



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 September 25th, 2025 at 6:30 PM on zoom

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

ABSENT: Nancy Davlin, Andrew LeMarQuand, Flora Lee Ganzler

- I. Call to Order - by Cecelia Shimizu (president) 6:36pm
- II. Personal Appearances - none
- III. Approval of the August minutes as distributed - approved
- IV. Approval of the Agenda - approved
- V. Announcements -
 - A. Ageism Seminar/workshop - *October 9th from 12-1:30 pm* 📍 *Sonoma State University* Cecelia will table, and possibly Bruce
 1. Opportunity to provide info on Enman no tomo, Japanese Garden at PRW, other projects
 - B. Waku Waku (Children's Program) - *October 25th from 10-1pm* 📍 *1200 Gravenstein Highway South*
 1. See the [attached flyer](#) for more information
- 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) No activity, Tombe said there have been a few other inquiries
 2. Treasurer's Report, *Nancy Davlin* -
 - a) Financial Reports
 3. Funding Requests, *Janet Tajii* -
 - a) **Purchase two 6' folding tables and one pop-up canopy for use for JACL events (or events JACL is participating in). Cost not to exceed \$70 per table and \$150 maximum for canopy, and one folding cart not to exceed \$100. Motion made by Janet Tajii/2nd Bruce Shimizu, Approved to purchase the items listed. Ron and Janet will purchase and will store in the JACL items in the office after the Many Moons Festival.**
 - B. Board elections, Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation - **No Report**
 - C. Membership - No Report
 - D. Programs, Civil Rights and Social Justice, *G. Yamamoto Seymour* -
 1. Community Outreach, *G. Yamamoto Seymour* -
 - a) Links from Gail to check out

- (1) [How a Massive ICE Raid Caused a Diplomatic Incident With a Key U.S. Ally - Time](#)
 - (2) [Ice at Hyundai plant](#) - TikTok
- b) Information from Gail
- (1) NAACP CA/HI State Conference - *September 26th from 6-6:30 pm*
 - (a) Why it is critical to vote YES on Proposition 50—the Election Rigging Response Act.
 - (i) **RSVP here:** <https://bit.ly/Prop50Sept26>
- c) South Park Coalition
- (1) Also attended the South Park Neighborhood Coalition meeting with Eddie Alvarez, Santa Rosa Vice Mayor, and Park Planner, Emily Ander. We asked about allocating Measure M funds which are from sales tax “Parks For All” to make up for the shortfall.
 - (2) We were asked to attend the City Council meeting in December when the MLK Park renovation will be on the agenda.
- d) Representing the JACL Civil Rights and Social Justice Committee and NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice (ECJ) Committee, met with Santa Rosa City Parks Planner, Emily Ander, regarding the funding shortfall to renovate Martin Luther King Park in the South Park Neighborhood.
- A concise explanation is that the City’s design consultants created a design based on the alternative plan selected by the neighborhood residents which totaled \$11.4 M. The State grant awarded to the City is \$7.4 M. There’s also a one to two year delay in construction due to a reduction in City Parks staff. The City will apply for other grants to cover the shortfall. The northern half of the park will be renovated first; the second half, once additional funding is obtained.
- e) Also attended the City Parks and Recreation Board to encourage keeping MLK Park a high priority considering it's the oldest Park in the City, sits in one of the most highly marginalized neighborhoods in the County and has not been upgraded for 20 years.
- f) The NAACP ECJ Committee has decided to include Parks and green space in underserved areas a priority. Green spaces are critical for all people when the temperatures are rising due to climate change and everyone needs access for mental health and well being. The NAACP will be monitoring the City’s park planning and implementation schedules.
- If the JACL would also like to be represented in this effort, please let me know and we can make it a dual effort.
- g) Non JACL/NAACP Activities (Just an FYI)
- (1) Reviewing the National Marine Fisheries Service’s (under NOAA) biological opinion for coho salmon, Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, and Orca Whales (which need salmon to survive). The opinion guides the Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water) in its water releases from reservoirs into the Russian River and includes the upcoming changes to the two dam removals in Potter Valley/ Eel River. The opinion also includes watershed maintenance practices conducted by Sonoma Water.
 - (2) Attended Permit Sonoma (the County’s Permit Office) meeting regarding its development of a countywide Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). The

environmental community is concerned because a “one-size-fits-all” plan for all the various endangered species may not be protective. An HCP is developed to last for 50 years which may be unreasonable because with climate change and the increased development that will be allowed, we will see significant changes to fish and wildlife habitat in the next 50 years.

