The mission of the Japanese American Citizens League is to secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry.

IN THIS ISSUE
Tsuru for Solidarity ..........1
2020 Pilgrimage to Manzanar ....................1-2
Yu Ai Kai Mochitsuki ...... 2
Halloween in J-Town...... 3
Annual Meeting.............. 3
Scholarships.................. 4
Census 2020 ................ 4
CAIR 25th Anniversary Dinner............... 5
Silicon Valley Asian Pacific FilmFest.............5
2020 Officers & Board of Directors ............. 6
Membership Report ...... 6
Thank Yous ................... 7
Calendar of Events......... 8

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San Jose JACL Supports Tsuru for Solidarity
By Susan Yuen

Japanese Americans from across the country will be gathering in Washington, D.C. on June 5-7, 2020 for a “National Pilgrimage to Close the Camps.” Planning is being led by Tsuru for Solidarity, a nonviolent, direct action project of Japanese American social justice advocates. This is expected to be the largest gathering of Nikkei since World War II.

Organizers plan to bring 125,000 paper cranes, or tsuru, as expressions of solidarity with immigrant and refugee communities that are under attack today. The cranes represent the members of our community who were rounded up and imprisoned in concentration camps during World War II.

To support this effort, the San Jose JACL will be hosting “Fold-Ins” at the Issei Memorial Building at 7pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month leading up to the event: February 19th, March 18th, April 15th, and May 20th. We will use the time to discuss local outreach efforts while we fold and string together our paper cranes. If you are interested in helping with the Fold-Ins, please email susan.kanagawa@gmail.com. If you are interested in learning more about the event in Washington D.C., or would like to make a donation to help Tsuru for Solidarity, please visit tsuruforsolidarity.org.

Join the 2020 Pilgrimage to Manzanar
By Melanie Shojinaga

Happy New Year! We are preparing for the second annual San Jose JACL Manzanar Pilgrimage and we would love for you to join us! The groundbreaking trip in 2019 was extremely successful due to our intergenerational and stimulating conversations between the attendees, reflections from former incarcerees, vulnerable small group discussions, training on how to act as an ally in threatening situations, and information on how to be an advocate for social justice!

This will be a 3-day journey beginning on Friday morning, April 24, 2020 until the evening of Sunday April 26th. This is a rare chance to experience the Japanese American World War II incarceration at Manzanar National Historic Park, the most well-preserved of the 10 major concentration camps.

Below is a brief list of deadlines for participating in the pilgrimage:
• Friday, February 21: $50 deposit due
• Sunday, March 1: Final cost announced
• Friday, March 20: Final payments due

(continued on page 2)
2020 Pilgrimage to Manzanar (continued)

This scholarship will be awarded to two young adults, ages 25 and under, who are active in the JA community. The scholarship will completely cover all costs of attending the pilgrimage which includes 3 days bus transportation, 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, Friday BBQ dinner, Saturday bento lunch, and custom designed T-shirt. More details about the scholarship requirements can be found on the JACL website.

We are excited for what 2020 has in store!

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Health Trust: www.jaclhealth.org*
(800)400-6633
*Must be member of National JACL

Yu-Ai Kai Mochitsuki
By Sharon Uyeda

On Saturday, December 14th, the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin annex was bustling with people cooking and steaming rice, cutting mochi, flipping pieces to cool, weighing and packaging mochi for buyers to pick-up. This annual event sponsored by Yu-Ai Kai, brings together the community, including the high school youth to fulfill community service hours. Helping from the Chapter were Iris Lou, Tom Oshidari, Marge Tsuji, and Sharon Uyeda. Due to the volume made, the traditional pounding of the steamed rice is now mechanically done. Nonetheless, hundreds of pounds are sold. It freezes well. I understand that Yu-Ai Kai has some frozen that you can buy. If you are interested, please call (408) 294-2505. A lot of help is needed, so call Yu-Ai Kai for the date in December and come out to help.

