



SONOMA COUNTY JACL BOARD MEETING AND 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, June 7, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

- I. Call to Order
Present: Phyllis Tajii, Ron Tajii, Janet Tajii, Becky Sugiyama, Meg Mizutani, Bruce Shimizu, Sachiko Knappman, Gail Yamamoto Seymour
Absent: Nancy Davlin, Lauren Morimoto
- II. Personal Appearances: Henry Kaku and Jodi Hottel, representatives of the Speakers Bureau
- III. Ron Tajii motioned to approve May 3, 2022 minutes as distributed – 2nd by Janet Tajii. Approved
- IV. Approval of the agenda
- V. Announcements
 - A. Informational items (See Appendix A)
 - B. Upcoming events
June 15, Petaluma Community Relations Council breakfast meeting, 8:30am. In-person, outside. Invitation for all to attend. B'nai Israel Jewish Center (latest update- looks like this will be postponed now).
- VI. Correspondence - none
- VII. Committee and Subcommittee Reports
 - A. Finance
 1. Uyeda Center Building, Ron Tajii reported that he cancelled ATT account. Ron, Janet and Phyllis cleaned and unplugged the old refrigerator.
 2. Treasurer's report, *Nancy Davlin - Report submitted*
 3. Funding requests – denied payment to attend workshops at JACL National convention for Little Tokyo Historical Society volunteers
 4. Grants subcommittee – Legacy Grant, Phyllis Tajii – information only
 - B. Membership, Sachiko Knappman reported one new member.
Motion made by Janet Tajii that VP of Membership have full access as authorized owner to the bank account at Redwood Credit Union. Bruce 2nd. Approved unanimous.
 1. Programs, Civil Rights and Social Justice, *G. Yamamoto Seymour*
 2. Human and Civil Rights Committee
 - a. Participation in La Union Hace La Fuerza! Rally, Gail Yamamoto Seymour will attend the rally in a personal capacity.
 - b. Motion made by Bruce Shimizu to acquire the plaques that were originally placed by Native Sons of the Golden West and were removed from West County High School property. 2nd by Gail Yamamoto Seymour. Approved by email with 10 out of 10 'yes' votes, May 26-28, 2022.
 - c. Sonoma County Human Rights Commission, Gail Yamamoto Seymour - No report
 - d. United in Kindness, Phyllis Tajii reported – information only
 - 1) Phyllis joined volunteers from UIK to help at the Sonoma County Black Forum and NAACP Food Distribution effort on May 28.

2) Phyllis joined UIK to help staff a booth at the Pride event on June 4 at Old Courthouse Square.

e. AAPI Coalition, Phyllis Tajii

f. Covid Vaccination Clinic Toy Giveaways, Phyllis Tajii reported

1) \$375 has been spent so far for toys. Have passed out toys at 13 clinics. 2 more clinics are scheduled, June 15 (4-6:00)-Sheppard Elementary and June 26 (12-3:00)-Cloverdale. June 26 may be last pop-up clinic (schools closed)

g. Covid home test giveaway, Phyllis Tajii announced

180 Covid home test kits are being distributed to Afghan families in Petaluma. Practice sessions are being conducted prior to distribution.

C. Programs, Community and Culture, Ron Tajii, chair

1. Scholarship Committee, Janet Tajii - no report

2. Enman No Tomo – suspended due to COVID-19, *Nancy Davlin*. No report

3. Education Committee

a. Speakers Bureau and Kamishibai

Henry Kaku reported that the first presentation was on September 2021 to Rotary Club; the last was at the end of June at San Antonio high school. There were 29 Presentations – 2 zoom, 4 kamishibai – all in person. Included was Mark Hayashi's presentation in San Jose.

There were 1,355 people reached

Museum presentations were included.

2 presentations cancelled. One because there were not enough presenters, one was too far to travel to Pleasanton.

b. Proposed Speakers Bureau orei policy, Janet Tajii

Purpose of the board is to oversee any monetary expenses. If there are budgetary concerns adjustment can be made according to needs. Presenters will have the choice whether or not to be reimbursed for mileage.

