



## 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 August 12th, 2025 at 7 PM on zoom

ATTENDANCE: Cecelia Shimizu (president), Phyllis Tajii, Bruce Shimizu, Ron Tajii, Janet Tajii, Flora Lee Ganzler

ABSENT: Nancy Davlin, Andrew LeMarQuand, Amy Wakayama, Meg Mizutani

- I. Call to Order - 7:03pm, by Cecelia Shimizu
- II. Personal Appearances - none
- III. Approval of the July minutes as distributed - Approved
- IV. Approval of the Agenda - Addition: Phyllis-Peace Crane funding for SSU tree planting. Agenda approved with the addition.
- V. Announcements -
  - A. Voices in Solidarity (Virtual Fundraiser and Community Celebration) - *August 14th at 5:30pm*
    1. Both in person and virtual - See [attached flyer](#) for more information
  - B. Occidental Farmers Market - *August 21st from 4pm to 6pm*
  - C. Bonsai Show - *August 23rd from 10am to 5pm & August 24th from 10am to 4pm* [Rohnert Park Community Center](#)
    1. See [attached](#) flyer here
  - D. 2025 Women's Forum- Farm to Chopsticks: Legacy of Farming in the JA Community - *August 23rd from 9am to 3pm* [7235 Pritchard Road](#)
  - E. Shadows for Peace (The Hiroshima and Nagasaki Experience) - *August 24th from 1-3pm* [1517 166th St](#)
    1. See [attached](#) flyer here for more information
    2. This is a remembrance on the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki
  - F. Family Fun Day - August 24 AAPIC
  - G. Human Trafficking Interdiction and Operations Training - *September 8-9th from 8am to 5pm*
    1. [RSVP Here](#)
    2. See [attached](#) flyer here for more information
  - H. Advocate Training - *September 10th from 8-5pm*
    1. [RSVP Here](#)
    2. See [attached](#) flyer here for more information
  - I. Rededication for Napa Valley College Japanese Tea Garden - *September 15th from 10-11:30am* [2277 Napa Vallejo Highway](#)
- 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. Uyeda Center Building, *Ron Tajii* -
  - a) Statements for Uyeda Center
  - b) Per Tombe there have been a few other inquiries but no other activity
2. Treasurer's Report, *Nancy Davlin* -
  - a) Financial Reports
3. Funding Requests, *Janet Tajii* - **No Report**

B. Board elections, Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation - **No Report**

C. Membership -

1. The membership application (PDF) on the website has been updated to reflect the up to date pricing and the new categories.
2. Cecelia will mail out renewal membership forms to members who don't have email or prefer to pay by check.

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

1. Community Outreach, *G. Yamamoto Seymour* -

- a) Links from Gail to check out
  - (1) [ICE Employee Quits: "Had To Make A Moral Decision"](#) - Newsweek
  - (2) [ICE Employee Quits: 'Had To Make A Moral Decision'](#) - MSN
  - (3) [Baseball Coach says ICE agents questioned kids at practice: 'This can happen to anybody'](#) - MSNBC
  - (4) [US Completes Deportation of 8 Men to South Sudan After Weeks of Legal Wrangling](#) - AP News
- b) Information from Gail
  - (1) [Sonoma County Behavioral Health Connection is Prevention](#)
  - (2) [Emergency Prep Help \(Preparing Seniors for Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies\)](#)
  - (3)
- c) South Park Coalition
- d) *Cecelia Shimizu*- Reported LA rallies and marches in the news, supporting immigrants and protesting ICE in LA.

1. United in Kindness, *Phyllis Tajii* -

- a) Proclamation endorsing UIK was signed by Santa Rosa City Council on July 8- Phyllis and Ron attended in support
- b) United in Kindness participated in the rally at the entrance of the Board of Supervisors building in support of the start of a hunger strike on August 5, urging the BOS to adopt an ordinance prohibiting county law enforcement agencies from sharing information with ICE or other federal immigration agencies. UIK also wrote a letter to BOS supporting the adoption of the ordinance.

2. AAPIC, *Phyllis Tajii* -

- a) Collaborated with the JACL and FANHS on "Know Your Rights" event (*more details under Unfinished Business*)

3. Community Festivals, *Phyllis Tajii* -

- a) Tabling Opportunities:
  - (1) PBCD (Petaluma Blacks for Community) Picnic, Aug 9, 12:00-3:00. No cost to table. Hotdogs and hamburgers and potluck side dishes are provided.

(a) **Gail and Phyllis would like JACL to make a \$100 donation to PBCD, funds to be taken out of the Civil Rights Social Justice budget item.**  
Board decision: if funds are still available in the Civil Rights budget, okay to go ahead with donation. No objection to donating to this.

