



THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JACL

Sept. 18-Oct. 1, 2015

PACIFIC CITIZEN

GRANTS COLLEGE AWARDS

LEARN. INSPIRE & CHANGE

SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP ISSUE

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IN-DEPTH: ABC's new TV comedy
'Dr. Ken,' featuring Ken Jeong,
aims to keep it real.

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2015 National JACL Scholarship Winners

The JACL Scholarship Program has had another incredible year! In this special issue of the *Pacific Citizen*,

the JACL is pleased to announce the award total of \$77,000 to the 31 most deserving applicants in their respective categories. With so many well-qualified students, I'm sure that the future of the JACL and its upcoming young leaders is certainly in good hands!

We were also pleased to have two additional scholarship donors added to the list this year. The Mush & Haru Kuroiwa Scholarship was added to the incoming freshman category, and the Dr. George Goro & Nettie Muramoto Memorial Scholarship was added to the financial aid/graduate student category. We are certainly appreciative and would like to thank all of our donors who continue to provide JACL with this wonderful opportunity to help our youth with their college education.

This year, the student applicants were asked for their personal thoughts to the following: "Identify obstacles the JACL faces in fulfilling its role of cultural preservation, political activism and civil rights, and how youth can help overcome them." As you read their responses on the following pages, I believe you will find their answers quite refreshing, some enlightening and perhaps some others even surprising.

On behalf of the National JACL Board, 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, with nearly a hundred applicants and two committees to coordinate as well as fielding questions from and researching correct answers for all of these individuals and 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 2015 National Selection Committees. This was Eastern District's third and final year as a national 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. Next year, the Central California District Council will assume the duties of evaluating all of the nonfreshman scholarships. We are sure that Governor Roberta Barton and her team will be up to the task. This was the San Diego Chapter's second year as the incoming freshman selection committee, and my thanks go to Chair Carol Kawamoto, along with committee members Susie Iguchi, David Kawamoto and Sidney Shiroma. 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 2016 application process to recognize the next group of outstanding student leaders. As we wrap up the 2015 scholarship season, please join me in congratulating all of our award recipients.

Sincerely,

Chip Larouche
National VP
Planning & Development

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Congratulations

2015 Sequoia & Yoshida Scholarship Recipients



(l to r) Hy Nguyen, Scott Tatsuta, Morgan Ome

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

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MY COUNTRY

'OH, THE PLACES YOU'LL GO'

By Rhianna Taniguchi

As soon as I graduated from high school, I shipped off to Basic Training in Ft. Jackson, S.C. I enlisted in the Army National Guard when I was 17 and saw it as an opportunity to challenge myself and continue my grandfather's legacy of service. I was challenged physically, emotionally and intellectually for six months.

Right after I finished training, I went on to Oregon State University — home of the Beavers, though I've still never seen one. College was filled with adventures and great memories as well as trying times. I hope that these tips and experiences help prepare you for what's ahead. The book that held the most importance when getting through it all was Dr. Seuss' "Oh, the Places You'll Go." If you haven't read it yet, it's a good read for all ages and has made me resilient and futuristic as I hope some of this advice does for you.

What You May Face in College:

1. Losing your mind. During my first full year away from the sunshine of beautiful Hawaii, I experienced seasonal affective disorder (SAD). It's a type of depression that is related to changes in the seasons. This is definitely relevant for Asian Americans coming from sunny states or Pacific Islanders who aren't used to the lack in Vitamin D (sunshine) that affects serotonin levels. Many people think of it as the "winter blues." For me, it meant lying on the floor face down for a day at a time not knowing why I was so depressed. After looking more into it and

talking to my school's health center, I rented my first Happy Light. Light therapy is one of the remedies that worked best for me.

Mental health is critical for your success in school and in life, so don't avoid facing the issue. To prepare for this and other problems that might arise, remember to exercise regularly, get checkups every six months (something that's difficult for college students), "sleep your way to the top" — Arianna Huffington's way of reminding us that sleep is important to our success — and have a balanced diet.

2. A slap in the face. You're an adult now, and adults face intimate and scary realities. I hope no one faces physical or sexual violence in their lifetime, but realistically, we need to be prepared for ourselves and our friends during this time of transition. According to the Asian and Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence, "Approximately 1 in 4 women in the United States report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend in some point of their lives." The statistic for Asian women is almost double that, falling between 21 percent-55 percent. The API Domestic Violence Resource Project defines domestic violence as "a pattern of abusive behaviors used to gain power and control over a dating partner, spouse or relative. It is not an isolated incident and can include verbal, emotional, psychological, sexual, economic or physical forms of abuse such as: threats, slapping,

choking, name calling, insulting, rape, blaming the survivor for abuse or controlling money."

Be prepared to witness this in your college career, and be even more prepared to take action against it. Identify domestic violence and immediately seek professional help or recommend it to the person in need. There are a number of local and national resources for you to tap into depending on your comfort level.

3. Choosing between eating and paying your electricity bill.

Getting a grip on finances is going to be a major "make or break" for you in school. Get help early and seek out reputable resources (I recommend Mint.com). Financial planning should be a part of your daily routine.

NBC News released an article in 2014 titled "Data Shows Duality of Asian America: High Income, High Poverty." Many students fail to finish school for financial reasons, including AAPIs. Because I chose to go to a private high school, my parents weren't able to contribute to my college fund. I sometimes worked three to four jobs at a time and was fortunate to always have enough. Finances were a major stress point for me in school. Don't let money hold you back, and don't dig yourself into a rut — your credit score should be your friend, not your foe.

Finally, know what kind of loans you're taking out, and if you do need financial support outside of FAFSA and scholarships, talk to your credit union and ask for advice and loan rates.

>> See 'PLACES' on page 16



A YONSEI TRANSPLANTED

IN COLLEGE, WHEN YOU GET THE CHANCE, TAKE IT

By Matthew Ormseth

That monthlong period from mid-August to mid-September is a strange one. It's the time of year when those going away to college have to leave — leave their homes, their families, their friends, when everything that made up who they are and what they are ceases to be that anymore.

It's a time of goodbyes, when old friendships are put on hold for a while. But like any ending, it also signals a beginning — the beginning of new friendships, new interests and new passions. It's been two years now since I left to start my freshman year. In writing this, I'll try to give an honest account of my experiences, and those of you leaving home for the first time can take what you may from it.

Some of you may be going to college a few miles from where you grew up, and some of you may be going halfway across the world. I go to school in a town called Ithaca, which is about 3,000 miles away from my hometown of Arcadia, Calif.

Freshman year was tough. All of my childhood friends stayed in California for college. I think the most difficult thing about going to school far away is that it feels as if you're living in two separate worlds, each entirely distinct from the other.

One world was cold, foreign and intimidating. The other was sunny, familiar, comfortable — like anything out of the past seems to be when the present becomes frightening

and confusing. I would say — and here I am, going back on my promise not to offer advice — to regard your memories with a certain degree of skepticism your first year. The tricky thing about reminiscing is that it has more to do with forgetting things than it does with remembering them. Chances are, your life was just as difficult, tedious and puzzling five years ago as it is right now. It's strange how easily we forget that. Try to resist the temptation to do so.

When I came back for Christmas, four months later, it was a happy time, seeing my family and my friends, all of whom I had sorely missed. But it was a sobering time, too, when I realized that, shockingly, life had gone on in my absence. Like I said, it felt as if I was oscillating between two different worlds, and I found that the old world, the sun-washed one of Southern California, hadn't frozen in time when I left it.

I couldn't just snap my fingers, unfreeze my friends and family in their positions of mid-goodbye they'd been holding since August and expect life to resume uninterrupted.

They'd made their own lives; they had their own friends from their own colleges, and a few had girlfriends, even. We all still got along well, of course, but it wasn't the same. Nothing ever is.

When you come home — for Thanksgiving, for Christmas, for summer break — don't expect to pick things up exactly where you left them. The world will have

rearranged itself, and life goes on, with or without you.

So far, I've painted a pretty bleak picture of college. But it's not all homesickness and self-deception; I can say, undoubtedly, that it's been the most exciting time of my life.

You'll be surrounded by people who, for the first time in their lives, are studying subjects they're actually interested in. You'll meet professors who are actually passionate about what they teach — and that passion is infectious. You'll be forced to take responsibility for your studies, your leisure, your health and your sanity. Shouldering that responsibility is probably the most challenging thing you'll have to do as a freshman, but it's the most thrilling thing you'll do, too, looking at what you've done, what you've made of your life, and knowing that you did it on your own.

Going to college is a new beginning — you'll have to start over once you get there. For those who hated high school, this might be a blessing; for those who loved it, you can't bring your trophies and certificates with you, and the sooner you realize that, the better. Nobody's going to ask you how many AP classes you took or what your SAT score was, and for those of you who derive self-worth from report cards and class rankings, prepare to get the shoring kicked out from underneath you.

>> See COLLEGE on page 16

2015

JACL National Scholarship Winners

ESSAY TOPIC

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

'Identify obstacles the JACL faces in fulfilling its role of cultural preservation, political activism and civil rights, and how youth can help overcome them.'

