



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 April 8th, 2025 at 7 PM on zoom

ATTENDANCE: Cecelia Shimizu (president), Amy Wakayama, Phyllis Tajii, Bruce Shimizu, Flora Lee Ganzler,
ABSENT: Nancy Davlin, Andrew LeMarQuand, Ron Tajii, Janet Tajii, Meg Mizutani

- I. Call to Order - 7:07pm
- II. Personal Appearances - none
- III. Approval of the March minutes as distributed - **tabled until next meeting**
- IV. Approval of the Agenda - no additions
- V. Announcements -
 - A. JACSC Consortium Advocacy Day - *April 8th & 9th, 2025*
 1. Link to Register for the In-person event in Washington DC
 - B. Riley Lee Shakuhachi Master in Santa Rosa - *April 12th starting at 7PM 461 Sebastopol Ave*
 1. If you would like to attend please call (707)575-8626 to reserve a space. There is limited space where only 50 people can attend so call early. \$15 entry at the door, cash only
 - a) For more information see here
 - C. Petaluma Chinatown Unearthed Exhibit Opening - *April 17th from 5:00-7:00 PM Petaluma Historical Library & Museum*
 1. Entrance is free and there will be a \$10 fee for the wine tasting from Buena Vista Winery
 - D. Excavating Sound: Untold Stories from the Asian American Experience - *April 26th from 3:00-5:00 PM Petaluma Historical Library & Museum*
 1. Tickets can be purchased online for \$25
 2. Presentations from Carolyn M Mar (poetry reading) and Francis Wong & Scott Oshiro (jazz performance)
 - E. Harmony of Faiths Music Celebration - *April 27th from 1:00-3:00 PM Church of the Roses*
 1. [See attached Flyer](#)
 - F. Calligraphy Performance - *May 3rd from 11am to 12 pm Petaluma Historical Library & Museum*
 1. This event is free
 - G. Life Goes On: Resilient AAPI Communities in the North Bay - *May 3rd from 1:00 to 2:30 pm Petaluma Historical Library & Museum*
 1. Learn and connect with the following individuals through a moderated discussion by Katherine Nguyen
 - a) Cheryl Boden, Frank Yee, Lance Lew, and Bruce Shimizu
 - H. Unearthing Petaluma - there will also be more events through the beginning of June.
 1. See [attached](#) for more information about the rest of the events
 - I. Pilgrimage's
 1. Manzanar - *April 26th Manzanar National Historic Site*
 - a) Registration Link
 2. Amache - *May 16th to 18th Amache National Historic Site*
 - a) Registration Link

3. Jerome Rohwer - *May 21st to 24th Little Rock*
 - a) Registration Link
4. Heart Mountain - *July 24th to 26th Wyoming*
 - a) Registration Link

VI. Correspondence -

VII. Long Range Planning -

- A. Schedule of Events/ Calendar
 1. See attached
- B. Responsibilities and Task Follow Up
 1. Folder Here

VIII. Committee and Subcommittee Reports -

- A. Finance, *Janet Tajii* -
 1. Meeting with Edward Jones, *Janet Tajii* -
 - a)
 2. Uyeda Center Building, *Ron Tajii* -
 - a) Statements for Uyeda Center
 3. Treasurer's Report, *Nancy Davlin* -
 - a) Financial Reports
 4. Funding Requests, *Janet Tajii* -
- B. Board elections, Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation -
- C. Membership -
 1. Cece and Amy had training, and she will begin taking over the membership process going forward. If there is any reason that she is not able to process membership Cece will do it.
- D. Programs, Civil Rights and Social Justice, *G. Yamamoto Seymour* -
 1. Community Outreach, *G. Yamamoto Seymour* -
 - a) Update from Gail - Report Attached
 - (1) Gail participated in the Bay Area Air Quality Management District Climate Change meeting and gave input on frontline communities (marginalized/underserved/underrepresented communities).
 - (2) Phyllis, Flora Lee, Janet, Cecelia, Ron and Gail met to discuss how our chapter may choose to support the local migrant people who are being threatened by ICE. They will report ideas to the Board.
 - (3) Phyllis and Gail participated in an AAPIC salon to share ideas on how AAPI should be recognized in an Asian heritage resolution by the City of Santa Rosa.
 - (4) Phyllis and Gail attended APPIC's seminar on AAPI immigrant rights and community support. The information presented was appropriate for migrants of all ethnicities.
 - (5) Phyllis and Gail attended the NCWNP District Youth Board's meeting, "Why we Fight: Activism in the Japanese America Community".
 - (6) Phyllis, Gail, Lina Hoshino and Angelo Sacerdote attended the North Coast Water Board's meeting on April 1 to support their efforts to include equity considerations when deciding on policy. This is a follow-up to the information gathering meeting last fall that wanted to hear from the BIPOC community. One thing that came out last week is that the time and funding the staff has spent on this DEI project, squeezes into their regularly assigned work so that not as many

