



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 March 4th, 2025 at 7 PM on zoom

ATTENDANCE: Cecelia Shimizu (president), Ron Tajii, Janet Tajii, Meg Mizutani, Amy Wakayama, Phyllis Tajii, Bruce Shimizu,

ABSENT: Nancy Davlin, Andrew LeMarQuand, Flora Lee Ganzler

- I. Call to Order - by Cecelia Shimizu at 7:04pm
- II. Personal Appearances - Gail Yamamoto Seymour (Civil Rights & Social Justice Chair) - see agenda item VIII. D.
 1. b) (under Programs, Civil Rights & Social Justice)
- III. Approval of the February minutes as distributed - Approved by unanimous vote
- IV. Approval of the Agenda - approved with additions of V.B (Announcements) and 10.B (New Business)
- V. Announcements -
 - A. CSLA Presentation - *March 7-9th, 2025 Calif council for the Social Studies CCSS*
 1. Bruce will be presenting virtually via zoom
 - B. JACSC Consortium Advocacy Day - *April 8th & 9th, 2025*
 1. [Link to Register](#) for the In-person event in Washington DC
- VI. Correspondence - none
- VII. Long Range Planning -
 - A. Schedule of Events/ Calendar
 1. [See attached](#)
 - B. Budget Approval
 1. To be addressed under Finance
 - C. Responsibilities and Task Follow Up
 1. [Folder Here](#) will be reviewing
- VIII. Committee and Subcommittee Reports -
 - A. Finance, *Janet Tajii* -
 1. Meeting with Edward Jones, *Janet Tajii* -
 - a) Meeting With Corey Hayashi on March 6th @7PM
 2. Uyeda Center Building, *Ron Tajii* -
 - a) [Statements for Uyeda Center](#)
 - b) There has been some maintenance done recently:
 - (1) Sewer Root Removal on Unit 517 \$650 1/22/2025
 - (2) Repair of Gate Post \$250 2/3/2025
 - (3) Replaced furnace ignitor and filter replacement in JACL office \$460 1/29/2025
 3. Treasurer's Report, *Nancy Davlin* -
 - a) [Financial Reports](#)
 4. Funding Requests, *Janet Tajii* -
 - a) Matsuri - \$1,000. Recommended approval by Finance Committee- Approved by unanimous vote of the board..
 - b) [Sebastopol World Friends](#) - \$1,000 Ambassador Scholarship Fund to go to students who want to participate and need funds to do so, Recommended approval by Finance Committee- Approved by unanimous vote of the board.

- (1) Also recommended for future boards to continue donating the same amount for future years
 - c) [Petaluma Old Chinatown Unearthed Events](#) - \$1,000 for programming costs. Recommended approval of the Finance Committee- Approved by unanimous approval of the board.
 - (1) Donations will go to help with the costs of speakers, musicians, displays, and refreshments
- 5. Budget Approval - Janet Tajii
 - a) See the [attached budget](#) pending approval. Motion by Janet Tajii/2nd Meg Mizutani, Approved budget as proposed.
 - b) Motion by Janet Tajii /2nd Bruce Shimizu- Approved: To create ad hoc committee for a Yuki and Taro book, chaired by Becky Sugiyama, with a budget of \$1000 allocated for publishing and book donations to schools.
 - c) Motion by Janet Tajii/2nd Bruce Shimizu- Approved \$1000 to AAPIC for Many Moons Festival as a sponsor.
- B. Board elections, Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation -
- C. Membership -
 - 1. Working on the transition from Sachiko to Amy: Committee will meet to go over steps of processing membership. Committee of Cecelia Shimizu, Sachiko Knappman, Amy Wakayama and one other committee member.
- D. Programs, Civil Rights and Social Justice, *G. Yamamoto Seymour* -
 - 1. Community Outreach, *G. Yamamoto Seymour* -
 - a) The Right to Clean Water Act (SB 601, Allen)
 - (1) [Support Letter](#) for us to Sign Motion to sign onto support letter: Approved
 - (2) The goal of the bill is to put Clean Water Act tools into state law to maintain protections we had before the 2023's Sackett v. EPA decision. The bill would ensure the state maintains its 303(d)/TMDL standards, creates state permits that are as stringent as current Clean Water Act permits, help with Water Board enforcement, and provides a state citizen suit provision.
 - (3) [Hand Out Documents](#)
 - b) Gail Seymour would like involvement in helping protect immigrant rights to be more than just writing/endorsing letters, but being active, such as supporting organizations who are helping.
 - (1) Gail drafted a letter to send to the editor. Letter will be edited by board, then will send it back to Gail, and work out submission to send it to Press Democrat, Pacific Citizen, JACL chapter newsletter and possibly other media. Vote on Motion to act on the Letter to the Editor listed above: 4 yes/1 abstain.
 - (2) Next step- Cecelia will send out an email with possible dates to get together for more action. (also noted under Unfinished Business. F.)
 - 2. United in Kindness, *Phyllis Tajii* -
 - a) Books with the theme of kindness have been donated to schools that have signed onto the kindness mission.
 - 3. AAPIC, *Phyllis Tajii* -
 - a) A task force will focus on Immigration Protection this year. Depending on activity, does JACL want to support in the form of staffing or donation? Something to keep in mind for later.
 - 4. Community Festivals, *Phyllis Tajii* - no report

