2014 NATIONAL JACL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The JACL Scholarship Program has had another great year! In this special issue of the Pacific Citizen, the JACL is pleased to award a total of $87,500 to the 20 most deserving applicants in their respective categories. With so many well-qualified students, the future of the JACL and its upcoming young leaders is certainly in good hands!

This year, the student applicants were asked for their personal thoughts on JACL’s mission from a historically Japanese American organization, rooted in advocating for Japanese Americans, to an organization equally focused and inclusive of our non-Japanese American members.

As you read their responses on the following pages, I believe you will find their answers to be quite refreshing, enlightening and some, perhaps, surprising.

On behalf of the National JACL, I would like to give my sincere thanks to Patty Wada, whose dedicated work as the Scholarship Program Manager keeps everything ethically sound and fair and the program running smoothly. Patty works tirelessly to coordinate the two scholarship committees and efficiently handles the paperwork for more than 100 applicants, all while fielding numerous questions and researching the correct answers for all of these individuals and parties, including me.

This year was again challenging given the num ber of well-qualified applicants. As always, our goal is to reward as many of our scholars and future leaders as possible. I also want to thank the Eastern District Council and the San Diego Chapter for serving as the 2014 National Selection Committee. This was the Eastern District’s second year as a selection committee, and I’d like to personally thank the members of the committee: Fred Adams, Michele Amano (co-chair), Scott Nakamun, Kenneth A. Oye (co-chair), Roger Ozaki and Kaz Uyehara for a great job they did. This was the San Diego Chapter’s first year as the freshman selection committee, and I am so grateful for their hard work. I want to give a special thanks to Chair Carla Kanamoto, along with committee members Susie Igashita, David Kawamoto and Sidney Shatoma.

We are very appreciative of the difficult and diligent work and great effort that goes into reviewing all of the applications that are part of this program and the ongoing JACL tradition of acknowledging our young leaders and scholar is with scholarship support for their higher education.

I am thrilled that the JACL Scholarship Program continues to be so successful and will soon begin the 2015 application process to recognize the next group of outstanding student leaders. As we wrap up the 2014 scholarship season, please join me in congratulating all of our award recipients.

Chiy Larueche,
JACL National VP
Planning & Development

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Special Scholarship Section Begins on Page 3

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JACL National Scholarship Winners

2014 Essay Topic
This year’s JACL scholarship recipients were asked to respond to the following question:

‘JACL has historically been a Japanese American organization, rooted in advocating for Japanese Americans. How can the JACL continue to be inclusive of our non-Japanese American members?’

Editor’s Note:
All student responses reflect those that were submitted to the JACL by the respective Scholarship committees.

Freshman Winners

COLVIN ENDO
Philadelphia JACL
Henry & Chiyoko Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship
Brown University

‘JACL has a rich history of civil rights involvement. Initially on behalf of Japanese Americans, subsequently expanding on behalf of all others. Much of JACL and its members is embodied deeply in American history and society, from the relocation history itself to the wartime Supreme Court cases to the reparations movement and later coram nobis cases. During those many times when the United States turned inward and citizens expressed distrust of “outsiders,” it is the JACL who spoke out on their behalf. I believe the JACL should maintain its thumbprint identity at its root as a Japanese American organization, while welcoming inclusion of all others who need advocacy for civil rights.”

MEGAN INGRAM
Puyallup Valley JACL
Deni & June Uejima Memorial Scholarship
University of Washington

“In hearing stories of the history of my family and other Japanese Americans, I am inspired by their courage, strength and ability to overcome significant obstacles including cultural adaptation, imprisonment and discrimination. Their determination paved the way for future generations of Japanese Americans who, like me, a fifth generation (gosei), can now enjoy a much more prosperous future. I have tremendous respect and appreciation for my cultural heritage and the work of my ancestors. Through organizations like JACL, I hope to be a part of the promise that future generations have equal and fair rights. JACL works to maintain our cultural identity and individual rights, and while doing so, it is important that we inform and include non-Japanese American people to join the movement against issues that may enhance or threaten our rights as a community.”