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2020 JACL Scholarship Applications Available

By Sharon Uyeda

Attention High School Seniors! Help defray the high cost of college by applying for scholarships offered through San Jose JACL. Scholarships ranging from $10,000 - $500 are available. Please go to the website: sanjosejacl.org, click on the Education link and download an application for the San Jose JACL Scholarships and/or the Ray and Lucy Vocational/Business Scholarship. Student membership is not a requirement, but some of them do require membership to be eligible. Student membership is $30, so go to the website (www.sanjosejacl.org), complete the membership application and enhance your chance of being selected for a scholarship. Take some time to complete an application. Your invested time will reap being selected for a scholarship and provide some financial support. Deadline for submission is Monday, March 2, 2020.

The United States Census Bureau will begin the 2020 Census count on April 1, 2020.

What is the Census?

Every ten years, as mandated by the Constitution, the federal government gathers data about every person living in the United States. Counting the population living in the US creates a map of who is in America, where they are, and what they do. This data drives policy and decision making for federal and local governments, as well as the private sector.

Why is the Census Important?

Vital Funding for Our Community

The data from the Census will be used to distribute over 600 billion in annual federal funding over the next ten years. Census data lets policy makers and politicians know where resources are needed. In California, Census data is used to determine federal funding allocations for programs that are vital for our communities. The government needs to know where the people are in order to ensure enough money is directed to fund these programs. An undercount will result insufficient funding for these programs.

Making Sure We are Represented

The Census count is used to ensure the fair distribution of political power. In Santa Clara County, the Census data is used to draw the boundaries for its districts. Federally, the population count is used to determine the number of seats each state receives within the House of Representatives. California is home to 10 of the hardest counties to count. California is in danger of losing a House seat from the first time in its history. Your participation is crucial.

Keeping Our History Documented

For many communities of color, their stories have not appeared in history books. By participating in the Census it ensures that you, your family, and our community is documented in US history. Your presence here in the US is all that is required for you to be counted and you cannot be excluded because of your race, gender identification, or citizenship.

Your Participation is Important!

Prior to the closing of the evening, it was announced that they had received a record amount in donations. Representatives from all over the room with smiles and laughter. At the closing of the evening, the CAIR 25th Anniversary Gala Dinner was very successful. Congratulations to the hard-working committee and the JACL contingent of Joyce Oyama, Margie Oyama, Neil Kozuma, and Joyce and Margie Oyama were among over 1400 supporters at the Santa Clara Convention Center for the CAIR 25th Anniversary Gala Dinner.

The evening began with live, spiritual music by the Aswat Ensemble and a recitation from the Quran by Outreach Coordinator, Ossama Kamel. The program was emceed by CAIR-LA’s Executive Director, Hussam Ayloush, one of CAIR’s longest tenured leaders.

Representative Anna Eshoo spoke to attendees about Islamophobia and the current political climate, as well as her appreciation for the institution that CAIR has grown to become. The event was honored to have more than 30 elected officials in attendance, and even more who submitted letters, proclamations, commendations, and videos.

Following these remarks Executive Director Zahra Billoo, spoke about CAIR-SFBA’s achievements and work in the past 25 years. CAIR-SFBA President, Musaab Attaras, comments during the event reflected back some of tangible results the supporters’ contributions have allowed the organization to accomplish.

Dr. Altaf Husain inspired the crowd to invest in CAIR’s crucial, grassroots civil rights work. The evening’s keynote speaker, Shaun King, spoke about making change and fundamental aspects an organization must have to be successful at it. Finally, Jeremy McLellan, the Gala’s featured comedian specializing in Muslim-centric humor, closed the night by filling the room with smiles and laughter.

Prior to the closing of the evening, it was announced that they had received a record amount in donations. We wish continued success to our community partner.