assigned projects can be completed. The board hopes to find funding that will cover some of the costs of continuing on the DEI work.

- b) Articles from Gail to Consider
 - (1) [Trump revokes legal status for 530,000 Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans - BBC News](#)
 - (2) [An Open Letter from Civil Rights Groups to the American People](#)
 - c) Los Cien Immigration Update Forum - *May 15th from 10:30-1:00 PM Sally Tomatoes Catering & Events*
 - (1) Lunch is included \$39 for members and \$60 for non-members
 - (2) Keynote speaker will be Bill Ong Hing a University of San Francisco professor
 - (3) Phyllis would like to attend and have her registration fee covered by JACL- **the civil rights committee can decide on this and if approved, funds will be used from civil rights budget**
 - d) FANHS attended the Good Immigration Protection & Community Support Forum and has asked if we would like to put on a similar one that is open to everybody, not just the AAPI community.
 - (1) Current committee members are Gail, Phyllis, Flora Lee and FANHS Members
 - (2) Potential Venues: Enmanji, and if Enmanji is not available then maybe Sonoma Clean Power building, Santa Rosa Central Library, Unitarian Church in Petaluma or others.
 - (3) Phyllis will contact FANHS and get more details.
 - 2. United in Kindness, *Phyllis Tajii* -
 - a) United in Kindness are helping with the Harmony in Faiths Event on April 27th from 1-3PM at the Church of the Roses in Santa Rosa
 - 3. AAPIC, *Phyllis Tajii* -
 - a) AAPIC has been contacted by the Board of Supervisors to receive a proclamation for AAPI Heritage Month and are working on that.
 - b) They also put on an excellent Immigration forum on March 29th.
 - (1) Good Immigration Protection & Community Support forum organized with representatives from FANHS and JACL in attendance.
 - 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
 - c) Baseball Behind Barbed Wire
 - (1) Free DVD or 3 Year screening capability for California Middle and High Schools
 - (a) Link to Sign up and Watch Trailer
 - (b) Cecelia has sent this link to two teachers already, Rachel Ambrose and Geoff Vinson, if there are more teachers that you would like to share this with, please feel free to. Suggested that a link is sent to Kate McGerity (Rancho Cotati HS).

4. Cranes for Ukraine/ Tsuru for Solidarity - *Ron Tajii/ Phyllis Tajii* -
 - a) There is more activity on the District and National levels. Is anyone interested in reviving this as a chapter committee?
5. Speakers Bureau, *Henry Kaku* - **No Report**
6. Tea Plant Subcommittee, *Bruce Shimizu* -
 - a) Per last month's update Henry Kaku has decided to step down from his role as the Chair of the Tea Plant Subcommittee. We thank him for his dedication to the tea plants in maintaining them and ensuring that they thrive. Bruce Shimizu will be taking over as the new Tea Plant Subcommittee chair.
7. Paradise Ridge Winery - Japanese Garden with LACO, *Bruce Shimizu* - will detail the budget and send out donation request letters. Will have work groups go in the summer to help with installation. Letter of intent to donate to JACL has been received from Steve Amend on behalf of Friends of Kagoshima. Plans are being made to give \$4,400 to JACL for Japanese Garden.
8. Peace Crane Project, *Phyllis Tajii* -
 - a) Working on a grant to help pay for signage and a dedication ceremony for the Hiroshima Peace Tree.
9. Children's Program, *Ron Tajii* - **No Report**
- F. Communications Committee, *Meg Mizutani* -
 1. Newsletter Committee, *Amy Wakayama* -
 - a) Newsletter Updates **due 4/5/2025**
 2. Social Media Committee, *Meg Mizutani* -
 - a) Website Subcommittee, *Meg Mizutani* -
 - b) Facebook, *Becky Sugiyama* -
 3. Communication Policies and Guidelines -
 - a) What is the board's obligation to report board meeting minutes in the newsletter and website according to the Bylaws? *Per the bylaws "The Newsletter Committee shall solicit or write articles of general interest to the members and shall report the minutes of the Board to the members."*
 - (1) Should we have a link where people can request information from the board such as financial documents and meeting minutes?
 - OR**
 - (2) Should we have a link where members can access all the documents in a google folder that is open to the public and we just keep it updated? **Tabled to next meeting.**
 4. Chapter Logo -
 - a) We are going to start fresh with design input
 - b) Anyone who has previously submitted design inspiration will be contacted to submit again with the understanding that they are giving the Sonoma County JACL full authority to use it as they would like to.
- G. District Council, *Cecelia Shimizu* -
 1. District GALA
 - a) April 5th, 2025 - There was a wonderful turn out to the Gala with just under 120 people attending.
 - (1) 8 Daruma Awardees, 1 Sapphire Pin and 3 Ruby Awards were distributed
 - (2) The Silent Auction was successful and our baskets were well received.
 - (a) Photos/ Video from the Gala add any additional photos to the folder.