MARIKA HATA
Sacramento JACL
Katherine Ohtaki Memorial Scholarship
University of the Pacific

“Growing up as a Japanese-Chinese-American girl in Utah, balancing traditions with new experiences has been a big part of my life. The homogenous atmosphere forced me to define my values and beliefs from a young age. Luckily, I had a tight group of Asian friends and family who taught me to be proud of my beliefs and heritage while also staying open-minded to others. … By rallying on the front to advocate Japanese American rights and promoting acceptance and cultural awareness with an open mind, the JACL can continue to be more inclusive to non-Japanese members. We cannot judge knowledge about Japanese culture or the ability to advocate human rights issues based on race or ethnicity, but we must be open and unite as members to fight for the main goal of social equality and education for all.”

EMILY ISAKARI
French Camp JACL
Paul & Katherine Ohtaki Memorial Scholarship
University of California, Santa Barbara

“JACL’s prominent vision for their organization is to promote a world in which diversity is embraced and equally respected in all aspects of fairness and social justice. However, a constant struggle, as with many cultural/ethnic-based organizations, is how one such organization can be more inclusive of their non-Japanese American members. I believe that greater visual representation and continuous organizational involvement within varying ethnic affairs is the key toward transcending this obstacle.”
I believe we are rightly focused on challenges to civil rights that extend beyond our immediate community. But, we must continue to leverage organizational resources and scope to remain actively involved in issues impacting the Japanese American community, and we might do well to clearly define our mission to include such considerations. The scholar Hillel is credited with the quote, “If I am not for myself, who will be for me? And, if I am only for myself, then what am I?” I think that many of the challenges facing the JACL can be reduced to these tensions between responsibilities to immediate community and to the greater collective. Our organization has evolved to embrace a greater societal role without forsaking obligations to the Japanese American community.”

Mr. & Mrs. Takashi Moriuchi Scholarship

“Thirty years ago, my mother wrote an essay for this scholarship about her mother’s (my grandmother’s) experiences following the Executive Order 9066 declaration. With the incarceration, perceived differences were amplified and exaggerated at great expense to my grandmother’s generation, whether it was those who served in the military (442nd and 100th battalion) or lost their livelihoods at home. This history of JACL as advocates for the rights of Japanese Americans was inherent on the perception by policy makers that they were somehow a distinct threat to the general populace. Thankfully, now, the lives of Japanese Americans and their families have improved from this history due to a JACL that has provided the path to challenge their constitutional rights for a greater America, has an unrelenting commitment to inclusivity and represents the bridge between the Japanese and non-Japanese JACL members.”

KELLI TADEMARU
Venice Culver JACL
Hanayagi Rokumie Memorial Cultural Scholarship
University of Southern California

“Stereotyping can occur to any ethnic group, even today. Stereotypes can lead to racism, especially when they are portrayed in the media. ... The JACL has historically battled prejudice and discrimination against Japanese Americans. Today, it takes and can continue to take a similar stance against prejudice and discrimination that affect not only Japanese Americans, but also Americans of other ethnicities. By doing so, the organization can remain relevant to both Japanese Americans and non-Japanese Americans.”

KAYLA UMEMOTO
Sacramento JACL
Patricia & Gail Ishimoto Memorial Scholarship
University of California, Berkeley

“The JACL has evolved since its inception, from an organization that focused on fostering good citizenship and civic participation to becoming a civil rights organization. Following World War II, JACL’s focus was on Issei naturalization, reparations for the internment of 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry, elimination of racial discrimination in housing and employment and challenging the alien land laws. Prompted by the internment camp experience, the JACL evolved with a new activism to ensure civil rights beyond just the Japanese American community. The evolution of JACL’s mission welcomes inclusiveness of non-Japanese American members, as our history serves as the foundation to prevent and right the discrimination of others.”