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

Freshman Winners



QUINN FUJII

**Sacramento JACL (NCWNP)
Sam & Florice Kuwahara
Memorial Scholarship
University of California, San Diego**

The main problem the JACL faces in its role is the fact that people aren't paying attention to Japanese American civil rights issues anymore. In this day and age, people are far more concerned with social justice than civil rights issues. Although Ferguson brought civil rights back into the spotlight, programs like the Restorative Justice movement are bringing issues more concerned with cooperation and understanding from all people into criminal proceedings, not just punishment, to help everyone realize the humanity of others and treat each other with respect. Even Ferguson only brought the spotlight to civil rights for a short while. The new hot-button issue is ISIS. There will always be another hot-button issue that outshines the JACL and its civil rights mission. Even though the JACL and Japanese American concerns won't always be in the spotlight, that doesn't mean they can't be fought for in other ways.

"Cultural preservation is a very important aspect of the mission of the JACL. I know many of the people in my high school would be very interested in pursuing knowledge of Japanese culture and the ancient traditions that make it so unique. There are a lot of Japanese American kids who would really appreciate being reached out to, and many more who aren't Japanese American who would love

to help keep the culture alive. One of the best ways to reach young people is through technology and social media. If the JACL created social media accounts and encouraged people to like and recommend the sites, news would reach youth much faster and more efficiently, thus inviting more perspective members. The youth of America can be very involved if we are passionate about something, and if the JACL connected with those students already interested in the culture, the movement could grow and shed more light on social justice issues and the JACL could help form more politically active and informed Japanese American citizens."



EMI HIRSH

**Portland JACL (PNW)
Paul & Katherine Ohtaki
Memorial Scholarship
University of Southern California**

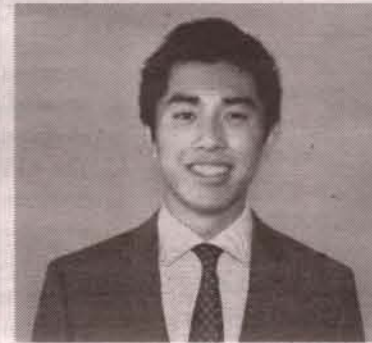
I currently serve as president of a group known as Unite People, the Portland youth chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League. Together, we provide humanitarian services such as preparing and serving food at local homeless shelters, maintaining Portland's prized waterfront and assisting within the Japanese American community at cultural festivals and events. Annually, we attend the JACL National Convention. In the summer of 2014 when the convention was held in San Jose, Calif., we presented a workshop entitled the "Model Minority Myth." One of my responsibilities was to facilitate group discus-

sion about the presentation of the negative effects of the model minority myth. Joining other passionate Japanese Americans from across the country to discuss and expose racial inequalities is an enriching experience; a unique environment that I feel fortunate to participate in.

"The labels Asian Americans have assumed from the media deeply affect their cultural identity. Nail salon owners, concert pianists, dry cleaners, terrible drivers and even worse athletes — the media has taught us that Asian Americans are clones who cannot differentiate between their Ls and Rs, but are math prodigies; a group of people who, because of their slanted eyes, are incapable of seeing the world in its entirety, but can crumble a brick with a karate chop. Popular television does nothing to dispel these bigoted views, but rather perpetuates them. Mrs. Kim of "Gilmore Girls," played by Emily Kuroda, originally from Fresno, Calif., is one of the most offensive Asian American characters ever created by the television industry. Strict, uncompassionate and extremely religious, she epitomizes the idea of Tiger Mom. Because they have become seamlessly embedded in our culture, these stereotypes are consistently overlooked and construed as general knowledge of Asian Americans.

"The belief that Asian Americans are academically and mathematically superior places a considerable amount of psychological pressure on Asian Americans. Those unable to conform to the exceptionally high standards placed before them by the media frequently drop out of school, succumb to substance abuse and all too often take their own lives. In order to eliminate the model minority myth, I would suggest that rather than counter the present image, greater effort should be put forth to promote the opposite. Shows such as "Grey's Anatomy" feature a strong, independent Asian American character or "Fresh Off the Boat" that invites

the audience into the Asian American perspective should be celebrated. A more accurate representation of the Asian American struggle to assimilate into American culture is essential and would be beneficial to all."



NATHAN IWAMOTO-FUKUMITSU

**Salt Lake City JACL (IDC)
Shigeki 'Shake' Ushio Memorial
Scholarship
University of Utah**

My family has been longtime members in the JACL, so I have helped and attended many JACL functions throughout my life. I am currently the Salt Lake City Youth Representative for the SLC JACL. I have volunteered for the Nikkei Luncheon, helping cook and serve food to the seniors at the Salt Lake City Buddhist Temple; setting up and delivering medals at the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony; and helped to set up and serve food at the Day of Remembrance service at the University of Utah. I hope to be more involved with JACL this year. This year, I will

take some responsibility with the JACL Salt Lake Chapter Facebook page and also help maintain the chapter's website. I am also applying for National Youth/Student Council IDC Member.

"In my high school, I am one of about a dozen Asian students and one of a handful of Japanese students. In my school, there is still a lot of racism and stereotyping toward minorities. As the minority voice, it is sometimes difficult to stand up and much easier to shrug and even laugh with them. I myself am guilty of this at times and realize that I need to be a conduit of change. Events here, such as the Fred Korematsu Day ceremony and Congressional Gold Medal have helped me to recognize and respect our culture's great history. Fred Korematsu said, 'If you have a feeling that something is wrong, don't be afraid to speak up.' I hope to follow his example. My grandfather has been a great example to me and has inspired me to strive to learn more about his generation's sacrifice and their culture so we can pass it on. My grandfather served in WWII and was a member of the MIS (Military Intelligence Service). He recently was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor along with other Japanese Americans who received this highest award for their sacrifices during and after WWII. My grandmother's father was also a leader in the Ogden community and was taken to prison due to racism. I hope to learn more about my past and hope to do so through my involvement with JACL."

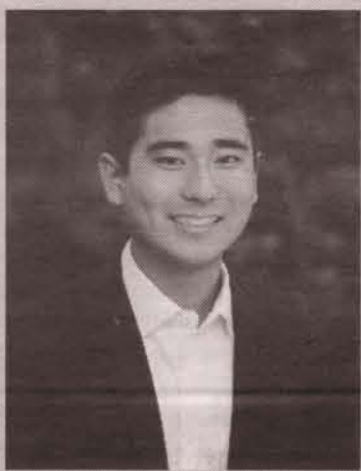


THANK YOU FOR HONORING OUR CHAPTER
Meredith Loy – Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship
Emi Hirsh – Paul & Katherine Ohtaki Memorial Scholarship



PORTLANDJACL

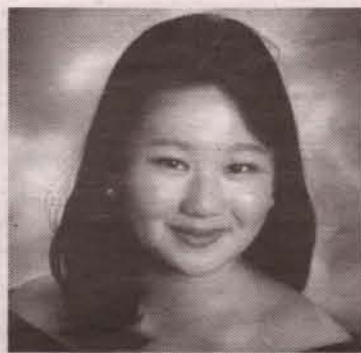
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DAVIS KATAKURA
SELANOCO JACL (PSW)
Mush & Haru Kuroiwa
Freshman Scholarship
United States Naval Academy

As a Japanese American citizen, I have attended a church started by Japanese American immigrants in the early 20th century. By attending this church, I have had the chance to meet Japanese exchange students and homestay participants. While talking to them, I not only have a chance to practice my Japanese I have learned in high school for four years, but also a chance to understand Japan's culture and perspective on Christianity. However, most importantly, I have the privilege of forming lasting friendships. Having a grandmother from Hawaii interned during World War II to the U.S. mainland, I am reminded when I talk to her of the injustice Japanese Americans faced during the war and their resilience to persevere while still supporting the United States.

"I hope to continue my efforts of participation in my community in college. I want to further my communication and leadership skills to promote ethnic diversity on campus and in my community. I am Okinawan, which is an ethnic minority in southern Japan. I have had the opportunity to learn taiko drums from my aunt and attend the Okinawan festival, expanding my appreciation and understanding of Okinawa's unique style of music, food and language. I believe that a society with cultural and racial awareness can make better decisions on public policy and, most importantly, live in better peace and understanding with each other. At school, I also want to meet students whom I both share and differ in culture to expand my knowledge of different cultures to understand how to be a more socially conscious friend and citizen. By my experience working with students with special needs both in a basketball league and on campus in the Autism Awareness Club, I can offer my compassion for diverse students."



YUMI KOBAYASHI
Berkeley JACL (NCWNP)
CWO 4 Mitsugi Murakami Kasai
(Ret) Memorial Scholarship
Occidental College

My family and I had known of JACL for quite some time, but I personally had not fully understood what the organization was founded on and presently stood for until the summer of 2013. I was curious and decided to apply to be an intern at one of the chapters. Fortunately, I was given the opportunity to intern at the San Francisco National JACL Headquarters for Annie Noguchi and her fellow colleagues. While doing office work during my summer internship, preparing envelopes to be sent out and organizing excel sheets of members in various chapters, I saw the enormity of JACL. In my short but significant experience, I learned much about the JACL movement — the rich history of advocating for civil and human rights still embedded in their present work. I was lent a book about the history of the organization on my first day in the office. One of the many important aspects of the organization that especially stood out was that although there is a focus on Japanese Americans, JACL's vision extends beyond cultural and racial boundaries. JACL has found footing and persevered in confronting various social injustices that have taken and are taking place in our society. The simple yet difficult vision that the organization was founded on had reached out to so many individuals in so many places.

