



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

Sept. 19-Oct. 2, 2014

THE NATIONAL  
NEWSPAPER OF  
THE JACL

.....  
» Meet This  
Year's Recipients  
Beginning on **Page 3**  
.....







# 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 \$67,500 to the 28 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 transition 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 effortlessly handles the paperwork for more than 100 applicants, all the 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 number 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 Committees. This was the Eastern District's second year as a selection committee, and I'd like to personally thank the members of the committee: Linda Adams, Michelle Amano (co-chair), Scott Nakamura, Kenneth A. Oye (co-chair), Roger Ozaki and Kaz Uyehara for the great job they did. This was the San Diego Chapter's first year as the freshman selection committee, and my thanks go to Chair Carol Kawamoto, along with committee members Susie Iguchi, David Kawamoto and Sidney Shitoma.

We are very appreciative of the difficult and diligent work and great care 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 scholars with scholarship support for their higher education.

I am thrilled that the JACL Scholarship Program continues to be so successful. We 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.

Chip Larouche,  
JACL National VP  
Planning & Development

Special Scholarship Section Begins on Page 3

## HOW TO REACH US

Email: [pc@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:pc@pacificcitizen.org)  
Online: [www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org)  
Tel: (213) 620-1767  
Fax: (213) 620-1768  
Mail: 250 E. First St., Suite 301  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

## STAFF

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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 P.C. by the respective Scholarship committees.



## Freshman Winners

**COLVIN ENDO**  
Philadelphia JACL  
Henry & Chiyo 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."

**MARISA ENG**  
Mt. Olympus JACL  
CWO 4 Mitsugi Murakami  
Kasai (Ret) Memorial  
Scholarship  
University of Southern  
California



"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."

**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, internment 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."

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



"At the local level, JACL chapters need to continue to push a race-blind membership policy. As a civil rights organization, this should be an obvious requirement; however, in actuality, there is often an unwritten code within Nikkei community activities that it is invitation-only. The merits of having a diverse membership should be made more apparent to local chapters including: less group-think and more original idea generation; establishment of new relationships and networks in the community; and, most importantly, membership growth and sustainability. Within my local area, I have unfortunately seen instances where Nikkei organizations (i.e., from basketball teams to Kenjinkai) have unfortunately ceased operation due to a lack of Nikkei members when there are so many potential non-Nikkei members who could potentially fill the void and keep the traditions alive."

**SYDNEY KAJIOKA**  
Sacramento JACL  
Sam & Florice Kuwahara  
Memorial Scholarship  
University of the Pacific



"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."







## SETH KARPEL

**Philadelphia JACL**

**Sam & Florice Kuwahara**

**Memorial Scholarship**

**Washington University, St. Louis**



"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."

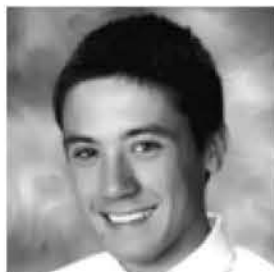
## ERIC LANGOWSKI

**Hoosier JACL**

**Shigeki 'Shake' Ushio**

**Memorial Scholarship**

**Indiana University**

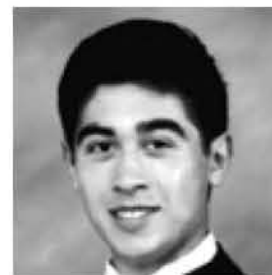


"Thirty years ago, my mother wrote an essay for this scholarship about her mother's (my grandmother's) experiences following the Executive Order 9066 declaration. With the incarceration, perceived differences were amplified and exaggerated at great expense to my grandmother's generation, whether it was 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."

## DANIEL TOMIO SOUZA

**Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL**

## Mr. & Mrs. Takashi Moriuchi Scholarship



"The National JACL provides a lot of opportunities for college students — the annual Collegiate Conference, the newly created Kakehashi 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."

## 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 face of the Japanese American community continues to change and evolve with shifts in demographics, the political landscape and other global issues. JACL needs to change as well and be responsive to the needs of a multifaceted membership. Programs, activities and events directed to an aging population, youth, mixed marriages and nontraditional family units are critical to the growth and sustainability of



**Congratulations**

**Emily!**

*We're so proud of you,  
Mom, Dad, Kent, Bachan  
French Camp JACL*



*Congratulations to Eric Langowski for receiving the Shigeki "Shake" Ushio Memorial Scholarship Award*

*Hoosier  
JACL Chapter*

Congratulations to Eric Langowski on receiving the Hoosier Freshman Award and the Shigeki "Shake" Ushio Memorial Scholarship Award.