ALLYSHA YASUDA
Snake River Valley JACL
Paul & Katherine Ohtaki Memorial Scholarship
University of Idaho


The National JACL provides a lot of opportunities for college students — the annual Collegiate Conference, the newly created Hakahashi Project and the numerous workshops presented at college conferences around the nation. But what about interested high school students? Besides Bridging Communities, there aren’t a lot of national options left for my peers and me. The high school audience is a seemingly untapped resource, and there is no organization better suited to implement a nationwide educational program for us than the JACL. With the success of JACL’s other youth programs, I believe high school-specific initiatives will not only be immensely popular, but also expand JACL’s inclusivity and commitment to its non-Japanese American members.”

KELLIE TADEMARU
Venice Culver JACL
Hanayagi Rokumie Memorial Cultural Scholarship
University of Southern California

“The National JACL provides a lot of opportunities for college students — the annual Collegiate Conference, the newly created Hakahashi Project and the numerous workshops presented at college conferences around the nation. But what about interested high school students? Besides Bridging Communities, there aren’t a lot of national options left for my peers and me. The high school audience is a seemingly untapped resource, and there is no organization better suited to implement a nationwide educational program for us than the JACL. With the success of JACL’s other youth programs, I believe high school-specific initiatives will not only be immensely popular, but also expand JACL’s inclusivity and commitment to its non-Japanese American members.”

KELLIE TADEMARU
Venice Culver JACL
Hanayagi Rokumie Memorial Cultural Scholarship
University of Southern California
Undergraduate Winners

NICOLE HAMASAKI
Torrance JACL
Saburo Kido Memorial Scholarship
University of Southern California

Megan Iritani
Mike High JACL
Kenji Kajiwara Memorial Scholarship
University of Denver

In her personal statement, Megan Iritani offered three ideas for connecting non-Japanese Americans to JACL. First, she suggested starting JACL clubs on college campuses to raise awareness about Japanese culture and to stand up for the rights of students who may not feel comfortable with their identity. Second, she suggested using social media to spread the word on inequality and discrimination. Finally, she recommended working with other clubs that promote cultural values, social justice, and equal opportunity for all.

In her personal statement, Marisa Kanemitsu offered several ideas on how JACL might prevent the marginalization of non-Japanese American minorities. She observed that the concept of being a Japanese American is changing, with a community that is not only Issei, Nisei, and Sansei Japanese Americans but also people with longer Japanese roots and cultural and generational identities.

Kanemitsu suggested that JACL should be the voice of this extended community in discouraging pervasive stereotyping. For example, JACL's respectful statement on Katy Perry's 2013 appearance at the Japanese American Music Awards and the invocation of broader publics to engage in commentary may serve JACL's base. She recommends expanding JACL's use of social media to foster more efficient and rapid exchange of ideas on combating discrimination.

Marisa Kanemitsu has participated in the Nidrei Community Internship and an anthropological dig at Maranata. She has been actively involved in community events. Her love of helping kids is demonstrated in her work at Rosa Parks Elementary School, Kumon Learning Center and the University of California, Berkeley, Early Childhood Education Program. She plans to continue to work with children by becoming a pediatrician.

Marisa Kanemitsu
San Jose JACL
Shigeho 'Shig' Nakahim Memorial Scholarship
University of California, Berkeley

GARRETT SANO
Fresno JACL
Kyutaro & Yasuo Abiko Memorial Scholarship
Fresno City College

In his personal statement, Garrett Sano declared that all people deserve individual rights and should be protected from injustice. He noted that Japanese Americans must find allies in the defense of individual rights. In order to this happen, we must make people feel comfortable with the Japanese American community and our customs. He also wrote of how discrimination against a Muslim high school friend prompted him to learn about the Five Pillars of Islamic Faith, while his friend learned about Obon Festivals and the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism. Sano suggested building on initiatives like JACL's Bridge, Community programs, which brings together Asian American and Muslim students to learn with and from each other. In his words, the future will depend on being.

See UNDERGRADUATE WINNERS on page 8
FROM THE JAPANESE AMERICAN INTERMENT TO 9/11

John Tateishi will offer an insider’s view of the redress campaign in the OLLI Berkeley course.

