President’s Message

On Sunday, June 24 JACL families and friends gathered at Sylvan Park in Redlands to enjoy the delicious food, games, and raffle. This year we really missed Mits and Meiko Inaba who are usually busy bringing all the supplies and making certain that all is in place. Mits was having back surgery, but is now at home recuperating. Doug Inaba and Laurie Oshiro stepped in for their parents. We also had to overcome the problem of no electricity. Someone had ripped out the copper wires in the park. Thanks to Doug getting a generator and someone’s car battery, we were able to have snow cones and continue with bingo and raffle. I want to especially thank Beverly Inaba for her effort in getting so many donated raffle prizes. I loved the raffle this year. I won 5 prizes and my niece, Erin, won the grand prize of a $200 Chevron gift card. As usual Helen and Akio Yoshikawa entertained the children with games and prizes for all. As long as I can remember George Kanatani has signed up for the park and arrived early to cover the tables. Norm Hamada has volunteered to take over for George.

Riverside JACL was asked to help with the Grand Opening of The Center for Social Justice and Civil Liberties and the Commemoration of Mine Okubo’s 100th birthday. When I first walked into the building, I was struck by the contrast of the Spanish Baroque exterior and the modern interior of the gallery. Lori Ogata Keeler was in charge of the docents for the gallery tour. Derrick Takano, Riley Takano, Clyde Wilson, Doris Higa, Lavina Tubbs, and I were assigned to the second floor in the Mine Okubo Gallery. I visited with Seiko Buckingham and other members of the Tanaka Family who had gathered to honor their Aunt. Jeanne Tanaka had traveled from Utah for this special event.

President, Michiko Yoshimura

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A DOCENT FOR THE SOCIAL JUSTICE CENTER?

The Center is looking for volunteer docents, tentatively, on Thursdays, and possibly on Saturdays, beginning in September. Based on the June opening, minimal preparation for docent duties is anticipated. If interested, please contact: Lori Ogata Keeler, lori.ogata@mvc.edu; at your earliest convenience.
Riverside JACL Annual Picnic, June 24, 2012

Photos by Clyde Wilson
Opening of the Center for Social Justice and Civil Liberties at Riverside City College District on June 27, 2012 and observance of the 100th Birthday of Miné Okubo whose art and humanities collection is the catalyst for the Center.

Our Condolences to the Family of Ed Mitoma

Edwin Mitoma, 88, born in Oakland, CA, was a retired electrical engineer and spent most of his career with the Aerospace Corporation. He was an active member of the Washington, D.C., Riverside, and South Bay Chapters of the JACL, where for many years he edited the South Bay JACL Newsletter.

Ed died peacefully at his home on July 8, 2012. As per his wishes, a family memorial service was held on July 14, 2012. He is survived by his wife, Eiko, his daughters Carolyn Mishima (Yasuo) and Jeanne Kobayashi (Craig), three grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews, and relatives in California and Japan.

The Riverside JACL members will miss the friendship and support of Ed.
Convention 2012— By Jennifer Okabayashi

I want to personally thank you for allowing me to be a Delegate for the Riverside JACL for the third year in a row. I am deeply honored to have been chosen to represent our Chapter at the National level of JACL. You will return home a better individual with new friendships, lasting memories, and a new found inspiration to become more active within the JACL. July 5, 2012

In the evening, I attended the Youth Dinner where I got to meet new youth and catch up with old ones that I had met previously. I got dressed up in a Hawaiian themed dress to attend the Aloha Welcome Mixer where my Uncle Chip Larouche (PNW Governor) was awarded a Sapphire Pin for his years of service to the JACL. I indulged in the decadent dessert bar and caught up with many JACL friends.

Friday, July 6, 2012

I began my day by attending a National Council Session and then made my way down to the Awards Luncheon, where Tom Ikeda (Founding Executive Director of Densho: The Japanese American Legacy Project) was the Master of Ceremonies. I enjoyed networking with new JACLers and seeing Lori Matsukawa (Co-Anchor KING 5 TV evening news) receive the Seattle JACL Community Achievement Award. The remainder of my day was spent listening to the Minoru Yasui Oratorical Competition and sitting in on the Candidates Forum.

July 7, 2012

I attended the Youth Luncheon where the Masters of Ceremonies were Matthew Farrells (National Youth Chair) and Devin Yoshikawa (National Youth Representative). I had the pleasure of meeting the winner of the Vision Award, Gene F. Kim (Executive Director of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus [CAPAC]). In the evening, I dressed up in a 1920’s themed dress for the Sayonara Banquet featuring the Minidoka Swing Band where I participated in the Dessert Dash Fundraiser for the National Youth/Student Council (NY/SC). I enjoyed seeing Congressman Jim McDermott receive the President’s Award and learning about his significant contributions in advancing the human/civil rights of the Asian American/Pacific Islander community. The Japanese American of the Biennium Awards went to Frank Fujii (Artist) and the Seattle Nisei Veterans Committee/Seattle NVC Foundation, which my Auntie Setsy Larouche (Membership Chair, Portland JACL) is very active in. I also had the privilege of meeting the recipient of the Edison Uno Civil Rights Award, Karen Narasaki (former Director of the Asian American Justice Center [AAJC]).

Jennifer Okabayashi, Youth Representative

Visit us on the Web

www.riversidejacl.org

The Japanese American Citizens League is a national organization whose ongoing mission is to secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry. The leaders and members of the JACL also work to promote cultural, educational and social values and preserve the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American community.