Best Wishes at Indiana University from: Grandma Hannah Hogan, Mom, Dad, Simon, and the Tani, Izumi, Nakamura, Hogan, Kotarek, and Langowski families

**WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL**  
CONGRATULATES

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RECIPIENT OF THE

**GRADUATE LAW, ARTS & STUDENT AID SCHOLARSHIP**

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the organization. At the national, district and local chapter levels, we need to acknowledge and celebrate the changing 'face' of our organization and how we can serve the needs of our non-Japanese members but still remain strong in preserving our history and vision."

## Undergraduate Winners

**NICOLE  
HAMASAKI**

**Torrance JACL  
Saburo Kido Memorial  
Scholarship  
University of Southern  
California**



Nicole Hamasaki's personal statement reflected the duality of Japanese Americans who have fused their identities into their Japanese heritage and their American lifestyle. She believes that JACL through the *Pacific Citizen* highlights the events and celebrations in the Japanese American community for the good of all Japanese American and non-Japanese American members of JACL.

Hamasaki is majoring in English and environmental studies. She has attended Japanese school for 12 years to become proficient in Japanese and learn about Japanese culture so that she could have a closer rapport with her grandparents. Her scholastic honors include the dean's list at USC, the Japanese American Optimist Scholarship, the Japanese American Treaty Centennial Fund Scholarship, the James Hoffa Bootstrap Scholarship, the Union

Bank Scholarship, the Hollywood Dodgers Organization Scholarship, California Scholarship Federation and Lincoln PTA Scholarship.

**MEGAN IRITANI**  
**Milo 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.

While studying at the University of Denver, Iritani has received the National Danforth Leadership Award and was designated a University of Denver Chancellor Scholar. Her extracurricular activities include holding office in student government, the National Honor Society and the President's

Club Leadership Council. Her community involvement includes volunteering for the Denver Sakura Matsuri, Ronald McDonald House and Hope United Methodist Church. She plans on becoming a pediatric dentist.

**MARISA  
KANEMITSU**  
**South Bay JACL  
Shigeru 'Shig' Nakahara  
Memorial Scholarship  
University of California,  
Berkeley**



In her personal statement, Marisa Kanemitsu offered several suggestions on how JACL might prevent the marginalization of non-Japanese American minorities. She observed that the very concept of being Japanese American is now changing "... with a community that includes not only Issei, Nisei and Sansei Japanese Americans but also people with ever longer hyphenated ethnicities and generational identities." Kanemitsu suggested that JACL should be the voice of this extended community in discouraging pernicious stereotyping. For example, JACL's respectful statement on Katy Perry's 2013 performance at the American Music Awards and the invitation of broader publics to engage in commentary may serve to expand JACL's base. She recommended the expansion of JACL's use of social media to foster more efficient and rapid exchange of ideas on combating discrimination.

Kanemitsu has participated in a Nisei Community Internship and an archaeological dig at Manzanar. 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.

**TSUKUMOTINA  
NIWA**

**New York JACL  
Alice Yuriko Endo  
Memorial Scholarship  
University of Michigan**



Tsukumotina Niwa's personal statement included the concept of 'kilyhood,' where someone in an agent group can collaborate with a target group to create a safer space to accommodate persons with different identities. She believes that civil rights groups like JACL should strive to build a network of allies that would work for the common goal of a more inclusive society that supports social justice and civil rights for all citizens.

Niwa is a dual-degree student at the University of Michigan, where she is majoring in oboe performance and dance and literature. Her scholastic honors include the University of Michigan Merit Scholarship, Japanese American Association of New York Scholarship, Muriel Rodger Music Scholarship and the Anthony Quinn Foundation Scholarship. Her community

involvement includes service as a Japanese-English translator, Japanese and math tutor for elementary school students, a benefit concert for Philippine earthquake victims, Japan Festival and the Multi-Cultural Ball Planning Committee.

