



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, May 3, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

- I. Call to Order 7:09pm
Present: Phyllis Tajii, Becky Sugiyama, Meg Mizutani, Sachiko Knappman, Janet Tajii, Ron Tajii, Gail Yamamoto Seymour, Lauren Morimoto
Absent: Bruce Shimizu, Nancy Davlin
- II. Personal Appearances
 - A. Jeffrey Chin, filmmaker
The film, *Lil Tokyo Reporter*, depicts the life and works of Sei Fujii. Jeffrey has been presenting the film and discussion of the book it was based on, *A Rebel's Outcry*, in various venues. The Sonoma County JACL would like to schedule a presentation possibly in September, opening the invitation to all Asian American organizations, in a venue TBD.
Books are available for \$60.00 through the website <https://www.littletokyohs.org>
Phyllis Tajii has a link to the overview of the film.
- III. Minutes of the Mar 29, 2022 approved with corrections.
- IV. Approval of the agenda
- V. Announcements
 - A. Informational items
 1. Refrigerator on hold until we are sure we are able to meet in person at the office. When we are ready to order, Ron agreed to help me with purchase, delivery, etc.
Ron Tajii and Sachiko Knappman will oversee cleaning out and unplugging the current refrigerator.
See Appendix A for more items
 - B. Upcoming events –
- VI. Correspondence - none
- VII. Committee and Subcommittee Reports
 - A. Finance,
Janet Tajii reported that there is a new PayPal business account at Redwood Credit Union. She is awaiting a letter from the IRS confirming Sonoma County JACL's non-profit status .
People do not have to have a PayPal account to use
Joshua Chernin will add a button to the website on the membership page.
Gail Y. Seymour will add a link to the online newsletter to the website as an option to use PayPal.
 1. Uyeda Center Building
Ron Tajii reported that the new HVAC furnace replacement is completed. Cost is \$19,515

- Treasurer's report – see documents on Google Drive, provided by *Nancy Davlin*
2. Funding requests - none
 3. Grants subcommittee – Legacy Grant, *Gail Yamamoto Seymour* and *Phyllis Tajii* **TABLED**

B. Membership, *Sachiko Knappman*

1. Sachiko will communicate with National to see how we can digitize the renewal and new application processes. Several mistyped email addresses were found during emailing through the Constant Contact, and on-line processing will reduce this kind of situations.
2. Info from Constant Contact
Started with 280 email addresses. 24 bounced. 10 non-members were removed from the list. 4 members addresses were resolved from personal connections. 2 were removed from the list since their membership lapsed since 2018. 8 were notified by regular mail, 7 responded and resolved. 1 so far no response. After updating, total 264 email addresses.
Sachiko requested that all members provide emails via digital instead of hand-written.

VIII. Programs, Civil Rights and Social Justice, *G. Yamamoto Seymour*

1. Human and Civil Rights Committee, *G. Yamamoto Seymour* and *P. Tajii*
 - a. Sonoma County Human Rights Commission, *G. Yamamoto Seymour* reported that she attended the meeting via Zoom.
 - b. United in Kindness, *P. Tajii* **see appendix A**
 - c. AAPI Coalition, *P. Tajii* **see appendix A**
2. Covid Pop-up Clinics where SoCo JACL has distributed toys – **ANNOUNCEMENT**
 - a. Volunteers so far: *Phyllis Tajii*, *Janet Tajii*, *Becky Sugiyama*, *Donna Moriki*, *Allan Kaku*, *Brian Tajii*, *Lisa Kaku*, *Jay Pedersen*
 - b. Clinics attended:
 - i. March 19, Casa Grande HS
 - ii. March 22, Adele Harrison Middle School
 - iii. April 2, Santa Rosa HS
 - iv. April 7, Albert Biella School
 - v. April 9, Cloverdale Fairgrounds
 - vi. April 16, 4C's (Community Child Care Council)
 - vii. April 23, Elsie Allen HS
 - viii. April 27, McKinley Elementary School
 - ix. April 30, YMCA Santa Rosa

