



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
March 3rd at 6:30 PM on zoom

ATTENDANCE: Cecelia Shimizu (president), Phyllis Tajii, Bruce Shimizu, Ron Tajii, Janet Tajii, Erin Wilkins, Meg Mizutani,

ABSENT: Nancy Davlin, Andrew LeMarQuand, Amy Wakayama

- I. Call to Order - 6:47pm by president, Cecelia Shimizu
- II. Personal Appearances - none
- III. Approval of the February minutes as distributed - Approved with amendments– (Lanterns&Vines, PRW District Meeting)
- IV. Approval of the Agenda - Approved with added agenda item of donation to Matsuri
- V. Announcements:
 - A. Interactive Immigration Workshop for the Workplace - March 9th 📍 320 North McDowell Boulevard
 1. There are two times to choose from: 8:30-10:30 AM or 2:30-4:30pm
 2. [Register Here](#)
 - B. Bay Resistance - *March 22nd*
 1. Non-Cooperation Training in Petaluma
- VI. Correspondence -
- VII. Long Range Planning Meeting -
 - A. Schedule of Events/ Calendar
 1. See attached
 - B. Responsibilities and Task Follow Up
 1. Folder Here
 - C. Proposed Budget
 1. See attached
 2. Budget Approval. Approved by unanimous vote
- 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* - **No Report**
 4. Finance Committee, *Janet Tajii* -
 - a) The freezer that we had at Enmanji no longer works, so do we want to purchase a new one? Decision was made to hold off on purchasing new freezer until there is a need for it.
 - B. Board elections, Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation - **No Report**
 - C. Membership -
 1. We will be sending out a survey to members that have not renewed their membership to see why they have not renewed their membership
 - D. Programs, Civil Rights and Social Justice, *G. Yamamoto Seymour* -
 1. Community Outreach, *G. Yamamoto Seymour* -

- a) Links and information from Gail to check out
- b) South Park Coalition
 - (1) The February meeting was about a neighborhood clean-up project and planning for the annual resource fair at Martin Luther King Park
 - (a) Gail attended the Santa Rosa City Council meeting and spoke in support of the MLK park renovation master plan, the construction for the northern part will start this summer and should be completed by the end of 2027
 - (b) The south side of the park including the soccer field and trail will be completed once additional funding has been secured
- c) Non JACL/NAACP Activities (Just an FYI)
 - (1) Russian River Watershed Environmental Caucus:
 - (a) Sonoma County groundwater ordinance amendment
 - (b) Monitoring of Russian River/Eel River water diversion planning for future removal of the Scott Dam (Lake Pillsbury) and Cape Horn Dam
 - (2) Monitoring SB 1221 and sending info to underserved neighborhood leaders

“... California legislature passed SB 1221 (Min), requiring the CA Public Utilities Commission to establish a voluntary zonal decarbonization program and designate priority neighborhood decarbonization zones. Decarbonization zones will be geographic areas where the CPUC may authorize projects facilitating the transition of some customers’ natural gas service to cost-effective, zero-emission alternatives. Zero-emission alternatives are ways of providing gas customers with suitable substitute energy service that does not require new investment in gas distribution lines, such as, but not limited to, electrification.”
- 1. United in Kindness, *Phyllis Tajii* - **No Report**
- 2. AAPIC, *Phyllis Tajii* - **No Report**
- 3. Community Festivals, *Phyllis Tajii* - **No Report**
 - a) Tabling Opportunities:
 - (1) No Kings Event - March 28th from 3-6pm at Courthouse Square
 - (a) Does anyone want to table at this event? Bruce will table for JACL, Ron and Janet will help. Phyllis will put the string trimmer (for the PRW tea plants) and JACL banner in the JACL office for Bruce to pick up.

E. Programs, Community and Culture -

- 1. Scholarship Committee, *Janet Tajii* -
 - a) Scholarship info sent to SSU
- 2. Enman No Tomo, *Nancy Davlin* -
 - a) [See attached report](#)
- 3. Education Committee -
 - a) Commission on Human Rights -
 - b) Kamishibai -
 - (1) Nagasawa Kamishibai
- 4. Cranes for Ukraine/ Tsuru for Solidarity, *Ron Tajii/ Phyllis Tajii* - **No Report**
- 5. Speakers Bureau, *Henry Kaku* - **No Report**
- 6. Tea Plant Subcommittee, *Bruce Shimizu* - **No Report**
- 7. Japanese Garden Project at Paradise Ridge Winery, *Bruce Shimizu* -
 - a) JACF Final Report - Material Purchases report ready middle of March