By Deanne Stone

In the immediate aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, U.S. Federal agents detained 2,000 people of Arab, Muslim and South Asian heritage. For many in the Japanese American community, rounding up people based solely on their country of origin or ancestry was too reminiscent of the internment of Japanese Americans after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Groups like the JACL, led by then-executive director John Tateishi, sprang into action, contacting members of Congress and offering help to Arab Americans on how to respond to the mounting hysteria in the country.

“It seemed like World War II all over again,” said Tateishi. “We heard the same conversations targeting one group of people as potential terrorists without any charges brought against them. Our government failed the Constitutional test in 1942. We didn’t want it to happen again.”

Tateishi gained national prominence in 1978 when, as the national redress director of the JACL, he launched a campaign to seek redress for Japanese Americans interned in U.S. detention camps during WWII. He spent the next eight years lobbying in Washington, D.C.

In 1988, the Japanese American community won a landmark victory when President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act.

Tateishi is often asked, “How did you pull this off?” This fall, he will give an insider’s view of the redress campaign in the OLLI Berkeley course: “From the Japanese American Internment to 9/11.”

“I want students to think about how fragile democracy is and how, in the wrong circumstances, it can easily go awry if we aren’t vigilant in protecting it,” said Tateishi.

The Other Lifelong, Learning Institute at the University of California, Berkeley, is a community of-inquiring adults, age 50 and above, that explore new areas of knowledge through courses, lectures and events.

“From the Japanese American Internment to 9/11” meets Tuesdays at 10 a.m. from Sept. 30-Nov. 4 at the Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse in downtown Berkeley, Calif.

Register online at old.berkeley.edu.

YOUTH PERSPECTIVE
A MESSAGE FROM THE NY/SC

The National Youth Student Council of the JACL is deeply saddened by the shooting and killing of unarmed teenager Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo. Our deepest condolences go out to his family and friends, who held funeral services for him at the Friendly Temple Missionary Baptist Church in St. Louis.

The JACL NY/SC is, moreover, outraged at the oppressive and violent ways in which the Ferguson Police Department has acted in response to the community’s peaceful protests.

The arrests of innocent journalists and the antagonizing of protesters with tear gas and assault rifles have revealed a disturbing pattern of police militarization, which both threatens the right to peaceful assembly and endangers our communities. The photographs and news headline seen around the country are reminiscent of the deplorable opposition Civil Rights Movement leaders and activists faced in the South during the 1950s and 60s. Additionally, the JACL NY/SC recognizes that the curfew placed on the Ferguson community recalls the Enemy Alien Curfew law of the 1940s. This curfew, along with unnecessary use of rubber bullets and tear gas, has led to more unprompted violence.

The NY/SC is concerned with the manner in which St. Louis and Ferguson law enforcement city and state officials are handling the situation. The case has shown gross structural faults within the American police system. Every week, there are countless acts of police violence and brutality across the entire United States, unprovoked attacks targeted toward young people of color and toward black men, in particular.

We denounce the culture of demonization that plagues our nation’s police departments and has pervaded the community of Ferguson, both before and after the Ferguson shooting. The NY/SC supports the community of Ferguson and the family of Michael Brown in their fight for justice. We call for a fair investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice in Michael Brown’s death and demand legislation that will hold police officers accountable for their actions and prevent similar tragedies from repeating.

The tragic shooting of Michael Brown serves as a harsh reminder that race and discrimination in the United States is far from resolved. The NY/SC points out that the daily recurrence of African American criminalization points to a much greater conflict in this country that subverts and dehumanizes all people of color, including Asian Americans.

Thus, it is imperative that we call upon the lessons of our past, push for better and equal communication within our communities and take steps in solidarity toward social justice.

