

PACIFIC CITIZEN

CELEBRATING 93 YEARS



JACL Congratulates Its 2022 National Scholarship Winners

By David Lin,
JACL VP for Planning and
Development

It is my distinct honor and privilege to share with you that the JACL National Scholarship Program has had another successful year in identifying a number of highly qualified student recipients for this year's scholarship awards.

In this special issue of the *Pacific Citizen*, we are delighted to announce that the JACL has awarded 30 scholarships this year totaling \$63,500. We are even more proud to support these deserving and accomplished students in their pursuit of higher education, so that they can become the next generation of leaders for the JACL and our community!

On the following pages, you will read about each recipient, and I hope you are just as inspired by and proud of them as I am for their thoughtfulness and accomplishments. They are indeed the future generation of leaders of the JACL!

On behalf of National JACL, I would like to thank the two National JACL Scholarship Committees. This year's two selection committees are:

- The Freshman Scholarship Committee was under the Pacific Northwest District (PNW) and was chaired by Bill Tashima of the Seattle chapter. This year's committee members are Karen Cunningham, Katie Cunningham (*past scholarship awardee*), Kristen Cunningham (*past scholarship awardee*), Kyle Kinoshita, Mike Kurose Rothman and Sylvie Shiosaki.

From this list, you should have noticed how Bill ingeniously engaged past scholarship recipients to participate on his committee. This year marks the conclusion of PNW's third-, and final, year run in leading the Freshman Scholarship Committee. We are grateful to the committee members for their hard work and dedication.

- The Upperclassmen Scholarship Committee was under the Intermountain District Council (IDC)

and chaired by Karl Endo of the Pocatello-Blackfoot chapter. This is IDC's inaugural year leading a scholarship committee, and it will continue in this role for two more years. This year's committee members are Tom Cotto, Tiffany Hilton, Katie Hirai, Maki Jackson, Jason Kunisaki, Jon Ochi, Rebecca Oniki, Reid Tateoka and Cathy Yasuda.

On behalf of the National JACL, we are extremely appreciative of their diligence, hard work and the long hours that went into reviewing all of the scholarship applications to select the best and the most-qualified recipients for these awards.

We also would like to give a special shout out to David Kawamoto, who used to lead the Scholarship Program, for his critical role as the program's mentor and his valuable guidance, unwavering leadership and continued support of this program year after year.

Lastly, as we all know too well, no JACL program would run

successfully without a committed and dedicated staff who works together as an amazing team to deliver results on time.

I would like to express my deepest appreciation to Matthew Weisbly, program manager and JACL education and communications coordinator, for his leadership and JACL Regional Director Patty Wada for her continued support.

Their teamwork in coordinating the two scholarship committees, communicating with the applicants and keeping the program running on track was simply exemplary.

I would also like to thank *Pacific Citizen* and its entire staff under the leadership of Executive Editor Allison Haramoto for highlighting our young scholars in this special issue every year.

In closing, please join me in congratulating all of our scholarship award recipients of 2022 and wishing them great success in their pursuit of higher education! ■



HOW TO REACH US

Email: pc@pacificcitizen.org
Online: www.pacificcitizen.org
Tel: (213) 620-1767
Mail: 123 Ellison S. Onizuka St., Suite 313
Los Angeles, CA 90012

STAFF

Executive Editor Allison Haramoto	Business Manager Susan Yokoyama
Senior Editor Digital & Social Media George Johnston	Production Artist Marie Samonte
	Circulation Eva Ting

The *Pacific Citizen* newspaper (ISSN: 0030-8579) is published semi-monthly (except once in December and January) by the Japanese American Citizens League, *Pacific Citizen*, 123 Ellison S. Onizuka St., Suite 313, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Periodical postage paid at L.A., CA.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to National JACL, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115.

JACL President: Jeffrey Moy
Executive Director: David Inoue

P.C. EDITORIAL BOARD

Rob Buscher, chairperson; Ron Kuramoto, MDC; Danielle Pierce, EDC; Marcia Chung, CCDC; Nancy Ukai, NCWNPDC; Sheldon Arakaki, PNWDC; Michaela Ishino, IDC; John Saito Jr., PSWDC; Marco Torrez, Youth Rep.

Subscribe

Get a one-year subscription of the *Pacific Citizen* newspaper at: www.pacificcitizen.org or call (213) 620-1767.

Advertise

To advertise in the *Pacific Citizen*, call (213) 620-1767 or e-mail: busmgr@pacificcitizen.org.

LEGAL

No part of this publication may be reproduced without the express permission of the *Pacific Citizen*. Editorials, letters, news and the opinions expressed by columnists other than the national JACL president or national director do not necessarily reflect JACL policy. Events and products advertised in the *P.C.* do not carry the implicit endorsement of the JACL or this publication. We reserve the right to edit articles. © 2022

Periodicals paid at Los Angeles, Calif. and mailing office.

JACL MEMBERS

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you've moved, please send new information to: National JACL
1765 Sutter St.
San Francisco, CA 94115
(415) 921-5225 ext. 26
ALLOW 6 WEEKS FOR ADDRESS CHANGES.
TO AVOID INTERRUPTIONS IN DELIVERY, PLEASE
NOTIFY YOUR POSTMASTER TO INCLUDE
PERIODICALS IN YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS
(USPS Form 3575)

JACL Members Not Receiving
Your *Pacific Citizen*?
Please contact Tomiko Ismail, JACL
Membership/Database Administrator,
at (415) 921-5225, ext. 26, or
[email tismail@jacl.org](mailto:tismail@jacl.org).

PACIFICCITIZEN 2022 SPRING CAMPAIGN

JACL MEMBER? ☐ Y ☐ N ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$150 ☐ \$200 ☐ OTHER _____

Name : _____

Address 1 : _____

Phone Number : _____ E-mail : _____

The *P.C.*'s mission is to 'educate on the past Japanese American experience and preserve, promote and help the current and future AAPI communities.'

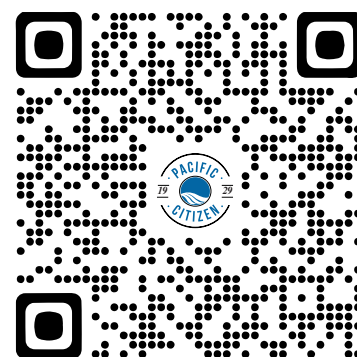
* Your donations will help build and preserve a cohesive library of the *Pacific Citizen* to educate future generations.*

'I'm glad to see the *Pacific Citizen* growing and evolving with its website, and especially LOVE the much easier-to-navigate digital archives. It's a treasure trove for JAs to learn about our community's history, and for scholars and journalists looking to connect the past with the present. Thanks for the improvements, P.C.!'

— Gil Asakawa



INFORMATION: 123 Ellison S. Onizuka St., Suite 313 | Los Angeles, CA 90012 | TEL: (213) 620-1767 | WWW.PACIFICCITIZEN.ORG





A MOTHER'S TAKE

ALLYSHIP

By Marsha Aizumi

Who is an ally? According to Jeannie Gainsburg, “An ally is a person who is not part of a particular marginalized group but who stands up for and advocates for the rights of people in the group.” I believe organizations can also be allies.

Quakers openly supported Japanese Americans during World War II when 120,000 Japanese Americans were incarcerated in camps. And there were individuals supporting Japanese American families who would have lost everything, if not for caring neighbors and friends who stepped in to help.

One family took care of my grandparent's house, paid the mortgage and collected rent from tenants, when my father's family was sent to Gila River. They were allies and made it possible for grandpa and grandma to return to the home they owned.

When I was at a Minidoka Pilgrimage, I heard about families in the Pacific Northwest who had allies that stored the equipment of Japanese Americans, so these families had something to come back to and restart their businesses.

JACL has been an amazing supporter of the LGBTQ+ community going back to 1994, when it endorsed LGBTQ+ rights and marriage equality. And JACL's allyship has continued from then on to support the transgender community.

I was honored to receive the

Biennium Award for education and humanities in 2015 for my LGBTQ+ work. JACL supported Okaeri to do workshops at its national conventions. And at its 2022 National Convention, Okaeri was presented with the Vision Award from the JACL's NY/SC. JACL has been an important ally.

Allies are so important because their voice is not based on self-interest, but in shared humanity. Allies can show others how to stand up for a marginalized community and become role models for others to follow. And generally, there are more allies outside of the marginalized community, so their voices, combined with the voices of marginalized individuals, can have a greater impact.

But how do you become a confident ally when you are outside of the marginalized community and you are not sure how to show your support? In the beginning of my journey, as a mother and ally to the LGBTQ+ community, I was unsure of what was the right thing

to do. So, I found places to educate myself.

I also thought that an ally had to be visible in a loud and often aggressive way; that was not my personality, and it was not where I was most authentic. But through education and talking with LGBTQ+ individuals and my son, I have found my voice. And so I began to form how I wanted to show up. When I found MY authentic voice, I became more confident in being an ally.

On Sept. 17, Okaeri held a day-long virtual Allyship Symposium in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo. Topics discussed included family acceptance (in English and Japanese), Christian allyship, Buddhist allyship, allyship at work and allyship at school.

We need more allies to support the LGBTQ+ community. In a survey that Okaeri did a few years back, only 30 percent of the respondents felt that the Nikkei community was supportive. So many LGBTQ+ individuals that are 40 years of age

and older have left the Nikkei community because they did not feel welcome. But it is our hope that with Okaeri and more and more allies visibly showing up, our Nikkei LGBTQ+ individuals are coming back to the Nikkei community.

Okaeri means “welcome home” in Japanese. We want all individuals to feel welcome, and it will take allies like you and me to create that kind of community. Whichever way you show up, it is important to our families and LGBTQ+ individuals. We need your voice more than ever today. . . .

“Our ultimate objective in learning about anything is to try to create and develop a more just society.”

—Yuri Kochiyama

Marsha Aizumi is an advocate for the LGBTQ+ community and author of the book “Two Spirits, One Heart: A Mother, Her Transgender Son and Their Journey to Love and Acceptance.”



LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE

DRIVING AND DEMENTIA

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

If you live long enough, the time will come when you will have to stop driving. Most senior drivers monitor themselves and gradually limit or stop driving when they feel they are no longer safe. However, others may not. They may have dementia or an early stage of Alzheimer's disease, which prevents them from recognizing that their driving abilities have diminished.

As we age, even those of us without dementia may experience physical changes that affect driving — including eyesight problems and slower reaction times. In response, most people will modify the way they drive by avoiding driving on certain roads or at night. They usually can assess and regulate their driving without family intervention and can continue to drive safely throughout their lives.

But it's different for those with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias — particularly because the condition can be gradual and unpredictable. Drivers with dementia often modify their driving by driving less at night or in unfamiliar areas, but as their abilities diminish, they lose the capacity to determine when they should stop driving. They're likely to minimize the complexity of driving and overestimate their abilities.

Many times, family members will allow a person with dementia to continue driving even though they believe it's unsafe. They might not want to hurt that person's feelings, or they may worry about what others might think. Some want more support from family, friends or professionals before intervening, and others want to delay taking on the responsibility of providing transportation.

At the other extreme, some family members overreact to common driving errors such as failure to complete a stop at a stop sign. They may blame such errors on the disease, when in fact the person may have always had this bad driving habit. A single occurrence of poor driving doesn't mean the person has to stop driving. But it does signal the need for increased monitoring and assessment.

Do you have a relative with dementia who's still driving? Do you worry about him or her driving? Or are you just hoping his or her driving is “good enough?” Driving, of course, can be an immediate and life-threatening issue — making it a family priority. Most information about dementia warns against driving but doesn't help you determine when it should stop.

According to AARP, here are a few warning signs of unsafe driving:

- Delayed response to unexpected situations

- Becoming easily distracted while driving
- Decrease in confidence while driving
- Having difficulty moving into or maintaining the correct lane of traffic
- Hitting curbs when making right turns or backing up
- Getting scrapes or dents on car, garage or mailbox
- Having frequent close calls
- Driving too fast or too slow for road conditions

If you've noticed that your loved one shows some of these warning signs, it means it is time to talk with your loved one. But how are you supposed to sensitively broach the topic of stopping or limiting driving and have a productive conversation? First, it's important to remember that limiting or stopping driving is a complex and emotionally charged discussion.

Therefore, it is important to be sensitive about how you start the conversation. Be positive and supportive. Allow them to have an active role in the decision-making process. You should be concerned about the person's abilities, not just their age. The challenge with driving and dementia is to preserve a person's sense of independence for as long as possible, while simultaneously protecting the safety of that person and others.

So, here's some advice that I thought could be helpful. Caregivers who have wrestled with driving and transportation issues were asked: “If you could do it over, what would you do differently?” and “What advice would you give others who are in similar situations?” They revealed four basic principles that can help

you and your loved ones manage these decisions (*source: The Hartford Center Guide, Sound Advice From Experienced Caregivers*):

1. There is no easy answer, no right way. You need to consider the personality and the abilities of the person with dementia when making decisions throughout the course of the disease. You must take into account the roles and relationships within the family that affect decisions and their outcomes. Each family must select strategies that will work within its unique situation.

2. Begin discussions and planning early, and involve the person with dementia. Ideally, a person with dementia should make the transition from driver to passenger over a period of time. The Agreement With My Family About Driving can serve as the starting point for meaningful discussions about driving. Open, early and continual communication can help the person with dementia and the family to agree on a course of action before a crisis occurs.

3. Base decisions on driving behavior observed over a period of time. Regular monitoring and assessment of driving can help caregivers respond appropriately. A diagnosis alone may not be sufficient reason for a person to stop driving, but when it's clearly no longer safe for the person to drive, caregivers must take the necessary steps immediately. In hindsight, many caregivers regret permitting a loved one to drive longer than it was safe.

