



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 January 19th at 10:00 AM in person and on zoom

ATTENDANCE: Cecelia Shimizu (president), Phyllis Tajii, Bruce Shimizu, Ron Tajii, Janet Tajii, Meg Mizutani, Amy Wakayama, Erin Wilkins, Nancy Davlin, Andrew LeMarQuand
ABSENT: none

- I. Call to Order - 10:14am by president Cecelia Shimizu
- II. Personal Appearances - Gail Seymour
 - A. She will be attending to answer questions about the agenda item asking to endorse letter to YMCA
- III. Approval of the October minutes as distributed – Motion to approve by Bruce Shimizu/2nd Janet Tajii. Approved
- IV. Approval of the November minutes as distributed – Motion to approve by Bruce Shimizu/2nd Janet Tajii. Approved
- V. Approval of the Agenda -
- VI. Announcements -
 - A. He/She/They/We: A primer on transgender identity for the caring, curious, and confused - *January 21st from 7:00-8:15 PM via Zoom*
 1. [Register here](#)
 - B. Sister City Friendship Dinner: Where Sushi Meets Borshch - *January 31st from 5:00 to 8:00 pm* [1200 Gravenstein Hwy S](#)
 1. [Register Here](#)
 2. Ticket donation of \$30 for adults and \$20 for children
 - C. Northern California Time of Remembrance (NCTOR) - *February 14th from 1:00 to 3:00 PM* [1020 O Street](#)
 1. [Register here](#)
 - D. Trans Journeys: Insights and Advocacy - *February 22nd from 2:00-4:30 PM* [Congregation Shomrei Torah](#)
 1. [Register here](#)
 - E. I Am An American - *February 20-22nd, 2026* [Military Intelligence Service Historic Learning Center](#)
 1. To register for the three day event you can [RSVP here](#)
 - F. Stockton Day of Remembrance - *February 28th, 2026 at 1:00 PM* [2820 Shimizu Drive](#)
 1. If you are interested in attending, [see attached newsletter](#)
 2. There will be refreshments served following the presentation by Susan H. Kamei the author of *When Can We Go Back to America?*
- VII. Correspondence -
- 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 -
 3. Funding Requests, Janet Tajii -
 - B. Board elections, Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation -

1. The formal board positions will be announced in the February newsletter
- C. Membership -
 1. While processing membership Cece noticed some discrepancies in regards to the expiration dates of individuals who renewed their membership late. She has sent over a list of corrections to national and it will be resolved.
- 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
 - (1) ICE Agents Reportedly Asking Minnesotans Where the Asians Are - TNR
<https://newrepublic.com/post/205297/ice-minnesota-racial-profiling-refugees-deportations>
 - (2) US Immigration System Changes to Begin January 1, 2026 - NewsBreak
https://www.newsbreak.com/share/4381041439764-us-immigration-system-changes-to-begin-january-1-2026?_f=app_share&pd=0B6q8tO5&lang=en_US&send_time=1764958330&trans_data=%7B%22platform%22%3A0%2C%22cv%22%3A%2225.32.1.4%22%2C%22languages%22%3A%22en%22%7D&s=i0
 - (3) ‘We’re not taught to speak out’: Asian Americans find their voice amid rise in hate - US News
<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/apr/12/asian-americans-find-their-voice-amid-rise-in-hate#:~:text=%E2%80%9CThe%20kinds%20of%20conversations%20we,their%20signs%2C%E2%80%9D%20Li%20said>
 - b) South Park Coalition
 - c) Non JACL/NAACP Activities (Just an FYI)
 1. United in Kindness, *Phyllis Tajii* - **No Report**
 2. AAPIC, *Phyllis Tajii* -
 - a) Hosted an Asian leadership get together on January 9th to make connections and brainstorm ideas to follow up on for 2026
 3. Community Festivals, *Phyllis Tajii* -
 - a) Tabling Opportunities:
 - (1) Sonoma County Museum is having a Lunar New Years Celebration from 12-4 pm and there is the ability to table at this event. Is there any interest in tabling/ is anyone able to table? No one is available at this time.
 - (a) There is additional information if there is interest in tabling at this event
- E. Programs, Community and Culture -
 1. Scholarship Committee, *Janet Tajii* - **No Report**
 2. Enman No Tomo, *Nancy Davlin* -
 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) 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* - **No Report**
 7. Paradise Ridge Winery - Japanese Garden with LACO, *Bruce Shimizu* –

Unveiling- Possibly, May 2 (after District Council Meeting at PRW)