(b) Ron and Phyllis tabled at this event. 9 people signed up for our newsletter, including SCOE Superintendent Amie Carter. She was interested in our Speakers Bureau program and said to contact her if we need any help with that. Henry contacted her to see if SCOE could send out notification to all schools about the Speakers Bureau.

Henry got a response to contact the SCOE Communications director.

(2) Vince Harper's South Park Day and Night Festival, Oct 25, 2:00-6:00. Santa Rosa Vet Building, **Booth Fee \$30**. Set up starts 12:30, It is an indoor event. Does JACL want to participate?

E. Programs, Community and Culture -

1. Scholarship Committee, *Janet Tajii* -

2. Enman No Tomo, *Nancy Davlin* -

a) Enman no Tomo, after our brief summer break, resumed our get-togethers on Saturday, August 2nd with a sing-along for our program. We will also have a field trip event on August 23rd where we will visit the Redwood Empire Bonsai Society's show at the Rohnert Park Community Center. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Nancy Davlin at [nrdavlin@yahoo.com](mailto:nrdavlin@yahoo.com).

3. Education Committee -

a) Commission on Human Rights -

b) Kamishibai -

(1) Nagasawa Kamishibai

4. Cranes for Ukraine/ Tsuru for Solidarity - *Ron Tajii/ Phyllis Tajii* -

5. Speakers Bureau, *Henry Kaku* -

6. Tea Plant Subcommittee, *Bruce Shimizu* - No Report

7. Paradise Ridge Winery - Japanese Garden with LACO, *Bruce Shimizu* - Will rent a tractor to grade the rock garden site. Will replant tea plants near the garden. Bark, gravel, fencing will be funded using grant funds. The garden will be substantially done by the end of September. Volunteer days will be scheduled in September. Possible dedication ceremony in the spring. Bruce will come up with some dates for a dedication.

8. Peace Crane Project, *Phyllis Tajii* -

a) Met on July 31 with SSU to go over details of planting on campus.

b) A possible request might be coming to JACL to help fund a dedication ceremony for the SSU tree planting.

c) Have earmarked a remaining tree for planting at the Nagasawa Japanese Garden in PRW. If additional funds are needed for the plaque, the Peace Crane Project might have a funding source for the Peace Tree plaque, but the funds will not be available until next summer.

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

a) During the District council meeting I mentioned that Sonoma County is interested in participating, which makes us one of 2 chapters in the district that is interested in participating in the culture class that Carol is working on.

- b) Enmanji Hall is available for October 25th, Will inform Carol of the date and will ask her what chapter she wants us to do.
  - (1) The workshop will be 3 hours (10am to 1pm)
  - (2) It will follow the Waku Waku guide starting with chapter 1 (other chapters to follow) Committee member suggestions are needed.
    - (a) Chapter 1 WA - Harmony
    - (b) Story - Momotaro
    - (c) Craft - Origami Kabuto
    - (d) Song - Momotaro
    - (e) Game - Kamizuno
    - (f) Language - Omomatopoeia
    - (g) Food - Kibidango
    - (h) Invitation to participate will also be sent to Erin Wilkins and Kiki LeSeed, who expressed an interest in the project earlier.

F. Communications Committee, *Meg Mizutani* -

- 1. Newsletter Committee, *Amy Wakayama* -
- 2. Social Media Committee, *Meg Mizutani* -
  - a) Website Subcommittee, *Meg Mizutani* -
    - (1)
  - b) Facebook, *Becky Sugiyama* -
  - c) Sonic Account -
    - (1) Sachiko is currently the primary contact, so we need to establish a new point of contact.
    - (2) There is a form that needs to be filled out and Sachiko needs to sign it.
    - (3) Janet will ask Meg Mizutani if she wants to be the primary contact.
  - d) Instagram Account
    - (1) Past member of Speakers Bureau has been posting to instagram for Sonoma County JACL.
    - (2) Need to follow up - 'Socojapaneseamerican' instagram postings
    - (3) There have been postings with reference to Sonoma County JACL Oral History Project. Request will be made to change the title, omitting Sonoma County JACL. Using 'Sonoma County Oral History' would be okay (without JACL).
- 3. Communication Policies and Guidelines -
- 4. Chapter Logo -
  - a) The last call for chapter logos has been sent out in the August newsletter.
  - b) Will select finalists and will forward to Arnold Shimizu to draw.

G. District Council, *Cecelia Shimizu* -

H. District JACL Civil Rights Committee -

- 1. Civil Rights Committee Newsletter [July/August 2025 Edition](#)

- I. National Convention- *Cecelia Shimizu* - It was well attended and had good reviews for the convention. Next convention will be in Las Vegas.
- J. District Meeting, Possible May meeting in Sonoma County. *Cecelia Shimizu* volunteers to head the committee. Possible venue is Paradise Ridge Winery.