4. Get support when making and implementing decisions about driving. It's not healthy for anyone when one person shoulders all of the responsibility for the decisions about driving and dementia. Caregivers

can make reasonable requests of both family and nonfamily members and should turn to others for help in meeting the emotional, social and transportation needs of the person with dementia.

In conclusion, the transition from driver to passenger is not always easy or smooth. This lifestyle change will require your understanding and support.

The thought of giving up a driver's license can be very upsetting. An older driver may think that authorities, friends or relatives are “out to get them.” An older driver may exhibit negative emotions about giving up his/her driver license. Try to remember that these reactions are more about the message than the messenger. By remaining calm, you can ensure a productive discussion and diffuse negative emotions about this sensitive topic.

One important tip is to make sure you keep proof of your attempt at enrollment in order to protect yourself from any late enrollment penalties should your application be lost. Print any confirmation information, note dates, times and representatives you spoke with, and request any receipts possible in person.

Judd Matsunaga is the founding attorney of Elder Law Services of California, a law firm that specializes in Medi-Cal Planning, Estate Planning and Probate. He can be contacted at (310) 348-2995 or judd@elderlawcalifornia.com. The opinions expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Pacific Citizen or constitute legal or tax advice and should not be treated as such.

JAVA AWARDS 2022 SCHOLARSHIPS

In continuing the 'legacy of World War II Nisei military service and encouraging future military and public service,' the organization awards a total of \$27,500 to 16 students from around the country.

By JAVA

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Japanese American Veterans Assn. announced recently 16 winners of its annual scholarship award program for 2022. Receiving outstanding applications from students hailing across the U.S., the organization awarded a total of \$27,500 for 2022.

Following are this year's recipients:

The \$3,000 Daniel K. Inouye Memorial Scholarship, honoring the late U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye's iconic career of military and civilian public service, was awarded to **Kiera Hirayama** of Honolulu, Hawaii. The granddaughter of Robert Takashi Hirayama, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Kiera is pursuing a Doctor of Nursing practice degree at Case Western Reserve University with a focus on nursing educational leadership. She received her Master of Science in nursing clinical management at Columbia University and New York and a Bachelor of Science in nursing from Creighton University in Nebraska. Hirayama is working as an RN in the NICU at New York Presbyterian Medical Center. She is also a clinical instructor at Columbia University School of Nursing.



The \$3,000 Ishio Founder's Scholarship is named for JAVA's founder, the late Col. Phil Ishio, his wife, Constance, and their son, Douglas. It is awarded to a student who has completed two or more years of college/university.



The Ishio Founder's Scholarship was awarded to **Elizabeth Uno** of Sacramento, Calif. The granddaughter of Iwao Henry Tamura, 442nd RCT, and Dick Uno, who also served

in WWII, is currently pursuing a Master of Public Policy with a focus on educational policy at the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley. She also has a Master of Arts in education from the University of California, Davis, and a Bachelor of Arts in history from the University of California, Los Angeles. Uno has been a teacher, consultant and researcher.

The Kiyoko Tsuboi Taubkin Legacy Scholarship, a \$2,000 award in honor of a longtime patron of JAVA, is awarded to a student who has completed at least one year in college/university. This scholarship was awarded to **Nicole Tanaka** of San Gabriel, Calif. She is the daughter of JAVA member and Gulf War veteran John Tanaka. She is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in design media arts as a third-year student at the University of California, Los Angeles.



The following JAVA Memorial Scholarships

were awarded to 13 graduating high school seniors, each in the amount of \$1,500:

Madeline Chun received a JAVA Memorial Scholarship in honor of Sgt. Ben Kuroki, a gunner in the U.S. Army Air Corps, 505th Bombardment Group. Chun, from New York, N.Y., is the great-granddaughter of Samuel Sakamoto, 100th Battalion. She will attend Yale University and plans to study ethnicity, race and migration.

Madeleine Doi received the Staff Sgt. Mum Ariei Scholarship, in honor of Mamoru "Mum" Ariei, who served in the 442nd RCT. Doi is the grandniece of Hiroshi Kamimura, 442nd RCT. From Playa del Rey, Calif., Doi will attend the University of California, Los Angeles, and pursue a degree in bioengineering.

Connor Malinger received a JAVA Memorial Scholarship in honor of Col. Virgil R. Miller, Commanding Officer of the 442nd RCT. Malinger, from Honolulu, Hawaii, is the great-grandson of Sadami Katahara, 100th Battalion. He will attend Lehigh University in Pennsylvania and plans to study integrated business and engineering.

Rina Mok received a JAVA Memorial Scholarship in honor of Betty Shima, lifelong partner of Terry Shima, 442nd RCT. Mok, from Campbell, Calif., is the great-granddaughter of Thomas E. Ouye, 442nd RCT. She will attend the University of California, Davis, and plans to study food sciences.

Kai Moriyama received a JAVA Memorial Scholarship in honor of Col. Jimmie Kanaya, a three-war veteran — WWII, Korea and Vietnam. Moriyama is the son of JAVA members LTC Heather Moriyama, USA (Ret), and LTC Richard Moriyama, USA, and is from Kaneohe, Hawaii. He will attend the University of Southern California and plans to study neuroscience.

Claire Nelson received the Carolyn Namie Furumoto JAVA Memorial Scholarship in honor of Carolyn Furumoto, the wife and partner of JAVA member and Vietnam veteran Tak Furumoto. Nelson is the granddaughter of Takashi Torakawa, MIS, and is from Exeter, Calif. She will attend the University of California, Davis, and plans to study nutrition.

Julia Pellei received a JAVA Memorial Scholarship in honor of past JAVA President and Korean War veteran Robert Nakamoto. Pellei is the daughter of JAVA member Steve Pellei and is from Richmond, Va. She will attend the United States Naval Academy and plans to study STEM/engineering.

Jack Radovich received a JAVA Memorial Scholarship in honor of Maj. Orville Shirey, 442nd RCT, and his wife, Maud Shirey. Radovich, from Tacoma, Wash., is the son of JAVA member Col. Kay Wakatake, USA (Ret). He will attend the University of Notre Dame and plans to study mechanical engineering.

Taleen Sample received the Izuno Family Scholarship, in honor of JAVA member and Korean War veteran Dr. Takumi Izuno, who served in the U.S. Army 511th Military

Intelligence Service. The great grandniece of Howard Ogawa, MIS, and JAVA member Elaine Sample, she is from Denver, Colo. Sample will attend Brown University and plans to study political science and economics.

Daniel Shintaku received a JAVA Memorial Scholarship in honor of Ranger Grant Jiro Hirabayashi, MIS. Shintaku is the grandson of Takeso Shintaku, MIS, and the son of JAVA member Michael Shintaku. Hailing from Altadena, Calif., Shintaku will attend the University of Southern California and plans to study political science and economics.

Natalie Sipress received a JAVA Memorial Scholarship in honor of CWO4 Mitsugi Murakami Kasai, MIS and CIC. She is from Washington, D.C., and is the granddaughter of Shigemitsu Nakashima, MIS. Sipress will attend Oberlin College in Ohio and study sociology.

Trisha Tanaka received a JAVA Memorial Scholarship in honor of Victor Matsui, MIS, and his wife, Teru Matsui. Tanaka, from San Gabriel, Calif., is the daughter of JAVA member and Gulf War veteran John Tanaka. She will attend the University of California, Los Angeles, and plans to study molecular biology.

Ryson Ujimori received a JAVA Memorial Scholarship in honor of Dr. Americo Bugliani and his liberator, Paul Sakamoto, 442nd RCT. Ujimori is the great grandnephew of Katsumi Kometani, 100th Battalion. He is from Aiea, Hawaii, and will attend the University of California, San Diego.

JAVA thanks the members of this year's Scholarship Committee: Chris DeRosa, chair; Dawn Eilenberger, JD, former deputy direc-

tor of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence; Maj. Kay Izumihara, USAR; Capt. (Dr.) Cynthia Macri, MC, USN (Ret); and LTC Robert Vokac, USA (Ret).

The future of our nation is in great hands, knowing these young individuals will be at the forefront.

To learn more about the JAVA Memorial Scholarship program, please visit <https://java-us.org/JAVA-Memorial-Scholarship-Program>.

FUKUI MORTUARY
Five Generations of Experience
FD #808

707 East Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Ph. 213/626-0441
Fax 213/617-2781

Gerald Fukui
President

KUBOTA
Sharing. Community. Legacy.

久保田葬儀社
T 213-749-1449
F 213-749-0265
911 Venice Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90015
www.kubotamortuary.com

ELS Judd Matsunaga's ELDER LAW SERVICES OF CALIFORNIA A Professional Law Corporation

- Medi-Cal Planning
- Asset Protection for Long-Term Care
- Living Trusts & Wills
- Powers of Attorney
- Trust Administration
- Probate

Home & Hospital
Appointments Available!



JUDD MATSUNAGA
Attorney at Law

Multiple Office Locations
Torrance • Los Angeles (LAX) • Pasadena
Enicno • Fountain Valley • Westlake Village
Valencia • Palm Springs • San Diego • San Jose

www.elderlawcalifornia.com
800-403-6078

2022 | JACL NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

ESSAY TOPIC

This year's scholarship recipients were asked to respond to the following question:

'The JACL is moving toward its 100th anniversary with a renewed commitment to educating the public about the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans and combating anti-Asian hate. What steps have you taken to learn about the Japanese American incarceration experience? How can we use education as a tool to not only correct past historical narratives but also move forward toward promoting a greater social consciousness within our society?'

» **EDITOR'S NOTE:** All student responses reflect those that were submitted to the P.C. by the respective JACL Scholarship Committees.

Congratulations Kaylee Chan

Takashi & Yuriko Moriuchi Memorial Scholarship Winner
2022



Best Wishes for a bright future!



Mt. Olympus JACL Congratulates Our 2022 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

ERIC TOKITA	National Scholarship · Graduate
TANNER TAGUCHI	National Scholarship · Graduate
ANDREW OKAMOTO	National Scholarship · Undergraduate
VICTORIA RIDGE	National Scholarship · Undergraduate
ALEXANDRA RIDGE	National Scholarship · Undergraduate
EVAN LEE	National Scholarship · Freshman
HEDIKI SAKAMOTO	Chapter Scholarship · Freshman
BRANDON OKAMOTO	Chapter Scholarship · Freshman

FRESHMEN

Kaylee Chan
JACL Chapter: Eden Township
Recipient of the Takashi and Yuriko Moriuchi Memorial Scholarship
Chapter: Eden Township
University of California, San Diego

Notables

One of Kaylee Chan's teachers wrote in a letter of recommendation, "...Kaylee has proven herself to be in the top 5 percent of students I have taught in my 20 years at Cal High. Her overall GPA testifies to her extreme determination, work ethic and high level of achievement. Meanwhile, her résumé shows she is a person of outstanding character who is committed to making the world a better place."

This recommendation encapsulates Chan. She graduated from California High School in San Ramon, Calif., with a 3.97 unweighted GPA. Chan held various positions, including Yearbook editor, Spanish Club vp and member of the California Scholarship Federation.

Chan is a longtime participant in Eden Township JACL activities, such as the basketball league, basketball tournaments, summer festivals and youth group. She is engaged with her local 4-H Club in wide-ranging activities such as serving as president, being a multiple award winner with the 4-H book club, serving on the Multicultural, Equity and Community Engagement Committee and co-chairing a Project Skills Day for youth. She also volunteers at a local elementary school and in the Thousand Crane Project.

She will attend the University of California, San Diego, and major in international studies/international business.

Personal Statement

Chan wrote that she read about the Japanese American incarceration beginning in elementary school. As she grew older, she learned more facts about EO 9066, but "... it wasn't until I talked to my own relatives about their experiences that I really began to understand the full scope of the damage caused." She was moved by the stories from her great-aunt, who recalled the hardships of camp, and the trauma caused by the imprisonment of her grandfather, who was separated from the family in a prison camp in North Dakota, and the sadness of the reunion when the grandfather's children did not recognize him.

Chan wrote about a class discussion on a hypothetical situation of

the incarceration of a Muslim family because the government deemed the family dangerous. Chan, seeing the parallels to Japanese Americans in WWII, argued, "Unjust." She wrote, "To my surprise, another girl from the opposite side, the 'just' side, argued against me, claiming that the government wouldn't imprison its own citizens if they weren't actually dangerous."

She faults the education system and lack of diverse histories in classrooms for its failure to instill critical thinking. Chan wrote: "When it comes to creating history textbooks and curriculums, we must also ensure that there are diverse writers in the room."

If you look at the authors of older history textbooks, many of them are white, and many are men. If you only look at our past through the eyes of a white man, there are sure to be discrepancies. Even if they don't blatantly lie, or they're not conscious of their biases, their perspective will distort history in one way or another. On the other hand, when we place people from minority groups, groups that have consistently been oppressed throughout history behind the writing, I think we are more likely to find a better middle ground and a less-biased voice, a voice that is a much more accurate representation of America — with all of its faults and strengths.

"Now, more than ever, when we see anti-Asian hate crimes gracing the news far more since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, we cannot back down from sharing our histories and making our voices heard," she continued. "The Japanese American community, along with the rest of the AAPI community, has been silenced for far too long. With a better-informed America, we can move toward achieving equity and acceptance of one another."

Hana Fujita

JACL Chapter: Gilroy
Recipient of the Deni and June Uejima Memorial Scholarship
University of California, Berkeley

Notables

Hana Fujita is from Morgan Hill, Calif., and graduated from Dr. TJ Owens Gilroy Early College Academy with a 3.9 GPA. She was active with many school activities, including tutoring, volunteering in various library positions, coaching tennis, serving in various class officer positions and participating in many other school clubs. Fujita also volunteered at food banks and other community programs.