C. Programs, Community and Culture, **ALSO SEE WRITTEN REPORT BY RON TAJII AT THE END OF THE MINUTES**

1. Scholarship Committee, *Janet Tajii* reported that the Uyeda Scholarship applications were due 5/1/2022. She will check the office for possible late entries.
2. Enman No Tomo – suspended due to COVID-19, *Nancy Davlin*.
3. Education Committee
 - a. Speakers Bureau and Kamishibai,
Henry Kaku sent an email with the following information:
Here are the future speaking engagement requests:
Sonoma Academy Lani Frazier PRESENTATION NO DATE
University Elementary Gilleran KAMISHIBAI 5/10 **Sachiko and Becky**
Santa Rosa High Achley BELL PRESENTATION 5/2
Northwest Prep Charter Stephanie Boone PRESENTATION 5/6
San Antonio High Nicole Volier PRESENTATION 5/21 **Henry**

Salmon Creek Tanya Turneure PRESENTATION 5/11

4. Tea Garden Subcommittee, Henry Kaku did not report. The following discussion was by the board members who were present.

- Nao Magami has scheduled a “Wakamatsu/Fountain Grove Tea Party and Celebration of Kanaye Nagasawa” for June 18, 2022.
- It will be by invitation only for approximately 50 people. Invitees include the Sonoma County JACL board members, representatives from the San Francisco Japanese Consulate, Gaye LeBaron, and members of the press.
- Paradise Ridge Winery and the Sonoma County JACL are co-sponsors.
- Sonoma County JACL is asked to provide \$1000.00 to cover expenses such as snacks, bento lunches, a banner, and entertainment by a koto player.
- Paradise Ridge Winery will provide the outdoor venue and provide liability insurance.
- There will be a display representing the Wakoan Tea Company and tea tasting.

Discussion was also regarding involving the Sonoma County JACL board sooner in the discussion before decisions are made.

Gail Y. Seymour will contact Nao Magami to clarify who exactly is putting on the event and on whose behalf the invitations were sent. She will report back via email.

A decision is needed regarding participation and the money requested.

5. Ron Tajii reported that the Ansel Adams exhibit will continue through the end of summer.
6. Phyllis Tajii will contact the Sonoma County Historical Society and Ron Tajii will contact Henry Kaku regarding involvement with Sonoma County JACL at the August 6, 2022 event.
7. Ron Tajii will write two thank yous from Sonoma County JACL- one to Nao Noguchi for his help at the Mochitsuki at Sonoma State University on April 30, 2022, and one to Sonoma County Taiko.
8. Sonoma State University will send \$500.00 to Sonoma County Taiko for their entertainment during Mochitsuki.
9. Henry Kaku will fold a large crane at the closing ceremony of Asian American Pacific Islanders month which will also launch the Cranes for Ukraine event (date TBD).
10. Lauren Morimoto will provide flyers for the Cranes for Ukraine event for distribution at the ceremony IF the date is set before the ceremony.
11. Phyllis Tajii will contact Lori Hogan at St. Patrick’s Episcopal Church to ask regarding the date. Cranes may be taken to the San Francisco Russian embassy.

IX. Public Communications, *M. Mizutani* - **ALL TABLED**

1. Newsletter Committee, *Sachiko Knappman & G.Seymour*
2. Social Media Committee, *G. Seymour (?)*
 - a. Website subcommittee
 - b. Facebook, *Becky Sugiyama*
3. Rapid Response Team, *M. Mizutani*

X. District Council, *M. Mizutani* and *P. Tajii* - **TABLED**

XI. Unfinished business - **ALL TABLED**

- a. JACL sponsor Japanese section of the Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery (see Appendix B), *P. Tajii*
- b. Procedures for funding requests
 1. Revive use of and/or revise fund request form?
 2. Request a report about use of funds for requesters?
- c. Change status of permanent board member, Margarette Murakami and Martin Shimizu to advisors