**GARRETT SANO**  
**Fresno JACL**

**Kyutaro & Yasuo Abiko  
Memorial Scholarship  
Fresno City College**



In his personal statement, Garrett Sano declared that all people deserve individual civil rights and should be protected from injustice. He noted that Japanese Americans must find allies in the defense of individual rights. In order for this to 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 Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. Sano suggested building on initiatives like the JACL Bridging Communities program, 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**



**Congratulations Megan,  
We love you!**



From Three Generations of Iritani's

**Florin JACL proudly congratulates  
Elizabeth Uno**

**Extend your personal congratulations  
to Beth at the Florin JACL Installation  
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*By Michelle Yamashiro, JACL National Youth/Student Council Representative*

## YOUR AMAZING COLLEGE YEARS

It's that time of year again... school time!

For those of you who are going back to your college campuses or

perhaps just beginning your new college journey, I have compiled a list of things I have learned, and wish I knew, while I was in college. I went to the University of California, Irvine (For us Anivers, not not!) There, I was able to meet the best friends of my life and discover my passion for education and community organizations. I hope these suggestions will help you out or, at the very least, make you laugh as you look forward to the amazing experience that will be your college years!

### • Procrastination

Remember how in high school you put things off until the last minute? Homework? Cleaning your room? College just means more procrastination... BUT do not let it consume you. YES, it is important to enjoy the fun that is in college, but make sure you turn in those extra-credit assignments (just kidding, almost NO ONE gives extra credit in college! However, do turn in your homework... especially if it is online — that damn Wi-Fi always fails when you need it most!), go to office hours when your professor or TA has them, eat healthy (this might be funny, but you might find yourself putting off eating a hot meal for cold coffee and breakfast burritos in order to crank out that 22-page paper). Sometimes procrastination is inevitable, but you don't want your college years to fly by without you even being able to experience them!

### • Friendships, both new and old, can get you through a bit.

I made a lot of new friends, and I was able to reconnect with my childhood friends (turning 21 is really fun with people you used to see in Winnie the Pooh and Sailor Moon shirts). You'll most likely go through a few relationships, failing grades (or superbad class curves) and some really mean professors (there will be at least one that calls you out in a 300-person lecture — trust, this has happened to me), but in the end, if you have people around you that can make you laugh it off or cry with you through it, it'll make you that much stronger. You'll end up living with your closest friends, and it will be the best time of your life when you're all staying up for 24 hours studying for an impossible final, but you're ALL staying up for 24 hours studying for an impossible final.



Yamashiro and her family at her master's graduation ceremony at USC earlier this year.

### • Family is still important.

If you live away from home, this is especially true. I could spend weeks and months away from my family, and nothing beat the feeling of coming home to hear the patriarch shuffle of my mother's feet and the smell of my dad's cooking. I think I never really appreciated my family until I went to college — only your family will love you through your messiness, smelliness and moodiness.

P.S., thanks mom, dad and Kyle. I love you guys!

### • Don't be afraid.

This one is a bit hard. It's hard to speak up in front of people that you don't know or go out of your comfort zone to meet new people, but you can learn things from meeting other people — things like the best professors, easiest classes (to boost that GPA!), best places to eat, when the bookstore sales are and dorm secrets!

### • It's OK to make mistakes.

If you do something dumb in college, learn from it, fix it (if you can) and try not to do it again.

For those of you going to graduate school, congratulations and... hang in there! I attended the University of Southern California (USC, Right On!) for my master of arts in teaching, and it was different from college (for me). Here are some of the things I learned:

### • It's OK not to know things.

You're probably going in depth with subjects you just scratched the surface on in undergrad, only this time, you're going into super specifics about your choice of study. You'll become, pardon my pun, a master in your area of study. It's better to admit you don't know some-



Yamashiro and her roommates dressed as a girl band for Halloween.

thing and learn it than pretend you know it and get confused or pretend you know it and get called out by your professor (trust me, I was there). Your professors appreciate your honesty, as it allows them to adjust their pace.

### • Your professors are "cool."!

They see you more as equals now and will offer to discuss a paper over a beer!

### • Networking

Your masters will only take you so far. It is still really crucial to network and connect with others.

### • This is what you love.

It better be for that much money. Just kidding! This is what you will eat, breathe and dream about for a while. But you love it, and that's what keeps you going.

