



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
April 7, 2026 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 - 6:34pm by Cecelia Shimizu
- II. Personal Appearances - none
- III. Approval of the March minutes as distributed - approved by unanimous vote
- IV. Approval of the Agenda - Approved with agenda item about Enmanji kitchen added by Nancy Davlin/Cecelia Shimizu
- V. Announcements/Upcoming Events -
 - A. "Join or Die" Screening - *April 22nd at 6:00pm* 📍 Petaluma Regional Library
 1. There is free admission
 2. This film is about community engagement in local organizations are key to preserving democracy
 - B. Japanese Women in Fermentation: Six Cloves, Sequoia Sake & BareBottle - *April 26th*
📍 San Francisco
 - C. PCRC Immigrant Workshop - May 27th from 8:30-11 am 📍 Blue Zones Project Petaluma
 1. This is for faith organizations and non-profits
- VI. Correspondence -
- VII. Long Range Planning Meeting -
 - 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
 - b) Nancy has arranged for the insurance riders sent for Matsuri and District Council Meeting
 - c) Checks have been sent for deposits and donation for Matsuri
 3. Funding Requests, *Janet Tajii* -
 - a) Church funding request - kitchen & freezer (**More information under New Business item B**)

4. Finance Committee, Janet Tajii -
 - a) Meeting with Edward Jones
 - (1) Sustainable Investing can include environmental and/or social justice investing and governance. We can start with converting a small amount of our investments (it doesn't need to be all or nothing) if the board wants. Janet will ask about the fees charged for changing these funds and if the board can request specific investing in environmental, social justice companies. Board will decide on whether to re-invest funds next meeting after Janet has answers from Corey.
5. Kawase Bequest
 - a) What would we like to do with the money, also how would we like to honor the donation? Ideas: electronic screen and updated sound system for Enmanji Hall. Another suggestion: funds could be used to pay someone to add documentaries, videos to our website/youtube so the public can access. Cecelia will ask Carol Kawase what she feels is appropriate to do with the donation.
 - b) Suggestion made to add Kawase name to the 'apple tree' donor list in the JACL office.
6. Japanese Garden Grant & Expense Reimbursements
- 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
 2. We will send out a notice to our membership about the new membership processing system and how it impacts them - Your Membership
- D. Programs, Civil Rights and Social Justice, *G. Yamamoto Seymour* -
 1. Community Outreach, *G. Yamamoto Seymour* -
 - a) South Park Coalition - **No Report**
 - b) NorCal Media/KRCB
 - (1) She would like the board's permission to represent the Sonoma County JACL when she speaks on an environmental justice panel, the subject will be on civic engagement and peaceful protest/demonstrations
 - (2) She believes that they will mainly want to know opinions about the importance of civic engagement and how it affects social and environmental justice.
 - (3) She will not present anything controversial, and if we do not approve of her going as a representative then she will attend as a private citizen.
 - (4) Board approves participation by Gail on the panel on behalf of JACL.
 - c) Non JACL/NAACP Activities (Just an FYI)
 1. United in Kindness, *Phyllis Tajii* - **No Report**
 2. AAPIC, *Phyllis Tajii* - **No Report**
 3. Community Festivals, *Phyllis Tajii* -
 - a) Tabling Opportunities:

- b) No Kings Day - March 28th
 - (1) Bruce and Ron tabled at this event. Big turnout.
- c) Petaluma Veterans Building Open House - March 28th
 - (1) Phyllis attended this event and there were many veteran organizations there to inform veterans of services available to them, as well as a hotdog lunch made by the Coast Guard
 - (2) The Hall of Heroes has installed its first plaques and it looks fantastic
 - (a) [See the attached photos taken by Phyllis](#)
 - (b) Phyllis would like an announcement in JACL newsletter about the update on Hall of Heroes and Vets Building bar room.

E. Programs, Community and Culture -

- 1. Scholarship Committee, *Janet Tajii* -
 - a) Scholarship Update- Janet received word that there is an envelope in the office with applications. Also, received from National JACL Office the nomination of Wyatt Kawaoka Hudson for National JACL Scholarship for our chapter to approve.
- 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
 - b) JACF Final report was extended and is due August 2026
 - c) Will request to put an article in the April newsletter to request more volunteers to help out with the final aspects of the garden before the grand opening. Bruce will see if AAPIC volunteers can help. Help needed every Saturday.
 - d) Grand Opening
 - (1) May 3rd after the District Council Meeting
 - (2) Let the Council General of SF know/invite him
 - (3) Would we like to put it in the Press Democrat to let people know about the grand opening of the garden and invite people to attend?
- 8. Peace Crane Project, *Phyllis Tajii* -
 - a) The Hiroshima Peace trees are doing well and have sprouted new leaves this spring
 - b) There are plans to build a wattle fence around the trees and move in bigger boulders, one specifically for the bronze plaque