Janet Tajii will revise the guidelines and send them out to **Henry Kaku** and the Speakers Bureau to review. They will then be brought before the board for final approval.

Motion by Janet Tajii to reimbursement Henry Kaku for \$40.01 for lunch for 4 docents from the Speakers Bureau at Sonoma County Museum Ron Tajii 2nd. Approved unanimously

c. **Finding History Day - organized by Sonoma County Historical Society. Held at the Finley Center in Santa Rosa Aug 6, 2022.**

Phyllis Tajii reported that JACL will have a table and Henry Kaku will do a presentation.

Motion made by Bruce Shimizu to be a sponsor of the Sonoma County Historical Society in the amount of \$200.00. 2nd by Janet Tajii. Approved Unanimous.

4. Collaboration with St. Patrick's Church, JACL, and possibly UIK to do a peace crane fold-in.

Motion made by Ron Tajii to approve the establishment of Cranes for Ukraine as a project; the mission statement; and a budget of \$500.00 for six events. Bruce Shimizu 2nd. Approved Unanimous

Date and places TBA

5. Tea Garden Subcommittee, Gail Yamamoto Seymour (*see New Business for information*)

D. Public Communications, Meg Mizutani, VP

1. Newsletter Committee

Meg Mizutani asked for articles. Newsletter will include Pride Month information and links to websites that support LGBTQ. It will showcase Okaeri, the Japanese American Nikkei LGTBQ support group.

2. Social Media Committee, Gail Yamamoto Seymour

a. Website subcommittee

b. Facebook, *Becky Sugiyama* – keeping up with the current events and information

3. Rapid Response Team, *M. Mizutan i*- no report

- E. District Council, Meg Mizutani, Phyllis Tajii with Janet Tajii reported that the JACL Governance meeting, 5/20/2022, provided good information.

VIII. Unfinished business

- A. Procedures for funding requests, **postpone**
- B. Revise and approve updated by-laws, *J. Tajii*
- C. Mochitsuki – format of future events? Demonstration only or also supply JA community? **TABLED**
- D. Change status of permanent board member, Margarette Murakami and Martin Shimizu to advisors, **postpone**
- E. Finalize make-up of Executive Committee (Ex Comm) and its duties - **TABLED**
- F. New logo development, **postpone**
- G. JACL sponsor Japanese section of the Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery (see Appendix B), *Phyllis Tajii*

IX. New Business

- A. Full bank access to the Membership VP – See motion above - VII, B.
- B. Website payment and website maintenance fee, *L. Morimoto* - **TABLED**
- C. West County High School letter of support, *G. Seymour/P. Tajii*

Motion made by Janet Tajii that the Sonoma County Japanese American Citizens League Civil Rights Committee, with review by the Communications Committee, will draft a letter to the West County High School Administration and the West County School District Board as a community ally in support of the students who have faced racist hate from other students on campus

The draft letter will list the anti-racist and educational elements that we agree with from the West County High School students' "demand" letter. 2nd by Ron Tajii. Approved Unanimous

D. Native Sons of the Golden West [NSGW]

- 1. Gail Yamamoto Seymour is willing to contact NSGW to have a conversation with a representative about the organization's values. NSGW have been unresponsive to requests to meet.
- 2. Santa Rosa City School District has 4 NSGW plaques on different campuses, exact duplicates of the ones at West County High School. The Santa Rosa City school board discussed this topic at their meeting on Wednesday, May 25, 2022.

Meg Mizutani will revise the letter that was sent to West County High School board to reflect these other campuses. She will email them to the board for review.

E. Wakamatsu Tea Plant Updates-

- 1. The plaque/sign for the Tea Farm will be approximately 14" x 17" and made of thin metal (aluminum?) that can easily be adhered to the metal stand that is already allocated for this purpose at Paradise Ridge Winery.
Gail Yamamoto Seymour will bring final ideas at the July meeting.
- 2. **Gail Yamamoto Seymour** will represent Sonoma County Japanese American Citizens League as the liaison with Nao Magami
- 3. Kanaye Nagasawa Celebration - June 18, G. Seymour. (see Appendix A.)

