



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 November 21st, 2025 at 6:00 PM on zoom

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

ABSENT: Nancy Davlin, Andrew LeMarQuand, Bruce Shimizu, Meg Mizutani, Flora Lee Ganzler

- I. Call to Order - by President Cecelia Shimizu, 6:10pm
- II. Personal Appearances - none
- III. Approval of the October minutes as distributed - Note: corrections/clarifications have been made to Oct minutes under Finance, Board elections, Scholarship and General Meeting. Approval of Minutes TABLED until next meeting.
- IV. Approval of the Agenda - Add items regarding General Meeting and JCCNC-JACL Meeting,
- V. Announcements - none
- 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* -
 4. Donation to JACL
 - a) Donation to our chapter is expected
 - b) Where would we like to allocate these funds? Finance committee will come back to the board with a recommendation about of how we should allocate the funds
 - (1) Ideas: New Graduate School Scholarship, Donate to a worthy organization, or set it aside for another purpose
 - B. Board elections, Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation -
 - C. Membership -
 - D. Programs, Civil Rights and Social Justice, *G. Yamamoto Seymour* -
 1. Community Outreach, *G. Yamamoto Seymour* -
 - a) [Link to Gail's Full Report](#)
 - b) Links from Gail to check out
 - (1) [Mamdani's Win Means for Climate Action](#)
 - c) Information from Gail
 - (1) Lina Hoshino and Gail Seymour participated in the VIDAS fundraiser hike for immigrants. It was a beautiful Autumn day on the trails in the Mark West

Creek Park and Preserve, a Sonoma County Regional Park. VIDAS is grateful for the co-sponsorship and generous donation from the JACL. A brief article about this was submitted to Amy for the next newsletter.

d) South Park Coalition

- (1) Gail continues to work with the South Park Neighborhood. Fifty-eight percent of the neighborhood's residents are of Mexican ancestry. Nineteen percent are of Asian ancestry (primarily Filipino). Gail represents the Sonoma County JACL and Sonoma Council NAACP at the meetings. This does not include political or controversial issues. The representation is only to show support for cultural, social and infrastructure issues such as the renovation of Martin Luther King Jr. Park. Neither JACL nor NAACP provide monetary support.

e) Non JACL/NAACP Activities (Just an FYI)

- (1) For Gail's attendance to MLK Park meetings she attends she will announce that she is representing the NAACP and JACL

- (a) She will not promise financing or sign on to any documents without board approval

- (b) "It would lend more weight with JACL also represented because that is one more organization that is keeping tabs on what is going on. This would be monitoring MLK Park renovation process as well as other green spaces and parks in other underserved communities."

- (2) Representing the NAACP, Gail attended a Southwest Santa Rosa neighborhood town hall with Santa Rosa Vice Mayor Eddie Alvarez and City Council Member Natalie Rodger's, SR Director of Public Works, SR City Police, SR Fire Department, and SR City Library staff. Conversations included the need for sidewalks, library services, emergency preparedness, parks and open space, and ICE activity. It should be noted that in answer to Gail's question about the City Police Department's authority if ICE agents are assaulting a person, Federal law prevails, therefore City Police officers cannot intervene.

- (3) NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Committee members attended a County of Sonoma public meeting regarding its draft Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026 Update (HMP). After receiving public comment and approval by the Board of Supervisors, it will be submitted to FEMA for non-emergency disaster assistance grants. "Vulnerable Communities" are included in every disaster element - earthquake, drought, dam failure, flooding, wildfire, tsunami, sea level rise, extreme heat, extreme cold, extreme wind, and landslide. Gail's comments include implementing emergency preparedness now, not after the plan is adopted by FEMA which could be many months away due to the Federal government's shut-down and defunding of FEMA. She will work with County emergency preparedness outreach and education staff to set up a training workshop(s) for NAACP members, JACL members (if approved by the Board), and other communities. (Note that in the report, JACL, AAPIC, NAACP, and Los Cien were not listed with the many stakeholders). Gail recently attended an emergency preparedness workshop by Council on Aging which was very comprehensive and the best training she's had in years; the County was involved with that workshop and has offered to provide training for us.

- (4) This year's gift bag from Nancy Davlin for Keiro Kai recipients was especially significant. She provided emergency preparedness information and supplies which is a very thoughtful and useful gift. Thank you Nancy !