In 2021, she attended the virtual 2021 National JACL Convention. She stated, "Since it was my first conference with JACL, I had no idea what to expect but was blown away by the passion and commitment of other JACL members. I was especially inspired by the other youth at the conference and was impressed by the work other Japanese Americans were doing in order to prevent anti-Asian hate. As someone that struggled to 'fit' their identity as Japanese American, I felt represented and included at the conference."

Personal Statement

Fujita wrote about a red gazebo at a Gilroy Park that is a "historical landmark representing the successes and struggles of Japanese American immigrants during World War II."

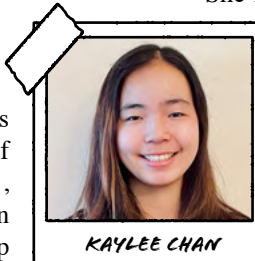
She continued, "After the Japanese Americans were released from internment camps, some families were relocated to the Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs, including Laura Dominguez-Yon."

"... I have been interviewing Laura and gathering sources that involved the springs since its first written documentation in the 1860s. By gathering this data, I look forward to creating an online database with all of the collected information to the public and the Gilroy residents that are unaware of the history that occurred in their own backyard. With the upcoming reopening of the springs for the first time since 1966, I also spend some weekends repairing and cleaning up the site of the springs for future use."

"Learning about the history of Japanese Americans and translating old Japanese documents with my family has allowed me to become more connected with my hometown, Gilroy, and my home country, Japan. Hearing about the hardships that Japanese Americans have faced in my own town has made me impossibly grateful for the life I was given and motivates me to celebrate and share the accomplishments that Japanese Americans experienced during their time at the red gazebo with the overgrown weeds."

"I believe that listening is also a big part in learning about the incarceration of Japanese Americans."

Listening to the elders around me who were closely connected to the incarceration or incarcerated at a young age has helped me become aware of the extreme measures taken during WWII. In addition to listening to conversations at the dinner table or at gatherings, my family and I listen and translate local audio interviews of Japanese Americans who settled in Gilroy after incarceration. These Japanese farmers in Gilroy shared their struggles learning English [while] maintaining their Japanese heritage, which



KAYLEE CHAN



HANA FUJITA

resonated deeply with my own experiences.”

Rei Griffith

JACL Chapter: Stockton
Recipient of the Hanayagi Rokamie Memorial Cultural Scholarship
University of California, Berkeley

Notables

Rei Griffith was born in Japan and immigrated to the United States as a young child. He is an accomplished honor student-athlete who participated in lacrosse, football and Latin Leadership during his years at Lincoln High School in Stockton, Calif. He is also active with the Shimizu Buddhist Temple, volunteering at various events.

An enthusiastic student of Kendo since 2014, Griffith has learned first-hand how hard work, focus and determination can achieve results. He received the Northern California Kendo Federation Kantosho Award (given to the player who best exemplifies the kendo spirit) in both the 2017 and 2018 All Northern California Kendo Tournaments. He later qualified to represent the Northern California Kendo Federation in the 2020 U.S. Kendo Championships, which were unfortunately canceled due to Covid. He shares his passion for kendo though teaching beginning students and introducing this art to the community.

In a letter of recommendation, Rei's kendo instructor wrote, “Rei has been my student for the last nine years. During this time, I have watched him learn and mature in both kendo and life. Rei has worked hard from the very beginning. When many youth get distracted and lose focus, Rei would always be engaged in each lesson.”

The instructor also noted, “Unfortunately, due to Covid, those U.S. championships were canceled, and the AUSKF was unable to reschedule. After two years of solid, hard training with the team, faced with the disappointment of not being able to complete this experience, Rei never lost heart. He has always been available to help teach beginners and other youth, always being a positive

influence in the dojo. I know that his work ethic and enthusiasm for volunteering will make him a great asset to any college and a shining example of the Japanese American community.”

Personal Statement

“Through education, we can identify historical facts and highlight both the challenges faced and the obstacles overcome by Asian Americans. This strengthens the accuracy and integrity of historical teachings and dispels false or misleading historical narratives.

“We can also engage our neighbors and community members to promote greater awareness and understanding of the Asian American experience,” Griffith continued. “In teaching history and sharing cultural experiences, we connect with each other at a shared human level. This can reduce the amount of Asian hate — which has spiked since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic — and shed light on the darker aspects of American history to promote a stronger community consciousness.”

Jack Lauer

JACL Chapter: Contra Costa
Recipient of the Patricia and Gail Ishimoto Memorial Scholarship
San Diego State University

Notables

Jack Lauer is from Oakland, Calif., and graduated from Bishop O'Dowd High School. In school, he was active with the Campus Ministry and Asian Student Alliance.

Lauer graduated with a 3.9 GPA and plans to attend San Diego State and major in business.

Lauer was a member and volunteer worker for the Eden JACL basketball team and enjoyed the sense of community and fellowship on the team. He also worked at the Eden JACL establishment in San Leandro, where he assisted in teaching elder's traditional Japanese activities and contributed to planning meetings and activities for them.

He has developed a unique per-

spective on mochi: “. . . I have spent many hours volunteering as someone who makes mochi for mochitsuki. I have gained a huge appreciation for how amazing it is to see all of the different generations make mochi together. I have always loved mochi, and now that I know how it is made, I have an even deeper appreciation. Mochi is no longer just a traditional Japanese snack that tastes delicious. When I eat mochi now, I think about how much work and love goes into making it, and I am reminded of how important it is to Japan.”

Personal Statement

Lauer wrote about a school project on the Japanese American incarceration that resulted in a slideshow presentation and essay. “As I presented all of my findings from this topic, I found that many of the other students listening did not know this happened or knew very little information on it. I felt really happy, as I was providing them with very important information about my culture. But I then realized how saddening it was that the majority of them never knew this occurred during WWII.

“Education is incredibly important in not only correcting past historical narratives but also moving forward toward promoting a greater social consciousness within our society because people are being taught the truth of our world. By educating, students can learn about all of the incredible people who worked tirelessly for justice and equality and learn about those who were misunderstood.

“Also, I think that the media creates a lot of false narratives about people from the past, so becoming educated can help you truly be aware of who these famous people are. Becoming more knowledgeable about our history is crucial because to move forward in a positive and influential way, we need to learn from mistakes made in the past and accentuate the good things done. It is our duty as the younger generation to make the world a better place as we get older. This can only be done if we understand what has happened in our past.”

Evan Lee

JACL Chapter: Mt. Olympus
Recipient of the Paul and Katherine Ohtaki Memorial Scholarship
University of Utah

Notables

Evan Lee, from Sandy, Utah, graduated from Juan Diego Catholic High School with a near-perfect 3.99 GPA. A member of the Mt. Olympus JACL, he has volunteered at chapter Nikkei lunches and Christmas parties. Lee also volunteers at numerous

community and church events, such as food drives and support for Afghan refugees.

Lee received a solid recommendation from his guidance counselor of three years, who stated: “He sits at the top 10 percent of his class with a significant amount of rigor and has met the qualifications for AP Capstone, Academy of Sciences and is an AP Scholar With Distinction. Evan is Ambitious — He is looking forward and is focused on his future and career at all times. He is Competitive — Evan works hard at being competitive both in sports and academics. Open — He has been open to trying new things to improve himself, whether academics, sports; he challenges himself and attempts to excel at everything he chooses to do.

“Evan is a very intellectual, ambitious young adult. He is good-natured and even-tempered. He has excellent athletic skills and excels at skill sports. He is knowledgeable, as well as detail- and goal-oriented. Evan will quickly adapt to the next level due to his independent nature and natural ability to find ways to succeed.”

Personal Statement

Lee wrote about what spurred his interest in the JA WWII experience. “My personal drive to educate myself about WWII incarceration hinges on the fact that my maternal great-grandparents and grandparents were forced to leave their jobs, homes and belongings while being forced to relocate to an internment camp in Minidoka,” he wrote. “I have listened to talks, given presentations of my own to my peers about the Japanese internment camps and read a book about the life of my great-grandfather, all in an effort to become more socially aware and promote the social consciousness of those around me.

“A presentation by my grandmother for her church group and a guest speaker for the youth of the local JACL chapter has deepened my basic knowledge of the internment of Japanese Americans. Not only did the presenters provide much of the general information about life in the camps, but they also gave a lot of insight into the uncertainties, anxieties and challenges their families were faced with during this time.

“The incredible hardships that the Japanese Americans lived through and endured are something students will never read about in textbooks or learn from their teachers. However, the personal accounts of what took place in the camps have helped me gain a better understanding of the severity of the

incarceration of Japanese American citizens.”

He continued by stating how social media and technology could help in educating our society today. “The importance of technology in today's society is especially seen today. Technology has found many purposes, with one of the most significant being its use for accessing social media. Social media is a tool that can be used to not only correct past historical narratives but also vital to promoting a greater social awareness within our society.

“We can use methods such as telling these stories about WWII on podcasts or even just ensuring that the story of Japanese Americans is recognized in well-known sources for information, such as Wikipedia. Because it allows users to contribute to its information, we are given the opportunity to speak about the horrific events that occurred during World War II.”

Shei Lan Nagata-Brown

JACL Chapter: Salt Lake City
Recipient of the Paul and Katherine Ohtaki Memorial Scholarship
University of Utah

Notables

Shei Lan Nagata-Brown was a 2022 graduate of Utah's Academy of Math, Engineering and Science, where she excelled in many challenging courses. She has been active in supporting her local Buddhist church, as well as volunteering to support Nikkei seniors.

Although her school's athletics were curtailed during the pandemic, she lettered in softball and was a Defensive Player of the Year.

Personal Statement

Nagata-Brown wrote extensively and passionately about the theme of this year's essay, education about the WWII incarceration. Her learning, unfortunately, was not a part of her academic program, but directly from her grandfather, Ted Nagata, who not only made presentations but also accompanied her to visits to the Topaz relocation center, where he had been incarcerated. Noting this troubling omission from the education of American students, she expressed a compelling argument for the inclusion of the history of the Japanese American community into the core curriculum.

“After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, [my grandfather, Ted Nagata] experienced firsthand the enactment and cessation of Executive Order 9066. . . Growing up, I always found it appalling that my peers and I never had a lesson about the Japanese American incarceration in school. The exclusion of this from the curriculum only goes to



REI GRIFFITH



JACK LAUER



SHEI LAN NAGATA-BROWN



EVAN LEE

In honor of your grandfather, Daniel Uesugi,

Congratulations, Jack Lauer!

The 2022 JACL National Scholarship Committee has selected you as the recipient of the Patricia & Gail Ishimoto Memorial Scholarship

Aim high, work hard and have fun!!!

Aloha, Kenny and Chris Uesugi Lauer

➤ reflect the skewed values of America's system of education and is detrimental to our society.

"Education can help build a practical and sensible framework of the world around us, and most importantly, gives us the ability to think independently and critically," Nagata-Brown continued. "When trying to interpret historical contexts and the events unfolding today, the use and sharpening of this tool is invaluable. . . . Education is extremely important, especially now, to navigate the ever-changing complexities of modern life.

"With fake news, and unreliable sources constantly surrounding us, the knowledge of discerning what is correct and what is false is vital. Without it, people's perceptions can be easily swayed and distorted. By examining historical documents, present voices and past historical narratives critically and with an open mind, we create the opportunity to gain a rich understanding of how both negative and positive changes in society arise. We can then apply this knowledge to understand past events and initiate change in the world today.

"Social consciousness isn't something you can just avoid or ignore — people who turn a blind eye fail to realize they are fighting an unbeatable foe. Social consciousness must be looked at as a responsibility, which involves morals and ethics to bring about change that aids to minimize biased attitudes that cultivate misunderstanding and hate.

"Education today is literally at the tips of our fingers. Through it, we have the ability to look at a multitude of perspectives, people of all backgrounds and their stories with just the tap of a button. By being able to hear and understand other people's views, and how what we do affects all of us, we gain greater understanding and empathy for people all over the world.

"Armed with these insights, we are able to support the greater good. Realizing this isn't just the story of you or me, but millions of stories interwoven together. Each of us affects another, in a pattern that ripples outward and stretches across the world and is the first step to true compassion and change."

Jared Nakahara

JACL Chapter: Berkeley
Recipient of the CWO4 (Ret)
Mitsugi Murakami Kasai Memorial Scholarship
University of California, Los Angeles

Notables

Jared Nakahara had many accomplishments at Albany High School in Albany, Calif., such

as cross-country, student government, class vp, math club, tutor and more. Sometimes, when there wasn't a club, he organized one, such as founding the Photography Club and the Neuro-Medical Club.

Nakahara became passionate about social justice issues and realized that students needed to be empowered and raise their voices. Thus, he founded his school's Asian Student Union, which grew to 15 percent of the school's students as members.

As he related, "Even though I lacked experience, I broadened my comfort zone and started some projects to help my community. I organized community rallies and mentored and led small groups at my school, determined to make a difference. As I continued speaking and hosting rallies, other students gained inspiration to join, voiced their opinions and collaborated toward creating a safe environment. Gaining confidence from my efforts, I spoke in front of large crowds, where hundreds of individuals were eagerly listening."

Nakahara also enjoyed learning about martial arts and said about karate, "Although I never became good enough to become a black belt, it has taught me multitudes of lessons about respect, discipline and my culture and heritage. In karate, respect is an important component of the art. In karate, you have to learn to respect people of all ages, backgrounds, abilities and belt colors."

Nakahara will attend the University of California, Los Angeles, and major in neuroscience and business.

Personal Statement

"Understanding what has happened in the past, there is only room for improvement in our communities. I have been greatly involved in educating individuals and those in my community about racism and social awareness. The solution for these problems can be difficult, but there are various ways to ensure that history does not repeat itself.

"The first way is to get involved in school. I personally have been selected to work on the ethnic task force committee at my school. Utilizing these committees at our schools, we can promote diversity in the curriculum and share narratives from diverse backgrounds. This

way through educating the youth at institutions, we can correct the past and create social awareness for those in our community.