### • There's so much more in the world left to explore.

The most important thing I learned in undergraduate and graduate school is that learning never ends. There's always a new thought or study, and I love that! You know you're living when you're constantly learning, growing and improving yourself. I think I loved education after high school because I had control over what I wanted to learn about. I made the friends I wanted to make and I found who I was and what I loved. I hope you also experience lots of love and happiness during your college years and find the path that will lead you to a long and fulfilling life! ■



UC Irvine's Jodahiko generation 17 team and what Yamashiro considers her first family in Irvine.



During the annual Manzanar Pilgrimage trip with UCI's Japanese American cultural club Tomo, Yamashiro discovered her love for community work and history during college.



## 'FROM THE JAPANESE AMERICAN INTERNMENT 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 direc-

tor 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 astray if we aren't vigilant in protecting it," said Tateishi.

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

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

Register online at [oli.berkeley.edu](http://oli.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 headlines seen around the country are reminiscent of the deplorable oppression 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 unprovoked 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 great 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 in the community of Ferguson, both before and after the Brown 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 posits 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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## UNDERGRADUATE WINNERS

continued from page 5

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educated on and understanding other groups' beliefs and traditions."

Garrett Sano is an active member of the Fresno Chapter helping with the JACL Shizen run and the JACL shrimp dinner

HANA

YAMAHIRO

Winconlin JACL

Henry & Chayo Kawahara

Memorial Scholarship

University of Wisconsin



JACL has a duty to advocate for other marginalized groups in society. Racist individuals and groups have used Sept. 11 to foster discrimination against others in much the same way they did during World War II. JACL can play an important role in reaching out to those who recognize historical similarities. College campuses are a great place to conduct this outreach and teach these historical lessons to a generation who knows little about this history. JACL can sponsor social, cultural and political events to attract new members and share the lessons of history. For example, there can be educational sessions and lectures on the post-9/11 world and profiling terrorists based on appearance. The principles of equality and justice for all that JACL stands for can be applied to minority groups beyond just Japanese (Americans). Hosting educational events that focus on non-Japanese members of society will help expand JACL to include more communities."

Hana Yamahiro is a dean's list student and is the recipient of the University of Wisconsin Letters and Science General Scholarship. She has maintained a 4.0 GPA and has been active in numerous school and community activities. Hana plans to attend law school and become a civil rights lawyer.

KRISTEN YANG  
Chicago JACL

Dr. Thomas T. Yabbe

Memorial Scholarship

University of Illinois at

Urbana-Champaign



In her personal statement, Kristen Yang reflected on her commitment to JACL, considering both Japanese and non-Japanese American members. She believes in facilitating popular activities such as Japanese cooking classes or book clubs that review Japanese American literature for all members. The goal is to bring JACL members together in a common bond.

Yang is majoring in supply chain management and information system transformation technology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She has participated in JACL activities such as the Kansha Project in Los Angeles and the annual installation and scholarship luncheon of the Chicago Nisei Post 1183. Yang also has traveled to Los Angeles' Little Tokyo to learn about the area's historical significance, as well as visited Manzanar, Jerome and Rohwer to gain insight into her heritage and history. She also participated in a group project that produced a video examining the community created in Manzanar during World War II. Yang is proud of her Japanese American heritage and continues to be a leader in her community. Scholarships she has been awarded include the Chicago Nisei Post, Todd Tomiyana Scholarship, John Iwasaki Scholarship, the Chicago JACL scholarship, National JACL Ralston and Mine Workers Memorial Scholarship, 141 Study Abroad Scholarship, the Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship and Chicago Nisei Post Memorial Scholarship. Her community involvement includes the following activities: Adopt-a-Family, Times Center, Great Chicago Food Depository, Costa Rica Outreach Mission, Thup and the Soup Kitchen.

KIMIKO AGARI  
Stockton JACL

Dr. Kiyoshi Sonoda

Memorial Scholarship

University of California,

San Francisco, School of

Dentistry



In their time of need, very few stood up for the Japanese Americans. As such, with the understanding gained from this experience, we are given this amazing opportunity to support other minority groups. It is common knowledge that the battles we fight and the goals we strive for are not unique to Japanese Americans, and thus it is important for JACL to continue to greet all members, both Japanese and not, with open arms. We must be mindful of discrimination so that others are not persecuted in the same unjust way."