"Continual changes in our modern society create a multitude of challenges. Such social challenges affect the ways in which civil rights organizations like JACL approach their mission of advocating for social justice. One drastic change in political and social atmosphere was what occurred on Sept. 11, 2001. The violation of national security spurred further ethnic divide and tensions that are still present in endeavors that extend internationally today. I am strongly convinced that the only way to come about this sensitive matter is by promoting education of cross-cultural values through the youth. JACL youth members and youth around the

world can take part in increasing cultural understanding — to bridge relations through similarities and develop an appreciation of the differences. Educating other youth of the importance of respecting other cultures will lead to better communication prospectively at all levels (local, national and international) and ease the current tensions that are brought by misunderstandings. Despite the constant challenges posed by changing societal and political atmospheres, the youth must persevere in advocating for civil rights and cultural preservation and overcome these challenges through innovative ideas."

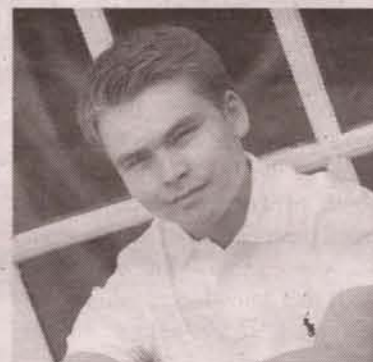


MEREDITH LOY
Portland JACL (PNW)
Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara
Memorial Scholarship
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

As a Yonsei, I am two generations removed from a life of overt discrimination, anti-Japanese war sentiment and internment camp existence. After their release from Minidoka Internment Camp, my grandparents worked hard to regain a sense of acceptance by the majority culture that deprived them of their liberties. Growing up Sansei, my mother recalled an upbringing that emphasized assimilation with a goal of becoming a model American citizen. She remembers being told, "You look different so you need to try harder, study more and get better grades to prove to everyone that you are worthy." Rather than focusing on being a model minority, my generation's challenge is to honor the rich heritage of our ancestors while promoting our own individuality while developing our own contributions and leadership.

"In order to become advocates for civil liberties, Yonsei must educate themselves about the inequalities of the past to prevent injustice in the future. We must examine the plight of other underrepresented groups to understand the common bond that exists with others who face similar challenges. Then, we need to apply our knowledge through active engagement. For me, the most culturally satisfying experience has been my involvement in Unite People, the youth section

of Portland's Japanese American Citizens League. As co-president for two consecutive years, I have steered our multicultural group to help those targeted by fear and stereotyping. Whether cooking meals for Goose Hollow Shelter families, spearheading workshops with Muslim groups, packaging hygiene kits for HIV victims or preserving oral histories of WWII internees, our interactions promote greater understanding. Proud to be an Asian American, I refuse to shield my identity, mold my values to the perceptions of others or be stereotyped as a particular personality. Instead, I seek to be identified by my beliefs and actions as an activist and advocate for social justice and civil rights."

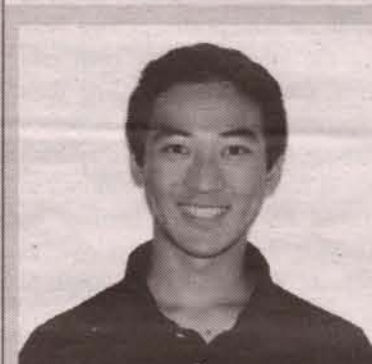


CONNOR MAWHINNEY
Mile High JACL (IDC)
Kenji Kasai Memorial Scholarship
The College of William & Mary

When faced with obstacles regarding the role of cultural preservation, I believe the main issue facing the Japanese American community is the loss of tradition. In a highly modern and ever-changing society, the valued traditions and cultural beliefs that the Japanese American community cherishes can easily be lost or forgotten. One of the most important roles and duties of the JACL is to preserve and continue those same valued beliefs and traditions. As our society progresses, customs can be replaced by new ones, which then may be replaced by even newer ones. The youth of the Japanese American community are essential in the conservation of these traditions and to uphold the standards set by those before them. It is their responsibility to learn, value, maintain and then pass on these traditions to the next generation.

"The biggest obstacle the JACL faces in terms of political activism and civil rights is a lack of recognition and acknowledgment. Nationwide, JACL is a large organization, but it is relatively underrepresented in the political and civil rights voice. The JACL is overshadowed by larger stories facing American society. The solution is a committed and dedicated effort to spread awareness about

the JACL and their vision for our community. The use of media and social networking can bring light to our mission. As the JACL gets more attention and focus from society, the influence to improve our political activism and civil rights will follow suit."



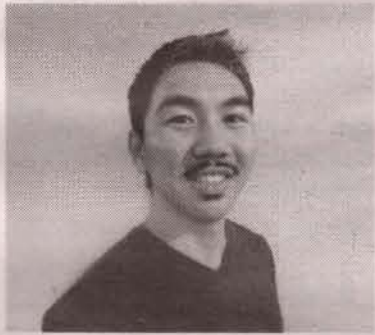
JASPER MIURA
Sacramento JACL (NCWNP)
Paul & Katherine Ohtaki
Memorial Scholarship
Brown University

I believe that I uphold the mission of the JACL in many ways, and I plan on continuing to do so in the future. As a student at a socioeconomically, racially and culturally diverse high school, I have come to understand and respect perspectives other than my own. When I see someone being treated unjustly, I do my best to defend them. I actively seek to make friends with my peers who are often stigmatized or ostracized, including them in social conversations as well as school projects. I am also interested in the rights of the LGBT community and actively bring awareness to homophobic behavior in my daily life at school.

"I would have loved to become active in the JACL earlier in my life; however, I have not been aware of JACL events or activities, and as a result, I did not have the opportunity to participate. One way the JACL can create a presence and have a face in the local community is to have chapters reach out to local high schools. I would have eagerly taken the opportunity to start a JACL club at my high school. The JACL club could host events at the school, such as a Japanese New Year celebration, Obon and more, in order to gain visibility in the high school community and beyond. A JACL-sponsored club could also host fundraisers to support initiatives beyond the preservation of Japanese American culture, regarding the civil rights of communities outside of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans. The same concept could also be applied within a university setting, where a JACL club could reach out to high schools in the area and improve connectedness within the community. As a graduating senior

and soon-to-be freshman in college, I would love to become involved in such a program or start such a club at the institution I choose to attend.

"After a family reunion, I have also become particularly interested in maintaining the history of Japanese Americans. I love hearing the stories of my own relatives, particularly regarding their experiences in mainland America, Hawaii, Japan and Okinawa during World War II. I hope to continue to uphold my Japanese heritage by studying Japanese in college, as well as the Okinawan language in an independent language study program."



TYLER NAKAUE
Stockton JACL (NCWNP)
Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara
Memorial Scholarship
University of California, Irvine

Recently, I went on an archaeological dig at Amache with the University of Denver to find artifacts and learn about the daily lives of Japanese Americans. As a young Japanese American, I knew about internment, but I never understood the real impact. It was a true eye opener, as I learned just how intense the days were when weather sporadically changed from sunny and clear to a raging tornado or a dust storm. In school, the youth are taught about the life of the interned Japanese Americans, but they do not indulge themselves in what it truly meant to be incarcerated. I suggest that the JACL organizes trips down to an internment camp such as Amache to show a select group of youth members what it felt like to be an internee. If they were to experience life as an interned Japanese American, they would have a stronger connection to the goals of the JACL. By having the youth experience internment and teach others about it, people would become more knowledgeable. With that knowledge, people may just think twice before showing hatred to others.

"Born from a spark of racism and injustice, the JACL has become the oldest and largest Japanese American civil rights organization. The

organization itself stands strong and united, but it can show deeper connections with other civil rights organizations. With the combined efforts of the JACL, NAACP and many other civil rights groups, equality was created. Now, there are other groups of people looking for the same kind of equality such as lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transsexuals. As a civil rights organization, it is our duty and our goal to help those who are being treated unfairly. All in all, the JACL's efforts provided equality for Japanese American citizens. Now, it is our turn to help others achieve equality."



KENTON SHIMOZAKI
Stockton JACL (NCWNP)
Mr. and Mrs. Takashi Moriuchi
Memorial Scholarship
Harvard University

When the JACL was first founded during the early 20th century, its major goals were to gain equal citizenship and political rights for Japanese Americans, similar to other interest groups like the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). During World War II, JACL actively worked to relocate many families on the West Coast and create conditions for successful integrations of those who had been interned in concentration camps. Even after the war, JACL continued to advocate for civil rights and remove alien land restrictions in many states across the country. JACL won tremendous victories promoting the civil rights of not only Asian Americans but also all Americans in the decades following World War II. However, the progress achieved also contributed to a declining involvement in JACL and political activism for civil rights.