F. Motion made by Meg Mizutani to spend \$100.00 to welcome San Francisco Council Shimada to Sonoma County. The money will be spent on lunch and gifts. 2nd by Bruce Shimizu. Approved unanimous

E. JACL National Convention Delegates

- 1. Motion made by Meg Mizutani to approve Cecelia Shimizu as Sonoma County Youth Delegate to the 2022 National Convention. 2nd by Bruce Shimizu. Approved Unanimous

Motion made by Janet Tajii to cover Cecelia Shimizu for the National Convention up to \$1000.00 expenses such as registration, flight, meals per diem, and room costs not covered by District. 2nd by Ron Tajii. Approved Unanimous

Motion made by Janet Tajii to pay national JACL convention costs for delegates Meg Mizutani and Phyllis Tajii for actual costs including registration, flight, hotel, transportation and meals (meals up to \$75 per day, \$50 for travel days) and \$35 each for virtual convention fees for Ron Tajii, Janet Tajii, and Gail Yamamoto Seymour. 2nd Bruce Shimizu. Approved Unanimous

- H. Reimbursement Request, Phyllis Tajii asked for reimbursement of \$19.50 for omiyage (gifts) of locally made tea and coffee for 3 representatives from Kyoto Women's University. Phyllis Tajii will submit a reimbursement form to Nancy Davlin. Approved
- I. Veterans Parade follow-up to monitoring float displays
Phyllis Tajii will organize a zoom meeting to ask the parade organizers to have guidelines on the application regarding which organizations can participate and what they can display.
- J. Approval to arrange insurance from National JACL for future Self Defense classes organized by Henry Kaku. TBD at Aug 3, 2022 board meeting.

Adjourned 10:10pm

- X. Next Board Meeting, July 5, 2022 @ 7 pm

Appendix A. Kanaye Nagasawa Celebration - June 18

Wakamatsu-Fountaingrove Tea Farm and Kanaye Nagasawa Celebration – June 18

o 50 – 60 guests will attend, including,

- § Eight of ten Sonoma County JACL board members
- § Walter and Rene Byck, Owners, Paradise Ridge Winery (speakers)
- § Colleen Patton, Director of Hospitality, Paradise Ridge Winery
- § Darryl Yagi, Enmanji Temple (will give opening chant)
- § Consul Shimada of Consulate General of Japan in SF (speaker)
- § Eddie Alvarez, Vice Mayor, City of Santa Rosa (speaker)
- § Marsha Dupre, past Santa Rosa City Council member (speaker)
- § Henry Kaku (speaker on behalf of JACL)
- § Eric Stanley, Director, Museum of Sonoma County (speaker)
- § Susan and Tracy Betram, American River Conservancy/Wakamatsu Farm
- § Miyoko Schinner, Miyoko's Creamery (donor)
- § Nobuyuki Asahi, Owner, Asahi Restaurant (providing sushi)
- § Karen Ijichi Perkins & family, descendants of Nagasawa
- § Steve Amend, Friends of Kagoshima Assoc & SR Sunrise Rotary
- § Eiko Mouri, Tea Master (originator of concept for this celebration)

- Traditional tea ceremony will be performed by Sachiko Knappman
- Koto music will be performed by Yukiko Matsuyama
- Traditional Japanese dance will be performed by Rieko Ivaska
- Refreshments:
 - o Sushi (eel tempura, shrimp tempura, CA roll) from Asahi Restaurant
 - o Fresh fruit platters
 - o Vegan cheese wheels (donated by Miyoko Schinner)
 - o Crackers
 - o Hot and cold green tea (donated by Wakohen Tea Company, Japan)
 - o Ice water with fresh cucumber and berries
 - o Traditional Japanese sweets will be served during the tea ceremony (donated)
- Food prep: Gail, Erin, Sachiko
- Event set-up and clean-up: Nao, Henry, Phyllis, Sachiko, Erin, Gail
- Adequate parking may be a problem. One of the guests volunteered to direct parking. Please carpool if possible.

- It's expected that the temperature will be in the high 80s. Some shade umbrellas and trees will provide shade. We will have a shade tent on hand.
- I wish to borrow folding chairs from the JACL office.

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.