- d. Finalize make-up of Executive Committee (Ex Comm) and its duties
- e. New logo development
- f. Federal grant (APPIC advocacy group), *P. Tajii*

XII. New Business

- A. “West County High School Sons of the Golden West” plaques
Motion by Janet Tajii approving the letter written by Meg Mizutani and for Gail Y. Seymour to read the letter at the West County School Board meeting 5/4/2022. 2nd by Becky Sugiyama.
Passed
Need to address the perceived racist and threatening remark by board member who asked about immigration status. Maybe contact Nashelly at the Press Democrat.
- B. Motion made by Phyllis Tajii to approve Flora Lee Ganzler for Civil and Human Rights Committee. 2nd by Janet Tajii. Approved.
- C. Schedule additional self-defense class(es) or give away whistles? Ideas: donate to women’s shelter; give to members; give to students who do not feel safe on campus.
- D. Covid Clinic Toy Giveaway
 - 1. Pop up covid clinics continue to be scheduled.
 - 2. Funds spent so far: \$357 of \$1000 allocated.
 - 3. Need volunteers for following events:
 - a. May 4, Sheppard Accelerated School (3-6:30)
 - b. May 5, McDowell Elementary School (3-6:30)
 - c. May 11, Tech High Rohnert Park (3-6:30)
 - d. May 21, 4C’s Santa Rosa (9-1:30)
- E. Hospitality Committee – Becky Sugiyama will add phone number at a later date.
The phone numbers provided by Sonic will be suitable for the office. Voice messages can be retrieved remotely.
Joshua Chernin will add a button for the email Hospitality@sonomacountyjacl.org to be forwarded to Becky Sugiyama.
- F. National Convention – Aug 3- 10, 2022.
Motion made by Janet Tajii to make Meg Mizutani and Phyllis Tajii the delegates to the National Convention. 2nd by Ron Tajii. Passed.
Any board member may sign up for virtual workshops. Please do so by the early deadline.

Adjourned 9:50pm

XIII. Next Board Meeting, June 7, 2022 @ 7 pm

Appendix A. Informational Items Reported by Phyllis Tajii

1. Based on the last board meeting, JACL is talking with St. Patrick's Episcopal Church and UIK to do a peace crane fold-in workshop, 'Cranes for Ukraine'. Event venue at St. Patrick's Church date sometime June or later, donations will be collected to send to Ukraine humanitarian effort.
2. Congregation Shomrei Torah Social Action Committee wants to establish a relationship with JACL. Connection came about because of JACL's involvement with the Unum Sculpture. JACL Civil and Human Rights Committee will meet with the Social Action Committee to see where we can collaborate and support each other.
3. The Speakers Bureau has 6 more speaking engagements coming up. Two of them are Kamishibai presentations to elementary schools.
 - a. There is one more presentation at the Sonoma County Museum on "No No boys" by Henry Kaku on May 7th
 - b. There will be one more Tour of the Museum Exhibit for JACL Members on May 7th at 2 pm. Led by a member of the Speakers Bureau.
4. Finding History Day - organized by Sonoma County Historical Society. Aug 6, 2022. Project was given to Speakers Bureau to decide and submit application.
5. United in Kindness - Santa Rosa Junior College approved Resolution to support UIK mission
6. AAPIC North Bay - AAPIC sent a letter to West County HS school board supporting student effort regarding the NSGW plaques.

Appendix B. Japanese Section of Santa Rosa

Does JACL want to maintain the old Japanese section of the Santa Rosa Cemetery?

It would require about 3 - 4 visits per year to weed/clean up the area.