"Although Japanese Americans were once one of the three-largest Asian American communities, they have fallen to being the sixth-largest group in the United States. Recent statistics have shown that the population is approximately 1.3 million Americans. JACL will have difficulties preserving the

Japanese American culture with the declining population within the United States. Whether it is celebrating Children's Day in May by flying carp kites or watching the Bon Odori dancing in the summer night, youth continue to participate in these celebrations. Youth want to learn more about their culture as part of the identity search that they will go through, but they need the opportunities to participate in the culture. In my local Stockton community, the revival of Tan Po Po Gakko, our Japanese summer culture school, has been extremely popular among young families who want their children to experience the same traditions that they did growing up.

"In college, I hope to have the opportunity to take part in one of the fellowships offered by the JACL as an integral part of my passion for political science. By becoming involved in the congressional fellowships of JACL, I will be able to advance the values of fairness, equality and social justice that are part of the vision set forth by JACL. In the modern era, many of today's youth want to become involved in advancing civil rights, and I hope to advocate for all people, including Japanese Americans, so that we can end discrimination."



2015 Ventura County JACL Chapter SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Congratulations to the following recipients:

Michael Adachi— Cal State Channel Islands,
Cynthia Anderson— UCLA,
Jessica Dees— Cal State Northridge,
Nicole Golden— Occidental College,
Emily Hara— Moorpark College,
Mihoko Kubo— UC Davis, Ryan Kurohara— Stanford
Mandi Nishimori— UC Davis, Kai Yoshinaga— Georgetown



L to R: Jessica Dees, Cynthia Anderson, Kai Yoshinaga,
Mandi Nishimori, Emily Hara
Missing: Nicole Golden, Mihoko Kubo, Ryan Kurohara and Michael Adachi

Sacramento



Sacramento JACL Congratulates This Year's Scholarship Award Winners!

Chapter Awards:

Kevin Abdelnour, Kenji Bennett, Quinn Fujii, Sydney Kajioka,
Lindsey Kikumoto, Benjamin Kopania, Reid Masaki,
Aaron Matsuda, Jasper Miura, Kari Nakamura,
Matthew Nakatomi, Alex Playdon, Rebecca Uda, Kayla Umemoto.

National Awards

Quinn Fujii, Trent Ichiji, Amber Lau, Jasper Miura





RAIDEN TAKEUCHI
Twin Cities JACL (MDC)
Deni & June Uejima Memorial
Scholarship
University of Minnesota

There is no chapter of JACL near where I live in rural Iowa. I recently joined the Twin Cities chapter of JACL, as I plan to attend the University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities in the fall of 2015. I have been searching for things to do in the Minneapolis area. I was excited to find JACL there, and I plan to become a more active member when I move to the area. I look forward to finding opportunities to embrace my ethnicity and meet and support other Japanese Americans in the area.

"I believe it is our right and our responsibility as young Japanese Americans to get involved and help eliminate prejudice against our race and all minorities. We can do this by first of all being responsible citizens. This includes exercising our right to vote in all elections, being active in various community organizations, including but certainly not limited to JACL, and by being good, caring, compassionate human beings. If someone needs a hand, lend a hand, no matter what their color, race or religion. As time goes on, and America gradually becomes more and more ethnically blended, I believe we will see less and less prejudice based on physical appearances and historical events; however, we may still face prejudice based on ignorance. It is easy perhaps for some to disdain and distrust that which

they do not know or understand. So, it is not enough to simply sit and watch time pass and hope that time cures all.

"I believe that while we as youth do indeed need to embrace and help to preserve our Japanese culture, we need to reach out, become friends and associates with individuals of all backgrounds and invite others outside of our ethnicity to come see and be a part of our cultural events. I believe that if young Japanese Americans get involved in groups like JACL, and reach out to others around us, we can overcome prejudice and become a vibrant and welcome part of the rich cultural differences that make up this wonderful country."



MOIE UESUGI
New York JACL (EDC)
Hanayagi Rokumie Memorial
Cultural Scholarship
Brown University

Japanese — more generally, Asians — are very narrowly defined in American media, culture and societal roles. Among others, one of the key obstacles that JACL faces is thus not a direct opposition from any anti-Asian groups, but rather a general confinement of the definition of Asian ability and character. Beyond just a stereotype of studiousness or its opposite of toughness, this sculpting of Asians as the "invisible minority" not only holds non-Asians away from understanding the complexity of our cultures but also stops many voices and identities from being expressed within the community itself. This externally

driven confinement to the stereotypical idea of being Asian is the most common and addressed out of this set of obstacles. Although shows such as "Fresh Off the Boat" are now being made to feature different, nonstereotypical Asians, there are still a lot of ideas that remain in the world that restrict organizations such as JACL.

"Significantly more damaging than this external perception of the Asian American archetype, however, are the members' internalized ideas of what they should be and how they should act. These ideas are what hold many Asian Americans from coming out as part of the LGBTQ community, being unashamed of finding an interest in human rights or the humanities and voicing political ideas and stances. As JACL works to address Asian American participation in these areas, I think that the youth can definitely help to bring change to this challenge of internal restriction.

"With the unique position of being rooted very deeply within Asian culture but having access to American ideas and standards, Asian American youth can combine the two cultures with relative ease to form a new Asian American. As a dancer in the Tachibana Nihon Buyo New York Branch, I have learned about 20 traditional Japanese dances over the span of 10 years. I first started dancing at age 7 to connect to my Japanese heritage, particularly my grandmother, who was a kimono-stylist in her day. However, it has served most as an important way to find who I am as a Japanese American. From Japan, we absorb the culture of the dance and the expected respect toward our teacher. Yet, our teacher values effort over execution, something uniquely American, and we often joke in class. Cradled in the intersection of these two cultures for 10 years, I now understand the worth of Japanese American culture as something entirely distinct and whole."

Undergraduate Winners



MARY COOMES
Chicago JACL (MDC)
Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial
Scholarship

Mary Coomes has been a member of the Chicago chapter for five years. She was a participant in Project: Community! and the Kansha Project, two of JACL's annual programs. Coomes is now an at-large member of the National Youth/Student council. She was awarded the Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship and will study at the University of Chicago. In her essay, she wrote:

"The main obstacles that face the Japanese American community today are preserving the stories of the passing generation and instilling a strong sense of identity, pride and community in younger Japanese Americans who did not experience history first hand. In order to overcome these obstacles, young Japanese Americans must embody the important roles of vocal storytellers, vigorous culture learners and active civil rights protectors. . . . The job of the storyteller is imperative in preserving the culture on an everyday level through the listening of music, passing of recipes, repetition of culture-specific words and reading of first-hand documents and letters. . . . Stories ranging from important civil rights legislative events

to our oba-chan's special onigiri recipes are important to share as educational tools not only to our own community, but also to the broader American public in order to preserve the Japanese American legacy."



MARISA KAZUMI ENG
Mt. Olympus JACL (IDC)
Shigeru Nakahira Memorial
Scholarship

Marisa Kazumi Eng of the Mt. Olympus chapter has been awarded the Shigeru Nakahira Memorial Scholarship for undergraduate study at the University of Southern California. She is interested in studying business and technology. Eng has been active in the Mt. Olympus chapter for several years as a volunteer and has attended the JACL National Convention in Salt Lake City.

Her personal statement reflects an interest in the history of her family, including grandparents and great-grandparents. She believes that the stories of older generations must be kept alive by the bright minds of JACL youth who have the ability to preserve the culture and educate others about the past so that it does not get repeated and honors those who endured the prejudice.

**See UNDERGRADUATES
on page 10 >>**

Puyallup Valley JACL Chapter Congratulates



**Britney
Spencer Freer**

**Shannon
Kane Russ**

**Bryce
Taishi Ikeda**

2015 Freshman College Scholarship Winners



Contra Costa Chapter JACL 2015 Scholarship Winners

Christopher Chiune MacMaster – Issei Memorial Scholarship
Sierra Lee, Contra Costa Chapter Award
Tina Nguyen – Sue Yusa Award

CONGRATULATIONS! WE ARE VERY PROUD OF YOU!

THE DOCTOR IS IN

Behind the scenes of Ken Jeong's new ABC show 'Dr. Ken'

By Connie K. Ho,
Contributor

From zany Spanish teacher Ben Chang in the NBC TV show "Community" to the no-holds gangster Leslie Chow in Warner Bros. Pictures' "Hangover" films, actor-comedian Ken Jeong has played the most extreme characters. He continues to bring his maniac energy to the new ABC show "Dr. Ken," a program he created, wrote and co-executive produces. It's a comedic take on a physician's life in a medical office, someone who is married with two children, taking it all in stride as a second-generation Asian American.

The story focuses on Ken Park (Jeong), a doctor who is well-intentioned but sometimes a little too blunt with his patients. At home, his therapist wife, Allison (Suzy Nakamura), keeps him in check as he goes through the trials of raising his quirky mime-loving 9-year-old son, Dave (Albert Tsai), and his 16-year-old daughter, Molly (Krista Marie Yu). In the pilot episode, Ken gets in trouble when he decides to install a tracker on his daughter's cell phone. While the show is inspired by Jeong's real life as a physician, Jeong describes his character as dramatized for comedic effect.

"It's an amplified version of me — it starts from a place of truth and then it gets fictional," Jeong said.

Like Jeong, Nakamura has a background in comedy. Growing up in Chicago, she started doing improv as a kid and performed in sketch comedy shows. She recently headlined the Comedy Comedy Festival in Los Angeles,

a program highlighting comedy in the Asian American community.