2. United in Kindness, *Phyllis Tajii* - **No Report**

3. AAPIC, *Phyllis Tajii* -
 - a) They put on a Filipino Christmas parol making workshop at the Santa Rosa Central Library that was well attended by young families
4. Community Festivals, *Phyllis Tajii* -
 - a) Tabling Opportunities:
- E. Programs, Community and Culture -
 1. Scholarship Committee, *Janet Tajii* -
 2. Enman No Tomo, *Nancy Davlin* -
 - a) [Full Report Here](#) - Nov 1st
 - b) Family Christmas Party - December 6th from 10-2pm at Memorial Hall at Enmanji
 - (1) Children of all ages are welcome to attend this event where we will have Holiday crafts, a potluck luncheon, gifts for the kids and a special appearance from someone beloved by all.
 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) Two presentations this past month
 - (1) Lamrinda Rotary Club
 - (a) About 120 people were in attendance
 - (2) Finding History Day 📍 Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building
 - (2) There is an upcoming presentation for the Rotary Club in Petaluma in February and the Saturday afternoon all women's group
 - b) There is an upcoming presentation for the Rotary Club in Petaluma in February and the Saturday afternoon all women's group
 6. Tea Plant Subcommittee, *Bruce Shimizu* -
 7. Paradise Ridge Winery - Japanese Garden with LACO, *Bruce Shimizu* -
 - a) Phyllis Tajii attended on Sept 7th the Kagoshima group event held at Paradise Ridge winery. She gave a 5min presentation about the Japanese Garden Project.
 8. Peace Crane Project, *Phyllis Tajii* -
 - a) 3 trees were planted at SSU on Oct 28th, a dedication ceremony was held for the trees and a Peace Pole was installed nearby
 9. Children's Program (Waku Waku), *Ron Tajii* -
 - a) From Carol:
 - (1) Would our chapter still like to be part of the grant program by hosting a second workshop to connect with an additional 14 children to meet the grant's family contact requirement?
 - (a) If we do she can let us know when the others will be so we can plan around it. If we don't then she will release the funds to another chapter
 - (2) If we do another one then Meg will be able to help more as her summit is over
- 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) I sent a direct message to the account, but have not received any message back
 - (2) Does anyone have the direct contact for the person who operates the account?
- 3. Communication Policies and Guidelines -
- 4. Chapter Logo -
 - a) Budget of \$1,000 for Arnold Shimizu to create the new logo
 - b) Two logos have been sent in ([Sachiko and Joshua Chernin](#))
 - c) Need to talk to Arnold to get draft's
- G. District Council, *Cecelia Shimizu* -
 - 1. District Council Meeting - MAY 2026
 - a) We will be hosting this!
 - b) Venue location Paradise Ridge Winery
 - c) Presentation: Talk about the garden project and let people know that we will be giving a tour after the meeting
- H. District JACL Civil Rights Committee -
 - 1. Civil Rights Committee Newsletter [September/October 2025 Edition](#)
- I. National Convention
- 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 -
 - 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. 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
 - G. Community Organizations - *Phyllis Tajii* -
 - H. Letter from Enmanji -
 - I. 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. Lina will attend the meeting for Q&A. Can we pay her an honorarium? Motion by Janet Tajii/2nd Ron Tajii to give \$200 honorarium to Lina Hoshino. Cecelia will send out a vote by email to the board for approval.
 - b) Agenda-Phyllis will create agenda for the meeting, and will send it to Cecelia to check the schedule.
 - c) When is set up scheduled? Phyllis will ask if it is okay to come Friday 11:00am.
 - d) Responsibilities for set up/clean up
 - 2. Day of Remembrance - February 19th, 2026 ROLL OVER FROM PREVIOUS AGENDA

- 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) I've submitted a tentative reservation for that date

J. Keiro Kai

- 1. Full Report
- 2. This year's gift bag from Nancy Davlin for Keiro Kai recipients was especially significant. She provided emergency preparedness information and supplies which is a very thoughtful and useful gift. Thank you Nancy !

K. JACL Brochures - we need to print more

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

L. Mochitsuki

- 1. We will not be doing it again this year. Looking for another venue to host it next year.