(a) Permit Sonoma is developing the countywide "Conservation Sonoma" [Habitat Conservation Plan \(HCP\)](#) and [Natural Community Conservation Plan \(NCCP\)](#) in collaboration with local cities and state and federal agencies. The goals are to streamline endangered species permitting for landowners and developers while establishing a long-term conservation strategy to protect sensitive species and their habitats in Sonoma County. This joint plan will simplify the regulatory process, provide regulatory certainty, and create a regional reserve system for wildlife.

1. United in Kindness, *Phyllis Tajii* -
 - a) The group visited the Sikh Temple on Todd Road and received a warm and welcoming reception.
2. AAPIC, *Phyllis Tajii* -
 - a) August 24, hosted a picnic at Howarth Park.
 - b) Sept 7, held a party for Life Members.
 - c) Sept 17, hosted a College Path Workshop for Youth.
3. Community Festivals, *Phyllis Tajii* -
 - a) Tabling Opportunities:
 - (1) 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? Will not participate, it is the same day as JACL Waku Waku program.
 - (2) The Kinesiology Department (SSU) - October 9th from 12-1:30pm
 - (a) They are hosting an event to mark Ageism Awareness Day
 - (b) Cecelia to table, she will contact Lauren Morimoto to reserve a space. If anyone else wants to come as well, let Cecelia know.

E. Programs, Community and Culture -

1. Scholarship Committee, *Janet Tajii* -
 - a) Working on scheduling the next meeting to address the following:
 - (1) recent community scholarship application
 - (2) rubric for evaluating applications
 - (3) changes to membership requirements
 - (4) rules for board members / family member applicants
 - (5) possibly changing a scholarship to be more flexible, include grad school
 - (6) adding requirement to renewal scholarship to include written paragraph of impact / progress
 - (7) marketing / outreach
2. Enman No Tomo, *Nancy Davlin* -
 - a) [Full Report Here](#)
 - b) Family Christmas Party - December 6th from 10-2pm at Memorial Hall at Enmanji
 - (1) Provide the names of the children attending so they can receive a gift from JACL

- (2) Also ask relatives to bring a small gift for the children wrapped so that Santa can call their names
 - (3) There is going to be a Santa coming, Christmas crafts and a potluck lunch
 - (4) Would like to announce at Waku Waku if we are okay with it. Board is okay to have it announced.
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* -
 - a) Phyllis introduced Henry to the Sonoma County Superintendent and because of this a letter has been sent out to all the Teachers in the whole County about the Speakers Bureau
 - (1) The last time this has happened was 10 years ago
 - b) Cecelia has reached out to her former high school to see if they want a presentation.
 - c) In October they are scheduled to speak at the Three Quarter Century Club as part of the Rotary Club in Lafayette, CA, and there are 150 individuals expected. **Motion made by Bruce Shimizu/2nd Janet Tajii: Approved- to pay orei for two people and mileage for one person to present at this event.**
 - d) Oct 2, Bruce, with Meg providing translation, will be giving a Sonoma County JA history presentation to JCCNC.
 6. Tea Plant Subcommittee, *Bruce Shimizu* -
 7. Paradise Ridge Winery - Japanese Garden with LACO, *Bruce Shimizu* - [PHOTO UPDATE](#)
 - a) Progress Update
 - b) Schedule Update
 - c) Deadline - March 2026
 - d) Naming
 - (1) Potential Options
 - (a) Garden of the Issei Spirit
 - (b) Issei Legacy Garden
 - (c) Issei Heritage Garden
 - (d) The Issei Garden
 - (e) Issei Pioneer Garden
 - e) Also, we received a \$2,500 donation from the Friedman Family for a gate and a \$2,500 store credit to purchase tools & equipment. After we finish using the tools, we'll be donating them to the Sonoma County Tool Lending Library and Habitat for Humanity.
 - f) Other good news, Paradise Ridge has irrigation supplies, bricks (from the old Fountaingrove Winery) and thick wooden slabs from trees burned in the wildfires (for benches) that they'll be donating for the project. Their ranch manager Michael has also agreed to donate time to help build the garden and is onsite today with an excavator helping to move dirt and a lot of rocks.
 - g) Will transplant tea plants, currently in another part of the winery, to raised planters that will be near the Japanese Garden.
 - h) Looking for a name for the garden.
 8. Peace Crane Project, *Phyllis Tajii* -