- (1) SSU would need the funds to move the boulders from Paradise Ridge Winery or they would need the funds to purchase boulders from a company who will deliver
 - 9. Children's Program (Waku Waku), *Ron Tajii & Erin Wilkins* -
 - a) Possible dates for the next workshop
 - (1) August 2nd, 8th, or 9th (Possibly in Sept after Labor Day or in October).
Ron will also check the Enmanji church calendar.
 - 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
 - 11. Mochitsuki, *Ron Tajii* - **No Report**
- F. Communications Committee, *Meg Mizutani* -
 - 1. Newsletter Committee, *Amy Wakayama* -
 - a) Submit news articles by April 9th for them to be included in the newsletter
 - 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) The ownership has been changed to Janet, no other action is needed
 - 3. Sonoma County JACL Google Calendar
 - a) Janet has started working on the updated JACL google calendar that is now connected to the website. This will hopefully make it easier for us to keep our membership up to date with the events that we are hosting/ attending
 - 4. Communication Policies and Guidelines - **No Report**
 - 5. Chapter Logo - No Report
- G. District Council, *Cecelia Shimizu* -
 - 1. District Council Meeting - MAY 3, 2026 & Garden Unveiling
 - a) Here is the tentative schedule that might change slightly but for the most part is solidified. Schedule will be changed with Japanese Garden starting at 3:00

instead of 4:00.

8:30 am	Load-In Set-up – Vine Room Tables & Chairs Morning Snack – Coffee, Water, Juice & pastries Decorations
9:30-9:45 am	JACL Members Arrive
10:00 am	District Council Meeting
11:30 am	Set-Up Lunch Buffet – Veranda
12:00 pm	Lunch
12:15 pm	Presentation: Kanaye Nagasawa & Japanese Garden Project – Rene & Bruce
1:00 pm	District Council Meeting – Resumes
2:00 pm	Meeting Ends
2:00-3:00 pm	Tasting Room
3:30 pm	Walk to Japanese Garden
4:00 pm	Japanese Garden – Grand Opening • Welcome • Introduction of Guests • History of Project • Opening Ceremony ◦ Kagamiwari – Ceremonial Sake Barrel Breaking ◦ Self-Guided Walking Tour ◦ Refreshments
5:30 pm	Event Ends

b) Who is able to help with set up?

(1) Cecelia, Bruce and Bruce will be arriving early to help with the set up and will stay behind to clean up

c) Budget concern: It was brought up that we have gone way over budget by several thousand dollars for this event. For the future, protocol needs to be established so that when cost goes way over budget it can be addressed before the cost overrun is locked in.

H. District JACL Civil Rights Committee -

1. [Civil Rights Committee Newsletter Mar/Apr 2026](#)
2. [April Social Justice Action Committee Report](#)
3. [March Social Justice Action Committee Report](#)

I. National Convention

1. Cecelia has purchased her tickets to the convention and has submitted her reimbursement request.
2. Co-Sponsorship of JACL Resolution in Support of Immigrant Communities Targeted by ICE
 - a) Would we like to co-sponsor this resolution? Cece will send out a vote by email asking whether our chapter wants to co-sponsor the resolution.
 - b) [See attached resolution](#)
 - (1) This resolution requests Congress to take action in response to recent ICE activity affecting our communities.