"For me, it's the perfect training for anybody who wants to be an actor, writer or director because when you're improvising, you're doing all three at once," said Nakamura, whose past experiences include performances with the acclaimed comedy troupe the Second City. "You're directing yourself, you're making up the words and you're acting."

According to Nakamura, the process of creating "Dr. Ken" is very collaborative with the cast, crew and live audience.

"The writers and directors are so fantastic. You start with saying the words they wrote, and it helps inform the scene, it helps inform the character, it helps inform the bigger picture of what the relationships are like," said Nakamura, who has also appeared in TV shows such as "Go On" and "Modern Family." "Everything really does come to life when there is someone there to see it and respond to immediately — it's not like shooting a movie where you work in this black hole and then they edit it and you have a premiere and you have a response a year later."



ABC's new comedy "Dr. Ken" features among its cast (from left) Kate Simses, Tisha Campbell-Martin, Jonathan Slavin and Ken Jeong. The series focuses on a second-generation Asian American doctor and his balance with work and family.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF ABC

Nakamura notes how the performers will take their cues from the live audience during taping at the Sony lot in Culver City; the writers sometimes insert in new jokes or rewrite lines based on the audience's reaction to certain scenes.

The show's two young actors have also been able to soak in the experience of filming in front of a live audience. Tsai, who has had TV roles in "Trophy Wife" and "Fresh Off the Boat," has been able to flex his physical comedy skills and worked with a choreographer to develop his miming routine. Working with veteran performers Jeong and Nakamura, Yu has been able to pick up tricks and tips to inform her own performance.

"Every day is a little bit different," said Yu. "We're all working really hard to create good material and a good show, so I think we're all pouring our hearts into it, whether we're called into set or not. If I'm not physically filming, I'll be at home reading the script, watching multicamera on TV, just trying to take advantage of every possible angle so I can bring my best foot forward."

While the show highlights the relationships between Ken and his kids, the show also touches on mixed marriages.

"I think it's important to note that Ken's character on the show is based off of him — he's Korean American. Ken's wife in real life is Vietnamese, and I'm Japanese American, and so they decided to make my character Japanese American — a lot of people who aren't part of mixed families or Asian families might not know that that's a version of a mixed marriage," said Nakamura. "I know that I have a lot of marriages in my own family that are Chinese, Korean, Filipino, and it's not necessarily a culture clash, but it's definitely a melding of cultures."

Along with the dynamics of the core family members, viewers can look forward to a guest appearance by standup comedian Margaret Cho. Cho plays Ken's sister, who is a celebrity doctor à la Dr. Oz. Jeong sees Cho as the jumping off point for many of the Asian American shows now on television.

"She was the OG, she's 'All-American Girl,' she started it all for us. For me, if it wasn't for 'All-American Girl,' 'Fresh Off the Boat' and 'Sullivan and Son,' those three shows really made it possible for 'Dr. Ken' to be on the air. To have Margaret Cho on the show has even more historical significance for me, and it's been very gratifying on that level," Jeong said. "When I was doing standup comedy, she was one of the first big names I was an opening act for, so it kind of goes full circle on so many levels."

Jeong believes that the show, which premieres

on Oct. 2, can make a big impact.

"To me, I think this show normalizes the Asian American experience because this is about a second-generation Asian American family. None of the main characters, me, my wife, my kids, have accents. We're not relying on any tropes or stereotypes to tell a story," Jeong said. "That's the main thing on the show — from writers to performers — we just don't want any dialogue to feel out of place. It's going to be real, it's going to be cultural and we're going to move the needle with this show."

"Dr. Ken" premieres on Oct. 2 on ABC.



(From top) "Dr. Ken" films in front of a live audience at Sony Pictures Studios in Culver City, Calif. The comedy also features (middle, from left) Krista Marie Yu and Suzy Nakamura as Ken's daughter and wife, respectively, as well as (bottom, at left) Albert Tsai, who plays Ken's mime-loving young son. Says star Jeong, "It's going to be real, it's going to be cultural and we're going to move the needle with this show."

UNDERGRADUATE WINNERS continued from page 7



KELLI KOSAKA
South Bay JACL (PSW)
Saburo Kido Memorial Scholarship

Kelli Kosaka from the South Bay chapter is the recipient of the Saburo Kido Memorial Scholarship. An active participant in Bridging Communities, she participated in programs bridging the Muslim American and Japanese American communities. With a strong interest in the Japanese language/culture and U.S./Japan relations, Kosaka was selected for the JACL Kakehashi Project and the USC Global East Asia Japan scholarship program. She hopes to enroll in "graduate studies at an international or domestic university in public diplomacy, East Asian policy/international relations or a related field." Not

forgetting her Japanese American roots, Kosaka also attended the 2010 pilgrimage to Manzanar. Having grown up predominantly "American," she had difficulty connecting to her Japanese roots. She states that "one of the obstacles of my generation, which comprises a large number of Yonsei and Gosei, faces is the struggle to fit in and the struggle to find real-life mentors and role models who come from relatable backgrounds." As a result, "assembly, collaboration and guidance are the keys to unlocking the locks modern issues of inequality place on progress and, when heard, I believe today's youth can conquer the injustices once deemed unconquerable and inspire future generations to do the impossible." Kosaka is enrolled at the University of Southern California, where she is majoring in East Asian languages and cultures and public relations.



NICOLE SAKIOKA

SELANOCO JACL (PSW)
Alice Yuriko Endo Memorial
Scholarship

Nicole Sakioka of the SELANOCO chapter has been awarded the Alice Yuriko Endo Memorial Scholarship. She will be studying international relations at Waseda University's School of International Liberal Studies. In her essay, Sakioka expressed concern that the "... multiethnic younger generation might lose interest in preserving their Japanese American culture," and noted that, in her experience, "... programs promoting awareness and understanding of Japanese culture may be the cure." She also wrote of how her participation in the 2014 Kakehashi Project affected her ties to the Japanese American community and her appreciation of Japanese language and culture. She wrote of how her participation in the 2012 National Collegiate Leadership Conference and Summer Activist Training Program "... taught us how to identify issues directly affecting the Japanese American and Pacific Asian American communities." Sakioka added: "Although the tenor and tone of these two programs was vastly different, the aim of both was the same. In order to grow leadership within our communities, it is imperative that programs are offered to teach us how to identify important issues, build strong networks of peer support and have the courage to act."



ALLYSHA YASUDA
Snake River JACL (IDC)
Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara
Memorial Scholarship

Allysha Yasuda of the Snake River Valley chapter has been awarded the Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship for undergraduate study at the University of Idaho. She plans to major in biology and then attend medical school. Yasuda has been very active in the Snake River chapter by volunteering for many chapter functions, including a cultural exchange program with students from Osakasayame, Japan. Yasuda believes that there will always be controversies surrounding civil rights and that the fight for equal rights and the prevention of discrimination will never end. She emphasizes that the key to helping people understand all of this is the educational process.

Graduate Winners



**AKEMI KUSHIDA
ARZOUAMAN**
San Fernando Valley JACL (PSW)
Dr. Kiyoshi Sonoda Memorial
Scholarship

Akemi Kushida Arzouman from the San Fernando Valley chapter is the recipient of the Dr. Kiyoshi Sonoda Memorial Scholarship. A scholar and athlete, Arzouman has been involved in numerous community activities and organizations, many of which she participated as a founding member. These include organizations uniting Asian Americans through social and cultural activities, as well as networking opportunities for female students. She has also been deeply involved in various aspects of student government both at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Currently a dental student, Arzouman aspires to ultimately become a periodontist and serve as a role model for future generations of female Asian Americans. Although JACL has been active in addressing civil right issues, she feels that many youth are unaware of "what is occurring politically and in the realm of civil rights." In order to rectify this, she feels that with today's technology, "an active Twitter, Instagram and Facebook page are of utmost importance." For "an active feed of current political activity ... would broaden awareness and garner more interest in important political happenings." Additionally, a cultural newsfeed "would encourage readers to get involved culturally." Utilizing digital media "you are able to reach a wider audience of people from which you can captivate more interest and participation." Arzouman is currently a student at the University of Pennsylvania, School of Dental Medicine.



NICOLE SAKIOKA:
I'm off to Waseda
University! Thank
you JACL and the
Alice Yuriko Endo
Scholarship for your
generous support!



**San Fernando Valley
JACL Congratulates**

San Fernando Valley
JACL
Civil Rights • Justice

Akemi Arzouman

Recipient of the
Dr. Kiyoshi Sonoda Memorial Scholarship

Molly Serizawa

Recipient of the
Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship



Snake River Valley Chapter
Proudly Congratulates
Allysha Yasuda
Well Done!



CATHLIN GOULDING
New York JACL (EDC)
Railroad & Mine Workers
Memorial Scholarship

Cathlin Goulding of the New York chapter has been awarded the Railroad & Mine Workers Memorial Scholarship. She will be continuing her doctoral studies at the Teachers College of Columbia University. In her essay, Goulding noted that the legacy of the camps has not been resolved. "For me, then, the work ahead is one of making history visible, of keeping the memory of the camps alive and instilling in others the consequences of unchecked governmental authority. . . . I believe education has the potential to 'unstuck the present,' which I take to mean the work of teaching and learning the past so we can act politically and ethically in the present. I am most interested, then, in curricular moves that support K-12 and public audiences learning of both contemporary and historical issues of national security. In my dissertation research, I study educational projects that offer such creative engagements with the past."