- a) The MOU with SSU has been finalized. Three trees will be planted this fall at SSU. The date has been set for Oct 28. JACL was listed as endorsing the planting of the trees at SSU on the MOU. Planning is underway for a dedication ceremony.
- 9. Children's Program (Waku Waku), *Ron Tajii* -
 - a) October 25th from 10am to 1pm
 - b) The class is limited to 24 kids (at least one parent or guardian is required) - age range 7-11
 - c) Leads for each activity identified. Need additional volunteers for each activity, and set up/clean up crews. Will ask SWF for help. Next meeting set for Saturday, 9/27, 4PM (General interest meeting)
 - d) Waku Waku Program Plan, most costs will be paid with JACL District budget.

9:30 am Registration

10:00 am Story Time - Momotaro

10:30 am Rotate through four activity tables, round robin of 4 activities, Craft - origami kabuto, Language - Onomatopoeia, Game - Kamizuno, and Song - Momotaro.

12:30 am Share what we've learned

12:45 pm Closing Circle for Arigato and Sayonara, and snack

1:00 pm Each family will receive a goodbye activities fun pack to continue the FUN at home

- e) PR - Newsletters : SoCo JACL, The Sangha, AAPIC, Enman No Tomo, JCCNC, NCWNP JACL District, National JACL - Carol
Social Media : SoCoJACL website; Facebook SoCoJACL, Enmanji, AAPIC
Tabling Events : Enman No Tomo, Sept. 6, Oct.4, Many Moons Festival, Oct. 4
Other publications : Sebastopol Times, PD, Courier

F. Communications Committee, *Meg Mizutani* -

1. Newsletter Committee, *Amy Wakayama* -
2. Social Media Committee, *Meg Mizutani* -
 - a) Website Subcommittee, *Meg Mizutani* -
 - (1) Need to update the board members section
 - 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. Sachiko can hopefully sign the form at the Many Moons Festival.
 - d) Instagram Account
 - (1) Past member of Speakers Bureau
 - (2) Need to follow up - 'Socojapaneseamerican'
3. Communication Policies and Guidelines -
4. Chapter Logo -
 - a) Two logos have been sent in (Sachiko and Joshua Chernin)
 - b) Need to talk to Arnold to get drafts

- G. District Council, *Cecelia Shimizu* -
 - 1. [San Francisco JACL News](#)
 - 2. Silicon Valley JACL Upcoming Events
 - a) Saturday 10/18 from 4-6pm at Wesley UMC in San Jose Japantown
 - b) There is a zoom options
 - c) Sign up sheet for either
 - 3. Berkeley JACL Training Opportunity
 - a) Noncooperation Training (Bay Resistance) - October 5th
 - b) <https://actionnetwork.org/events/mass-meeting-and-noncooperation-training/>

H. District JACL Civil Rights Committee -

- 1. Civil Rights Committee Newsletter [September/October 2025 Edition](#)

I. National Convention

- 1. New Executive Director! Saki Mori is new interim Executive Director.