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33

HANA
YAMAHRO
Wisconsin JACL

Kristen Yang

Dr. Thomas F. Locke
Chicago JACL

Kimiko Agari

University of Illinois

Suzuko Shimasaki

Professor

Elizabeth Uno

University of California

Mumene Muneanu

Chicago JACL

Graduate Winners

Shigetaka Kiyohara

Dr. Robert Shogetsu
Chicago JACL

Hana Yamahro

University of Wisconsin

Continued from page 5

SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP ISSUE
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PETER YAMAMURA
Seattle JACL
Megauchi & Shizuko Kato Memorial Scholarship
University of Washington, School of Dentistry

The most drastic change
JACL can make to increase
non-Japanese American membership is to change the name of
the organization and the mission statement. This would
allow members of other ethnic
folk to be seen in the
JACL community as
different or 'outsiders,' and they would be more inclined
to join this organization and take on leadership positions.

Peter Yamamura also favored the expansion of JACL's agenda to include issues such as injuries in North Korea
to encourage others to become involved. Finally, he favored
converting yearly national conferences with speakers,
leadership building activities and networking opportunities
instead of national conventions that discourage those who
are not official delegates.

Yamamura will use his scholarship to support his continuing
studies at the University of Washington, School of
Dentistry. The selection committee was impressed by his
excellence in dental research, his unyielding provision of
cosmetic dental services to the poor and homeless
and his engagement with JACL, including service as PNW
Representative to the National Youth/Student Council.
Yamamura completed his DDS in June and is entering
specialty training in endodontics in fall.

Special Winners

CASEY BONATH
Milwaukee JACL
Henry & Chyo Kuwahara Creative Arts Scholarship
Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design

Casey Bonath has been awarded
the Henry & Chyo Kuwahara
Memorial Creative Arts Scholarship
for his art portfolio submission
showcasing his original industrial
designs. Bonath's portfolio included
sculptures, drawings and mixed media.
His Eastwood Sculpture was crafted
as a model for a Japanese American
monument and demonstrated
thoughtful use of symbolism with
the cherry blossom, representing
morality with extreme beauty?

Bonath's work
with art and design
showcased his ability to think
creatively and critically to
solve his designs and refine his
work. Bonath is currently studying
industrial design at the
Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design.

KIRA TOMIYE MORRISON
San Fernando Valley JACL
Aiko Susanna Tashiro Hiratsuka Performing Arts Scholarship

Kira Tomiye Morrison has been awarded
the Aiko Susanna Tashiro Hiratsuka
Performing Arts Scholarship for her
submission of original songs and musical performances.
Morrison's songs range from
left-handed to iconic; whether
she is singing about the angst of
meeting someone new or
moving on from a relationship after
the original superficial
attraction is over. In addition,
Morrison's acoustic guitar
accomplished showcases her
ability to move through a
diverse range of musical styles
and compositions.
She will be studying music full time in a school to
determine.

ARISON THAN
New York JACL
Abe & Esther Bagiwara Student Aid Scholarship
Brown University

The core of the JACL mission is protection of
liberties. People of all kinds seek to defend their rights from
institutional threats. Appealing directly to our shared mission
is how the JACL can become more inclusive. That shared
mission is intangible to what it means to be American. Young
Americans today are deeply concerned with civil rights... As a
generation, we are especially sensitive to such a
call to duty, as the attainment of civil rights is a defining purpose of
our generation.

Arisot Than is enrolled in the eight-year combined
bachelor of science/MD program at Brown University,
with a concentration in neuroscience. He plans on
contributing to the field of translational research.
A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

Hello Kitty Con 2014
Los Angeles, CA
Oct. 30
Museum of Contemporary Art
260 S. Grand Ave.
Cost: Tickets $20-$30

Celebrate Hello Kitty’s 40th anniversary at the first-ever official Hello Kitty Convention. This gathering of fans and friends will celebrate the pop culture icon, including activities, art, exhibits, exclusive workshops, lectures, panels, sneak peeks, tattoos, food, fun and many more surprises. Don’t miss this opportunity to celebrate all things Hello Kitty.