TRENT ICHIJUI
Sacramento JACL (NCWNP)
Rev. H. John & Asako Yamashita
Memorial Scholarship

Trent Ichijui of the Sacramento chapter has been awarded the Rev. H. John & Asako Yamashita Memorial Scholarship. Ichijui serves on the board of the Sacramento chapter and as

the current Student Representative. He is currently pursuing a degree in dentistry at the University of the Pacific's Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry. In his essay, Ichijui wrote: "The solution for youth is to bring the goals of the JACL into light from a pan-ethnic and multicultural perspective. There are unique needs in the subdivisions of a populations separated by age, immigration generation or geographical location. Similarly, the needs of the Japanese American community are different from those of the Chinese American or Indian American. But taking a further step back, the international perspective of Asian Pacific Americans is what should be of concern. The history of one culture can very well benefit in the struggles of other ethnic groups as we have seen in the Muslim American-Japanese American alliance after Sept. 11, 2001. Therefore, we must not work separately, but rather we should emphasize collaboration with other organizations to collectively foster a unified America."



BRANDON ISHIKATA
San Diego JACL (PSW)
Minoru Yasui Memorial
Scholarship

Brandon Ishikata of the San Diego chapter has been awarded the Minoru Yasui Memorial Scholarship for graduate study at San Diego State University, where he will be pursuing a California Multiple Subject Teaching Credential. Ishikata received an award from the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators while a student at San Diego State University. In addition, he was selected to participate in the JACL Kakehashi Youth Exchange Program, where he and other Japanese American college students visited Tokyo and Fukushima, Japan. The experience empowered him to share his personal convictions with others and celebrate the community of Yonseis and Goseis in the United States.

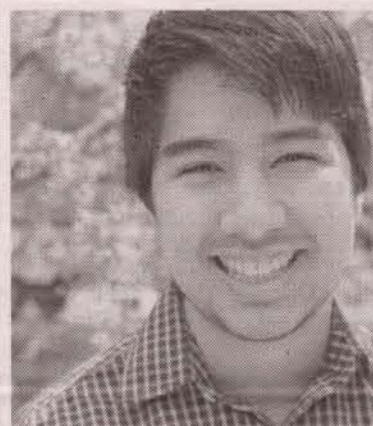
Ishikata aspires to become an elementary school teacher, where he

hopes to enlighten future generations about the history of Japanese Americans in the United States. He said in his personal statement, "Beyond my students, I also want to educate other teachers and school administrators so that the Japanese American story is integrated within the school curriculum, a story I feel is often forgotten."



GENTA IWASAKI
New York JACL (EDC)
Magoichi & Shizuko Kato
Memorial Scholarship

Genta Iwasaki from the New York and St. Louis chapters has been awarded the Magoichi & Shizuko Kato Memorial Scholarship. Iwasaki, one of the growing number of Shin-Nikkei within JACL, has received several scholastic honors, including graduating magna cum laude from Hunter College. He also has the distinction of receiving a law degree from Waseda University in Tokyo, Japan. Being much involved in the community, Iwasaki worked closely with the geriatric population as well as in strengthening U.S.-Japan cultural ties. With his bilingual skills, he wishes to practice law, primarily representing the elderly in the Japanese and Japanese American communities. Recently, Iwasaki was selected to be a delegate for the 2015 JACL/OCA Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. In his personal statement, he noted two major obstacles facing JACL: "a) the graying of the wartime generation, and b) the assimilation of Japanese into the greater American community." In order to overcome the first, "we in the Japanese American community must join forces with each other and accelerate the preservations of older generations' experiences before it is too late." In addressing the second, "it is ultimately the responsibility of older generations to 'teach' and actively remind the younger generations of our unique cultural heritage." Currently enrolled at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, he will be earning a master of science in gerontology.



RYAN KENJI KEONE KURAMITSU
Chicago JACL (MDC)
Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara
Memorial Scholarship

Ryan Kenji Keone Kuramitsu is a member of the Chicago chapter and has been awarded the Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship for studies at the McCormick Theological Seminary. He serves as the Midwest District Council Youth Representative to the National Youth/Student Council. He also has written articles for the *Pacific Citizen* as well as the JACL Chicago newsletter *The JACler*. Kuramitsu has also been a participant in the JACL Kansha Project, the OCA/JACL Leadership Conference and was invited to travel to Selma, Ala., with a delegation

from the JACL in remembrance of the 1965 Selma to Montgomery March. In his essay, Kuramitsu wrote: "I believe what binds Nikkei together should be this commitment to appreciating our legacy and leveraging our moral authority on social issues to stand in solidarity with other oppressed groups. The incarceration of our forbearers was horrific, yet mass incarceration continues today as a national phenomenon; racial profiling has unequivocally historically afflicted Japanese Americans, even as the profiling of Muslim Americans (including many South Asians) has accelerated over the past decade. How might we, the descendants of the blight of mass internment, speak to America's modern carceral prison state? How might the historic redress movement, led by JACL activists, serve as a potential model for furthering conversations on reparations for black Americans? These in particular are the questions I am interested in asking, and I hope to do so in partnership with Japanese American civil rights leaders. As I learned when I traveled to Selma with the JACL, we are best fostering social change when we are honestly and deeply informed by our past experiences and educated by our marginalized neighbors."



Brandon Morio Ishikata

Morio Kitagaki would have been so proud to have his namesake grandson, Brandon Morio, studying for a teaching credential. In 1954 Morio was the 1st nisei industrial arts teacher for the San Francisco public schools. Grandmother, Grayce Kitagaki, was the 1st nisei school nurse/educator for the Oakland public schools. Congratulations for continuing our family's interest along this important career path.

- Glen and Robin Kitagaki Ishikata, parents
- Grayce Kitagaki, grandmother

Congratulations

Molly Serizawa

You are most deserving!

With love and friendship,

Paige N and Parents



MOLLY SERIZAWA
San Fernando Valley JACL (PSW)
Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial
Scholarship

Molly Serizawa of the San Fernando Valley chapter has been awarded the Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship. She is currently enrolled in the University of Southern California's Master of Communication Management program. Serizawa has been an active member of her chapter for six years and has taught Japanese at the chapter's summer camp and supervised its Katarou Histories program. She also participated in the JACL program Project: Community! and has published articles

in the *Pacific Citizen*, the San Fernando Valley Japanese Community Center Newsletter and *Nanka Nikkei Voices: The Japanese American Family*. In her essay, Serizawa wrote: "I was raised with a very authentic and intimate sense of cultural and political history, as my family survived both sides of Japanese and Japanese American history. While modern textbooks depict internment and the Nisei struggles as distant fragments of the past, if mentioned at all, I know from experience that those narratives are as relevant today as they were to my family who lived through them. The reason I work with various Japanese American youth development programs is to ensure that such histories are not erased with the passage of time, in the hopes that seeing someone like me who is closer in age than my parents' generation will make the youth realize that our history is relevant and still in the making. The issue of millennial disengagement and apathy toward causes that are not immediately transparent and personally relevant is a historical struggle that continues as younger generations are more dependent on social media than longstanding institutions like JACL for interaction and knowledge."



JEAN SHIRAKI
New York JACL (EDC)
Kenji Kajiwara Memorial
Scholarship

Jean Shiraki from the New York chapter has been awarded the Kenji Kajiwara Memorial Scholarship. A former JACL scholarship awardee, she has been actively involved with JACL in Washington, D.C., serving as an executive board member for the D.C. chapter as well as a past Daniel K. Inouye Fellow. Also while in D.C., Shiraki served as the Daniel K. Inouye Advocacy & Policy Coordinator. In addition to this, she has an extensive background in community involvement, and her career path in os-

teopathic medicine has led her to gain research experiences in both medicine and dentistry. She is an active student member of multiple medical societies as well as the U.S.-Japan Council. Shiraki is a firm believer that Japanese American youth can play a key role to promote social justice "by speaking up to the wrongs done in our society by taking advantage of the role social media plays today in the news cycle." Through the use of social media, she feels that JACL can overcome many of the obstacles of cultural preservation, political activism and civil rights seen today. Currently enrolled at Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine in New York, Shiraki anticipates matriculating next June.



CAITLIN YUMORI

South Bay JACL (PSW)
Chiyoko & Thomas Shimazaki
Memorial Scholarship

Caitlin Yumori, a member of the South Bay chapter, has been awarded the Chiyoko & Thomas Shimazaki Memorial Scholarship. A graduate of Williams College, she will be attending Columbia Medical School. In her essay, Yumori wrote of her grandmother's quiet courage enduring racism and discrimination, then noted "... the JACL's mission of preserving culture and promoting political activism and civil rights was made more difficult by the tendency of those like my grandmother, who would rather stay under the radar than assert her right to her culture and civil liberties. This is where Japanese American youth can help. We have grown up with Martin Luther King Jr. in our history books and a central of social advancement for women, people of color and the poor. As the youth of America, we can be the agents of change to revitalize our culture, assert our political agenda and demand that our civil rights be honored. Connecting the past to the present is the only way to recover from the pains of our unfortunate history and move on to a brighter future."