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. Who will be volunteering and what exactly are we doing at the festival?
  2. Who can be a primary point of contact for the day that can coordinate the volunteers and supplies that are needed? Ron will be the point of contact for JACL. Ron and Janet will be there all day and staff the booth. Sachiko might be available to do Kamishibai.
- E. Petaluma Old Chinatown Project - *Phyllis Tajii* -
- F. Know Your Rights Seminar
1. The date of the 'Know Your Rights' seminar was July 26, Saturday, 10:30-12:30.
  2. **Need board approval for funds used for other than food, printing costs and donation to the library. A total of \$280 was spent;** \$200 to Priyanka Pokharel (immigration attorney who spoke at the event), \$50 to Rohnert Park library, \$30 gift card for Jennifer Ryder (librarian who helped set up and monitor the Zoom session with Cecelia). No opposition to change in item spending.
  3. The event went well, thanks to the collaborative work from JACL, FANHS, AAPIC and Jennifer Ryder from the Rohnert Park Library. Total attendance: 60 in-person and 24 on zoom.
  4. **Is there a link to the Zoom recording of 'Know Your Rights' that can be sent out?** Carol Kawase would like to make it available to JACL district. Grace has made available the Powerpoint presentations and digital handouts, but can a recording become available?
    - a) The Zoom link has been sent to Grace. If we can upload it to our YouTube channel then we can share that link. Cece will work on editing the video to get it ready to post.
- G. Sebastopol World Friends Ambassador Scholarship Circle - *Ron Tajii* -
- H. Letter to the Editor - *Gail Seymour* -
- I. Enmanji Teriyaki-Bazaar - 70th Anniversary
1. We have completed our annual teriyaki and Obon festival season for this year, and Enmanji Temple would like to thank everyone who helped, donated, danced and participated in our summer events. We would also like to thank the Sonoma Co. JACL for co-ordinating with AAPIC members to direct traffic and parking in our remote lot. If anyone has any suggestions or comments, please let Nancy Davlin know.
  2. Coffee and Tea table went well (not sure this was a JACL task). Procedure and feedback provided to the church. Confusion over providing water, and serving tea at tables.
  3. Parking - Bruce stayed the whole day. We asked AAPIC youth for help, and initially had 5 signed up, but only 2 showed up (1 did call last minute to cancel).
- J. Use of JACL Office
1. Sebastopol World Friends have signed the MOU for use of the JACL office (MOU in Google Drive)
  2. JACL still needs to sign the MOU
  3. We have also verified the update of their insurance (Insurance in Google Drive)
  4. Janet has requested to update our insurance
  5. The first in-person meeting for SWF will be on September 3rd.
- K. Community Organizations - *Phyllis Tajii* -
- L. Letter from Enmanji - *Cecelia Shimizu* -
- M. Farm to Pantry - *Phyllis Tajii* -
1. Phyllis spoke with her friend who is part of the Farm to Pantry program and either Nancy Davlin or Phyllis will contact the coordinator to see if delivering to Enman No Tomo is a possibility
- N. 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
3. Screening of “League of Dreams”, the documentary about JACL.
4. Cecelia will contact Enmanji Temple about date availability in November.

O. Keiro Kai

1. Please save the date, Sunday, October 19th, for Sonoma County JACL’s annual Keiro Kai, where we honor our members over 70 for their advice and contributions to our community. We believe that the format will be the same as last year with either a pick-up from Kyoto or Enmanji, or a sit-down luncheon at Enmanji. If you or someone you know are 70 or over and you are a member of Sonoma Co. JACL, Enmanji, or Enman no Tomo and you did not receive an invitation last year, please let Nancy know and I will add your name to the list. More details and order form will be in next month’s newsletter.

We would like to continue with the same format to accommodate most of our honorees. It is nice to have a get-together in the Memorial Hall and see as many of our honorees that can make it and be able to socialize in person. But for those who are unable to come, it is also nice to allow them to enjoy a meal with the family or friends and to know that they are remembered. Since last year we offered guest meals at \$16.00/each, I would like to continue with that amount. If anyone has any suggestions or would like to help, please let Nancy know. Cecelia will ask Nancy how much Kyoto is charging for lunch this year.

X. New Business

- A. Occidental Farmers Market- August 21, 4:00pm
  1. The theme is Obon, would we like to table at it?
  2. Diane Ono has been asked to give a dance demo.
  3. Ron might table at the event. If the tabling fee is \$50 or more, we won’t table.
- B. Rescheduling the October and November meetings due to scheduling conflicts with multiple board members- Cecelia will send out email to board members with alternate board meeting dates.
- C. Reinstallation of Ruth Asawa Fountain in Courthouse Square is on track. No installation date yet.
- D. Erin Wilkins is interested in joining the JACL board
- E. JACL Brochures - we need to print more
  1. Currently we have about 50 left, before we print this we need to update the brochure.
  2. Consider reprinting after the new logo is selected. In the meantime, reprint in bunches of 10.

XI. Adjourned - 9:00pm