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. Need to add to the newsletter/ send out an independent news flash
 - 2. Ron and Janet are the primary coordinators. Good response of volunteers for the day.
- E. Petaluma Old Chinatown Project - *Phyllis Tajii* -
- F. Know Your Rights Seminar
 - 1. Cecelia is finishing editing the video so that we can upload it to our YouTube
- G. Sebastopol World Friends Ambassador Scholarship Circle - *Ron Tajii* -
- H. Letter to the Editor - *Gail Seymour* -
- I. Use of JACL Office
 - 1. Sebastopol World Friends have signed the MOU for use of the JACL office (MOU in Google Drive) - still pending JACL signature
 - 2. The first in-person meeting for SWF was on September 3rd.
- J. Community Organizations - *Phyllis Tajii* -
- K. Letter from Enmanji - *Cecelia Shimizu* -
- L. Farm to Pantry - *Phyllis Tajii* -
 - 1. Nancy is in contact with Farm to pantry to hopefully have delivery set up for the October Enmanji no Tomo.
- M. Ideas for JACL General Meeting and/or Day of Remembrance
 - 1. General Meeting - November 29th available. Decided to have it on Nov 29.
 - a) Need to get the board election announcement out.
 - b) Program: Lina's short film series "BeLonging". Phyllis will get Lina's approval and ask her to attend.
 - c) Potluck lunch
 - 2. Day of Remembrance - February 19th, 2026
 - a) Suggested presentation by Donald Tamaki about the intersection of Black and JA experiences and why it's important to support reparations. Decided to show JACL film mentioned below.
 - b) Lane has reworked the ending of the movie "League of Dreams" to address the parallels with the current Administration's actions. He is willing to come up to speak and

suggested that we have someone like John Tateishi speak. They did this in San Diego and it was very well attended.

- c) Suggestion - partner with SSU Student organizations, & AAPIC to help spread the word.
- d) Venue - Evert B. Person Theatre (475 seats)
 - (1) I've (Bruce Shimizu) submitted a tentative reservation for that date (Feb 19).

N. Keiro Kai

- 1. [See full Newsletter](#)
- 2. October 19th
 - a) Hybrid starts at 11:15-12:20pm at Kyoto, drive thru at Enmanji from 1-1:30pm
 - b) Sitdown at Enmanji at 1-3:00 pm
 - c) Invitations have been sent and some replies have come in
 - d) Working on gift bad, entertainment has been secured, need to confirm photos- Ron will emcee.
 - e) Working with Annie at Kyoto for dinner preparations
 - f) Becky to help with decorations
 - g) Ron, Janet and Phyllis to help with Keiro Kai prep at Enmanji
 - h) Still need to obtain help at Kyoto
 - i) Any help gratefully accepted

O. Occidental Farmers Market

P. Reinstallation of Ruth Asawa Fountain in Courthouse Square

Q. Erin Wilkins is interested in joining the JACL board

R. JACL Brochures - we need to print more

- 1. Currently we have about 50 left, before we print this we need to update the brochure.

X. New Business

A. Mochitsuki

- 1. Dec 20th (new date)
- 2. Notice - October & December JACL & Enmanji Newsletters
 - a) RSVP - TBD
- 3. Assignments - Zoom Meeting to discuss roles & responsibilities
 - a) Will send out email about meeting date

B. JCCNC -JACL Get together

- 1. Looking to meet on November 22nd - Date confirmed with JCCNC and Enmanji
 - a) Possible potluck lunch with screening of immigrant film vignettes
 - b) JCCNC confirmed with Freeman Winery on the date

C. October Board Meeting - Oct 16 (Thursday), 6:30pm

D. November Board Meeting - Cecelia will send out a Doodle Poll later to determine the date.

E. Finding History Day

- 1. November 1st ♥ Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building
- 2. Does the JACL want to sponsor, we have sponsored in previous years. **Motion made by Janet Tajii/2nd Bruce Shimizu. Approved: Donate \$200 to sponsor Finding History Day. Janet will notify Nancy about the donation.**
- 3. Bruce has expressed interest in wanting to table. Henry should be able to join him.

F. El Dia de los Muertos Petaluma

- 1. November 2nd in front of ♥ Petaluma Historical Library & Museum
- 2. Looking for donations for the 25th celebration in Petaluma. Decided to not donate this year.

3. See [attached flyer](#) for events
- G. Donation to VIDAS (Vital Immigrant Defense Advocacy & Services) to sponsor the Hike for Migrant Rights on October 18th
1. Donation amounts - \$250, \$500, \$1,000, \$2,500, \$5,000
 2. Participation options for the hike - 1,3,6 mile options for \$35/per person
 3. Sponsorship will pay for 2-15 participants, depending on donation level
 4. If approved, donations can come from Donation Expenses/Civil Rights budget item
 5. See [attached flyer](#) for more information
 6. Motion made by Ron Tajii/2nd Bruce Shimizu. Approved: Donate \$1,000 to VIDAS to sponsor the Hike for Migrant Rights. Janet will notify Nancy.

Adjourned: 8:41pm