In continuing her studies at the University of California, San Francisco, School of Dentistry, Kimiko Agari hopes to diagnose and treat oral cancers and tumors. She has held leadership positions in dental organizations at UCSF and provided dental care to underserved communities in San Francisco. Agari has been a member of the Stockton JACL since 2009, where she received the George and Amy Matsumoto Scholarship. She hopes to return the favor by helping young students in the same way the Matsumoto's helped her. In addition, she credits JACL with helping her learn the importance of community.

CHRISTINE  
MUNTEANU  
Chicago JACL



Minoru Yasui Memorial  
Scholarship  
University of Illinois at  
Chicago

One particularly impactful moment occurred during a visit to the Manzanar National Historic Site that I led for a group of Midwestern Japanese American college students. After a day exploring the interpretive center and the grounds of the former concentration camp, our group headed south on Route 395 to make the long drive back to Los Angeles. As I watched the reconstructed guard tower and barbed-wire fence recede into the distance behind us, I was struck by the freedom I had to leave a site that had once imprisoned so many Japanese Americans. It was a moment where I could clearly see how my present experience as a Japanese American was both shaped by and a continuation of the community's past."

As assistant program director, Christine Munteanu has organized JACL programs on local and national levels. She developed and implements the Kansha Project, which brings Chicago-area Japanese American college students to Los Angeles' Little Tokyo and Manzanar National Park. Munteanu also develops and facilitates cultural awareness programs for Japanese American youths. She is pursuing a master of education in youth development, and she has a passion for social justice and critical consciousness. Her program allows her to continue studying the role of culture, racial and ethnic identity in youth development—a topic she has also been able to explore through her work in JACL. Munteanu credits JACL for helping her develop her own identity as a mixed-race Shin-Nisei Japanese American.

SUZUHO  
SHIMASAKI  
Mile High JACL  
Henry & Chayo Kawahara  
Memorial Scholarship



University of Colorado  
School of Public Health

In his personal statement, Suzuho Shimasaki cited Leo Tolstoy's observation: "Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing him (her)self." He suggested that JACL has to change itself by becoming a more welcoming organization to nontraditional constituents in order to change the world. Shimasaki described actions that he took as a Shin-Nisei to welcome Shin-Issei while serving as president of the Mile High Chapter. He delivered a third of his acceptance address in Japanese, explaining: "My intentions were not to be exclusive, but rather to demonstrate my vision to magnify JACL's influence by building on community assets that traditionally have not been included in our constituency." As president, he sought to increase the board's diversity by recruiting members of multiracial and non-Japanese descent. He also wrote of his efforts to strengthen ties to other local organizations committed to the defense of civil rights. These local actions might serve as a template for how JACL might demonstrate its commitment to diversity, inclusiveness and equity. Shimasaki has served as president of the Mile High Chapter, been a participant in the JACL OCA Leadership Conference and is a current member of his chapter board. He has also been recognized for his work improving health equity and reducing health disparities in the community.

ELIZABETH UNO  
Flora JACL

Rev. H. John Yamashita  
Memorial Scholarship

University of California,

Davis



JACL can continue to be inclusive of non-Japanese American members by taking a leading role

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on advocacy for current civil rights issues that affect all Americans such as immigration and gay rights policies. The JACL can remain relevant to non-Japanese American members by aligning and taking the lead on important current civil rights issues in our country."

Elizabeth Uno has been active in JACL since childhood, with service on local and national levels. She is currently the Northern California Western Nevada Pacific District Youth Representative on the National Youth/Student Council, where she helps organize youth events at the district level and represents youth members. Elizabeth is also the Florin Chapter Newsletter Editor, and she attended the JACLOCA Leadership Summit and was a marketing intern at the *Pacific Citizen*. As a member of the NY/SC, Elizabeth believes that youth programs that are engaging to non-Japanese American members can help the JACL continue to be inclusive. She is currently pursuing a master of education. As an aspiring Asian American female educator and

student teacher in Sacramento, she hopes to ensure that the AAPI community is represented in the field of education.

## PETER YAMAMURA

Seattle JACL

*Magoichi & 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 groups to not be viewed 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 injustices in North Korea to encourage others to become involved. Finally, he favored convening 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 unselfish provision of comprehensive 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 this fall.