**THE SAN DIEGO CHAPTER OF
 THE JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE**

proudly congratulates

Jonathan Guiang

Brandon Ishikata*

** Minoru Yasui Memorial Scholarship Recipient*

Lauren Matsumoto

& Brendan Tanaka

Our 2015 scholarship recipients -

Good luck and study hard!

www.jaclsandiego.org www.facebook.com/JACLSanDiego



WE WOULD LIKE TO PROUDLY

CONGRATULATE OUR SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!

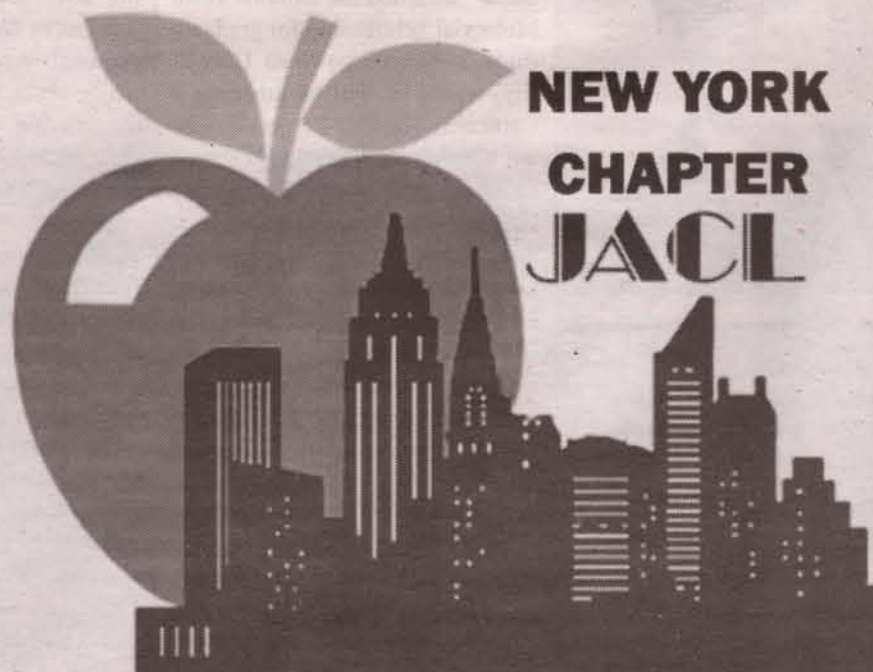
Cathlin Goulding

Genta Iwasaki

Jean Shiraki

Moie Uesugi

**NEW YORK
 CHAPTER
 JACL**



Law



CRISTINE ERIKA BLEYL
Seattle JACL (PNW)
Thomas T. Hayashi Memorial
Law Scholarship

Cristine Erika Bleyl of the Seattle Chapter has been awarded the Thomas T. Hayashi Memorial Law Scholarship. Bleyl will be pursuing her JD at the University of Washington School of Law. As a participant in the 2015 JACL-OCA Summit, she wrote of the need for the formation of cross-cutting Asian American coalitions to pursue legislative action. In her essay, Bleyl stated: "I believe that we, as Asian Americans, need to challenge the model minority myth and stand by other communities of color in order to stop perpetuating narratives that are harmful to us. I have been engaged in community organizing work to attempt to dismantle this myth and educate Asian Americans on their histories of oppression. Furthermore, I am hoping to encourage the legal world to think critically about AAPI communities when making policy decisions. As I do this educational work, I hope to pursue human rights work both here and in Japan, and I am dedicated to work unapologetically toward a just society."

Arts



MARIN OSAWA
Houston JACL (MDC)
Aiko Susanna Tashiro Hiratsuka

Memorial Performing Arts Scholarship

Marin Osawa from the Houston chapter has been awarded the Aiko Susanna Tashiro Hiratsuka Performing Arts Scholarship for demonstrating exceptional musicianship in her performance of the Tchaikovsky violin solo. Her attention to intonation and dynamics was outstanding throughout the solo. Osawa extended herself by exhibiting extraordinary expression as she moved through the various stylistic demands of the music. She also has demonstrated very mature musical tone and superb talent. It is without question that she will excel as she continues her musical aspirations. Osawa has been accepted into a program at the Eastman School of Music in New York for violin performance.



NICKOLAS SALTER
Mile High JACL (IDC)
Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara
Memorial Creative Arts
Scholarship

Nickolas Eicu Kuniyoshi Salter from the Mile High chapter has been awarded the Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Creative Arts Scholarship for his art portfolio submission showcasing his strength in digital design. He is a Scholastic Golden Key awardee for his original design, the Morphling, done in Photoshop on a graphic tablet. His portfolio depicted diversity in media, which he compared to his own cultural diversity. Salter also discussed bridging and harmonizing multiple points of view. In addition, he shared the concept of wabi-sabi, where beauty lies within the imperfections; he hopes to find this beauty and balance through his artwork. Salter has been accepted into a program at Arizona State University for graphic design.

Student Aid



AMBER LAU
Sacramento JACL (NCWNP)
Abe & Esther Hagiwara Memorial
Student Aid Scholarship

Amber Lau from the San Diego and Sacramento chapters has been awarded the Abe & Esther Hagiwara Memorial Student Aid Scholarship. The recipient of several scholastic honors and a former JACL scholarship awardee, Lau has been active in both work and the community by providing medical access to those in need, which aligns perfectly with her career path in public health. She is "a firm believer in living a balanced lifestyle," which is evidenced by her additional involvement in several sport activities. Lau feels that one of the greatest obstacles JACL faces is "engaging the younger generation to become passionate young men and women who actively uphold

JACL values and ideas." In order to overcome this, she suggests that the first is "to have strong mentorship between adults within the community and the youth" and secondly, "for the youth to engage their peers on a topic they are familiar and passionate about that involves benefitting the lives of those who are oppressed." In the future, Lau hopes to pursue a career in obstetrics and gynecology after obtaining a masters in public health from Brown University.



MICHAEL YEE
Philadelphia JACL (EDC)
Dr. George Goro & Nettie
Muramoto Memorial Scholarship

Michael Yee from the Philadelphia chapter has been awarded the Dr. George Goro & Nettie Muramoto

Memorial Scholarship. He will attend Cornell University. In his essay, Yee notes that the Nisei in his family would return from JACL meetings and conventions speaking of their experiences in internment camps, their relocation to Seabrook and JACL's long history of activism on behalf of civil rights. He called upon the young to "become politically involved, perhaps joining an organization like JACL, whose reputation, size and national presence allows for a greater impact on society. Because many in my generation are politically and socially interested in social justice and equality for all Americans, the political activism of JACL should be a great attractor of Asian American youth. We are interested in fighting America's systematic bias against women, members of the LGBT community and other disenfranchised minorities. However, many young Asian Americans are less involved with the JACL than their parents and grandparents. Perhaps this is because many of us have not learned the true extent of the political activism of the JACL, whose name does nothing to suggest its contemporary multicultural focus. One way for JACL to become a greater presence in national discussions of social equality and justice would be to take advantage of social media, in which my generation is heavily invested."

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES AWARDS GRANT TO JACL

The Midwest Office Secures Funding to Educate Teachers About Incarceration.

National JACL, through its Midwest office in Chicago, has been awarded a \$165,831 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to conduct two educational conferences for teachers on the Japanese American incarceration during summer 2016.

Titled "Civil Liberties in Times of Crisis: The Japanese American Internment," the project will provide an opportunity for middle and high school teachers from throughout the United States to participate in intensive sessions about the incarceration. Conference presenters will include Lane Hirabayashi and Valerie Matsumoto from the University of California, Los Angeles; Dale Minami; Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston; John Tateishi; June Aoki Berk; Minoru Tonai; Sharon Ishii-Jordan; and Greg Marutani.

The presenters will cover a range of topics

about the incarceration, including its psychological impact, constitutional significance, the Redress Movement, the military accomplishments of Japanese Americans and personal accounts including resistance. Participants will visit the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles, tour the city's historic Little Tokyo, visit the section of Santa Anita Race Track in Arcadia, Calif., that served as a detention facility and visit Manzanar National Historic Site.

Co-directors for the project are Christine Munteanu, JACL assistant program director, and Bill Yoshino, JACL Midwest director. In commenting on the significance of the grant, Yoshino noted, "The funds from NEH provide JACL an opportunity to deliver its message to educators that the tragic experience of Japanese Americans during World War II should be a required lesson for all students." Added Munteanu: "This immersive training will allow educators to recognize the full impact of the incarceration experience while also exploring its nuances and ongoing significance. We're grateful to NEH for this opportunity."

The grant is provided from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Division of Education, Landmarks of American History and Culture: Workshops for School Teachers.

JACL Philadelphia

Congratulates the following for their scholastic achievements

Michael Yee

Dr. George Goro & Nettie Muramoto Memorial Scholarship

Michael, Brandon and Stephen Yee
Jack Ozawa Memorial Scholarship

www.phillyjacl.org



A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

NCWNP

'The Legend of Ko'olau'

Berkeley, CA

Oct. 2-3; 8 p.m.

