



SONOMA COUNTY JAACL 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 July 1st, 2025 at 7 PM on zoom

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

- I. Call to Order - 7:15pm by Ceceila Shimizu
- II. Personal Appearances - none
- III. Approval of the June minutes as distributed - Approved
- IV. Approval of the Agenda - Approved with Yuki and Taro coffee book committee met to discuss publication
- V. Announcements -
 - A. Enmanji Teriyaki BBQ - *July 13th*
 1. [Updated Flyer](#)
 - B. Obon Odori - *July 19th at 7pm*
 1. Dance Practice: Wed, July 16th through Friday, July 18th from 7 to 9 at Enmanji
 2. [Flyer for Obon](#)
 - C. Know Your Rights - *July 26th from 10:30am to 12:30pm* 📍 *Rohnert Park - Cotati Regional Library*
 1. If you are interested in attending, please check the AAPIC website for more information.
 - D. The Sacramento Premiere of League of Dreams - *July 26th at 1PM* 📍 *1020 O Street*
 1. General Admission - \$20 & Students - Free
 2. Link to purchase tickets
 - E. Pilgrimage
 1. Heart Mountain - *July 24th to 26th* 📍 *Wyoming*
 - a) Registration Link
 - F. Bonsai Show - *August 23rd from 10am to 5pm & August 24th from 10am to 4pm*
📍 *Rohnert Park Community Center*
 1. See [attached](#) flyer here
- 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* - **No Report**
 2. Uyeda Center Building, *Ron Tajii* -
 - a) Statements for Uyeda Center
 - b) The prospective tenant has backed out, as they are not ready to commit
 - c) Tombe said that there has been a few other inquiries
 3. Treasurer's Report, *Nancy Davlin* -

- a) Financial Reports
- 4. Funding Requests, *Janet Tajii* - **No Report**
- B. Board elections, Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation - **No Report**
- C. Membership -
 - 1. Membership categories have been updated on the website
- D. Programs, Civil Rights and Social Justice, *G. Yamamoto Seymour* -
 - 1. Community Outreach, *G. Yamamoto Seymour* -
 - a) Links from Gail to check out
 - (1) <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ice-arrests-under-trump-100k/>
 - b) South Park Coalition
 - (1) Gail has been attending the meetings representing JACL and NAACP
 - (2) [South Park Newsletter June 2025](#)
 - 1. United in Kindness, *Phyllis Tajii* -
 - a) There is a proclamation that is scheduled by the City of Santa Rosa on July 8th at 4pm at City Hall (100 Santa Rosa Ave).
 - (1) Please attend if you are able to, to support the proclamation
 - 2. AAPIC, *Phyllis Tajii* - **No Report**
 - 3. Community Festivals, *Phyllis Tajii* - **No Report**
- E. Programs, Community and Culture -
 - 1. Scholarship Committee, *Janet Tajii* - **No Report**
 - 2. Enman No Tomo, *Nancy Davlin* -
 - a) [See attached report](#)
 - 3. Education Committee -
 - a) Commission on Human Rights - **No Report**
 - b) Kamishibai - **No Report**
 - (1) Nagasawa Kamishibai
 - 4. Cranes for Ukraine/ Tsuru for Solidarity - *Ron Tajii/ Phyllis Tajii* - **No Report**
 - 5. Speakers Bureau, *Henry Kaku* -
 - a) The season has concluded. There were a total of 13 speaking engagements, which is the lowest number of speaking engagements in many many years.
 - b) This year, the Speakers Bureau has reached over 880 individuals!
 - 6. Tea Plant Subcommittee, *Bruce Shimizu* - **No Report**
 - 7. Paradise Ridge Winery - Japanese Garden with LACO, *Bruce Shimizu* -
 - a) **Website** – Landing page for Japanese Garden Project has been created on the JACL website, which includes a project description, donation request with link to Donation Page, Sponsor Information, Volunteer Sign-Up Form, and link to Japanese Garden Project video.
 - b) **Fundraising** – Preparing to send out solicitation letters to local landscape supply companies in Sonoma County for donations/discounts on materials. Will also be sending solicitation letters to hardware stores for donations/discounts on building materials & hand tools.
 - c) **Public Relations**
 - (1) Press Democrat – Will reach out to Press Democrat to discuss coverage of Garden Project construction & volunteer work days.
 - (2) Volunteer Work Day Flyers will be distributed at the Enmanji Teriyaki Bazaar.

- (3) Social Media – Will post Volunteer Workday announcement on JACL Facebook page & encourage members to post on their social media sites.
- d) **Construction** – The plan is to start site work in late-July (clearing & grading), and to have volunteer work groups assist in the installation of the garden elements on weekends in August and September. The goal is to have the garden completed by the end of September.



8. Peace Crane Project, *Phyllis Tajii* -

- a) Meeting scheduled for July 3rd with Sonoma State University to discuss planting on campus
- b) There has been discussion with Sebastopol to possibly replace the Peace Tree that was vandalized
- c) Have earmarked a remaining Peace Tree for planting at the Nagasawa Japanese Garden in PRW. The Peace Crane committee would like a plaque and Peace Pole installed at the site that explains the significance of the tree. The wording of the plaque will be approved by both JACL and Peace Crane Project.
 - (1) Can the cost of the plaque and Peace Pole be covered in part or whole by JACL (estimated cost of the Peace Pole is \$40-\$100; estimated cost of plaque is \$1000-\$3000)? Peace Crane is already budgeted \$500 for 2025, usually used for the annual Hiroshima Nagasaki Remembrance Day in August. Funds can be used from that \$500 line item to help pay for the signage and pole. Not sure of plans yet for Remembrance Day this year. If Peace Crane needs additional funds for the annual August Remembrance Day, they can ask for more. If the board approves more than \$500, the board will ask Nancy (treasurer) what area the rest of money should be taken from. Phyllis will get more details about the type of signage and give details to Bruce. He will investigate prices for both Peace Pole and plaque and the topic can be introduced to the board again if more funds are needed.