"Additionally, we can also educate others through hosting events," he continued. "The Berkeley chapter at JACL and many other Asian

American youth organizations can

host events to spread awareness. Whether it is informational meetings, discussions or rallies, these events will spread awareness to those in our community and help correct the suppression many of us have faced in the past.

"The past has suppressed us and put our community in harsh conditions, but that can be corrected for the future. Similar to how I have educated myself through going to various places or joining and hosting events, we as a community can educate ourselves.

"Through this education, we will be able to correct the mistakes of the past and raise social awareness for those in the future."

Hideki Sakamoto

JACL Chapter: Olympus
Recipient of the Shigeki 'Shake' Ushio Memorial Scholarship
Southern Utah University

Notables

Hideki Sakamoto is from Lehi, Utah, and attended Skyridge High School. His transcript revealed a wide range of interests with courses such as robotics, web design, Japanese and TV broadcasts. His extracurricular activities included being a longtime member of the Gaming Club and Japanese Club. He was also a 10-year member of a local soccer club and received a Golden Globe Award for goal keeping.

Outside of school, Sakamoto volunteered to do landscape work with his Homeowners Assn. He also volunteered with Deseret Industries and helped at various food drives and the annual Toys for Tots drive. He plans on attending Southern Utah University, but, thus far, is undecided about a major.

He has been involved with JACL at the chapter level "since he was a kid," attending and volunteering at big events like the Summer Party, Spring Scholarship Fundraiser and

the Christmas Party. As Sakamoto stated, "All of the events had great food, activities and, most of all, a sense of community."

Personal Statement

In addressing the personal statement prompt, Sakamoto discussed anti-Asian American hate and the relationship to anti-Japanese wartime hysteria. He wrote, "In recent times, the Covid-19 pandemic has occurred, and people in America have started to blame Asians for the spread of this deadly disease. This created a lot of Asian hate that has extended to all those included within the Asian race and has led to discrimination.

"So, how can we stop this? When I started learning more about Japanese American internment camps and Asian hate, I started to change the way I acted. Also, I saw that others started to do the same. Why would others change their behavior when it doesn't even affect them? The answer is that education teaches people to become more aware and have more knowledge of what they do.

"I think we can use this to redefine our world by educating ourselves and others to promote more awareness in society, stopping Asian hate. Understanding who I am and where I came from has taught me of struggle and hate and discrimination. However, it teaches me that it does not have to be this way moving forward. We can learn from these experiences and become more accepting, more caring and more of a community that comes together regardless of a person's skin, language or background."

Reina Schmooch

JACL Chapter: Sacramento
Recipient of the Kenji Kasai Memorial Scholarship
University of California, Los Angeles

Notables

Reina Schmooch distinguished herself as a captain of the Speech and Debate Team at California's Ponderosa High School, where she

recently graduated. She was the recipient of multiple awards and achievements in the two years she was on the team. This was in addition to her stellar academic record that included numerous advanced placement courses.

Schmooch's volunteer work included math tutoring and serving as a Link Crew Leader, assisting incoming high school students. She also participated and instructed in the martial arts, another arena where she displayed her spirit of service. Schmooch also worked as a volunteer assisting the school's junior students. Her instructor had high praise for Reina, crediting her with hard work, a positive attitude and a disposition toward growth and improvement.

Personal Statement

Schmooch's essay featured themes of social justice, often a part of her debate topics. She related the Japanese American incarceration during WWII to international human rights issues and the necessity for awareness, education and speaking out.

"One of Abraham Lincoln's most famous quotes states: 'Those who deny freedom to others, deserve it not for themselves.' While the validity of this statement was prevalent for the time he served as the nation's president, this quote continues to stand out in today's society. However, not only through the commonly acknowledged means of literal restraint but also through personal internal struggles...

"As a speech and debate competitor, I focus much of my speeches on human rights and prejudice around the world. During the 2020-2021 school year, I researched some of these issues with China's Re-Education camps and drew connections to how humanity isn't moving forward because of the cycle of incarceration camps similar to those

for Japanese Americans during World War II.

» See FRESHMEN on page 10



HIDEKI SAKAMOTO



REINA SCHMOOCH



JARED NAKAHARA

BERKELEY JACL CHAPTER

Proudly congratulates its 2022 National Scholarship Recipients

FRESHMAN

Jared Nakahara
Recipient of the CW04 Mitsugi Murakami Kasai Memorial Scholarship

Justin Takano
Recipient of the Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship

Zora Uyeda-Hale
Recipient of the Takashi & Yuriko Moriuchi Memorial Scholarship

GRADUATE

Stephen Leonard
Recipient of the Sho Sato Memorial Law Scholarship





(Pictured, from top)

The Sept. 6 ribbon-cutting ceremony

Stacy Boyd, a campus safety training manager for Spokane Public Schools, was a former student of Denny Yasuhara.

PHOTO: SPOKANE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Spokane School Board Member Riley Smith talks with Thelma Yasuhara during the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

PHOTO: SPOKANE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



WHAT MAKES A TEACHER GREAT?

His former students say Denny Yasuhara was a force of nature. He was also a force of nurture.

By Lynda Lin Grigsby,
Contributor

Fate often creates intersecting paths. On the grounds of a newly built school in Spokane, Wash., Stacy Boyd walks in the past and the present. Everything about the campus pulsates with fresh energy — the natural light that pours through the windows, evergreen trees with shallow roots hugged by fresh soil and the vibration and laughter of children who started this school year by crossing the threshold of Denny Yasuhara Middle School.

“Every time I go there, it just brings chills,” said Boyd, a campus safety training manager for Spokane Public Schools. “That was my teacher.”

School is in session at Denny Yasuhara Middle School after years of planning and construction. Last summer, school officials wearing hard hats on the barren site at 2701 N. Perry St. ceremonially thrust shovels into the dirt to break ground.

Now, students are walking the hallways. Boyd, 53, can’t get over the name on the building. On a Zoom call, he wiggles five fingers to signify the number of teachers who positively affected his life.

Mr. Yasuhara, as he still refers to his teacher, is No. 1.

Denny Yasuhara was a teacher at Spokane’s Logan Elementary School and Garry Middle School for 28 years until his retirement in 1989. He taught science and math and coached basketball to generations of students who described him as caring, strict and fair. He

was all that — and more. Yasuhara, who died in 2002 at 76, was also a civil rights advocate and a longtime JACL leader whose name and image graced many pages of this publication.

He is now the namesake of Spokane’s first school named after an Asian American. The naming of a school is an honor often relegated to national figures whose first names need no mention. In Spokane Public Schools — the second-largest district in the state — some schools are named after former U.S. presidents such as Roosevelt, Madison and Grant. And now, Yasuhara.

We all knew Denny Yasuhara — the scrappy teacher who weeded through the hundreds of other young students and really saw *you*. Maybe it was the social studies teacher in your life who drove you to competitions because your parents were working, or maybe it was the math teacher who stayed late to help you decode the quadratic equation. The teacher you are thinking of may not be Yasuhara, but likely has the same markings of greatness to land on your own Top 5 list. If we were lucky, we had a Denny Yasuhara in our lives.

How do we define an outstanding teacher? In Hollywood, the great teacher trope is often embodied by a white male like Mr. Keating in the 1989 film “Dead Poet’s Society,” who animates Walt Whitman’s words by drawing his all-boy class in close and reciting to their rapt faces that as the powerful play of life goes on, “You may contribute a verse.” In that scene, viewers can suspend disbelief and feel like a student in Mr. Keating’s elite boarding school classroom. It can feel like Mr. Keating is speaking to *you*.



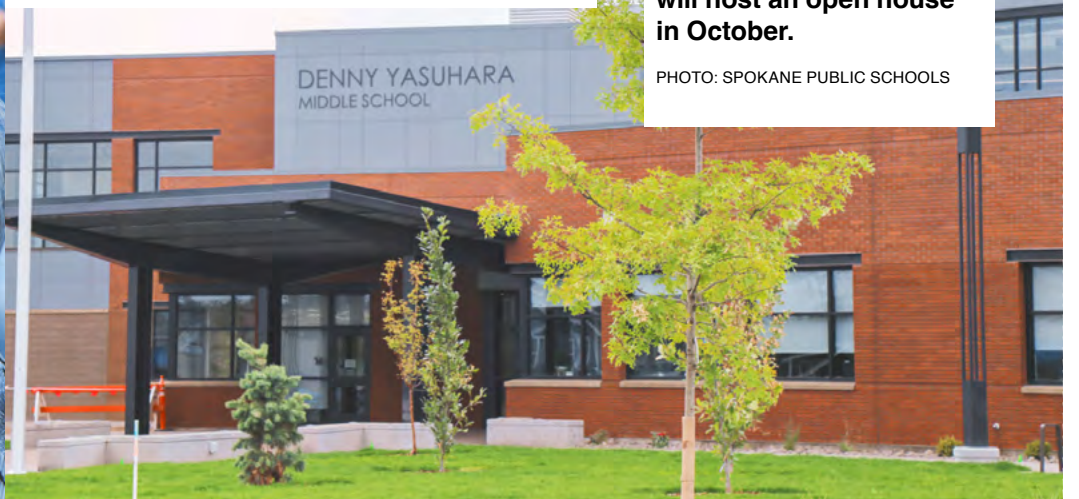
(Pictured, from top)

Denny and Thelma Yasuhara in 1993 while on a cruise to Vancouver. In addition to teaching, Denny served as JACL national president in the early 1990s.

Dean Nakagawa and Thelma Yasuhara are board president and vice president of the Hifumi En Society.

The new middle school will host an open house in October.

PHOTO: SPOKANE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



➤ In real life, Yasuhara's former students say he embodied that energy.

"Mr. Yasuhara was a force of nature," wrote David Clemm in an October 2020 letter to support naming the school after his middle school science and math teacher who inspired him to become a research scientist in molecular virology and endocrinology.

The way his former students describe him, Yasuhara made kids suspend disbelief in themselves. The image of Yasuhara that lives in his students' memories may always be the teacher who struck a scornful and contemplative pose in response to problems — one of Clemm's self-professed favorite memories. It was a pause to collect his thought, followed by a calm and thoughtful response.

Yasuhara likely wore the same look when he met Boyd at Garry Middle School in 1983. It was more a collision of fate for the Spokane native, who was excited to play on the school's basketball team. There on the basketball court, Boyd saw a Japanese American man with a whistle and a steady gaze behind a pair of thick-rimmed glasses. In stature, Yasuhara was just over five feet tall, according to his wife, Thelma Yasuhara, but he had a larger-than-life presence.

"That's my basketball coach?" Boyd thought incredulously.

"I'm your coach," Denny Yasuhara responded, undeterred.

Yasuhara did not ease into excellence. He believed in working for it. As JACL national president in 1995, he met with President Bill Clinton at the White House to talk about affirmative action. Afterwards, surrounded by reporters and leaders of other groups who were in the meeting, Yasuhara was captured on C-SPAN video sporting his signature contemplative frown after a reporter asked why the president had not yet taken a position on affirmative action.

"You can't divorce your philosophy from what you are going to do," said Yasuhara, likely drawing from his own experiences as a teacher and basketball coach, both jobs he took seriously. Often, he checked out stacks of books from the library about basketball. He stayed up late drawing diagrams and planning, so when Boyd questioned himself after the first practice, Yasuhara responded with words that Boyd continues to carry with him: *Be stronger than your strongest excuse.*

That day, Boyd walked out of the gym and told anyone who would listen that Mr. Yasuhara was going to be a good coach.

In 2020, when the district asked for community input on the naming of the new middle school, more than 80 letters were written in support of naming the school after the Nisei science teacher, according to

Pam Tajima Praeger, a former educator who attended the groundbreaking ceremony last June.

This was a time post-George Floyd's murder when the nation was reckoning with how to remember history. Suddenly, what we named a building and the stories we told ourselves about our young nation's history came under scrutiny. What did Madison really do for Spokane compared to a leader like Yasuhara, who inspired generations of students to contribute their own verse?

On Sept. 6, school officials and Thelma Yasuhara cut a long yellow ribbon to signify the official opening of Denny Yasuhara Middle School.

"It's a great honor," said Thelma Yasuhara later when I reached her by phone just a few days shy of her 93rd birthday. "I realize this will be the last thing that Denny will be honored for. I think in his career, it's the highest honor he's gotten."

She took a private tour of the new school and admired its openness. From every window, students can see trees and grass, she said wistfully. I asked what she thinks Denny Yasuhara would have felt about the new school.

He would have loved the building and kvetched over the lack of a dedicated science teacher, she said. In October, the school will host an open house, which Thelma Yasuhara plans to attend, hoping to see her husband's former students again.

The name on the building is a conscious step away from the default to embrace a more inclusive American history. Only a spattering of U.S. elementary schools teaches Asian American history, and now one of Spokane's newest schools bears a Japanese American name.

"We get to set the culture and tone of our new school," said principal Stephanie Lund in a February video update about the school's construction. "And decide what we want out of a learning community."

Hopefully, through the school's name, many more generations of students will wonder about its namesake. Maybe they can ask Boyd, who as campus safety training manager, walks through Spokane schools to help kids feel safe. He will tell anyone who will listen that he is back at Spokane schools because of Denny Yasuhara.

The school mascot is the phoenix, a mythological bird that dies and perpetually gets reborn out of the ashes. It's a cycle that echoes the inspiration that started with a Nisei math and science teacher and is now in the hands of his former student, Boyd, who also coaches youth basketball. Of course, he makes the kids run in the first practice.

"Some of the things he taught me, I feel like I'm giving back and trying to pass on," said Boyd. "That's what he did for me, so that's what I want to do."