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 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. In the meantime, 50 copies of the old brochure will be printed so we don't run out for upcoming events.
 - F. JACL YMCA Draft Letter
 1. Gail attended the meeting on behalf of the JACL
 2. The JACL has yet to receive a response from the YMCA board, but AAPIC has shared the letter that they received
 - G. Petaluma Historic Chinatown Park
 1. The committee will be having an exhibit "Belongings: What We Bring, What We Leave Behind" at the Petaluma Historical Library and Museum in September 2026 and they are actively in the fundraising stage
 - a) Would we like to sponsor stories?
 - b) [See the attached letter from Lina Hoshino](#)
 - c) **Motion made by Ron Tajii/2nd Erin Wilkins. Approved: \$2,000 made payable to Petaluma Historical Library and Museum to help fund the "Belongings" Project in Sept 2026.**
 - d) Question for Lina: Will the Speakers be recorded and will it be made available to the public later? Phyllis will ask Lina.
 - H. Matsuri -
 1. Bruce has started pricing out the Botan Rice Candy
 - a) From the [website](#) that Bruce found there are the following options
 - (1) 20 count for \$19.29 or 400 count for \$359.99
 2. Another option that was brought up was doing fortune cookies- **Decided to buy fortune cookies instead of Botan Rice Candy**
- X. New Business
- A. Lanterns and Vines Sponsorship
 1. We are already going to purchase 2 tickets for attendance
 2. Would we like to sponsor or donate to the event? Not at this time.
 - a) [Sponsorship Information](#)
 - B. Kitchen Renovation at Enmanji Memorial Hall
 1. There will be a major restoration of the kitchen soon and with past practices the JACL has been asked to split the costs. The current estimated costs will be somewhere between \$35-40 thousand. The hope is that the costs are split between JACL, Enmanji and BWA, with a smaller contribution from Enman no Tomo.
 - a) Nancy was thinking about \$12,000 as our total contribution
 - b) Nancy said that the costs should be split 3 ways after everything is done as that has been the precedence set

c) Motion by Janet Tajii/2nd Ron Tajii. Approved: Pay one third of the renovation of the kitchen at Enmanji Hall, with the condition that we would be consulted if costs go over \$40,000. The estimated cost is \$36,000-\$40,000.

d) Per our March meeting, the board decided that purchase of a JACL freezer at Enmanji to go outside (to replace the freezer that broke) will not be made until we see a need for one.

C. Teriyaki BBQ Participation

1. There will be a different group handling the parking this year and we have been asked to handle the garbage.
 - a) This includes educating people about which container various items need to be placed in, it would primarily be for educational purposes
 - b) Cecelia will ask the BBQ committee exactly what the expected duties of handling garbage are.

D. Koden for Members who have passed away

1. Marian Ishizu
 - a) Her service will be on May 2nd, she was a large part of JACL for a long time
 - b) Do we want to send flowers for her service? A card & Koden? If the cost of flowers is normally split with other organizations, we'll participate. Yes to a card and Cecelia will clarify if that comes with koden.
 - c) Ileen Furuta. She will be having a family service, Nancy brought up sending a sympathy card with koden. Yes to card and koden.

E. Amache Roses

1. Dennis Fujita has been working with the Amache group and he has propagated several young plants from the original Amache native roses found at the Amache site
2. He is willing to donate the rose plants to either former residents of Amache or people who we feel like deserve one and is able to care for it
3. Roses have already been offered to:
 - a) Bruce Shimizu for the Japanese Garden
 - b) Margarette Murakami
 - c) Would we like to offer one to Marian Ishizu's family in her memory?
4. Are there any additional individuals that should be included in the list of recipients of the rose plants, there are up to 10 rose plants this year, if he is successful there may be more in the future
5. [Information about the Amache Rose](#)
6. Board will decide next month if there are additional recipients we recommend.

F. "Join or Die" - Donation for the screening- decided not to donate at this time.

1. This film highlights the decline of civic organizations, the loneliness epidemic, and the vital role clubs like yours play in building vibrant, resilient communities.
2. Please take a look at the preview:

- a) <https://www.joinordiefilm.com/>
- 3. As we are using the Petaluma library community room the screening must be made free to the public. In order to make the screening possible we are inviting organizations such as yourselves to participate financially and encourage your membership to attend.
- 4. We invite your club to participate in one of the following ways:
 - a) Community Champion \$150.00 - Opportunity to "table" at the event, showcasing your organization to attendees - Your logo on the flier
 - b) Community Builder \$75.00 - Your logo on the flier

G. Inquiry from Ruby Ruiz

- 1. She is a student at Hartnell College in Salinas, she attended the screening at SSU with Lane. She has sent me some questions that she would like insight on as she is working on a Cultural Immersion paper for her class. I have listed the questions below if anyone would like to contribute to the responses that I will be sending her.
 - a) How does the Sonoma County JACL work with other Asian American and minority groups to build community coalitions?
 - b) How did the local Sonoma County chapter navigate the pressures of World War II, and how was that influenced by its mission today?
 - c) What, in your opinion, are the most important lessons from the Japanese American internment that need to be taught to the current generation?
 - d) What is the specific history of the Japanese American community in Sonoma County, particularly the farming community, and the impact of Executive Order 9066?
 - e) What initiatives or programs is the chapter currently working on to preserve local history?
 - f) How can community members best support the JACL's mission in Sonoma County?
 - g) What are the key goals for the JACL in Sonoma County in the coming years?