Info: Visit www.sanrio.com/hellokittycon/

CALANDAR

National

2014 National JACL Gala Awards Dinner
Washington D.C.
Oct. 6, 9 p.m.
Capital Hilton
1001 15th St. NW
This year’s Gala Awards Dinner, themed “A Salute to Champions,” will celebrate JACL and community members. Keep an eye out for event details and updates. Info: Visit www.jacl.org or call (202) 223-1240.

MDC

Modern Segregation: Racial Classification and In the Instability of Race
St. Louis, MO
Sep. 29
Washington University of St. Louis
1 Brookings Dr.
Listen to a lecture hosted by Michael Omi, associate professor of Ethnic Studies from the University of California, Berkeley.

Info: Visit www.mdc.wustl.edu/events/627 or email artsci@wustl.edu.

Chinese American Museum of Chicago’s Fourth Annual Gala
Chicago, IL
Nov. 7, 6 p.m.
Palmer House Hilton Hotel
17 E. Monroe St.
Cost: Tickets $200
The Chinatown Museum Foundation is hosting the Chinese American Museum of Chicago’s Fourth Annual Gala. A cookbook unveiling will happen during dinner with other activities. Info: Email office@camuseum.org or call (312) 949-1000.

JNWN

Nikkei Angel Island Pilgrimage San Francisco, CA
Oct. 4, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Immigration Station at Angel Island State Park
Rediscover the little-known history of the Japanese and Japanese American legacy at Angel Island, where 85,000 persons of Japanese descent landed between 1910-40.

Info: Visit www.nichibei.org/angeli-island-pilgrimage or email programs@nichibei.org.

Nikkei Hot Dogs, Cupcakes & Free Bingo Scholarship Dinner Sacramento, CA
Oct. 1, 5:30 p.m.
Buddhist Church of Florin
7234 Folsom Road
Cost: General $15
Come sample a dozen Japanese toppings on Nikkei hot dogs, numerous types of cupcakes, shoyu sausages over rice and win various bingo prizes.

Info: Visit: www.sacjcl.org or call (916) 931-2294.

PSW

The Life and Times of Minoru Yasui
Los Angeles, CA
Sept. 27, 2 p.m.
Japanese American National Museum
100 N. Central Ave.
A presentation and panel discussion will take place with film clips, photographs and document illustration of Yasui’s life and times at JANM.

Info: Visit www.janm.org/events/

Kokoro Craft Boutique
Los Angeles, CA
Oct. 5, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Japanese American National Museum
100 N. Central Ave.
Cost: Free
Unique artisan craft items will be featured in various booths, including Giant Robot merchandise, origami, ceramics, bronze art, clothing, soaps, glass, jewelry, handbags, ornaments, stationery, dog accessories, T-shirts and more.

Info: Visit www.janm.org/events or call (213) 625-0414.

‘Manzanar Fishing Club’ Screening
Carroll CA
Oct. 11, 2 p.m.
Japanese American Christian Center
300 Mission Dr.
Cost: $2 donation per person
The ‘Manzanar Fishing Club’ is a feature-length documentary that chronicles the WWII internment of Japanese Americans through the eyes of those who defied the armed guards, barbed wire and searchlights to fish for trout in the surrounding lakes.

Info: Email watana@manzanarcentral.org or call (805) 384-9333.

EDC

Tri Minh’s Quartet: Sound From Hanoi Performance
New York, NY
Oct. 2, 8-9:30 p.m.

For More Info:
Visit www.nycjcl.org/events/1740077

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For More Info:
tiffany@pacificcitizen.org
(213) 620-1767
In Memoriam

Ahara, Eugene, 73, Hilo, HI; Aug. 3; he was a veteran of the U.S. Army; he is survived by his wife, Amy Ahara; son, Keith (Shii) Ahara; daughter, Lori (Ahina) Sugiyama; brothers, Teru Ahara and Raymond Ahara; sister, Chisato Hashizume and Sachiko Komatsu; he is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews; gq: 6.