If you are lucky, you have met a version of a Denny Yasuhara in your life. Think of those teachers and then say thank you. Few will have schools or buildings named in their honor, but their legacy lives in you.

Now, pass it on. ■

"I'm grateful that people remember him," said Thelma Yasuhara.

PHOTO: SPOKANE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



FELLOWS CORNER

JACL WELCOMES NEW DANIEL K. INOUE FELLOW MICHAEL TANAKA



JACL welcomes Michael Tanaka as the 2022-23 Daniel K. Inouye Fellow. He will be based in Washington, D.C., and will work alongside JACL National Staff as part of the Washington, D.C., team, where he will "monitor key legislative initiatives of importance to the JACL mission and design and implement JACL-sponsored programs among other tasks and duties."

Tanaka is a 2020 graduate of Gonzaga University, where he studied political science, international relations and comprehensive leadership studies.

"During college, through roles in student government and cultural organizations, I worked to create meaningful opportunities that better encouraged self-reflection, affinity and critical discourse around contemporary sociopolitical issues within our campus and country climate. This was some of the most meaningful work I've done in my life, and I am very excited to begin serving in an advocacy-centered role for the Japanese American and larger AAPI community," said Tanaka.

"My overlying goal throughout this fellowship is to identify how I can be most impactful, utilizing my privileges, power and voice toward furthering the mission of the

JACL and the causes I will be representing," Tanaka continued. "I am most excited to work collectively with Bridget (Keaveney) in this space, learning and building off of the work that she and past-fellow Alex Shinkawa did this past year."

Said JACL Norman Y. Mineta Fellow Bridget Keaveney: "My colleagues and I are so excited to have Michael on board! Michael has proven himself to be a strong problem-solver and a fast learner in the short time he has been with us. His care and passion for civil rights made him the perfect fit, and I'm anxious to see how he grows in this position. I couldn't have asked for a better team player, and I look forward to working with him more closely after his move to D.C."

Welcome, Michael, to the JACL!

COMING NEXT ISSUE:

JACL Norman Y. Mineta Fellow Bridget Keaveney reflects on her recent experience in attending APALA (Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance)'s Border Tour in San Diego, Calif., and Tijuana, Mexico.

MOBILE BANKING APP IS NEW & IMPROVED

NEW FEATURES

- 1 User Friendly - access your account with fingerprint or facial recognition.
- 2 Apply for a Loan - one of the quickest, easiest loan applications you'll find!
- 3 Convenience - added cross account and money transfers.
- 4 Easy Access - links to credit card portal, bill pay and remote deposit.
- 5 Updated Bill Pay - enhanced mobile friendly features.

It's free, easy, secure, and available 24/7/365!

National JACL Credit Union

Download the app today!

800-544-8828 www.jaclcu.com

FRESHMEN» continued from page 7

“By bringing these issues to competition, I was able to bring greater awareness to social issues and bring more of my community together to learn more ways to bring an end to such detestable injustice.

“The more our world divides on these issues and refuses to learn how these actions affect the entire world, the greater the consequences will be. However, if everyone unites to spread greater awareness and present visible education on these topics and how to truly undermine these operations, we can stop the cycle of injustice and incarceration camps.”

Justin Takano
JACL Chapter:
Berkeley
Recipient of the
Henry and Chiyo
Kuwahara Memo-
rial Scholarship
University of California, San Diego



JUSTIN TAKANO

Notables

Justin Takano, a 2022 graduate of El Cerrito High School, is a member of a family of longtime JACL members. A strong student with a near-perfect GPA, he was recognized with an AP award for those who score 3 on three AP exams. He was also on the varsity baseball team and helped coach a youth team, emphasizing the fundamentals as well as sportsmanship.

Takano also has volunteered for various roles as a poll worker and a preschool youth counselor. The volunteer role that has made a lifelong impact on him is when he served an intern at the National Japanese American Historical Society. He deepened his understanding of the Japanese American historical experience and helped complete a video project about San Francisco's Japantown. The living account of the incarceration greatly moved him and helped him articulate the need for education of the general public about the experience. He made a strong case for the value of such education and its application to today's society.

Personal Statement

“This past summer, I had the opportunity to work as an intern at the National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS). Through my

father, I had a lot of prior exposure to the Japanese American story, but I hadn't placed much importance on my heritage until I began to study Japanese and think about the intersection of the two cultures. When the possibility of interning at NJAHS was mentioned, my interest was piqued, and it seemed like the perfect opportunity to learn more about my dad's side of the family and their history.

“During my internship, I worked closely with the NJAHS executive director and a team of college interns to create a 30-minute-long video tour of San Francisco's Japantown. To write the script for the tour, we researched historical locations, visited them in person, dug through photo archives and watched documentaries.

“Through this process, I learned about picture brides, Tanforan Racetrack, the Fillmore District, the 1906 'Ham and Eggs' fire, the connection between African American and Japanese communities, how urban renewal fragmented SF Japantown's community and much more.

“I used my commute to read literature on the internment camps such as 'Displacement' by Kiku Hughes, and I found myself crying on a BART train. 'Displacement' made me feel like I was journeying through time with the main character, experiencing the same disbelief and fear, and coming to terms with my own identity. As a Sansei descended from Japanese immigrants who came to the United States after the war, I had felt a disconnect between me and my Japanese ancestry. The amount of time between WWII and the present means that I haven't experienced the same racial prejudice that my father and grandparents had to go through, and I thus wasn't expecting to resonate with the story that deeply. . .

“Education is crucial in spreading awareness about social justice because we are destined to repeat history if we never learn it or are taught poorly. Harmful misconceptions and false beliefs need to be cut off at the source and prevented from spreading to new generations.

“I believe that we're making progress, especially in major cities, but each step of the way is riddled with

obstacles. Legislation is slow, and there's a need for collective action. Social consciousness comes from an acceptance of other cultures and empathy, yet the experience of internment camps and being unfairly accused is hard to understand from reading textbooks and explanations alone.

“A thorough understanding takes interaction and engagement, dedicated teachers who are willing to go the extra mile and quality resources to delve into. These are becoming more attainable by the day, but it's up to us as a society to push for change and protect our future.”

Zora Uyeda-Hale
JACL Chapter: Berkeley
Recipient of the Takashi and
Yuriko Moriuchi Me-
memorial Scholarship
University of Califor-
nia, Berkeley



ZORA UYEDA-HALE

Notables

Zora Uyeda-Hale is one busy activist. Among her activities, she was junior varsity and then varsity basketball captain, first clarinet in Symphonic Band and student government officer all while attaining a 3.95 unweighted GPA while in high school. In her community, she is also active in local and district Young Buddhist Assn. activities, yet still finds the time to devote to her true passion: social justice activism. After graduating this year from Albany High School in Albany, Calif., Uyeda-Hale will attend the University of California, Berkeley, and major in society and environment.

A new JACL member, she stated, “. . . the JACL's objectives and emphasis on youth involvement resonate deeply with me.” She is impressed and inspired by activities and programs such as the JACL Chicago chapter's “Bridging Communities” program.

The School Board president from Uyeda-Hale's school district wrote in a letter of recommendation, “Zora is simply trying to change the world

for the better, beginning with where she lives.” The president concluded by stating, “She has labored to create real change within the Albany community. She will leave our district better than when she entered it through her own efforts. That cannot be said of many and is the highest recommendation I can provide.”

Personal Statement

In her personal statement, Uyeda-Hale described her journey in uncovering and learning about Japanese American incarceration beginning in sixth grade, seeing movies, talking to her grandparents and viewing current documentaries such as “Alternative Facts” and “Fred Korematsu Speaks Up.”

As she learned more, Uyeda-Hale saw the need for education but also realized the following:

“In almost every history class I've been in, there has been a moment where the teacher has explained why learning history is so important; it's so we don't repeat our mistakes. As some-

one who loves history, I agree with this sentiment; however, looking at the state of our current world, this doesn't seem to be working.

“Families are still being separated and kept in detention centers. Black people are still being targeted and disenfranchised through the industrial prison complex. Indigenous people are still being stripped of their land and denied basic human resources. The patterns of dehumanization that we can see throughout history are still being perpetuated. In order to not repeat our mistakes, we must learn accurate and representative history and contextualize it around systemic issues, not just isolated incidents.”

Uyeda-Hale continued to write in detail of her decision to make a difference, starting slowly. “. . . I thought it was just an opportunity to have cool conversations with up-

perclassmen and friends, but really, it turned out to be one of my first experiences with student-led activism and anti-racist education, now two of my biggest passions.

“I choose to be involved in this type of advocacy because I regard both education and student voice as extremely underappreciated vessels for social change. It's not enough to just teach the historical facts; we must also contextualize these experiences in a broader social interpretation.

“When questioning my grandpa's mentality around the government, I must also consider assimilation, cultural expectations and self-gaslighting. When looking at internment as a whole, I must also see the parallels to not only the treatment of AAPI people in the U.S. today but also the many detention centers and their inhumane conditions. Education is one of the most powerful tools we have at our disposal, especially when it comes to Japanese internment and its serious repercussions.”

Caroline Van Gundy
JACL Chapter: Stockton
Recipient of the Sam and Florice
Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship
Mount Holyoke College

Notables

CAROLINE VAN GUNDY

Caroline Van Gundy is a 2022 graduate of Piedmont High School in Piedmont, Calif. During high school, she was an honor student who worked for her school's food service program for four years – three of those as a teaching assistant. Her supervisors praised her sense of humor, work ethic, dependability, quickness to learn new tasks and respectful manner — all qualities that will continue to contribute to her success in future endeavors. She also enjoyed tutoring several students from diverse backgrounds.

Van Gundy recently served as an intern with the Contra



Contra Costa JACL

proudly congratulates

Jack Lauer, recipient of the 2022 Patricia & Gail
Ishimoto Memorial Scholarship
and
Caroline Van Gundy, recipient of the 2022 Sam
and Florice Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship

SFVJACL Honors Three Local Students with Scholarships

The San Fernando Valley chapter of the JACL is delighted to honor three bright college-bound students with chapter scholarships. After much deliberation, the Scholarship Committee decided to recognize **Jensen Emi** (Granada Hills Charter), **Rane Morishige Kita** (West Ranch), and **Kishi Sugahara Strahl** (Valley Academy of Arts and Sciences). Each student's application burst with an impressive array of community service, academic achievement, and a sincere commitment to social justice, a cornerstone of our chapter.

Jensen, a relative of the noted Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee, Frank Emi, has extensive experience with San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center Athletics and has distinguished herself as a scholar-athlete. Rane wrote passionately in his personal statement about the antidote to the recent wave of anti-Asian hate crimes: education. “Spending time at Manzanar and speaking with my grandfather were important learning experiences, but they also allowed me to see how we can educate others as a way to correct past mistakes and narratives.” Meanwhile, Kishi's extracurricular and academic experience are beyond reproach. An AP and Decathlon Scholar she has also played important roles in fashion, theater, and student government organizations.

The committee that reviewed the outstanding applications included May Wood, Nancy Takayama, Phil Shigekuni, and JP deGuzman. The SFVJACL was established in 1942 and the current scholarship program has been in existence for over 60 years. Recently the chapter decided to name its annual scholarship after a distinguished community members whose imprint on the SFV Japanese American community is indelible. The 2022 scholarship honors the Sakaguchi family, long-time pillars of the community who helped forge lasting institutions through their exceptional ethic of service, engagement, and philanthropy



Costa JACL, writing articles for the Weekly Digest and participating in the chapter's MLK Jr. Day celebrations. She is very interested in Asian American civil rights. Her activity with JACL has allowed her to learn more about Japanese culture and Japanese American history. Van Gundy intends to major in Asian Studies at Mount Holyoke College.

Personal Statement

"I think we can use our education as a tool to correct past historical narratives by teaching it everywhere and not being afraid to raise the topic in our daily lives with our friends in school. The incarceration of Americans with Japanese backgrounds to me is a focal point for examining discrimination of all Asian Americans. It should not be a footnote in the history books, or something mentioned in passing. I think we can correct past historical narratives in this way by looking at this tragic event in the context of how Asians in our society were treated before and after. . . . I think the way education can move us forward is by continuing to teach and learn about the incarceration in the greater context of discrimination against Asians in the course of our country's history.

"Each immigrant group's experience of discrimination may be different. The incarceration did not appear out of a vacuum. If we understand the context in which that arose, perhaps we can all learn how best to deal with present and future issues."

UNDERGRADUATES

Erica Harris
JACL Chapter:
Greater Los Angeles
Recipient of the
Henry and Chiyo
Kuwahara Memo-
rial Scholarship
University of Califor-
nia, San Diego



Notables

Erica Harris is the first in her family to attend college. She is a student pursuing a bioengineering degree with a minor in business at the University of California, San Diego.

Personal Statement

"Many famous people have stated, 'Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it,' which is a quotation I full-heartedly agree with. With hate being based on discrimination that is often fueled by a lack of understanding and the spread of false information, when people can't identify a reason for why terrible things happen, a group is singled out to become the scapegoat and faces punishment they never deserved in the first place.

"Japanese Americans saw this during WWII with the internment of Americans of Japanese heritage. For the whole Asian American community to be made victims of ignorance, misinformation and irrational fear is abhorrent (Covid). In this modern time where a large number of individuals and families are struggling as a community, it is up to every person to share compassion and kindness to one another. . . ."

"By recognizing my own shortcomings and identifying how much I do not know, I believe I can come from a mutual place of understanding in using education to share the bad side of history, along with the good. I have never been a blogger, or an activist, but I cannot just listen to the news, see all the hate acts that are occurring and do nothing.

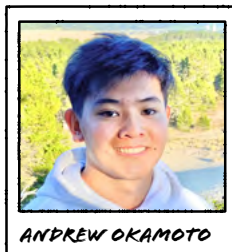
"That being said, I want to collect resources for people who are discriminated against and/or are victims of hate crimes so even if the unimaginable happens, hopefully they could receive the support they need. I also want to create a safe place for people who are especially isolated in these socially distant times and a comfortable environment where those who have faced especially rough times

in their pasts can share their stories so us from younger generations can understand the perspectives from those hurt most throughout history.