M. JCCNC -JACL Get together

- 1. Looking to meet on November 22nd
- 2. Lina added Japanese subtitles to 2 films that will be shown. Can we pay her something for doing that? Motion by Janet Tajii/2nd Amy Wakayama to give Lina Hoshino \$150 for her work to add Japanese subtitles to the films. Cecilia will send out a vote by email to the board for approval.
- 3. Phyllis is making kuri manju cookie dough and white bean anko that will be used to make kuri manju by the group. Microwave chichi dango will also be made by Henry that day as a demonstration and to eat later.
- 4. The group will start in the morning at Freeman Winery with a wine tasting and early lunch, then arrive at Enmanji for a tour/talk of the hondo, viewing 3 short videos of immigration stories (Sachiko, Phyllis' grandfather, Leap of Faith video) and making and eating manju and mochi.
- 5. Phyllis will open and lock up the temple that day. Meg will give the history of the temple. Use of temple will not be longer than 20 minutes.

N. Finding History Day

O. El Dia de los Muertos Petaluma

P. Holiday Issue Pacific Citizen Ad

- 1. It has been submitted

Q. Cemetery Walk

- 1. Update about the cemetery walk on October 3-4th

X. New Business

A. New Year's Community Potluck

- 1. Nancy has volunteered to be the liaison for this event
- 2. It will be hosted on Saturday January 10th at Memorial Hall at Enmanji
- 3. Needs help finding people to fill the following roles:
 - a) Emcee
 - (1) Someone to install the new officers and board
 - b) Help in the Kitchen
 - c) Cleanup
 - d) Program Details like service awards
 - e) Etc.

B. Historic Chinatown Park Plaque

1. Donate \$300 to Lina Hoshino for costs incurred for the plaque ceremony on Nov 15
 2. This was sent via email and was approved by the board via email
 3. Phyllis Tajii, Erin Wilkins, and Gail Seymour will volunteer for the Historic Petaluma Chinatown Park event on November 15 (set-up/clean-up). Under Lina Hoshino's leadership, this is a most significant honor for the very deserving historic Chinese community that contributed work for our county, State and Nation under harsh conditions and then were run out of the country under the Chinese Exclusion Act. And history repeats itself today with the exclusion of our immigrant communities.
- C. Tom Perry Passed Away
1. His family was responsible for saving the Ito property during WWII and he was a strong longtime supporter of JACL and the JA community and was interviewed for the JACL Oral History project.
 - a) Send a condolence card
- D. AAPIC Lunar New Year Celebration
1. Hosting a celebration on Feb 28th from noon-3pm @Sonoma Clean Power Facility on 4th Street
 2. There will be a potluck, it is intended on being a low key event to connect with others
 3. Would we want to partner? The other partners are RECA and FANHS. Cece will ask what 'partner' means.
- E. Sebastopol Memorial Lawn Cemetery - *Meg Mizutani*
1. They are looking for someone who can take care of the Memorial Lawn
 2. Gail did an organized clean up event a few years ago for a section of the cemetery
 3. Do we have the bandwidth to take this on as an ongoing, just one time event or no bandwidth? Cecelia will reply that we don't have the ability to take on the task now, but if there is still a need in the future, we will revisit the question and see if it is possible.
- F. Sign on to the Potter Valley Project
1. Link to the article <https://eelriver.org/2025/11/03/how-to-comment-pge-lsa/>
 2. Do we want to sign on? Cece will send out an email to vote by email.
- G. Economic Protest - *Ron Tajii*
1. Do we want to include this in our December Newsletter? This is from Alan Murakami with some modifications to follow our non political support guidelines
 2. "Currently there is talk about an economic protest during the annual Black Friday weekend (Nov 28-Dec 2) and extending to Cyber Monday.
There are many businesses that support policies which the JACL does not support as indiscriminate immigration sweeps. You can choose to boycott: Home Depot, Apple, (other tech companies,) and Target. One can also boycott big box stores. As an alternative, folks can shop local, go to Crafts Faires, etc.
Perhaps this type of protest may gain further attention, and add to our ground swell of protest leading to change. (Because, unfortunately, money does talk.)
If you can, I hope you will join this cause. But I know that for some, this may be difficult to do. And I understand.
If you are interested, please pass on this email or something similar to as many friends as possible. Getting the word out is what will make a difference. "
Cecelia will write an article for the newsletter to encourage support of local businesses and products.

Adjourned: 7:45pm