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

- a) Spoke to Carol Kawase who would like to sponsor culture class programs throughout the Nor Cal district starting in the fall. Tentatively agreed for Sonoma County to sponsor a class in October. (11th or 25th???)

F. Communications Committee, *Meg Mizutani* -

1. Newsletter Committee, *Amy Wakayama* -

- a) Newsletter Updates **due 7/6/2025**, please send to: amy.wakayama@gmail.com
 - 2. Social Media Committee, *Meg Mizutani* -
 - a) Website Subcommittee, *Meg Mizutani* -
 - b) Facebook, Becky Sugiyama - **No Report**
 - 3. Communication Policies and Guidelines -
 - 4. Chapter Logo - **No Report**
 - G. District Council, *Cecelia Shimizu* - **No Report**
 - H. District JACL Civil Rights Committee -
 - 1. Civil Rights Committee Newsletter [July/August 2025 Edition](#)
 - 2. I have signed letters of support for the following items through the Alliance for Reparations, Reconciliation, and Truth (ARRT) - this was sent to me by Don Tamaki as a way to help support reparations for the Black community and their descendants. Cece will write a summary for our chapter's newsletter of our chapter's action on endorsing these bills.
 - a) AB 62 - Help Restore Stolen Public Land to Black Descendants in CA
 - b) AB 57 - Expand Homeownership Access for Black Descendants in CA
 - c) SB 518 - Create California's Bureau for Reparations and Redress
 - d) SB 437 - Build a Fair Genealogy Process for Reparations in CA
 - I. National Convention
- IX. Unfinished Business
- A. JACL/THSP Retreat, *Flora Ganzler, Phyllis Tajii & Gail Seymour* - **No Report**
 - B. Kintsukuroi Movie screening, *Gail Seymour* - **No Report**
 - C. Cultural and History Sharing Outreach Group, *Sachiko Knappman* - **No Report**
 - D. Many Moons Festival - **No Report**
 - E. Petaluma Old Chinatown Project - *Phyllis Tajii* - **No Report**
 - F. Joint event with FANHS and AAPIC
 - 1. A planning meeting was held on June 30th, and the event will be held on July 26th, Saturday from 10:30am to 12:30pm at the Rohnert Park Library
 - 2. Registration is recommended for all and there will be a zoom option for those that pre-register for the event. It is open to all people
 - 3. There will be food and beverages. Phyllis will give Jennifer Cecelia's name and email to sign the agreement with the library, and inform Jennifer that Cecelia will take care of Zoom. For those having Zoom connection problems that can't be fixed during the event, a recording will be available later.
 - G. JACL Fundraiser Breakfast - **No Report**
 - H. Sebastopol World Friends Ambassador Scholarship Circle - *Ron Tajii* - **No Report**
 - I. Letter to the Editor - *Gail Seymour* - **No Report**
 - J. Enmanji Teriyaki-Bazaar - 70th Anniversary
 - 1. Coffee and Tea table - Between Janet, Phyllis and Goto's we should be okay
 - 2. Parking - Bruce to help, asked AAPIC for youth help
 - K. Use of JACL Office
 - 1. The MOU that was approved last meeting has been sent to SWF for their approval, and it's currently under review.
 - L. Community Organizations - *Phyllis Tajii* - **No Report**
 - M. Letter from Enmanji - *Cecelia Shimizu* - **No Report**
 - N. Farm to Pantry - *Phyllis Tajii* - **No Report**
 - O. Ideas for JACL General Meeting and/or Day of Remembrance

1. Screening of “This is my home”
 - a) 8 immigrant story vignettes with Q&A with Lina
2. Presentation by Donald Tamaki about the intersection of Black and JA experiences and why it’s important to support reparations

X. New Business

A. Keiro Kai

1. They would like to have an event similar to last year’s with both the hybrid drive thru and the sitdown event at Enmanji. The tentative date is Sunday, October 19th.
2. They would appreciate any volunteers and/or suggestions.

B. Use of Zoom

1. Phyllis would like to use the JACL Zoom account for a Peace Crane Zoom meeting on July 3rd (Thursday) around 4pm **Approved**. Phyllis needs to record activity in the Long Range Planning Calendar Zoom sign-in sheet

C. An immigrant family of 3 (mom, dad, 9 yr old boy) from Peru is looking for a place to live in Petaluma with rent under \$1500/month. If anyone knows of an ADU or something else cheap in Petaluma, please let Phyllis know. I'm sure there are many other families who are in this situation. Wondering if JACL wants to donate to a local Sonoma County immigrant rights non-profit organization (such as VIDAS) or Sonoma Immigrant Services (a 501(c)(3)) that help with immigration issues or an organization such as NBOP that sometimes coordinates housing/living needs. These are just a few that came to mind. More research can be done to determine the best fit for JACL if interested. Cecelia will look into repercussions on donations to organizations like these.

D. JA Community Foundation Now Accepting Letters of Inquiry

1. If you feel like you have any programs that would benefit from this funding please feel free to apply. The deadline is July 31st, 2025
2. Link to apply here

Adjourned: 8:07pm. Motion by Bruce Shimizu/2nd Ron Tajii - Approved