## Special Winners

### CASEY BONATH

Milo High JACL

*Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Creative Arts Scholarship*  
Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design



Casey Bonath has been awarded the Henry & Chiyo 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 Basswood Sculpture was crafted as a model for a Japanese American

monument and demonstrated thoughtful use of symbolism with the cherry blossom representing mortality with extreme beauty and quick death. Bonath's work combined aesthetics with function and showcased his ability to think creatively and critically to problem solve his designs and refine his proposals.

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 lighthearted to ironic, 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 accompaniment showcases her ability to move through a diverse range of musical styles and compositions.

She will be studying music this fall in a school to be determined.

### ARISON THAN

New York JACL

*Abe & Esther Hagiwara Student Aid Scholarship*  
Brown University



The core of the JACL mission is protection of civil 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 intrinsic 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."

Arison Than is enrolled in the eight year combined bachelors of science/MD program at Brown University,

with a concentration in neurosciences. He plans on contributing to the field of translational research.

See LAW WINNERS  
on page 12



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## A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS



PHOTO: J. DICK

**Hello Kitty Con 2014****Los Angeles, CA****Oct. 30****Museum of Contemporary Art****250 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, exclusives, workshops, lectures, panels, sneak peeks, tattoos, food, fun and many more surprises. Don't miss this opportunity celebrate all things Hello Kitty.

**Info: Visit [www.sanrio.com/hellokittycon/](http://www.sanrio.com/hellokittycon/).**

**National****2014 National JACL Gala****Awards Dinner****Washington, D.C.****Oct. 5; 5-10 p.m.****Capital Hilton****1001 16th 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](http://www.jacl.org) or call (202) 223-1240.**

**MDC****Modern Segregation: Racial Classification and the Instability of Race****St. Louis, MO****Sept. 25; Noon****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.amcs.wustl.edu/events/527](http://www.amcs.wustl.edu/events/527) or email [amcs@arts.wustl.edu](mailto:amcs@arts.wustl.edu).**

**Chinese American Museum of Chicago's Fourth Annual Gala****Chicago, IL****Nov. 7; 5 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@ccmuseum.org](mailto:office@ccmuseum.org) or call (312) 949-1000.**

**NCWNP****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/angel-island-pilgrimage](http://www.nichibei.org/angel-island-pilgrimage) or email [programs@nichibei.org](mailto:programs@nichibei.org).**

**Nikkei Hot Dogs, Cupcakes & Free Bingo Scholarship Dinner****Sacramento, CA****Oct. 11; 5:30 p.m.****Buddhist Church of Florin****7234 Pritchard Road****Cost: General \$12**

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.florinjac.com](http://www.florinjac.com) or email [florinjac@hotmail.com](mailto:florinjac@hotmail.com).**

**Art of Survival: Enduring the Turmoil of Tule Lake****Lodi, CA****Ends Oct. 19****Micke Grove Regional Park****11793 N. Micke Grove Road**

The traveling exhibit dives

into the complexity of the WWII Japanese American Segregation Center near Newell, Calif. Photos, artifacts and personal narratives will be up for display to provide glimpses into life at Tule Lake. **Info: Visit <http://artofsurvival.org/>.**

**Kimochi Silver Balls Arts and Crafts Faire****San Francisco, CA****Dec. 13; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.****The Event Center at St. Mary's Cathedral****1111 Gough St.****Cost: Free**

Don't miss out on this one-stop shopping event for holiday gifts this year. Exhibit booths will include Kelley's Kookies, Kimochi Arts and Crafts, Cynthia Sasaki, Dardie Ishida, Ono Memories, Tobi-Mulan Designs and Little Buddah Baby. **Info: Visit [www.kimochi-inc.org](http://www.kimochi-inc.org) or call (415) 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/](http://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, scarves, glass, jewelry, handbags, ornaments, stationery, dog accessories, T-shirts and more.

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

**'Manzanar Fishing Club'****Screening****Cambridge, CA****Oct. 11; 2 p.m.****Japanese American Christian Chapel****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 waters.