Endo, Mitsuhiro, 61, San Jose, CA; Aug. 22; he was predeceased by his parents, Kazuko and Tomo Endo; brothers, Katsuhiko and Tetu; sister, Michiko, Sumie and Sachiko (Sugita); he is survived by his wife, Asami; children, Paul (Rita) and Brian (Laurel); sisters, Kaye (Ben) Mastrani and Sally (Tom) Hia; go: 4.

Fujii, Chieko, 25, Keaau, HI; Aug. 17; she is survived by her fiancé, Seth Spidel; sons, Seth and Sade; sisters, Sina and mother and stepfather, Christine Aunui-Mattos and Russell Mattos; grandparents, Solomon and Mary Jane Fujii; brothers, Miles (Jennifer) Fujii and Russell Mattos; sister, Ariel Fujii; she is also survived by numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

Imada, Yonako, 91, Santa Clara, CA; Aug. 19; she was predeceased by her husband, Ray; daughter, Elaine; she is survived by her son, Vaughn (Phyllis); son, Weslee (Robin); go: 4; gq: 2.

Iwata, Jerry Teruo, 81, Harbor City, CA; Sept. 3; he served in the U.S. Air Force; he is survived by his wife, Amy Iwata; children, Lori (Don) Hodag and Craig (Joy) Iwata; brother, Jon Iwata; sister, Marian (Don) Iwaki; she is also survived by numerous other relatives; gq: 5.

Kodani, Sadako, 88, Hilo, HI; Aug. 16; she is survived by her daughters, Katherine (Charles) Webster and Cheryl (Leonard) Toriiro; sons, Richard Kodani and Leslie (Wolf) Kodani; go: 6 gq.

Kunimura, Keith, 66, Hilo, HI; Aug. 10; he was predeceased by his wife, Andrea; son, Garrett (Ashley) Kunimura; daughters, Kris (Carlos) Iwasa and Ella (Mark) Taninob; mother, Jean Kunimura; sister, Jessica (Walter) Yamashita; brother, Jon Kunimura; he is also survived by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and nieces and nephews; go: 4.

Marugaki, Man Hieko, 65, Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 28; he served in the U.S. Army; he is survived by his brother, Erol (Mary); Glenn and Boy Mori; niece, Kerri (Shawn) Marugaki-Jeffers; grand-niece, Kea Marugaki-Jeffers.

Nagai, Alice H., 88, San Jose, CA; Aug. 24; she was predeceased by her husband, Ben; she is survived by her children, Randy and Janet.

Nagai, Calin Leao, 59, Hilo, HI; Aug. 10; he is survived by his son, Ryan Nagai; daughter, Sandi Ann Nagai; sister, Charlene (Ronnie) Merritt; brothers, Terrance (Jean) Nagai and Ardon (Edith) Kaneshiro; he is also survived by nieces and nephews; go: 3.

Nakanishi, Fumie, 97, San Jose, CA; Aug. 27; she was predeceased by her parents, Genichi and Masako Nakanishi; she is survived by numerous friends and family.

Nambe, Teru 'Teri', 80, Camarillo, CA; Sept. 6; she is survived by her children, Rex (Carol) and Alisse Nambe; siblings, Hatsuomi Nambe, Ip (Fujie) Yamashita and Toshiko Tomokawa; sister-in-law, Sophie Nambe; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Nishikawa, Sumako, 71, Monterey Park, CA; Aug. 24; she is survived by her husband, Anichiro Nishikawa; son, Robert Enchik (Toh) Nishikawa; daughter, Donna Hirono (Dave) Yamazaki; mother, Chiyo Shira; brothers, Dennis Hirono (Hideko) and Takashi (Yoko) Shira; sister, Rando (Tohichio) Doi; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; go: 4.

Ota, Jane, 90, Kailua, HI; Aug. 14; she is survived by her sons, Robert (Diane) Ota and Steven Ota; daughters, Cindy Adams, Jerri (Rudy) Espinosa and Gay Muki; she is also survived by brother family member; go: 13; gq: 0.

