



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 October 16th, 2025 at 6:30 PM on zoom

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

ABSENT: Nancy Davlin, Andrew LeMarQuand, Amy Wakayama

- I. Call to Order - 6:34pm by Cecelia Shimizu (president)
- II. Personal Appearances -
 - A. none
- III. Approval of the September minutes as distributed - With correction to minutes F.2.c)(2)-Communications/Social Media/Sonic Acct/ change sentence: "Many Moons Festival to be signed."
to "Sachiko can hopefully sign the form at the Many Moons Festival." Approved
- IV. Approval of the Agenda - Approved with addition of Purchase Easy Up and Wagon/ GoFundMe agenda items.
- V. Announcements -
 - A. Rise & Resist From Tanforan to Dublin - *October 18th at 11am* 📍 *Tanforan Memorial*
 1. See the [attached flyer](#) for more information
 - B. Hike for Migrant Rights (VIDAS) - *October 18th @ Sonoma County Regional Park's exclusive Mark West Creek Park and Preserve.*
 1. See [attached flyer](#) for more information
 - C. Waku Waku (Children's Program) - *October 25th from 10-1pm* 📍 *1200 Gravenstein Highway South*
 1. See the [attached flyer](#) for more information
 - D. Finding History Day - *November 1st* 📍 *Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building*
 - E. Dia de los Muertos - *November 2nd* 📍 *Petaluma Historical Library & Museum*
 - F. No Kings Day 2 - *on Saturday, Oct 18*
- VI. Correspondence - none
- 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
 2. Treasurer's Report, *Nancy Davlin* -
 - a) Financial Reports
 3. Funding Requests, *Janet Tajii* -
 - a) A JACL supporter passed away and left a bequest to JACL.
 - b) They want to settle some of the distribution this year but hold back some for possible 2026 expenses. The bequest is being coordinated to give money to JACL

4. Bought easy-up and two tables for JACL but did not buy a wagon at this time because it didn't seem needed for the Many Moons event. The funds were approved if someone else needs the wagon.
 5. GoFundMe 'scam' alert? It's not really a scam but GoFundMe said they are trying to make donating easier for organizations. **Decided by JACL board to 'disclaim' our GoFundMe page.**
- B. Board elections, Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation -
1. Cecelia has reached out to individuals to see what their interest is in joining the board or to see if they are interested in staying on the board:
 2. Phyllis will announce board members up for election at the General Meeting.
- C. Membership - *Cecelia Shimizu* - New members and renewed members
- D. Programs, Civil Rights and Social Justice, *G. Yamamoto Seymour* -
1. Community Outreach, *G. Yamamoto Seymour* -
 - a) Links from Gail to check out
 - (1) [NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Committee - City Parks Meeting](#)
 - b) Information from Gail
 - (1) NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice committee has decided to prioritize monitoring parks and green space development in underserved communities. Does JACL want to join the NAACP in monitoring the Santa Rosa City's park planning and implementation schedules for parks and green space in underserved areas, in addition to seeing that MLK park renovation is completed? JACL already is officially monitoring the completion of MLK Park with NAACP. This just expands the scope of what we are officially monitoring. Phyllis will get confirmation from Gail as to what is exactly involved in lending support to monitoring Santa Rosa parks and green space planning.
 - c) South Park Coalition
 - d) Non JACL/NAACP Activities (Just an FYI)
 1. United in Kindness, *Phyllis Tajii* -
 2. AAPIC, *Phyllis Tajii* -
 3. Community Festivals, *Phyllis Tajii* -
 - a) Tabling Opportunities: none
- E. Programs, Community and Culture -
1. Scholarship Committee, *Janet Tajii* -
 - a) Meeting Notes
 - b) Recommendation by the Scholarship Committee to add an additional scholarship, 'Graduate Student Scholarship' in the amount of \$2500, renewable up to 3 years, for a total of 4 years. **Motion made by Janet Tajii/2nd Bruce Shimizu: Offer 'Graduate Student Scholarship' in the amount of \$2500/year, renewable up to 3 years, for a total of 4 years. Approved.** The scholarship committee suggested offering a 1-year membership to all applicants.
The suggestion was made by the board to require acceptance of a gift of a 1-year membership to all recipients. Janet will get feedback from Scholarship committee on this last suggestion and report back.
 2. Enman No Tomo, *Nancy Davlin* -
 - a) [Full Report Here](#) - Sept 6th
 - b) Family Christmas Party - December 6th from 10-2pm at Memorial Hall at Enmanji
 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* -
 - a) [Henry Kaku - Legacy Blend Tea Farm Update](#) photos from visit to Wakuen Tea Farm, Japan
 - b) Suggestion made to have Bruce contact Kyle from Wakoen about UC Davis tea plants. Phyllis will give Bruce contact information for Kyle.
 - 7. Paradise Ridge Winery - Japanese Garden with LACO, *Bruce Shimizu* -
 - a) [Interpretative Garden Plan](#)
 - b) Suggestion made to involve local high schools and colleges (ie: SSU) in editing any videos for posting.
 - 8. Peace Crane Project, *Phyllis Tajii* -
 - a) A dedication ceremony for the Hiroshima Peace Trees and the Peace Pole at Sonoma State University will take place on Tuesday, Oct 28, noon-1:30. The public is invited.
 - b) See [attached flyer](#)
 - 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
 - d) Waku Waku Program Plan
 - 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.
 - d) Instagram Account
 - (1) Need to follow up - on 'Socojapaneseamerican' posts that are posted by Sonoma County JACL.
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 draft's
 - c) **Motion made by Ron Tajii/2nd Janet Tajii: to pay Arnold Shimizu for his work, not to exceed \$1,000, to get logo draft(s) ready for print. Approved.** Cecelia will contact Arnold about the proposal to work on the draft and be compensated.

