NCWNP DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

CIVIL RIGHTS COMMITTEE

Vol 2 Issue 2 MAR/APR 2024

MESSAGE FROM CHAIR

How do our small actions help or harm the communities and environments we live in?

We speak up and get others to unite in taking action. It is hopefully one of the quickest and most effective ways to make our differences. Talk and consolidate with colleagues, friends, family, organizations, National Japanese American Citizens Leagues (JACL) and JACL Chapters. Appeal to local and world leaders to act now.

We take a task for all of us and it concerns all of us. No one can do it all alone. Together, our small actions can shape our future for the communities and environments we live in. Please contact the CRC if you have any small actions you would like to engage together where you live in. As small action related, these celebration days also address small actions for the communities and environments we live in.

Miko Sawamura

HOLIDAYS IN MARCH/APRIL

March - Women's History Month
March 5 - Presidential Primary Election
March 8 - International Women's Day
April 13-14, 20-21 - Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival
April 22 - Earth Day is April 22, 2024 | Ideas to celebrate and take action

INSPIRING QUOTES FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH (MARCH 2024)

"You must never be fearful about what you are doing when it is right." – **Rosa Parks** (1913-2005), civil rights activist.

"If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair" - **Shirley Chisholm** (1924-2005), U.S. Congresswoman.

"It took me quite a long time to develop a voice, and now that I have it, I am not going to be silent."– **Madeleine Albright** (1937-2022), U.S. Secretary of State.

"The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any."- **Alice Walker** (1944 -), novelist, short story writer, poet, social activist.

"One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world." – **Malala Yousafzai** (1997-), Pakistani female education activist, Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

For continued reading about Women's History Month: 2024 WHM Theme - National Women's History Alliance
Women's History Month 2024 - Dates, Facts & Quotes

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

HISTORIC LOW VOTER TURNOUT

Capitol Weekly - We're slated to have a historic low turnout across California and in San Jose one of the lowest voter turnouts historically. Only about 7% of our city, county and the state have turned in their ballots, with only 8 days of voting remaining! Of voters who have already voted, twice as many are 65+ as those aged 18-34; only 4% of registered Latino voters have casted a ballot, and only 7% of Asian-Americans. **In order to change social justice for the better, we need to TAKE ACTION!**

For continued reading: Million Voter Project here

MAKE A PLAN TO VOTE MARCH 5th

AAPI FORCE - We believe that voting is one important way that we can achieve change. Use the resources and information on this page to learn what your voting rights are and how to vote so we can demand a government that works for our communities.

For continued reading: AAPI FORCE How to Vote

BALLOT DESIGN MATTERS

APIAVote - There are still many ways to limit access or even suppress the vote in this country; some methods are more obvious than others. While ballot design layouts might seem straightforward, that is not always the case. For instance, ballots in New Jersey are designed in such a way that candidates who are "favored" (pre-selected by party leaders) get the coveted position on the ballot, the "prime

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real estate" – the position that initially catches the voter's eye.

For continued reading: Committee on House Administration Hearings on American Confidence in Elections

JUSTICE 40 INITIATIVE

There is a real intersection between environmental conservation, environmental justice, and social justice. The NCWNP Civil Rights Committee is working to be more aware of environmental justice (EJ) issues in our District. If you know of EJ issues in your community that you can share with us, please contact **Gail Yamamoto Seymour** at gyseymour@gmail.com.

For continued reading .CA State's flawed environmental tool

NRDC: Some of the many ways you can take action for environmental justice this Earth Day is to campaign with others for change.

CIVIL RIGHTS

SJSU APOLOGY FOR THE INCARCERATION OF JAPANESE AMERICANS

"On behalf of San Jose State University, I apologize to the people who were processed on our campus," SJSU President Cynthia Teniente-Matson said. "We can't turn back the clock, we can't undo the damage, but we can learn from what happened."

For continued reading: SJSU apologizes for its role in incarceration of Japanese Americans, recognizes Day of Remembrance

PG&E RATE HIKES AFFECTS LOW INCOME RESIDENTS AND SMALL BUSINESS

CAL MATTERS - The rate hikes, approved by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) in November, affect tens of thousands of residential and business customers. PG&E said the increases are necessary to fund investments in wildfire risk reduction, safety and reliability, and clean energy goals. But for small businesses and low-income customers, the higher bills add to financial burdens and threaten survival. Many residents rely on electric appliances for heating, cooling, and medical needs. The CPUC said it struggled with the decision, trying to balance all the stakeholders' interests.

PG&E is seeking another rate increase for this year to reimburse the utility for wildfire safety work it had completed. The CPUC is scheduled to vote on that on March 7.

For continued reading: PG&E's latest rate hikes could put this store out of business

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!

The NCWNP CRC hopes to send out more frequent alerts on local legislation and other urgent civil rights issues on the JACL NCWNP website. Let us know if you have any information you would like us to announce on our alerts and/or newsletters!

See our page: https://jacl-ncwnp.org/civil-rights/

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair Miko Sawamura (she/her), Carol Kawase (she/her), Halle Sousa (she/her), Emily Yoshii (she/her), Jordan Tachibana (she/her), Naoko Fujii (she/her), Julie Sousa (she/her), Gail Yamamoto Seymour (she/her), David Takashima, Ashley Yoshii (she/her), Joyce Nakamura (she/her)

If interested in joining the CRC, please contact Miko at mikoks@aol.com.

If you would like to feature a chapter event or a civil rights issue in our newsletter, please contact the editor at yoshii.emily@gmail.com.