Shimada, Kathleen Mitsuoka, 92, Santa Clara, CA; Aug. 18; she was predeceased by her husband, George; she is survived by her daughter, Linda (Jerry) Kane; son, Kent (Sandy) Shimada; siblings, Mary Takijii, Beas Chung, Lily Hananouchi and Frank Sonoda; go: 3; gq: 0.

TRIBUTE

Sue Yasue Kubo

Sue Yasue Kubo passed away on Aug. 18, 2014, at home in Brooklyn, N.Y. She was born Yasue Sumida on Jan. 2, 1920, in Seattle, Wash. During WWII, she and her family were interned at Tule Lake Camp, when she was 13. After the war, she moved to Chicago, where she was the executive secretary to the president of the Blackstone Hotel. She married Gene Seigo Kubo of Tacoma and later moved to New York City, where she gave birth to four sons. She is survived by her sons, Ken, Kerry, Ken and Karon, as well as many nieces, nephews and grandchildren. Her memorial service was held on Sunday, Sept. 14, 2014, at the Japanese American United Church in Manhattan. The family requests that no flowers be sent.
like to be treated and how important it is to feel included in one’s community. In the JACL, non-Japanese Americans are the minority. We do not want to lose sight of the duty to treat others as equals. We should extend that same sense of inclusion to all.”

While an undergraduate at the University of California, Davis, Ryan Ichinaga served as college student representative on the Sacramento JACL board and in a variety of offices with the Japanese American Student Society. He also worked as an intern with State Assembly Member Paul Fang and Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom.

MICHAEL MIKAWA
Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL
Grace Andow Memorial Law Scholarship
University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law

In his personal statement, Michael Mikawa wrote of Mas Hashimoto reaching across ethnic lines in Watsonville, Calif., through teaching local high school students about internment. Mikawa observed: “My hometown is primarily Mexican and white. But the story of Japanese American internment touches students on a human level. By continuing to tell our community’s story, we can touch people’s lives and appeal to their humanity across ethnic and racial lines.” Mikawa went on to highlight the need to form coalitions with other communities, citing the example of JACL’s joint work with the Council on Arabic and Islamic Relations. In his conclusion, he stated that JACL should continue to touch people’s humanity by standing for the civil liberties of all, from undocumented immigrants to gays and lesbians denied marriage equality to Muslims and Arabs.

Mikawa enters the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law with a lifelong commitment to addressing the needs of Asian American communities. For the past five years, he has worked in the antitrust division of the U.S. Department of Justice and the Alameda County Superior Court. His record of service to Asian American communities includes work with the Asian Law Caucus, leadership of the Nikkei Student Union, Multicultural Student Development, and the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL. He plans to become a public service lawyer.

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The JACL Pacific Southwest District, the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute, the South Bay JACL chapter, the Greater Los Angeles JACL chapter and the Torrance JACL chapter announce “South Bay Stories: A Nikkei LGBTQ Forum for Everyone” on Oct. 4 at the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute in Gardena, Calif.

People of all generations are invited to learn more about gender, sexuality and LGBTQ stories in the Japanese American community. A panel of community members will speak to their individual experiences of navigating LGBTQ issues in the Nikkei community, as well as their hopes for LGBTQ inclusion and awareness in the future.

Panelists will include Melvin Fujikawa, a spiritual director and voice coach who served previously as the former senior pastor at the Christian Layman Church in Oakland, Calif.; Traci Ishigo-Kiriyama, a nationally renowned writer/actor/multimedia artist/educator/organizer who also is the organizer of the Generations of War oral history and peace education project and director/co-founder of Tuesday Night Project; and Janet Uradomo, a proud mother of an 8-year-old transgender daughter.

In addition, Diane Ujiiye, outgoing executive director of Asian and Pacific Islanders California Action Network, will moderate the panel discussion.

The event, which will take place from 1:30-3:30 p.m., is free and open to the public, with refreshments provided during the reception.

For more information, email Traci Ishigo, program coordinator, at tishigo@jacpsw.org.

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