**Info: Email [watanaba.dave@gmail.com](mailto:watanaba.dave@gmail.com) or call (805) 384-9333.**

**EDC****Tri Minh's Quartet: Sound From Hanoi Performance****New York, NY****Oct. 2; 8-9:30 p.m.****Asia Society Museum****725 Park Ave.****Cost: Tickets \$25**

Tri Minh's performance is part of Center Stage, a public-private cultural exchange and produced by the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA).

**Info: Visit [www.asiasociety.org/new-york/events/tri-minh-quartet-songs-hanoi-vietnam](http://www.asiasociety.org/new-york/events/tri-minh-quartet-songs-hanoi-vietnam).**

**Fourth Annual Boston Japan Film Festival****Boston, MA****Oct. 19; 12:30-7 p.m.****Massachusetts Institute of Technology****259 Newbury St.****Cost: Free**

To commemorate the earthquake and tsunami disasters that hit Japan on March 2011, the Japanese Resource Exchange organized this year's annual film festivals to create opportunities for reflection and discussions.

**Info: Visit [www.japan-societyboston.org/event-1740977](http://www.japan-societyboston.org/event-1740977).**

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Events in the calendar section are listed based on space availability. Place a 'Spotlight' ad with photos of your event for maximum exposure.

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# Memoriam

Aihara, Eugene, 78, Hilo, HI; Aug. 3; he was a veteran of the U.S. Army; he is survived by his wife, Amy Aihara; son, Keith (Jill) Aihara; daughter, Lori (Alvin)

Sugi Yama; brothers, Toru Aihara and Raymond Aihara; sisters, Chieko Hashizume and Sachiko Komata; he is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews; go: 6; ggc: 1.

Endo, Mitsuhiro, 91, San Jose, CA; Aug. 22; he was predeceased by his parents, Kakuzo and Tomo Endo; brothers, Katsuhiko and Tetsu; sisters, Michiko, Sumie and Sachie (Sugita); he is survived by his wife, Asami; children, Paul (Rita) and Brian (Lauren); sisters, Kaye (Ben) Masatani and Sally (Tom) Hirai; go: 4.

Fujiyama, Christine, 25, Keasau, HI; Aug. 17; she is survived by her fiancé, Seth Spidell; sons, Seth and Sage; daughter, Sina; mother and stepfather, Christine Asuncion-Mattos and Russel Mattos; grandparents, Solomon and Mary Jane Fujiyama; brothers, Miles (Jessica)

Fujiyama and Russel Mattos; sister, Ariel Fujiyama; she is also survived by numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

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

Iwata, Jerry Taruo, 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) Hodgson and Craig (Joy) Iwata; brother, Jon Iwata; sister, Marian (Don) Aoki; he is also survived by many other relatives; go: 5.

Kodani, Sadako, 88, Hilo, HI; Aug. 16; she is survived by her

daughters, Katherine (Charles) Webster and Cheryl (Leonard) Torrier; sons, Richard Kodani and Leslie (Widi) Kodani; 5 go; 6 ggc.

Kunimura, Keith, 66, Hilo, HI; Aug. 19; he is survived by his wife, Andrea; son, Garrett (Ashley) Kunimura; daughters, Kris (Carlos) Ilaraza and Erika (Mark) Tanimoto; mother, Jean Kunimura; sister, Jessica (Wilfred) Yamasa; brother, Jon Kunimura; he is also survived by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews; go: 4.

Morigaki, Alan Hideo, 68, Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 26; he served in the U.S. Army; he is survived by brothers, Enrol (Mary), Glenn and Roy Morigaki; niece, Kerri (Shawn) Morigaki-Jeffers; grand-niece, Koa Morigaki-Jeffers.

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

Nago, Calvin Iseo, 59, Hilo, HI; Aug. 18; he is survived by his son, Ryan Nago; daughter, Sandi Ann Nago; sister,

Charlene (Ronnie) Merritt; brothers, Terrance (Jean) Nago and Aaron (Edith) Kaneshiro; he is also survived by nieces and nephews; go: 3.

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

Namba, Taru Tari, 88, Camarillo, CA; Sept. 6; she is survived by her children, Rex (Carol) and Arissa Namba; siblings, Hatzumi Nishimori, Ito (Fujiye) Yamauchi and Toshiko Tomooka; sister-in-law, Sophie

Namba; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Niehlawa, Sumako, 71, Monterey Park, CA; Aug. 24; she is survived by her husband, Gunichi Nishikawa; son, Robert Kenichi (Toji) Nishikawa; daughter, Donna Hitomi (Dave) Hazama; mother, Chisato Shiraga; brothers, Dennis Hide nori (Hideko) and Takashi (Yoko) Shiraga; sister, Ranko (Toshinori) Doi; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; go: 4.

