members?
 - E. Zoom account for So Co JACL chapter?
 - F. Mochi making demonstration (Apr 30, 2022 @ SSU) planning
 - G. Mochitsuki – format of future events? Demonstration only or also supply JA community?
- VIII. New Business **ALL TABLED**
- A. Change status of permanent board member, Margarette Murakami and Martin Shimizu to advisors
 - B. Finalize make-up of Executive Committee (Ex Comm) and its duties
 - C. New logo development, *B. Sugiyama*
 - D. Federal grant (APPIC advocacy group), *P. Tajii*

Adjourned 9:52pm

- IX. Next Board Meeting, March 1, 2022

Appendix A.

VI. C. 1. a.

ACTION ITEM on Update to Santa Rosa Unum Sculpture in Courthouse Square - Emails were sent out to APPC, APPC Manager Tara Thompson, Santa Rosa City Council Members and City Manager.

Copies were also mailed to: Press Democrat Nashelly Chavez, reporter, and Jim Sweeney, editorial staff, with thank you.

Copies and background emailed to: FANHS, RECA, AAAM, AAPIC, UIK, ICSC.

Positive responses were received from FANHS, AAAM, AAPIC,

UIK and ICSC asked if JACL is interested in endorsing Japanese, Hebrew and Arabic (to represent the Muslim community).

Question: Is JACL interested in supporting a revised letter endorsing Japanese, Hebrew and Arabic on the sculpture?

Per Carol Kawase: Seems to me that JACL letter was from the point of view of the longstanding 150 yr history of Jewish and Japanese presence in So Co. Adding Arabic would be more along the lines of being inclusive well into the future.

Depends on what JACL feels would be more representative of the current situation of the sculpture, excluding groups that have a long-standing presence or trying to be all inclusive of everyone which I think might be a harder but more worthy fight.

Additional information that was shared at the APPC meeting Jan10, 2022. (Video of the meeting can be viewed online; main discussion about languages starts around 15-minute mark)

- Languages on the list were chosen from the top 15 languages spoken in Santa Rosa as included in Santa Rosa City's Language Assistance Plan which has original data from the U.S. Census Bureau.
- The Language Assistance Plan is one component of the City of Santa Rosa Transit Division's efforts to provide an appropriate mix of language assistance measures to meet the needs of individuals within the Santa Rosa CityBus service area who are "limited English proficient".
- The artist said up to 1,000 total words can fit on the sculpture.
- The current list approved by APPC, including the language variations/dialects multiplied by the different words will total around 380 words, which will be repeated as many times as will fit on the sculpture. There is room for another 100 - 200 words (equals 5 - 10 more languages), there will just be less repetition.
- Recommendations at the meeting from the public included 5 more languages to the sculpture: Hebrew, Arabic, Japanese, Greek, Russian. There may be more that should be considered (Hmong, Hindi, others).

Reasons not to approve more languages for the sculpture:

- Using the census driven data seemed to be the most equitable way to represent the community, especially for those who do not have access to voice their opinion or don't know they have an opportunity to do so.
- Opening it up to the public would add another component of having to decide what languages to add based on personal desire.
- The APPC has been empowered with making a final decision and with the pushback received, where are you going to draw the line? People will not want to put time in to be on a committee if their decision will be challenged.

VI. C. 1. c. AAPI Coalition **INFORMATIONAL**

AAPIC and ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act)

AAPIC is collaborating with several other non-profit organizations to request some of the 13 million dollars in funding available. Grant proposals will be reviewed in March-April, so grant requests must be submitted soon. The portion of funds requested will come under the 'BIPOC Negative Economics Impacts on Households and Individuals' category.

VI. C. 1. d. Support for Holocaust Memorial Fountain Repair UPDATE **INFORMATIONAL**

Positive acknowledgements were received from AAPIC, Marin Interfaith, and Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights in response to being notified of our letter condemning the vandalism of the Holocaust Memorial Fountain. RECA declared their support.

Additional comments from Dr. Timmy Jeng about Giveaways for children:

“I support the idea for toys! As with any vaccination, we’ve had some kids cry/feel nervous at some of our school clinics, so anything that could keep them engaged would be a fantastic addition.

For the gift card and toys, do you think we’d be able to make it work? Our County-sponsored school clinics have been planned in neighborhoods of the county with low HPI indexes (Healthy Places Index), high percentages of English language learners, and high percentages of students on free and reduced meals. These are key markers of folks from economically disadvantaged areas. We’re soft testing a “fast pass” at these schools next week whereby students from these schools can enter a private line to receive their vaccines faster. Perhaps the toys can be handed to all children and gift cards + toys would be handed to children in the fast pass line? I’d love to hear your thoughts!”

FYI INFORMATIONAL

Afghan Family Friends Program -

I have met a young Afghan family, through the St. John’s Episcopal Church program, that is one of several that have settled in Petaluma. They have a sparsely furnished apt and the husband has a job with a subcontractor for PG&E as a traffic controller. The husband’s English is excellent, the wife and children (ages 7, 5, and a baby) do not speak English. The wife is taking English classes and the husband is looking for another part time job to earn extra money. His first priority is to buy a car.

The husband used to be a security guard for 5 years. At the time of the U.S. withdrawal he had a store selling cell phones, but his former job protecting U.S. and allies made him a target of the Taliban.