"I am just one person, but I do my best to reach out to the people I really care about and ask how they and their families are doing. . . . I hope to spread awareness of how important it is to make sure we're listening to

both sides of the story to get the full truth of what goes on in the world and in the past. . . . We need to remind each other that we are all working together."

Andrew Okamoto
JACL Chapter:
Mt. Olympus
Recipient of the
Shigeru Nakahira
Memorial Scholarship
University of Utah



Notables

Andrew Okamoto has been a youth member of his chapter for the past two years and helped sell Minidoka Swing Band CDs at the Salt Lake City JACL National Convention in 2019. His grandfather, Henry Matsunaga, started the band during WWII.

Okamoto also helps coordinate and volunteer at booths in the Salt Lake area and stated that through a variety of JACL events, he's learned both leadership and communication skills. He additionally noted that if he continues to put an effort into giving back to the community, his dream of creating a more just society will come true.

Personal Statement

"The way I learned about the Japanese American incarceration experience is by learning about my own relatives. It took only a few minutes of reading articles and hearing stories of my relatives, like my great-grandfather Hisashi 'Harry' Okamoto, to truly fathom what it means to be an 'Okamoto' and what it was like to be Japanese American [during that time].

"Hisashi Okamoto was a member of the Oregon Buddhist Temple and is one of countless Japanese Americans who sacrificed so much for the future of their children and the Japanese American community.

"As an immigrant and owner of an old run-down produce market in Portland, Hisashi had very few

customers who bought only small quantities of fruits and vegetables at a time. Later, after the start of WWII, Hisashi and his family were forcibly removed to the Minidoka incarceration camp for four years, selling their grocery store at a terrible loss.

"When faced with unbearable sacrifice and prejudice, rather than let anger and hate overwhelm him, he responded by using his gift of music to help form the Norakuro Band during his incarceration in WWII in Minidoka. Despite the terrible injustices done to him, he used his talent of music to provide inspiration and comfort to those around him.

"Today's Minidoka Swing Band is a tribute to his legacy to remember the perseverance, accomplishments and dignity of his generation," Okamoto stated. "Hisashi is a prime example of what it means to be Japanese American.

He represented hard work, determination and never settling with the easy path. His example is why I, like him, strive to give back to the community around me."

Hana O'Looney-Goto
JACL Chapter: Washington, D.C.
Recipient of the Alice Yuriko Endo
Memorial Scholarship
Yale University

Notables

Hana O'Looney-Goto's involvement with JACL arrived through a unique path. "In September 2021, I was invited by my local Japanese American Citizens League chapter in Washington, D.C., to speak as a panelist at their upcoming event, 'Japanese American History and Contemporary Issues,' alongside Professor Phil Tajitsu Nash, who teaches Asian American studies at the University of Maryland and also serves as the co-president of the board of the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund.

"As the first Japanese American elected to the Montgomery County, Md., Board of Education — the 14th-largest school system in the United States — the JACL chapter wanted to hear about my perspective and experiences on navigating

local politics through my Japanese American identity. I had not been aware of the wonderful work of JACL before speaking at this event but was immediately inspired by the dialogue I had with Professor Nash and other Japanese American youth. We discussed the model minority myth, the infantilization of Japanese culture, the history of East Asia and Japanese internment, and before I knew it, our 90 minutes together had expired, and I had to give parting words to our panel viewers.

"The incredible connections I developed with other thoughtful, reflective and passionate youth members of the D.C. Japanese American Citizens League chapter in this short event inspired me to become further involved with JACL, and I immediately began my application as a youth member of the organization."

Personal Statement

O'Looney-Goto on education: "... In my service to my local board of education, I've created this motto for myself: The universe is an equal distributor of talent, but history has been an unequal distributor of opportunity. Education's responsibility is to fill in the gaps. This is especially true for Japanese Americans, as our community has not only been put through the horrifying experience of incarceration camps but also has been victim to historical erasure of that dark point in American history and the racism we continue to experience in the United States.

"... Education's responsibility is not only to provide financial and material assistance to correct historical inequities but also to teach a full and accurate portrayal of Japanese internment to ensure our history is not forgotten. I look forward to continuing this work that

I did on a small, classroom scale to the rest of the United States with the partnership, passion and resources of the Japanese American Citizens League."

Alexandra Ridge
JACL Chapter: Mt. Olympus
Recipient of the Saburo Kido
Memorial Scholarship
University of Utah

Notables

Alexandra Ridge has been a member of JACL since 2015 but has been involved with the Matsumoto Sister City exchange since 2010. She has been involved with the JACL with programs both in her city and through the Kakahashi project and hopes to return to support the program.

She stated, "... The pandemic has inspired me to make a difference in my own community and combat isolation by inviting new members to join the JACL and the Kakehashi project."

Personal Statement

"It is no exaggeration that the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II fundamentally rewrote my personal history as a Rokusei; as time progresses, I find myself clinging desperately to any semblance of a diasporic community, and I am not alone. Entire generations of Nikkeijin are drifting away from their heritage, losing traditions, forgetting Japanese language — already too distanced to mourn the loss of things they never even knew existed.

"The immeasurable impact of this atrocity was not limited to the unjust imprisonment of JA in the camps but rather caused a ripple effect of cultural erasure and anti-Asian sentiment that permeates present-day communities. As an act



teach a full and accurate portrayal of Japanese internment to ensure our history is not forgotten. I look forward to continuing this work that



www.glajacl.org

Congratulations
to
Erica Harris
Recipient of the
H & C Kuwahara
Memorial Scholarship

greaterlajacl@gmail.com

of survival, Japanese American families stopped speaking and teaching Japanese in their homes; stopped practicing cultural traditions; burned family heirlooms; erased any connections with their Japanese roots — in order to reassimilate into American society for their own safety and essential acceptance.”

“... I could not begin to comprehend the effects of WWII until I sat down with my grandmother to hear about her childhood on Oahu and the obstacles our family faced prior to and after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

“Today, her dementia has progressed so that she cannot identify ancestors in photographs or even recognize her own children. There are countless unanswered questions that I wished to ask her, that my future children will ask of me, and I won’t ever have the answers. I was too young to interview my grandfather before he passed away in 2011, nearly a lifetime of memories lost.

“Like many young Japanese Americans, the information I have about my culture and past is secondhand — limited as time unfolds but also further clouded following this mass incarceration. We should be spreading awareness about the importance of story-retelling before it is too late.”

Ridge continued, “The JACL should reach out to chapters to create a centralized, accessible database that can be continually developed by the community. Volunteers may translate old journal entries from Japanese into English, and JA voices and stories can be circulated in the newsletters each month.”

Victoria Ridge

JACL Chapter: Mt. Olympus
Recipient of the Dr. Thomas T. Yatabe Memorial Scholarship
Pacific University of Oregon

Notables

Victoria Ridge has been awarded the Dr. Thomas T. Yatabe Memorial Scholarship to attend Pacific University of Oregon as an accounting major. Raised in a mixed-race household in a predominantly white neighborhood, she feels that making strong and diverse connections is a critical part of growing, both as an individual and as a society.

As such, she has been deeply involved in many aspects of her college education, from athletics events to serving as the equity and leadership coordinator of the RHA executive board. Besides school involvement, she has volunteered for the Nihon Matsuri festival at the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple. Ridge hopes to learn more about Japanese American history and Japanese culture to



VICTORIA RIDGE

share with her community.

Personal Statement

“After a little research [near my college], I found a quaint museum in the center of downtown Portland. It had many artifacts and first-hand stories of the town that had once stood around this hidden museum. It wasn’t until this point in time that I had even realized the amount of Japanese settlers that had once lived here. Even as a Japanese American whose parents encouraged her to research, I felt that by not knowing our past, I had let not only myself down, but also my own ancestors as well.

“Until we learn the deep truths of our past rather than memorizing rote facts and casualty numbers, I feel that we cannot truly comprehend the weight it has on our future. World War II cannot be forgotten, and if we choose to ignore it, we will be condemned to repeat history.

“In order to remind people of the tragic events of WWII, I continuously post on my social media accounts across several different platforms. Education can be a tool when given the proper opportunity — it can correct biased accounts, give victims the chance to voice their experiences and initiate conversations about the implications of past actions.

“Topics like racism are not unfamiliar to me, and I continue to research and share my findings with my followers. The epidemic of AAPI hate and constant stories of our people facing the threat of harassment (or even death) from their fellow Americans breaks my heart. If a single one of my posts can inspire one other person to speak up against injustice, my efforts will be worth it.”

Ellen Uchida

JACL Chapter: Mt. Olympus
Recipient of the Kyutaro and Yasuo Abiko Memorial Scholarship
College of William and Mary

Notables

As a finance major at the College of William and Mary, Ellen Uchida has a unique perspective on Japanese Americans.

“I initially joined the JACL Japan chapter in December of 2020 and switched to the D.C. chapter in March of 2021. For the JACL D.C. chapter, I authored an article for the spring 2021 newsletter,” she stated. “In the article, I shared my experiences as an overseas Japanese American who was born and raised in Japan her whole life. I produced an authentic narrative of my life detailing my initial lack of understanding of the Japanese American incarceration experience and the disconnection I felt with my American identity.



ELLEN UCHIDA

“At the end of the article, I articulated my own newfound perception of what it means to be ‘American’ and what it means for me to transfer to an American university from a Japanese university. Overall, I was able to offer another perspective of what a Japanese American could look like and provide invaluable insight into Japanese society that is often inaccessible to people who have never lived in Japan.

“My next step of involvement has been signing up for the JACL Next Gen Speakers Program. For this program, I intend on sharing my experiences as someone who has mixed Japanese and Chinese heritage and share how growing up in a multicultural family in a largely homogenous country impacted the way I think. I would also like to use my position as a speaker to share my thoughts on Japan’s path toward embracing globalization and what steps I believe the Japanese government could benefit from. Simultaneously, I hope to learn more about the Japanese American incarceration experience from participants who will share their families’ stories.”

Personal Statement

Regarding education, Uchida stated, “... Overall, the steps I took to inform myself of the Japanese American incarceration experience taught me not solely the scale of the trauma involved, but its everlasting significance to both people of Japanese and non-Japanese descent. Since discrimination is still a highly relevant issue in the modern day, I believe that education should be re-emphasized as a tool to create greater unity among communities to have insightful, yet sometimes uncomfortable discussions on discrimination and the importance of civil rights. Overall, implementing education to evoke compassion toward underprivileged people would promote greater consciousness of the fact that we are ultimately all members of a society that depend on each other.”

GRADUATES

Matthew Farrells

JACL Chapter: Twin Cities
Recipient of the Minoru Yasui Memorial Scholarship
University of Minnesota

Notables

Matthew Farrells, a member of the Twin Cities JACL chapter in Minneapolis, Minn., is pursuing a master’s degree in business administration at the University of Minnesota’s Carlson School of Management.

He has a long and diverse experience in the JACL. At the chapter level, he has served for 14 years on the Twin Cities board and has held various other offices for the chapter. At the district level, he has served as youth chair for the Midwest District Council.

At the national level, he served as national youth chair. After two years of service there, he became national secretary/treasurer for four years, where he chaired both the Budget and Finance Committees while managing the national endowment and scholarship funds. He then became national vp for planning and development for another four years, during which he served twice as a Kakehashi supervisor/chaperone with students traveling to Japan. In 2020, he again became national secretary/treasurer, where he completed his term at the conclusion of the JACL National Convention.

Personal Statement

While working professionally in wealth management, Farrells still focuses his time on outreach to underserved communities, schools and local organizations.

“Education is vitally important in raising social consciousness of past incidences of racial



MATTHEW FARRELLS

bigotry and social justice issues and can be used as an impactful tool to help advocate for other communities who are impacted by racism. People don’t know what they don’t know. Education is often a useful tool to raise self-awareness, grow and develop. Learning about historical events adds context to one’s own

belief system and helps define his/her own understanding of social justice issues.

“Education also helps frame complex issues into simple and effective ways, which can be useful in often challenging situations. Understanding the JA incarceration experience and how it has impacted our community is an important foundation when advocating on behalf of others.

“By using our own story of our own community’s legacy, we have tremendous power and responsibility to apply the same principles or equality and justice to modern day social issues — including immigration reform, marriage equality, anti-Asian hate and BLM initiatives. Only until our society understands the past can it choose to consciously change to become more accepting of others.”

