

Pasadena Nikkei Seniors, Inc.

595 North Lincoln Avenue, Suite 101-A, Pasadena, CA 91103

Volume 20, Issue 2

NEWSLETTER

July, 2020

Nikkei Seniors Cope with COVID-19

Like it has with the rest of the world, the COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc on the PNS 2020 calendar of events and activities. The regularly scheduled monthly luncheons have been canceled, along with the bi-monthly bus trips to Pala Casino. It has also forced the cancellation or postponement of visits to Storrier Stearns Japanese Garden, Temecula Blueberry Farm, Tanaka Farms, and Knauss Ranch for apple picking.

Out of all of the lost activities, the PNS Board felt an attempt to somehow salvage the cancelled monthly luncheons was an important priority. Not to downplay the importance of a good meal, but the feeling of all was that the greater importance of the monthly gatherings was the opportunity for the PNS members to visit and engage with others on a regular basis. Being forced to Stay at Home obviously negated this chance, leading to social isolation.

But thanks to the efforts of Ron Dyo and Jeannie Toshima, all was not lost, as both felt that if PNS members could not convene for a good home-cooked monthly meal, then perhaps a home-cooked meal could be packaged for delivery to the most elderly and most at risk members who were discouraged from leaving the confines of their homes.

So as a replacement for cancelled luncheons, they agreed to volunteer preparing meals for delivery. With limited cooking space, and with the monthly luncheons averaging roughly 60 attendees, decisions had to be made as to whom lunches could be delivered. It was decided that the focus would be on providing for the Nisei who regularly attended the luncheons, as well as older members who did not have immediate family living nearby. With those parameters, in early April Jeannie prepared 40 udon lunches, and the meals were delivered by drivers recruited from relatives of the target audience.

Two weeks later, Ron Dyo followed up by preparing a chashu/shumai lunch plate, and upped the number to 60 meals. Four more meals (French dip sandwiches, vegetable curry, Hawaiian short ribs, chili rice with grilled weinies) were prepared and delivered in May and June, and the number of meals has increased to 80.

Scott Shinmoto has been securing grants from Keiro that has been subsidizing costs of the luncheons as well as field trips. With bus excursions highly unlikely this year, the funds geared for the field trips have been repurposed to pay for the meal deliveries, and the intent is to now use that money to further increase this outreach to more members.

Obviously, none of this could have been done without the many volunteers who comprise the lunch crew and delivery drivers. So besides Ron Dyo and Jeannie, we'd like to recognize the many others who have selflessly served in those roles. The lunch crew includes Ron & Cindy Dyo, Nolan & Ashley Dyo, Jean Kawakami, Scott & Shelley Shinmoto, Akimi Ching, Dona Mitoma, Kyoko Gibbs, Gini Ishida, Mark Oune, and Ron Toshima. Delivery drivers include Kelly Hokyo, Carol Nakauchi, Mark Oune, Deena Ota, Carol Oyama, Kyoko Gibbs, John Nakaki, Scott Shinmoto, June Chin, Alan & Lori Hatakeyama, Jean Kawakami, Gini Ishida, Kathy Matsumoto, and Brent Lew.

Mourning the Loss of PNS Icon Itsy Ota

Just one month after the passing of venerable PNS Past President Kiyoshi Takeda, the organization mourns the loss of another iconic Cabinet member, *Itsuko Itsy Ota*. Practically everyone knows Itsy as the proprietress of Johnny's Sport Shop, the popular Pasadena source for all of your fishing needs. But Itsy also played a prominent role in the formation and shaping of the Pasadena Nikkei Seniors.

In the early 1970's, Itsy served as one of the adult advisors for the Pasadena Asian Concern, a volunteer service group of local Sansei intent on providing activities for the Pasadena Issei. Over time, this group evolved into the Pasadena Pioneer Project, finally becoming the Pasadena Nikkei Seniors in 1985.

Itsy has served on the PNS Board for a number of years, and has participated in and led the Wednesday Craft Class for nearly 30 years. She organized the recent PNS visit to Nuccio's Nursery in early March, and sadly passed away a month later.

The Pasadena Nikkei Seniors extends its sincere sympathy to the Ota family. It is deeply saddened by the passing, just weeks apart, of two of its most revered leaders.