Silicon Valley Asian Pacific FilmFest

By Tom Oshidari

like its new, first-time venue at the Cinearts Theater at Santana Row, the Silicon Valley Asian Pacific FilmFest (SVAPFF) 2019 took a step up over its three-day run, November 1-3. The SVAPFF is a project committed to promoting and showcasing stories that capture and reflect the history, the contributions, the diversity, the aspirations, and the interests of Asian Pacific immigrants and residents, rich and poor, young and old, who are living and working in, and shaping the present and future of life in Silicon Valley. Most of the films were sold-out, including Alternative Facts: The Lies of Executive Order 9066, the film for which San Jose JACL was a Co-Presenter. Congratulations to Steve Yamaguma and Cindy Toy. FilmFest Co-Chairs, and their hard-working committee and volunteers for a very successful event and delivering on their motto, “Connecting and Inspiring Communities Through Stories of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.”
2020 Officers & Board of Directors Inducted

Co-Presidents: Tom Oshidari & Sharon Uyeda
Secretary: Neil Kozuma
Co-Treasurers: Ryan O’Carroll & Kaitlyn Thomas
Board of Directors: Carl Fujita, Leon Kimura, Iris Lou, Tamon Norimoto, Steven Nose, Joyce Oyama, Sue Shigemasa, Tom Shigemasa, Cindy Sugino, Marge Tsuji, Jason Yonehiro

Welcome to the following new members: Russ Baba, Susan Hayase & Tom Izu, Anastasia Langner (student), Barbara Tanaka, and Steve Yamaguma. Thank you for joining our Chapter. We hope to see you at upcoming events.

Change: Jason Yonehiro added his wife, Lani as a member, so Jason renewed as a couple. Welcome, Lani!

Thank you to the following for renewing your membership. The Chapter appreciates your continued support: Allen & Aileen Ando, Margie Cornehl, Fumiko Higuchi, Chris Hicki, Dorothy Hiura, Cathryn & Andrea Hyde, Barbara Isa, Larry Kube, Iris Lou, Kristen Masada, Wendell & Elaine Misawa, Theodore Nakamura, Ryan O’Carroll, Tom & Terry Oshidari, Leslie Parks, Rose & Warren Shimomichi, Wayne & Diane Tanda, Yoshitamu Tanikawa, Kaitlyn Thomas, James Yamaguchi, Hatsumi Yamamoto, Robert Yamanaga, and Susan Yuen.

If you have any changes in your contact information, please notify Marge Tsuji, Administrative Assistant, at sanjosejacl@sbcglobal.net or telephone: 408-295-1250. The Chapter welcomes any suggestions for events, projects as well as members who wish to volunteer. If you wish to be removed from the email send outs, please email your request to sanjosejacl@sbcglobal.net or call 408-295-1250.

Membership Report
(October - December 2019)

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Calendar of Events

Sat. Feb. 15  BWA Chirashi & Bota Mochi Fundraiser
3 Bota Mochi - $5 / Chirashi - $8
Contact Sharon Uyeda for tickets
(SUyeda9356@aol.com)

Sun. Feb. 16  40th Anniversary of Day of Remembrance
SJ Buddhist Church Betsuin Annex
Guest Speaker: Norman Mineta
5:00 p.m.

Wed. Feb. 19  Tsuru for Solidarity “Fold-In”
Issei Memorial Building, 7:00pm

Sat. Feb. 22  Yu-Ai Kai Fundraising Dinner
SJ Buddhist Church Betsuin Annex
$55 individual / Table of 8: $400
5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Feb. 29-Mar. 8  Hinamatsuri Doll Display
JAMsj – 535 N. Fifth St.
Hours the Museum is open (Thurs. – Sun.)

Wed. Mar. 18  Tsuru for Solidarity “Fold-In”
Issei Memorial Building, 7:00pm

Sat. Mar. 21  Unite Casino Night Fundraiser
SJ Buddhist Church Betsuin Annex
Price: TBD

San Jose JACL
90th Anniversary Celebration
SAVE THE DATE
October 17, 2020
Embassy Suites by Hilton
Milpitas Silicon Valley

National Pilgrimmage to Close the Camps
Washington, D.C.
June 5 - 7, 2020
For more info: tsuruforsolidarity.org