8. Peace Crane Project, *Phyllis Tajii* -
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
 - (b) Board decided to try another workshop. Possibly in summer?
- 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 was contacted by Colleen, and she removed "JACL" from the instagram account
 3. Communication Policies and Guidelines -
 4. Chapter Logo -
 - a) Budget of \$1,000 for Arnold Shimizu to create the new logo
 - b) Meg is working with Arnold Shimizu and has sent him the inspiration photos
- G. District Council, *Cecelia Shimizu* -
 1. 2026 Chapter Roster needs to be submitted
 2. District Council Meeting - MAY 2026
 - a) Venue location Paradise Ridge Winery- Bruce will inquire with Rene about cost again.
 - b) Presentation: Talk about the garden project and let people know that we will be giving a tour after the meeting
 - c) We will need to begin planning this, Cecelia can ask other chapters what it took for them to plan this as our chapter has not hosted in a while
 3. Newsletters from other Chapters
 - a) [Berkeley](#)
 - b) [French Camp](#)
 - c) [Stockton Day of Remembrance](#)
- H. District JACL Civil Rights Committee -
 1. [Civil Rights Committee Newsletter Jan/Feb 2026](#)
 2. Social Justice Action Committee - January Meeting Agenda and Notes
- I. National Convention
 1. Paris Hotel Las Vegas - July 29th - August 2nd
 2. Working theme: "Reigniting Purpose and Mission"

3. Registration will be sent out at the end of February
4. This year is a business session and an election year

IX. Unfinished Business

- A. JACL/THSP Retreat, *Flora Ganzler, 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. 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
- E. Community Organizations - *Phyllis Tajii* -
- F. JACL General Meeting and/or Day of Remembrance
 1. General Meeting - November 29th
 - a) Lina put together videos
 - b) **Requesting an honorarium for Lina for coming to do the Q&A in the amount of \$200. Motion by Janet Tajii/2nd Amy Wakayama- to pay Lina Hoshino \$200 honorarium. Approved**
 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. Bruce has confirmed Lane will attend. Our chapter will pay for plane flight and honorarium for Lane.
 - b) Suggestion - partner with SSU Student organizations, & AAPIC to help spread the word.
 - c) Venue – SSU Schroeder Theatre (changed from Person Theatre)
 - (1) Bruce is waiting for an answer from SSU on cost of Schroeder Theatre
- G. JACL Brochures - we need to print more
 1. We need to update the brochure.
- H. Mochitsuki
 1. Decision to try and form joint Enmanji/JACL committee to explore options to have mochitsuki held at Enmanji
- I. JCCNC-JACL Get together - November 22nd
 1. Lina added Japanese subtitles to the videos that will be shown. Phyllis made kuri manju cookie dough and white bean anko. Kuri manju and microwave chichi dango were made as an activity. The group started in the morning at Freeman Winery with a wine tasting and early lunch, then arrived at Enmanji for a tour/talk of the hondo, viewed short videos of immigration stories and made and ate manju and mochi.
 - a) **Requesting an honorarium for time spent adding Japanese subtitles to the two films shown to JCCNC in the amount of \$150. Motion by Janet Tajii/2nd Amy Wakayama to pay Lina Hoshino \$150 for adding subtitles to films. Approved**
- J. Finding History Day
- K. 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? Our chapter is not able to partner but members are encouraged to attend.
- L. 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 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.”

X. New Business

A. VIDAS Attorney talk to Afghan families

1. Possible Afghan get together in January or early February. Put on by volunteers coordinated by St. John’s Episcopal Church in Petaluma- Potluck with volunteers and original 9 Afghan families in Petaluma. Possibly asking immigration lawyers to briefly talk about the latest immigration status information. If St. John’s cannot offer honorarium to lawyers, could JACL donate funds for that?

- a) Possible honorarium in the amount of \$300. **Motion by Janet Tajii/2nd Amy Wakayama to pay immigration attorney \$300 honorarium if they attend the Afghan get-together to speak. Approved**

B. Hate Incidents at Sonoma County YMCA in Santa Rosa

1. [See Attached Document](#)
2. JACL (Erin) will write a draft letter to YMCA board. After review, JACL board will vote on the draft and forward to other organizations (RECA, FANHS, AAPIC, and copy Carol Kawase) to see if they want to sign on before sending it to YMCA. Gail has volunteered to speak to the YMCA board about the letter when it’s ready.
3. If we do want to elevate this to the news we can reach out to a contact at the Press Democrat so that we can get this more attention.