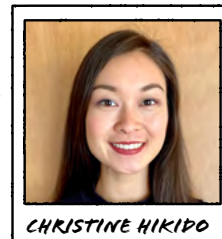
Christine Hikido

JACL Chapter: Silicon Valley
Recipient of the Chiyoko and Tomas Shimazaki Memorial Scholarship
Will Attend the University of California, Berkeley, the University of California, Los Angeles, or Columbia University

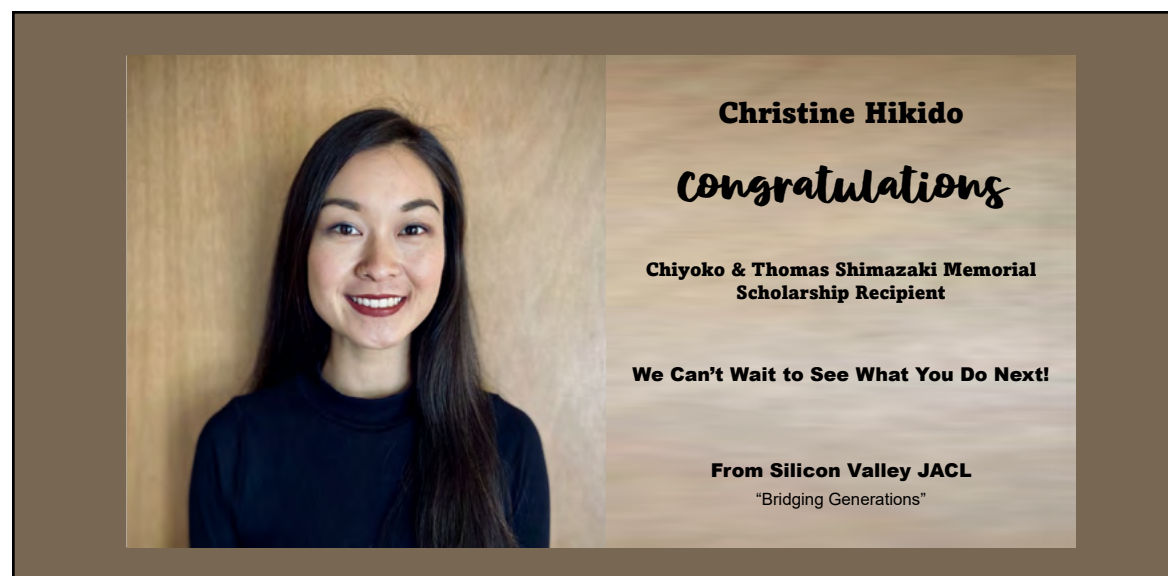
Notables

Christine Hikido is “currently pursuing a master’s in urban planning, which I hope will support my career aspirations in public and social services. I hope to work for non-profit organizations that address home-

lessness, affordable housing and community development



CHRISTINE HIKIDO



of low-income communities of color. . . . In addition to my career aspirations in public and social services, I also have a strong interest in Japanese language, culture and U.S./Japan relations.

"After I finish my master's degree, I hope to take some time off to go to Japan for about a year, either through the JET Program or through volunteer work. In the long term, I plan to continue volunteering within the Japanese American community. I hope to find ways to bring Japanese and Japanese American communities together."

Personal Statement

"All of my grandparents were incarcerated during World War II. My maternal grandmother was first interned at the Poston Internment Camp, but after her stepfather answered "no" to questions 27 and 28 on the Loyalty Questionnaire, her entire family was transferred to Tule Lake Segregation Center.

"Her family attempted to move back to Japan after the war ended but moved back to California after witnessing Japan's war-torn conditions. My maternal grandfather was also at Poston, then later served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Unit.

They eventually settled down as strawberry farmers in Watsonville, Calif. My maternal grandparents did not speak much about the camps, preferring to keep these painful memories to themselves.

"My paternal grandmother was born and raised in Juneau, Alaska. The day after Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, the FBI took her father, and she didn't see him for more than two years. She wasn't sure if they'd ever be reunited.

"During the Day of Remembrance this year, my grandmother spoke about the tragedy of a mother taking her life in Minidoka. Even as a child, my grandma could feel the profound impact of injustice and its devastating burden on families.

"My paternal grandfather also served for the 442nd Regimental Combat Unit while his family was locked up in the Gila River Relocation Center. In Italy, he was severely injured when hit by a landmine and was hospitalized for more than

two years.

"He passed away peacefully a few months ago at the age of 97. After his passing, I've learned many things about him that he rarely spoke about. I learned that he initially answered "no" to question 27 of the Loyalty Questionnaire, but he changed his mind a few days later and was allowed to change his answer.

"I learned that after the war, he wrote op-eds to support the no-no boys during times when they were still stigmatized by the Japanese American community. My grandparents' acts of resilience in the face of injustice have inspired me to dedicate my career to promoting justice and equity for all."

Erina Horikawa

JACL Chapter: Spokane
Recipient of the Dr. Newton K. Wesley (Uyesugi) Memorial Scholarship
Washington State University



ERINA HORIKAWA

Notables

"Prior to this year, I thought that I couldn't really join the Japanese American Citizens League as I moved from Japan in 2009 and I am a Japanese citizen. I did

not have a history of Japanese American internment in my family, and until my later years of college, I identified more as Japanese. However, as I majored in race and ethnic studies at Whitman College, I became more and more passionate about racial justice and civil rights.

"During a devised theater project about Latinx immigration in Walla Walla, I understood my own immigration experience more and how that allowed me to form solidarity with other immigrant or refugee groups.

"With my previous major, and as a current medical student, I identify now as Japanese American. While paired with immense injustice and tragedies, I love the history of political activism in the United States. I cannot imagine moving back to Japan and starting a career there. I've learned how much sexism, power hierarchies and a sense of political apathy are present in Japan. I'm truly thankful that I moved to the United

States and was educated in race and ethnic studies so I can continue to advocate for health equity as a medical student and future physician."

Personal Statement

Horikawa brings a fresh perspective on the JACL movement. ". . . When I grew up in Japan, I reflected on how the Japanese history curriculum did not cover Japanese internment as much. Also, I realized how I had internalized the oppression of internment and atomic bombings — I thought I did not belong in the Japanese American community because I did not share the generational trauma of internment. What a ridiculous thought! I realized. How could I have let an act of racial oppression defer me from my sense of belonging within an organization toward civil rights and justice?"

Kellie Lee

JACL Chapter: Sacramento
Repeat Recipient of the Dr. Kiyoshi Sonoda Memorial Dental Scholarship
UCLA School of Dentistry

Notables

A letter of recommendation submitted on behalf of Kellie Lee stated: "At the UCLA School of Dentistry, Kellie Lee has been very active holding multiple leadership positions in various clubs on campus while maintaining good standing in the classroom and clinic. She has engaged in research on HPV and will



KELLIE LEE

soon be an author on a recently accepted publication resulting from her work.

"Lee also has a variety of teaching experiences highlighting her broad skill and knowledge base in her young dental career. Additionally, she has also maintained strong ties to her Japanese heritage and has made it a point in her life to be active in the JACL, UCLA's Nikkei Student Union and the Buddhist church. She is also gifted at Taiko and has

performed numerous times. She is a great representative of the Japanese American community and exemplifies the many qualities and ambition sought in the younger generations."

Personal Statement

"I always wonder if anyone else is affected when my friends and I share our families' [incarceration] history and cultural experiences. . . . Embracing my Japanese American culture by attending and learning at the Manzanar Pilgrimage, even performing in a drama production to share with my colleagues at UCLA, are all ways in which I feel I have participated in educating the society about the Japanese incarceration.

"It is crucial to share these experiences with friends and the youth of our generation to prevent events like this from ever happening again."

Tanner Taguchi

JACL Chapter: Mt. Olympus
Recipient of the Rev. H. John and Asako Yamashita Memorial Scholarship
Brigham Young University

Notables

Tanner Taguchi, a member of the Mt. Olympus chapter, has been awarded the Rev. H. John and Asako Yamashita Memorial Scholarship to attend Brigham Young University for a master's of public administration. He has been deeply involved with both sides of JACL's work on civil rights advocacy and cultural preservation. Recently, as a legislative intern, he worked on the organization of APIA groups in Utah for APIA day on the Hill, drafting the Day of Remembrance citation and assisting Sen. Jani Iwamoto on SB 58 in the Utah state legislature commemorating Day of Remembrance.

He also works with APIA groups on campus, organizes Nihon Matsuri at the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple, assists in cataloging artifacts donated to the university, teaches about internment at Sunday school and

coordinates with university faculty to teach about the Topaz camp, including a field trip to the site.

Personal Statement

"When I was in the sixth grade, I had never heard of the Japanese American internment, even as a Japanese American. My grandparents immigrated to the United States after the passage of the Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1965.

"My world changed forever when I read 'Journey to Topaz' for a reading assignment. As an 11-year-old Japanese American from California, I felt a connection to Yuki, an 11-year-old girl from California and the protagonist of the book. I had the same mix of Japanese and American food at home. I experienced a similar dynamic with Japanese and non-Japanese friends.

"However, as I read the book, our experiences diverged. I was horrified as I read the tragedies that afflicted her and her family as they were forced to leave all they had and live in a desert wasteland. From then on, I've taken every opportunity I can to educate others on the events surrounding internment and point out the impacts it's had on the Japanese American community and the United States.

"Since then, I've visited every internment camp I could to learn more: Manzanar, Topaz and Minidoka.

I hope to go to the Gila River and Poston camps with my family soon. I've visited the Japanese American National Museum and have taken others with me to tell them the stories of immigrants who worked tirelessly, only to have the results of their labor stripped away.

"Throughout high school and my undergraduate program, I've had the chance to give presentations about topics of my choice. If the assignment allowed, without fail I've chosen to tell the story of Japanese Americans, particularly the stories of those who served as part of the 100th/442nd."



TANNER TAGUCHI



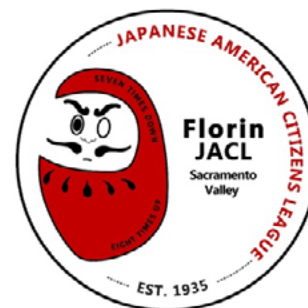
Congratulations from the Seattle Chapter JACL to
Erina Horikawa
for the awarding of the
Dr. Newton K. Wesley (Uyesugi) Memorial Scholarship!



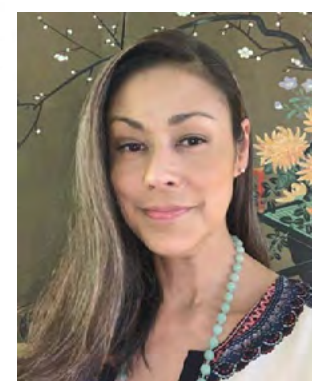
Molly Maseba

Aiko Susanna Tashiro Hiratsuka
Memorial Arts Scholarship

Congratulations to our
2022 JACL National
Scholarship Awardees!



Katherine Morris
Abe and Esther Hagiwara
Student Aid Scholarship





ERIC TOKITA

Eric Tokita

JACL Chapter: Mt. Olympus
Recipient of the Kenji Kajiwara
Memorial Scholarship
University of Utah School of
Medicine

Notables

Eric Tokita knew when considering what kind of career to pursue that he wanted to work alongside his community. Graduating with a degree in biomedical engineering, he was passionate about making a difference in health care.

Now as a second-year med student, he is pursuing a career as a physician so he can work with patients directly. He also wants to be a pillar within his community and feels a career in medicine will afford him a position to advocate for change and social justice for underserved populations. He knows the journey before him is long and rigorous, but he is also excited to be part of a profession that centers around patient care.

Growing up, Tokita was fortunate that members of his JACL chapter came to his school and talked with students about the WWII Japanese American incarceration. This talk inspired him to learn more about his own family's history in the camp.

He discovered how his great-grandfather communicated his incarceration experience through painting. His great-grandfather felt his artwork helped convey the emotional devastation that Japanese Americans faced.

As a youth representative, Tokita participated in the JACL at the national level. He worked with fellow members from across the country who lived in the incarceration camps and shared their stories. Tokita was amazed at how people from such diverse political and socioeconomic backgrounds could all put their differences aside and work together to educate future generations.

Personal Statement

"Beyond academic dissemination, it is crucial to raise a new generation of advocates and leaders that protect the future. The prejudice and biases that led to incarceration are still ever-present, and it takes firm resolve to combat them. We must fight the battles of injustice wherever they manifest, recognizing that any attacks on social equality should be met with the same visit as if it were an attack on us. Doing so ensures the best odds of fundamentally changing our society in a way that promotes understanding and empathy."

LAW

Stephen Leonard
JACL Chapter:
Berkeley
Recipient of the Sho
Sato Memorial Law
Scholarship
New York University School of Law

Notables

A graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, Stephen Leonard attends New York University School of Law, where he has earned a 3.95 GPA. Leonard was an officer in the Nikkei Student Union at Berkeley (historian during spring 2020, fall 2021 and spring 2022; president from fall 2020-spring 2021).

A director of the East Bay Sanctuary said the following about Leonard, "[He] worked primarily on our social media team, helping to develop content for different civil rights and social justice campaigns. For example, he played a lead role in researching and developing a campaign to raise awareness about Title 42, a xenophobic and racist policy that continues to expel asylum seekers under the pretext of public health."

Personal Statement

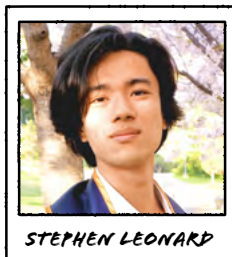
Of his work in the Nikkei community, he stated, "I became president of UC Berkeley's Nikkei Student Union in 2020, during a time when the American public was beginning to reckon with an uninterrupted history of anti-Black institutional racism and an uptick in anti-Asian hate crimes."

"I felt that, more than ever, Japanese Americans had a responsibility to go beyond their own communities and take a pro-active role in addressing these issues head-on. I took a lead role in planning our annual Day of Remembrance ceremony in the uncharted waters of the newly introduced Zoom format."

"But what I am most proud of is how NSU always uses this ceremony as an opportunity not simply to remember the horrors of racialized incarceration but also to educate our audience on the continued threat of xenophobic policy today."

"From a justice system that disproportionately locks up Black Americans to an asylum system with a history of holding asylum seekers for ridiculous lengths of time in horrific conditions, fear of 'the other' continues to be used as justification for systems that destroy the lives of the vulnerable and line the pockets of the powerful."

He concluded: "For the Japanese American, I argue, our history should be a source of empathetic outrage with regard to the continued detention of minorities today. I have



STEPHEN LEONARD

been heartened and inspired by the Japanese Americans around me, from Tsuru to JACL to my NSU teammates, who continue to demonstrate a commitment to using JA history not as a source of bitterness but as a source of compassion. To me, my Japanese American identity means anti-establishment resistance and solidarity with the vulnerable."