E. Programs, Community and Culture -

1. Scholarship Committee, *Janet Tajii* -
2. Enman No Tomo, *Nancy Davlin* -
 - a) [See attached report](#)
3. Education Committee -
 - a) Commission on Human Rights
 - b) Kamishibai -
 - (1) Nagasawa Kamishibai
 - (a) Sachiko would like to know if we can add this to the website as a video or speaking/video request. She showed it to Henry and he liked it.
Looking into possibility of posting on JACL website gallery.
 - c) Henry Kaku Film Screening
 - (1) There was a showing of the film about Henry Kaku's family in Oakland in February, and it was also shown at the Day of Remembrance Film Festival held in San Francisco and San Jose.
 - (2) If you have not had a chance to see it you can find it at the following website:
 - (a) <https://thecampsamericabuilt.com/>
4. Cranes for Ukraine, *Ron Tajii* -
5. Speakers Bureau, *Henry Kaku* -
 - a) "We've been very busy with a number of presentations. George and I have and will be speaking at the schools. Last week I spoke to over 600 students at Rancho Cotati High. This week George and I will speak to a large audience at Analy High."
6. Tea Plant Subcommittee, *Henry Kaku* -
 - a) Kanae Nakazawa donated \$100 for the tea plants at Paradise Ridge Winery.
 - b) "We went up to cut down the weeds last week. Also Mike Umehara planted more tea plants to replace the ones we lost. Next week, Nao will be hosting people from Japan from the Wakoyen Tea Company group to visit the tea plants at Paradise winery. Nao was able to purchase more plants from the nursery, those not damaged from the fires."
 - c) We will need a new chair as Henry has submitted his resignation as chair for this committee.
7. Paradise Ridge Winery - Japanese Garden with LACO, *Bruce Shimizu* -
 - a) Proposed budget & project schedule have been submitted to the finance committee
 - b) Meeting invitation to be sent to interested individuals this week
 - c) Tentative meeting in early March
 - d) Will be posting on the JACL's Facebook Page & an article in the next newsletter
8. World Friends student proposed at Analy HS, *Ron Tajii* -
 - a) Extremely good program on Feb 19. Very Sebastopol focused. Unveiling of JA Incarceration mural on north wall of Analy High Library, combined with DOR related presentations.
About 100 people were in attendance.
People of note: Sebastopol Mayor Stephen Zollman, Staff from Congressman Mike Thompson, Staff from Supervisor Rabbit, Endorsed by Supervisor Hopkins, Principal Chuck Wade, School Board Member Jeanne Fernandes
 - b) Total cost came to \$274.58 - the budget for this program was \$200-\$300
 - c) Lessons Learned
 - (1) Start planning earlier
 - d) Articles and Photos