- b) Volunteer Work Day Schedule
 - c) Grand Opening in May for District Council Meeting, will coordinate with Peace Crane Project to get Hiroshima Peace Tree planted.
- 8. Peace Crane Project, *Phyllis Tajii* -
 - a) The Committee will be meeting with SSU staff to plan additional landscaping and an event around the Hiroshima Peace Trees on SSU campus
- 9. Children's Program (Waku Waku), *Ron Tajii & Erin Wilkins* -
 - a) Possible dates for the next workshop
 - (1) April 25th or August 8th (April 25 has a conflict with Apple Blossom Festival. Ron will check Aug 8 date with Enmanji and look into other venues if Enmanji is not available).
 - b) We are going to ease the age restrictions and the 1:1 ratio of children to guardians
 - c) Hopefully the SWF Student Ambassadors will be able to help/participate
 - d) Erin has a connection to a large group of JA parents that will hopefully be able to attend
- 10. Japanese Tea Culture Class, *Ron Tajii* -
 - a) Adult (aged 12 and up) oriented program around tea
 - b) Possible format:
 - (1) Short lecture on tea history
 - (2) Discussion on major tea types with tasting of each
 - (3) Four virtues of tea culture in Japan
 - (4) Demonstration and explanation of tea ceremony and group interactive participation
 - c) Possible time frame: August, September, October
 - d) Consensus is that this is a good activity worth pursuing
- 11. Mochitsuki, *Ron Tajii* -
 - a) Propose opening dialogue with Enmanji to create a more JA community inclusive participation - Ron will contact some other JACL members to join him in a meeting with Enmanji.
- F. Communications Committee, *Meg Mizutani* -
 - 1. Newsletter Committee, *Amy Wakayama* - **No Report**
 - 2. Social Media Committee, *Meg Mizutani* -
 - a) Website Subcommittee, *Meg Mizutani* -
 - (1) Need to update the board members section - board members are asked to update biographies if needed
 - b) Facebook, Becky Sugiyama -
 - c) Sonic Account -
 - (1) Janet is working on getting Sachiko to sign the form to change who the point of contact is
 - 3. Communication Policies and Guidelines - **No Report**
 - 4. Chapter Logo - Have encountered a delay on the logo
- G. District Council, *Cecelia Shimizu* -
 - 1. District Council Meeting - MAY 2026 & Garden Unveiling
 - a) Venue location Paradise Ridge Winery
 - b) Presentation: Talk about the garden project and let people know that we will be giving a tour after the meeting
 - c) Facility Reservation

(1) Venue Fee: \$2,500

d) Food - Continental Breakfast (Get food from Costco) & Luncheon (Luau Hawaiian BBQ)

(1) Food: About \$500

2. National Update about Staffing and Finances - Cecelia provided information on recent restructuring.

H. District JACL Civil Rights Committee -

1. [Civil Rights Committee Newsletter Mar/Apr 2026](#)

2. [February Social Justice Action Committee Report](#)

3. Recent events in the news:

a) [White Supremacist Graffiti Defaces Buddhist Church - AsAm News](#)

b) [Statue of Japanese Diplomat in Los Angeles Defaced with red paint in potential hate crime - The Mainichi](#)

c) [How the Visa Debate for Foreign Workers Fuels Racism Against South Asians - The New York Times](#)

d) [Hate Crimes, Immigration Enforcement Fuel a Public Health Crisis for Pacific Islanders - ACoM \(American Community Media\)](#)

e) [Statement from Attorney General Jennifer Davenport Regarding Precautions Being Taken in New Jersey Due to the Attacks in the Middle East - Insider NJ](#)

I. National Convention

1. Cecelia will be going as the delegate to Las Vegas

IX. Unfinished Business

A. JACL/THSP Retreat, *Phyllis Tajii & Gail Seymour* -

B. Know Your Rights Seminar

1. Cecelia is finishing editing the video so that we can upload it to our YouTube

C. Sebastopol World Friends Ambassador Scholarship Circle - *Ron Tajii* -

D. Community Organizations - *Phyllis Tajii* -

E. JACL General Meeting and/or Day of Remembrance

1. Successful screening from the Day of Remembrance event held at Sonoma State University on Feb 19th

2. Lane Nishikawa (filmmaker) gave several copies of the "League of Dreams" DVDs to Bruce. Planning to pass out DVDs to current JACL board members and past board members.

F. JACL Brochures

1. Pending our new logo, once we have it we will be redoing the brochure to match it and update the photos on it

G. AAPIC Lunar New Year Celebration

H. 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. Currently, we won't pursue this, but we could put a message in a future newsletter to buy local.

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 and cutting back SNAP benefits. 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.”

I. JACL YMCA Draft Letter

1. Our approved letter was sent out
2. Gail will be meeting with the YMCA and AAPIC boards on behalf of the JACL on March 6th

J. Petaluma Historic Chinatown Park

1. The Committee will be planning another event/exhibit with the Petaluma Historical Museum

X. New Business

A. Matsuri -

1. Are we going to participate this year? If we are going to participate we will need a chair person as Bruce will be unable to chair it this year due to his participation. Cecelia and Bruce Shimizu will look into staffing a JACL booth, giving away candy.
2. **Motion by Janet Tajii/2nd Ron Tajii- Approved: \$1000 donation to 2026 Matsuri Festival Committee**

B. Nichi Bei News - Japanese Culture & Cherry Blossom Festival Guide

1. Would we like to place an ad this year in the festival guide? **Motion by Janet Tajii/2nd Erin Wilkins, Approved- to pay \$450 to Nichi Bei News for the same size ad (NB2) as last year.**
2. Last year we did the size NB2 which cost \$450 and is priced the same this year

☒ Ad Size	Dimensions	COLOR
☐ Full Page	9.75"W × 13.00"H	\$2,450
☐ Half Page	9.75"W × 6.25"H	\$1,350
☐ 1/4 Page	5.75"W × 6.25"H	\$850
☐ NB1	3.75"W × 6.25"H	\$650
☐ NB2	3.75"W × 4.10"H	\$450
☐ NB3	1.82"W × 4.10"H	\$250
☐ Business Card	3.75"W × 2.00"H	\$250
☐ NB4	1.82"W × 2.00"H	\$150

C. Community Picnic - Cecelia Shimizu

1. Suggestion was made to bring back the JA Community Picnic.

D. SWF invites JACL board members to the Welcome Party for the Takeo Delegation, March 21, Saturday, at Enmanji Hall 3:00-5:15.

Next Meeting- April 7, 2026, 6:30pm

Adjourned: 8:41pm