Donations The Pasadena Nikkei Seniors gratefully acknowledge and thank the following individuals for their donations. Please let Ron Toshima know if anyone has inadvertently been overlooked and they will be acknowledged in the next newsletter.

Kay Abe	John Nakaki, in memory of Itsy Ota
Hiroshi Aoyama	Cliff Nakatani
June Chin	Kiyoko Nishi
Cliff & Akimi Ching	Bob & Barbara Okada, in memory of Kiyoshi Takeda
Irene Fujimoto	Deena Ota
Bobby Fukumoto	Phil Saka
Alan & Lori Hatakeyama	Frank & Marian Sata, in memory of Itsy Ota
Ken & June Hayashi	George Sugimoto
Irene Hirashiki	Nathan & Chris Sugimoto
Diane Hisayasu	Marion Tani
Larry & Wandy Jung	Mitzi Toshima
Brent Lew	Joe & Agnes Uchida, in memory of Kiyo Ogawa and Itsy Ota
Jean Miwa	George & Ann Yamane
Fred Miwa	Mitsie Yanari
Tom & Tsuru Miyasaki	Mitsie Yanari, in memory of Fumi Shigetomi
Tee Murashige	

virtual bingo

Not quite a substitute for the real thing, but a dozen PNS members got together for games of Virtual bingo via ZOOM. Mark Oune and Bobby Fukumoto, two members of the PNS Bingo Crew, along with moderator Jeannie Toshima, served as hosts, giving away gift cards donated by Keiro. The lucky winners were Phil Saka, Lori Hatakeyama, Jane Utsumi, Alan Hatakeyama, and Evelyn Lew.

The next Virtual Bingo is scheduled for Friday, July 17@11am. If you'd like to play, register on the PNS Webpage by July 15th. It will be limited to the first 30 respondents.



During the time of COVID-19, Keiro is hosting various webinars through Zoom. Please use this time to learn something new and stay connected with Keiro and others!
<https://www.keiro.org/what-we-do/classes/virtual-keiro-forums>

Lifestyle Changes During COVID-10 **Tuesday, July 7 • 10:30 - 11:30 am**

Join us to learn how to navigate different activities and determine how risky an outing or event may be as society goes back to "normal."

Summer BBQ Series **Wednesday, July 8 • 10:30 - 11:30 am**

The Summer BBQ Series is a program designed to engage in meaningful conversation filled with story-telling and grilling tips and tricks.

Ikebana with Satsuki Palter **Thursday, July 9 • 3:00 - 4:00 pm**

This live demonstration of ikebana floral sculpture will illustrate the various styles of Ohara-ryu, taught by Satsuki Palter, one of the leading ikebana teachers in the country.

Smartphone Apps to Use at Home **Wednesday, July 22 • 10:30 - 11:30 am**

Join us for an explanation and walkthrough of how to use certain wellness, productivity, and entertainment iOS applications.

Conversation Kitchen

Tuesday, July 28 • 10:30 - 11:30 am

This webinar will be hosted by a Keiro staff member who will be cooking their dish of choice and will participate in group conversations with attendees.

SCAN Independence at Home: Understanding the Safe Use of Pain Medications

Wednesday, July 29 • 10:30 - 11:30 am

Come join us for an informative guest presentation by SCAN on understanding the safe use of pain medications.

Community Bingo

Thursday, July 30 • 3:00 - 4:00 pm

Keiro invites you to virtually connect with others to enjoy a game of virtual bingo and have a chance to win prizes!

Keiro no Hi Festival

Co-hosted by Keiro and

Japanese American Cultural & Community Center

Keiro no Hi, or "respect for the aged day," is a Japanese holiday that honors and celebrates older adults. This year Keiro and the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center are partnering to host the first ever virtual Keiro no Hi Festival.

Our virtual festival is free to participate in and includes interactive activities, performances, and a hosted bento lunch for pickup.

September 12, 2020

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Hosted bento lunch and special birthday gift pickup (must register to receive)

1:00 - 3:00 p.m. - Virtual livestream show with entertainment, workshop, and art display.

<https://www.keiro.org/what-we-do/events/keiro-no-hi-festival>

Visit the PNS Website: <https://PasadenaNikkeiSeniors.weebly.com>