2. May 4th - District Caucus Meeting hosted by the Watsonville/Santa Cruz Chapter
 - a) Cecelia will be attending as the delegate
 3. District Council Meeting
 - a) Would we like to host a District Council meeting for May 3rd, 2026? Carol is checking but our chapter is coming due with hosting one. Suggestion was made to hold it at PRW and do a Kamishibai presentation about Kanaye Nagasawa. Cecelia will confer with Carol Kawase about it.
 4. National Convention for 2026 has been confirmed to be in Las Vegas in July 2026.
- H. District JACL Civil Rights Committee -
1. Civil Rights Committee Newsletter March/April
 2. Civil Rights Committee with Donald Tamaki, Esq - *April 22nd at 6PM on Zoom*
 - a) Donald won reparations for Japanese Americans forced into internment camps during World War II. He is advocating reparations for Blacks. Donald Tamaki served as a member of the California Reparations Task Force (the Task Force <https://oag.ca.gov/ab3121/members>) and who is currently part of the leadership team of the Alliance for Reparations, Reconciliation, and Truth (ARRT <https://alliancefor.org/>).
 - b) If you would like to attend, please let Cece know so that she can pass your contact information along so that they can send you the zoom link.
- I. National Convention
1. Early Bird Registration has begun - Program has not been released as of today 4/8
 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 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. Sponsorship has been submitted in the amount of \$1,000 and the request for 2 booths side by side was approved.
 - E. Petaluma Old Chinatown Project - *Phyllis Tajii*
 1. Monday, May 5th the Petaluma City Council will decide on renaming Center Park and they would like a short (3min or less) speech by the JACL in support of renaming the park. Is JACL President Cecelia Shimizu available? Cecelia will be able to speak on May 5.
 2. Thank you from Old Chinatown Ad Hoc Committee Chair to the JACL Board for the \$1,000 donation
 - F. Proactive actions about Immigration rights in 2025 - *Phyllis Tajii & Gail Seymour*
 - G. Joint event with FANHS (and RECA?)
 - H. JACL Fundraiser Breakfast
 - I. Sebastopol World Friends Ambassador Scholarship Circle - *Ron Tajii*
 - J. Matsuri Preparations - *Ron Tajii*
 1. Bruce has submitted the Exhibitor/Vendor Information, which has us as a registered booth.
 2. Bruce will send out a doodle poll to see when board members can join a manju-making party.
 - K. Letter to the Editor - *Gail Seymour*

1. Working on the modifications to the letter so that we can send it out.
- X. New Business
- A. Enmanji Teriyaki-Bazaar - 70th anniversary
 1. See the attached Save the Date!
 - B. Community Organizations - *Phyllis Tajii*
 1. Does JACL as an organization want to become a member of another organization (i.e.-Sebastopol World Friends)? JACL is registered as a member of the Petaluma Community Relations Council. Do we want to become a member of any others? Might be one way of becoming more visible to the community and make stronger connections with other groups. Something to think about.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:52pm