Darryl Yagi has been doing clean up but has indicated he needs someone else to carry on. Carole and Jonathan Quandt take care of the rural cemetery and said Darryl told them he is looking for someone to take it over. Carole and Jonathan approached Gary, Becky and Phyllis asking if JACL would want to take over care of that section. In the meantime, Carole and her group are looking after the old rural cemetery and keeping an eye on the Japanese section.

Cultural and Community Programs

Notes for May 3, '22 SoCo JACL Board Meeting

Committee Reports

Speakers Bureau:

"Manzanar: The Wartime Photographs of Ansel Adams" exhibit, SoCo Museum
Exhibit to remain at the museum at least through the summer

Reports:

Workshop

"Heart Mountain: poetry and stories", Jodi Hottel, 4/2/22

Good turn out again, 30+ attendees

Future events:

JACL docent led tours, 5/7/22 - 2 sign ups

Workshop

"No, No" Boys and their protests Henry Kaku 5/7/22 11:30 AM

School presentations

No report for April
Sonoma County Historical Society - Did not follow up
Leap of Faith or workshop

Mochi Tsuki Demonstration at Sonoma State, 4/30,

Attended by 40+, really well executed

Lots of great help and support - Henry Kaku, Carl Hallberg, Phyllis Tajii, Nancy Davlin, Sachiko Knappman, Lauren Morimoto, Nancy Wang, Sakiko Pizzorno, Miako Pizzorno, Lillian Lee, and Ron and Janet Tajii supported. Having those two young ladies helping has convinced me that if we had 6-8 youth like that supporting, we could do mochitsuki.

Sonoma Taiko performance, critical to attract participants

Logistics: Arrive 11:00 to set up, Cleaned up by 2:30, xx pounds of rice in 4 batches, Needed to bring water (~10 gals), Pop up tent, Tables, mochi making equipment made available by Nao Noguchi

Recommend doing similar a event next year as part of AAPI Heritage Month, need to work around Matsuri.

Mochi Tsuki for New Years

More than demo, Sales? 2-3 lbs per family, still need to check on Enmanji availability with Nancy, other issues - manpower, , can we buy mochi (Marukai, Nijiya), Some info from Florin JACL appears to be samples.

Movie showing and book promo - Jeffrey Chin, author/filmmaker of A Rebel's Outcry (book) and "Lil Tokyo Reporter" (film), (and maybe Jean Chan) to speak at the May board meeting about a film showing. Partner with Museum of Sonoma County?

Scholarship

Reports:

Continuing Education Scholarships

No new applications

Future events:

Faye Uyeda Scholarship Apps Due, 5/1/22, need to check office again

Tea Garden

Japanese Garden - Bruce Shimizu working plan and estimate

Tori, rock garden, and kiosk (signage) - Spring of 2023???

Next weeding party TBD

Shade cloth set up - no date set yet, possibly May

Need to develop a maintenance plan with schedule

Conservation Works submitted a proposal for an Arts and Culture Community grant from the Sonoma County Vintners Foundation for an AAPI cultural event at Paradise Ridge. Grants should be awarded at the end of May or early June.

New Business and Long Lead

Redwood Empire Food Bank - on hold - should we continue?

Mochitsuki - Start back up? Alternatives?

Enman No Tomo - on hold - Nancy Davlin

Keiro Kai – Nancy Davlin

Teriyaki and bazaar 7/9?

Obon 7/16?

Reference:

***VP Cultural and Community Programs Committees**

*Scholarship - Janet Tajii

*Library

*Education / Oral History - Henry Kaku

Speakers Bureau and Kamishibai - Henry Kaku

Enman No Tomo - Nancy Davlin

Keiro Kai – Nancy Davlin

Tea Garden Committee – Henry

Redwood Empire Food Bank

Mochitsuki - Ron Tajii

Teriyaki - Bingo and Camp Display - Alan Murakami, Henry

Obon - Food booth

New Year's Potluck

“*” note committee in bylaws

Uyeda Building Committee Report

Estes HVAC furnace replacement completed \$19,515