Lauralei Singsank
National Associate
Recipient of the Thomas T. Hayashi
Memorial Law Scholarship
University of Virginia Law School

Notables

Lauralei Singsank attends the University of Virginia Law School, having graduated previously from the University of Oregon, magna cum laude, in the top 5 percent of her class. She desires to serve underrepresented immigrants when she graduates.



LAURALEI SINGSANK

She explained, "I've been doing pro bono work this year as a hotline volunteer for CAIR Coalition, an organization that provides legal representation for detained migrants. This work reminds me of the incarceration Japanese Americans faced. It's easy to think about the internment camps as a historical wrong, one we should never repeat. It's harder to remember that internment isn't gone at all. Migrants and asylum seekers are being held in prisons in enormous numbers to this day. Conditions are bleak, and there's no clear solution insight. I want to use my legal degree to serve those who can't help themselves."

Singsank also worked as the Janet D. Stieger Fellow at the Office of Consumer Protection. Her law school professor glowingly described her: "Lauralei has talked passionately — and astutely — about some of the unique legal challenges that native Hawaiians face with Kuleana land ownership. Invariably, her strategies for change focus on both big-picture issues and the not-flashy details needed to make true change. She's already dived into the thicket of Hawaiian state agency policies and practices to figure out how to help native Hawaiians claim title to ancestral lands. This type of 'in the weeds' focus is unusual among first-year law students. Unlike many of her peers, Lauralei has a strong interest in sweating the details, as well as a talent for doing so."

Personal Statement

"My commitment to public service and protecting vulnerable individuals continued beyond college. For the

year before law school, I worked at College Possible as a college counselor through AmeriCorps. Doing service work for this time showed me the importance of contributing substantively to improving society.

"I am interested in U.S./Japan relations, although I haven't had a chance to study the subject intensively. I am interested in learning about international law in law school and am drawn to the Asia-Pacific region due to my upbringing in Hawaii. I am half-Japanese and am interested in learning more of the language."

SPECIAL AWARDS

Andrea Hyde
JACL Chapter:
San Jose
Recipient of the Dr.
George Goro and
Nettie Muramoto
Memorial Student
Aid Scholarship
University of San
Francisco



ANDREA HYDE

Notables

Andrea Hyde is attending the University of San Francisco, where she is pursuing a master's degree in nursing. She has been a very active member of the JACL and has done much in her community. When working in state and local government, she served on the Bay Area Asian Pacific American Legislative Staffers executive board to mentor and help young leaders, public servants and advocates of API and other underrepresented communities. Additionally, she managed the API Justice Coalition, which brought together community leaders to serve as a voice and rapid-response network for the API community.

Personal Statement

"It was important to me to honor my family by studying and understanding the injustice imposed on the Japanese and the correlation between what happened in the 1940s and what has happened to other communities, including Muslims, African Americans and, once again, AAPIs."



MOLLY MASEBA

"By learning not only the history associated with the internment of the Japanese but also the personal experiences of family, I am better prepared to play an active role in educating others to fight discrimination and not repeat the mistakes and injustices of the past. Because I was able to document our family history from my aunts, I can tell my children and grandchildren about our family's story and the atrocities against Japanese Americans to instill in our future generation a legacy of social justice and advocacy."

"My professional career and personal interests have revolved, almost exclusively, around promoting public policy and advocacy in support of social justice. I believe developing the pipeline of socially and culturally competent leaders, especially among our ethnically diverse youth, is critical to bring about meaningful change in government, the workplace and our communities. To this end, as advocacy manager for Asian Americans for Community Involvement, I designed and managed

a high school youth leadership program to promote values of advocacy, civic engagement and justice.

"Additionally, in 2021, I helped design and facilitate a Brave Bystander Workshop for youth in response to the rise in anti-Asian violence in the United States. The workshop was free and open to all youth and empowered young people with tools and strategies for combating anti-Asian racism, safe intervention and community building."

Molly Maseba
JACL Chapter: Florin-
Sacramento
Recipient of the Aiko Susanna
Tashiro Hiratsuka Memorial Arts
Scholarship
Cosumnes River College

Notables

Molly Maseba is an exemplary scholar-athlete (cross-country, track and field from Laguna Creek High School) who manages to be very active in the Asian community, while creating

CONGRATULATIONS

Andrea Hyde

ON RECEIVING THE
DR. GEORGE GORO & NETTIE
MURAMOTO MEMORIAL STUDENT
AID SCHOLARSHIP

THE SAN JOSE JACL WISHES YOU
ALL THE BEST!

SAN JOSE
JACL

JAPANESE AMERICAN
CITIZENS LEAGUE

art and design in several media formats and disciplines.

Personal Statement

“I believe the strength in my Japanese heritage and culture has allowed me to be an advocate for social justice and help fight for my fellow minorities. So often the words ‘social justice’ get tossed around on social media, void of their true meaning. I believe this stems from the weight of the word ‘justice’ muddled by visions of revenge and compensation, when in actuality, it fights for understanding and growth.

“I don’t feel justice when I tear down those who wronged me; revenge is short-lived satisfaction. I feel justice when I know that the wrong I felt will never be felt again. When I fight for social justice, I’m not enacting violence or reciprocated hate, I’m calling for change. I believe my rich cultural history and open education has allowed me to truly call for social justice.

“‘Justice for All.’ The last three words of the ‘Pledge of Allegiance,’ yet still so misconstrued. We as Americans need to not only remember history but also learn from it. The only way to serve justice, for all people, not just my Japanese family, is to grow and change. Fix the errors of our past, and work toward a better future. That’s why I feel it is so important for my community to step out and work toward sharing the voices of other AAPI and minorities.

“So often are we pitted against each other, comparing tragic histories and struggles, when we should be working to lift one another up. We have all faced injustices in this world, we can all work together to advocate for progress.

“With the rising amounts of hate crimes, it’s so easy for us to silently watch in the background, help out [individuals] without raising our voices. Ingrained in our culture is the idea of staying out of trouble, keeping our heads down to avoid conflict. That’s what my father’s side did — keep our hardships ‘hush hush’ and sweep it under the rug.

“I understand and recognize the notions of this ideology, but we as a new generation must speak out, spread our stories, listen to one another. This is the only way the silenced voices of our ancestors can

finally rest, knowing they have been served justice.”

Katherine Morris
JACL Chapter: Florin-Sacramento Valley
Recipient of the Abe and Esther Hagiwara Memorial Student Aid Scholarship
Pepperdine University’s Graduate School of Education and Psychology

Notables

As a third-generation Japanese American, Katherine Morris has been a steadfast supporter and member of JACL for nearly 25 years. She currently serves as the Florin-Sacramento Valley JACL chapter’s membership coordinator. Additionally, as a board

member, she partnered with Asian Resources Incorporated to spread awareness about the importance of getting a Covid-19 vaccination.

Morris is currently pursuing a graduate degree in clinical psychology at Pepperdine University, where she investigates the effects of historical, collective, intergenerational and race-based trauma. Her efforts are motivated by an understanding that “the internment of over 110,000 Japanese Americans during World War II led to unduly psychological issues that ensued thereafter.” Through this understanding, she recognizes the critical need to “remember the past to help heal the present.”

To this end, Morris actively fought anti-Asian hate when she “studied the psychological impacts of Covid-19 due to stigmatization of Asians and Asian Americans.” Her analysis highlighting the historic context of xenophobia and Sinophobia underlying anti-Asian hate was shared with JACL, Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs and AAPI attorneys in the Sacramento area and serves as a valuable resource “for people, especially in the mental health field, to gain a greater understanding of historical and collective trauma.”

Personal Statement

“As a graduate clinical psychology student, I have studied the effects of historical, collective, intergeneration-

al and race-based trauma. . . . The long-term sequelae of the wrongful and unjust incarceration of Japanese Americans still permeates the community’s collective consciousness.”

“Studying the past, sharing information, retelling past stories and moving forward to create new stories of solidarity will help lead to more united communities. The United States, at times, has been divided by discrimination; it is through education and open discussion that communities can move toward a more just and equitable society.”

Lena Newlin
JACL Chapter: Mile High
Recipient of the Henry and Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Creative Arts Scholarship
University of Wyoming



LENA NEWLIN

Notables

Lena Newlin, a member of the

Mile High chapter in Denver, has been awarded the Henry and Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Creative Arts Scholarship to attend the University of Wyoming, where she will enroll in the master of fine arts program.

Newlin, a Wyoming native, has brought forth extra effort to join a JACL chapter, since there currently is no chapter in her home state. The closest chapter to Laramie is in Denver.

In her professional life, Newlin worked at the University of Wyoming’s University Counseling Center in Alcohol Wellness Alternatives. She most recently served as assistant director of wellness, campus recreation, at the university.

Personal Statement

In her application, Newlin, a mixed-race Yonsei and fourth-generation Wy-

omingite, is a descendent of Japanese Americans who were incarcerated at Heart Mountain, Tule Lake and Manzanar. She stated: “I have come to understand that the racial trauma experienced by my ancestors has been passed down through the generations and has shaped who I am today. This realization has caused an awakening in me and has inspired an urgency to connect with my identity through writing.

“I have presented to several University of Wyoming classes about my family history and was an invited speaker, along with my sister, at the 2021 Shepard Symposium for Social Justice, where we shared our family history.

“I have realized that telling the story of my ancestors for the benefit of my descendants is my life’s purpose. To this end, in May, I will quit the job I’ve held for 16 years to focus on writing full-time and will begin the University of Wyoming’s Masters in Fine Arts Creative Writing Program this fall.”

AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL

Dear Travelers,
We thank you very much for your patience these past 2 ½ years and your past patronage. It has been a very challenging period, and we are slowly recovering and starting to operate our tours again. Japan has re-opened on a limited basis, starting with organized group tours, and now, individual travels are allowed with some limitations. We look forward to traveling with you again. In the meantime, please stay safe and healthy until we meet again. Thank you very much.

2023 TOUR SCHEDULE

- HOKKAIDO SNOW FESTIVALS HOLIDAY TOUR** (Ernest Hida) Feb 4-15
Abashiri, Sounkyo, Sapporo, Otaru, Lake Toya, Hakodate, Tokyo.
Hyobaku Ice Festival, Asahikawa Snow Festival, Sapporo Snow Festival, Hyoto Winter Festival.
- GRAND CANYON-ROUTE 66-LAS VEGAS HOLIDAY TOUR** (Carol Hida) . . Mar 5-10
Phoenix, Sedona, Flagstaff, Grand Canyon, Route 66, Las Vegas.
- JAPAN SPRING COUNTRYSIDE HOLIDAY TOUR** (Ernest Hida) Mar 28-Apr 7
Tokyo, Sado Island, Kanazawa, Amanohashidate, Tottori, Matsue, Tamatsukuri Onsen, Hiroshima.
- JAPAN HOLIDAY CRUISE** (Carol Hida) **SOLDOUT.** Apr 7-24
- MT RUSHMORE-YELLOWSTONE HOLIDAY TOUR** (Carol Hida) Jun 7-15
Rapid City, Mt Rushmore, Crazy Horse Memorial, Sheridan, Devil’s Tower National Monument, Cody, Yellowstone National Park, Jackson, Grand Tetons National Park, Salt Lake City.
- GRANDPARENTS-GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR** (Ernest Hida) Jun 18-28
Tokyo, Hakone/Atami, Hiroshima, Kyoto. Craftmaking hands-on experiences.
- HOKKAIDO SUMMER HOLIDAY TOUR** (Ernest Hida) Jul 17-29
Chitose, Furano, Asahikawa, Wakkanai, Rishiri Island, Sapporo, Otaru, Noboribetsu, Lake Toya, Hakodate, Tokyo.
- COASTAL NEW ENGLAND HOLIDAY TOUR** (Carol Hida) Aug 6-11
Plymouth, Plymouth Rock, Harbor Cruise, Mayflower Ship, Provincetown, Lobster Dinner, Cape Cod, Hyannis Port, Martha’s Vineyard, Newport.
- EASTERN CANADIAN CAPITALS HOLIDAY TOUR** (Carol Hida) Sep 6-14
Montreal, Quebec, Ottawa, Toronto, Niagara Falls.
- CHICAGO HIGHLIGHTS HOLIDAY TOUR** (Carol Hida) Sep 25-29
- KENYA WILDLIFE SAFARI HOLIDAY TOUR** (Carol Hida) Oct 19-Nov 1
Nairobi, Amboseli-Nakuru Lake-Masai Mara National Parks, Mt. Kenya Safari Club, Sweetwaters Camp, Jane Goodall Chimpanze Sanctuary.
- JAPAN AUTUMN COUNTRYSIDE HOLIDAY TOUR** (Ernest Hida) Oct 22-Nov 3
Narita, Mito, Iwaki Hawaiian Show, Yamagata, Sakata/Shonai, Akita, Morioka, Sanriku Railway coastal train ride, Hanamaki Onsen, Matsushima, Aizu Wakamatsu, Tokyo.
- CLASSICAL JAPAN HOLIDAY TOUR** (Ernest Hida) Nov 9-20
Tokyo, Mt Fuji, Yamanashi, Shizuoka, Nagoya, Hiroshima, Kyoto.

For more information and reservations, please contact:

AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL
312 E. 1st Street, Suite 240 * Los Angeles, CA 90012
Tel: (213)625-2232 * Email: americanholiday@att.net
Ernest or Carol Hida

The Mile High JACL Chapter

Proudly congratulates Lena Newlin!

Recipient of the Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara
Memorial Creative Arts Scholarship



This fall, celebrate with confidence.

As your family gathers to celebrate special occasions, protect yourself with an updated COVID vaccine. If you are 50 or older, your risk for hospitalization and death is higher, especially if you have a chronic disease. Get an updated vaccine today.

Have questions? Talk to a doctor.

Find updated COVID vaccines at vaccines.gov



Paid for by the
U.S. Department of Health
and Human Services.

**WE
CAN
DO
THIS**