Ota, Jane, 90, Kailua-Kona, HI; Aug. 14; she is survived by her sons, Robert (Diane) Ota and Steven Ota; daughters,

18; she was predeceased by her husband, George; she is survived by her daughter, Linda (Jerry) Kane; son, Kent (Sandy) Shimada; siblings, Mary Teukiji, Bess Chang, Lily Hananouchi and Frank Sonoda; go: 3; ggc: 3.

Shimada, Kathleen Miteuko, 92, Santa Clara, CA; Aug.

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Northern Lights Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida)	March
Anchorage, Fairbanks, Chena River-Hot Springs, Aurora Borealis	
Southern Charm Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida)	March 22-28
South Carolina-Charleston, Beaufort, George-Savannah, Jekyll Islands; Florida-St. Augustine, Jacksonville	
Japan Spring Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida)	April 9-19
Tokyo, Sado Island, Kanazawa, Amavolcanic Island, Tottori, Matsue, Taniguchi Hiroshima, Hiroshima, Kyoto	
Italy Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida)	April 26-May 5
Rome, Assisi, Perugia, Siena, Florence, Venice, Lake District, Lugano, Milan.	
South America Japanese Heritage Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida)	May 6-18
Argentina - Buenos Aires; Brazil - Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Iguaçu Falls. Meet with local Japanese borderer. Option: Peru - Lima, Cuzco, Machu Picchu.	
East Coast Island Getaway Tour (Carol Hida)	May 11-16
Mohegan Sun Resort & Casino, Mystic Seaport Village, Rhode Island, New York City, Hampton, Long Island.	
Grandparents-Grandchildren Japan Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida)	June 22-July 1
Tokyo, Hakone, Atami, Hiroshima, Kyoto.	
Islands of New England Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida)	Aug 7-15
Provincetown, Newport, Boston, Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, Hyannis.	
Europe Holiday Tour (Carol Hida)	September
London, Paris, Bruges, Amsterdam.	
Classical Japan Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida)	Oct 1-11
Tokyo, Hakone, Atami, Gifu-Commodore Perry, Hiroshima, Kyoto.	
Special Danube River Holiday Cruise (Carol Hida)	Oct 11-21
Prague, Danube River Cruising, Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest, Bratislava, Meik.	
MS Amadeus Royal River Cruise Ship.	
Korea Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida)	Oct 19-Nov 1
Seoul, Nam Island, Sokcho, Daegu, Gyeongju, Busan, Cheju Island, Gwangju, Daejeon, Suwon, KBS Drama Center, DMZ Tour.	
Kenya Safari Holiday Tour (Carol Hida)	Oct 29-Nov 10
Nairobi, Amboseli National Park, Mt. Kenya Safari Club, Sweetwaters Tea & Camp.	
Japan Goodall Chimpanzee Sanctuary, Samurai Game Reserve, Game Drives.	
Okinawa Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida)	Nov 12-21
Naha, Okinawa, Miyakojima, Iriomote Island, Takekura Island.	

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10/19/2014 2:10

## 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, and after the war, she moved to Chicago. There, she was the executive secretary to the president of the Blackstone Hotel. She married Gene 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, Kevin and Karson, 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.

TRIBUTE



## Law Winners

### RYAN ICHINAGA

West Valley JACL

Thomas T. Hayashi Memorial  
Law Scholarship  
Lewis & Clark Law School



"In the United States, Japanese Americans are certainly a minority. Therefore, Japanese Americans should understand how a minority would

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 Japanese American heritage and legacy, but at the foundation of that legacy is the basic 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 Fong 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.

## 'SOUTH BAY STORIES: A Nikkei LGBTQ Forum for Everyone'



Uradomo



Fujikawa



Kato-Kiriyama

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 Kato-Kiriyama, a nationally renowned writer/actor/multiplatform 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 Ujiye, 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@jaclpsw.org](mailto:tishigo@jaclpsw.org).

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