(1) https://open.substack.com/pub/sebastopol/p/new-mural-on-internment-of-japanese?r=58oqq3&utm_medium=ios

(2) <https://www.gcheungschulman.com/AAPI/20250219-Day-of-Remembrance>

9. Peace Crane Project, *Phyllis Tajii* -

a) Continuing to work on details and date of planting at SSU

10. Children's Program, *Ron Tajii* -

a) Got feedback from survey from JACL/AAPI Sushi Palooza Event

F. Communications Committee, *Meg Mizutani* -

1. Newsletter Committee, *Amy Wakayama* -

a) Newsletter Updates due 3/2/2025

2. Social Media Committee, *Meg Mizutani* -

a) Website Subcommittee, *Meg Mizutani* -

b) Facebook, *Becky Sugiyama* -

3. Communication Policies and Guidelines -

4. Chapter Logo -

a) Logo planning session on 3/10 @5:30 PM- if anyone wants to attend zoom session, let Cecelia Shimizu or Meg Mizutani know

G. District Council, *Cecelia Shimizu* -

1. District GALA

a) April 5th, 2025

b) Daruma Award Recipient - Gael Forest-Knowles confirmed as recipient & Ad has been submitted

c) Would anybody like to attend? 10 person table (what would you like for your meal: herb chicken, salmon & veg wellington)

(1) Gael & Plus One

(2) Cecelia Shimizu

H. District JACL Civil Rights Committee -

1. [Civil Rights Committee Newsletter](#)

I. National Convention

1. Early Bird Registration has begun

2. Purchasing an Ad for the 2025 Program Book

a) Full Page - \$2,000

b) Half Page - \$1,000

c) ¼ Page - \$500

d) ⅛ Page - \$250

IX. Unfinished Business

A. JACL/THSP Retreat, *Flora Lee Ganzler, Phyllis Tajii & Gail Seymour* -

B. Kintsukuroi Movie screening, *Gail Seymour* -

C. Cultural and History Sharing Outreach Group, *Sachiko Knappman* -

D. Many Moons Festival

1. Need to decide on the sponsorship amount (see agenda item: VIII.A.5.c). - Approved \$1000)

E. Petaluma Old Chinatown Project - *Phyllis Tajii* (see agenda item: VIII.A.4.c). - Approved \$1000)

F. Proactive actions about Immigration rights in 2025 - *Phyllis Tajii & Gail Seymour*

1. Need to schedule a meeting in March to discuss all the potential actions that we can take as a chapter, then options can be presented to the board.

2. Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity

a) <https://www.im4humanintegrity.org/>

- G. Joint event with FANHS (and RECA?)
- H. JACL Fundraiser Breakfast
- I. Sebastopol World Friends Ambassador Scholarship Circle - *Ron Tajii*
- X. New Business
 - A. Use of the JACL Office
 - 1. Sebastopol World Friends - *Ron Tajii* - Ron will draft MOU and will research insurance for SWF to have regularly scheduled meetings at the JACL office as long as a JACL board member is in attendance. If no board member can attend, the office cannot be used.
 - 2. Asian American Women's Gathering - *Cecelia Shimizu on behalf of Sachiko Knapman* - Sachiko would like to use the JACL office to host an informal social support group of Asian American women for get togethers. The board decided any group cannot exclude anyone based on ethnicity or race if the JACL building is used for a meeting.
 - B. Matsuri Preparations - *Ron Tajii* We will have a booth. Will we serve food? Dessert was suggested by the Matsuri committee. Bruce will chair the booth for Matsuri. Suggestion was made to serve Kuri Manju, Butter Mochi.
 - C. Nichi Bei Cultural Guide for 2025 - *Cecelia Shimizu*
 - 1. If we decide to place an ad it would be published in the March 29th, 2025 edition of the Nichi Bei News.
 - 2. Last year and the year before we did the [size NB2](#) - this year's cost would be \$450 for that size [Attached](#) is the ad that we used last year and is already sized appropriately
 - 3. **Motion to buy ad size NB2 unanimously approved.**

Adjourned: 9:38pm