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](#)
2. NY/SC Art Contest
 - a) Due November 7th
 - b) See [attached flyer](#) for more info

I. National Convention

1. New Executive Director!

IX. Unfinished Business

- A. JACL/THSP Retreat, *Flora Ganzler, Phyllis Tajii & Gail Seymour* -
- B. Cultural and History Sharing Outreach Group, *Sachiko Knappman* -
- C. Many Moons Festival - *Ron Tajii*
 1. It was a good event. Over 2,500 attendees.
- D. Know Your Rights Seminar
 1. Cecelia is finishing editing the video so that we can upload it to our YouTube
- E. Sebastopol World Friends Ambassador Scholarship Circle - *Ron Tajii* -
- F. Letter to the Editor - *Gail Seymour* -
- G. 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.
- H. Community Organizations - *Phyllis Tajii* -
- I. Letter from Enmanji -

J. JACL General Meeting and/or Day of Remembrance

1. General Meeting - November 29th

- a) Lina Hoshino is suggesting a mix of videos from Belonging and the more recent videos made this last year by newer immigrants. The board is asking only for Lina to come at this time.
- b) What time is the meeting scheduled, 11:00am - 2:00pm
- c) Agenda- Potluck with JACL providing a main dish (protein and starch). Attendees asked to bring salad, side dish or dessert. Main dish possibility: \$110/40 pieces of chicken. Agenda: Business meeting, Film screening, election voting, lunch.
- d) Cecelia will chair, will come and be MC for the event.
- e) Phyllis will submit usage application for Enmanji Hall
- f) Use Bose speaker system for film.

2. Day of Remembrance - February 19th, 2026

- a) Lane has reworked the ending of the movie 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.
- b) Suggestion - partner with SSU Student organizations, & AAPIC to help spread the word.
- c) Venue - Evert B. Person Theatre (475 seats)
 - (1) Bruce submitted a tentative reservation for Feb 19 (Thursday)
 - (2) **Motion made by Ron Tajii/2nd Meg Mizutani to have Bruce put together a budget and proposal to the board to have Lane attend and show his latest film. Approved.**
- d) Schedule dedication of Japanese Garden at PRW on or around the same day as Feb 19 (day of the film at SSU). Bruce will work on schedule and submit to the board next meeting.

K. 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 1:30-3:00 pm
 - c) There are 80 honorees that will be participating this year

L. Erin Wilkins is interested in joining the JACL board

1. Cecelia Shimizu has reached out to Erin

M. JACL Brochures - we need to print more

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

N. Mochitsuki

1. December 20th
2. Notice - October & December JACL & Enmanji Newsletters
 - a) RSVP by Friday 11/21/2025
3. Assignments - Zoom Meeting to discuss roles & responsibilities
4. Notify Enmanji that JACL is willing to pay for a cleaning team after
5. Bruce will fill out the rental application form.

O. JCCNC -JACL Get together

1. Looking to meet on November 22nd
 - a) Possible potluck lunch with screening of immigrant film vignettes

- b) JCCNC needs to confirm with Freeman Winery on the date
 - c) A Zoom presentation was made on Oct 2, by Bruce and Meg to JCCNC members. They spoke of Sonoma County Japanese American history.
- P. November Board Meeting- Cecelia is sending out a Doodle Poll.
- Q. Finding History Day
 - 1. November 1st ♥ Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building
 - 2. We will be tabling at this event and donating \$200 to Sponsor Finding History Day
- R. 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
 - 3. See [attached flyer](#) for events
- X. New Business
 - A. Cemetery Walk
 - 1. Update about the cemetery walk on October 3-4th. Was well attended.
 - B. Holiday Issue Pacific Citizen Ad
 - 1. Link to Folder
 - 2. Gary Sugiyama let Cecelia know that he is willing to revise and update the ad for the Pacific Citizen Holiday Edition. **Motion made by Janet Tajii/2nd Ron Tajii- to advertise in the PC, \$450 for PC Holiday Issue. Approved**
 - C. District Council Meeting (Quarterly). Does Sonoma County JACL want to host District meeting in Spring 2026? Will ask for the first Sunday in May. Funds are available to help pay the host chapter to reimburse. Looking to see if Paradise Ridge facility is affordable/available. Bruce will ask Paradise Ridge about availability and report back with response.

Adjourned