La Pena Cultural Center
3105 Shattuck Ave.Price: Advance purchase \$25;
general admission \$30

Award-winning writer Gary T. Kubota presents the Northern California premiere of his national touring play "The Legend of Ko'olau" for two nights.

Info: Visit www.legendofkoolau.com or call (510) 849-2568.

Kimochi Silver Bells: Arts, Crafts and Food Fair

San Francisco, CA

Dec. 12; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

St. Mary's Cathedral
1111 Gough St.

Price: Free

Don't miss this one-stop shopping event for all your holiday gifts at the annual Kimochi Silver Bells event.

Info: Visit www.kimochi-inc.org, call (415) 931-2294 or email kimochikai@kimochi-inc.org.

PSW

'Legacy of Heart Mountain' Screening

Orange, CA

Oct. 1; 7-9 p.m.

1 University Dr.

Price: Free

Chapman University is hosting a free showing of the Emmy Award-winning documentary "The Legacy of Heart Mountain." The documentary is about the imprisonment of Japanese Americans in incarceration camps during World War II, specifically Heart Mountain Camp in Wyoming.

Info: Call Stephanie Takaragawa at (714) 532-7771.

'Legends of Hawaiian 12-String Guitar'

Los Angeles, CA

Oct. 3; 8 p.m.

Aratani Theatre
244 S. San Pedro St.

The Aratani Theatre welcomes the "Legends of Hawaiian 12-String Guitar," where the sounds of the ukulele professionals will be on display.

Info: Call (213) 638-2725 or email info@jaccc.org.

EDC

KAL Summit 2015

New York, NY

Sept. 26; 2-10 p.m.

Metropolitan Pavilion

125 W. 18th St.

The Korean American Leadership will host its annual summit in New York at the USC Center for Asian-Pacific Leadership in New York City.

Info: Email jelee@usc.edu or akoh@usc.edu.

AREAA NY East Annual Gala 2015

Great Neck, New York

Oct. 15; 6:30-10:30 p.m.

Leonard Palazzo of Great Neck

555 Northern Blvd.

The Asian Real Estate Association of America will host its annual Dinner Gala, offering great chances for networking with real estate experts and industry professionals.

Info: Email contact@areaa.org or call (619) 795-7873.

'A Single Step: Journeys of Women Leaders'

New York, NY

Sept. 25; 5:30-7 p.m.

Asia Society

725 Park Ave.

Asia Society will host the first official screening of the documentary "A Single Step: Journeys of Women Leaders," followed by a panel discussion.

Info: Email info@asiasociety.org or call (212) 288-6400.

USPAACC Northeast Region Top Ten Asian American Business Awards 2015

New York, NY

Sept. 26; 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Madison Avenue Conference Center

383 Madison Ave.

The United States Asian American Chamber of Commerce is hosting the 2015 Top Asian American Business Awards this year for Asian American entrepreneurs with outstanding leadership, visions and accomplishments.

Info: Email info@uspaacc-ne.org or call (202) 296-5221.

MDC

WikiAPA Chicago

Chicago, IL

Sept. 29; 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center

801 S. Morgan St.

The event hopes to have editing, creation, updating and improvement articles about Asian Pacific Islanders American art and artists.

Info: Email APAC@sl.edu or call (312) 996-2716.

Breaking the Asian Code

Kansas City, MO

Oct. 17; 1-6 p.m.

Sprint Accelerator

210 W. 19 Terrace

The National Association of Asian American Professions — Greater Kansas City hosts this career networking event.

Info: Email member@naaapgkc.org or call (404) 409-2471.

EXPO ASIAN 2015

Plano, Texas

Oct. 20; 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Marriott at Legacy Town Center

7121 Bishop Road

The Greater Dallas Asian American Chamber of Commerce hosts this annual Business Expo.

Info: Email irma@gdaacc.com or call (972) 241-8250.

Asian American Voices: Power in Unity

Chicago, IL

Oct. 27; 5-8 p.m.

New Furama Restaurant

2828 S. Wentworth Ave.

The Chinese Mutual Aid Assn. hosts its 34th annual Dinner Gala, celebrating the goals and visions of the Chinese Mutual Aid Assn.

Info: Email michellew@chinese-mutualaid.org or call (773) 784-2900.

PNW

Hello! Exploring the Supercute World of

Hello Kitty

Seattle, WA

Nov. 14

Experience Music Project Museum

325 Fifth Ave. North

The event is showcased to display the world of Hello Kitty and how it transformed America, blending Japanese and American cultures together.

Info: Call (216) 770-2700 or email experience@EMPmuseum.org.

20th Annual Japanese American New Year Celebrations Mochitsuki

Portland, WA

Jan. 31

Portland State University

1825 S.W. Broadway

The goal of Mochitsuki is to celebrate tradition by sharing Japanese and Japanese American culture. Portland welcomes all to join the celebration.

Info: Visit www.mochipdx.org.

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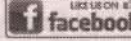
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In Memoriam

Kawabe, Josephine 'Jo' Masako, 99, Granada Hills, CA; Sept. 7; she was predeceased by her husband, Arthur Kawabe; daughter, Linda (Robert) Consolo; son-in-law, Dennis Aramkai; sister-in-law, Kay Sato; gc: 2.

Kawahara, Daniel Shohei, 96; Honolulu, HI; Aug. 22; he was predeceased by his beloved wife, May H. Kawahara, son, Alan T. Kawahara, sister, Grace Imura; he is survived by his children, Linda (Craig) Ohira, Bryan Kawahara and Steve (Debbie) Kawahara; brothers, Denby (Setsuko), Dwight and Delano (Dawn) Kawahara; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2; ggc: 1.

Kuwaki, Masao, 99; Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 25; he is survived by his wife, Martha Kuwaki; daughter, Dorothy (Bert) Higa; sister, Miyoko Okuma; he is also survived by nieces, nephews and many other relatives; gc: 1.

Maruki, Dennis Noboru, 81; Walnut, CA; Aug. 28; he was predeceased by his wife, Tanikawa "Aileen" Maruki; he is survived by his children, Clint Maruki and Tricia (Eduardo) Espinoza; siblings, James Maruki and Akemi Maruki; he is also survived by other nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Nakamura, Tetsujiro 'Tex', 98; Hacienda Heights, CA; Sept. 7; he was predeceased by his wife,

Lily Yuriko; he is survived by his children, Richard Yoichi (Jo Ann Tamiko), Robert Yukio (Lynn Asako), Michael Tetsuo (Minh) Nakamura, Irene Michiko (Wayne) Yoshioka and Wayne Sachio (Lisa) Nakamura; sister-in-law, Kayo Nakamura; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 6; ggc: 1.

Nakamura, Shiro 'Duke', 89; El Centro, CA; Aug. 20; a WWII veteran; he is survived by his wife, Hatsumi Nakamura; children, Janet (Dan) Gallatin, Gail (Chris) Meagher and Bruce Nakamura; siblings, Yoshi Okuma, Cherry Hide, Sanami Nakamura and Massaharu Nakamura; he is also survived by many other relatives; gc: 2; ggc: 1.

Nanchi, Katherine Iku, 87, Monterey Park, CA; Aug. 30; she is survived by her

nieces, Misayo Hescocock, Kathryn Gipe and Gayle Hannan; nephews, David Okinaga and Byron Fuji; great-nieces, Laura Skaggs, Halayn Hescocock, Mallory Albertyn and Emily Prete; great-nephew, Nathan Hescocock.

Sata, Mary Nobuko, 90; Northridge, CA; Aug. 31; she was predeceased by her husband, Yasuo Sata; she is survived by her children, Ron Sata, Dennis (Dana) Sata, Ed (Bennie) Sata and Leslie (Bernard) Fischer; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 7.

Shimizu, Mary, 92; Santa Ana, CA; Sept. 4; she was predeceased by her husband, Kei; she is survived by her sons, Gregory Hisashi (Linda) Shimizu, Kenneth Takeshi (Jane) Shimizu; daughters, Karen Haruye Shimizu

(Raymond) Wong; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 8.

Tamara, Hideo, 90; Santa Ana, CA; Sept. 5; he is survived by his wife, Alice Ayako Tamura; sons, Daniel Tamura and Randall (Jane) Tamura; daughters, Loreen Otake and Traci (Water Jones) Tamura; he is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 7.

Yamauchi, Shosei, 73; Torrance, CA; Aug. 29; he is survived by his wife, Emiko Yamauchi; daughters, Yuko

Yamauchi (Sterling Shota), Megumi (Shoichi) Nohura and June (Jae) Chung; brothers, Shoichi (Toyoko), Shotei, Shomei (Chieko) and Masakazu Yamauchi; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4.

Yokoe, Yukio, 89, Honolulu, HI; Aug. 23; he was a 442nd RCT veteran and served in the Korean Conflict and Vietnam War; he is survived by his wife, Juliet Chew Yet Lee Yokoe; daughters, Dawn Lynn B. (Andrew Forest) and Joyce (David Driver); brother, Tom Yokoe; sister, Nancy Ohira; gc: 6. ■

TRIBUTE

ROD Y. KOBARA



On Aug. 20, 2015, Roderick Y. Kobara passed peacefully surrounded by his family in Hawaii after a sudden bout with pneumonia. He would have been 90 in September. His life was the classic Japanese American/Nisei story. Rod was born and raised on a poor farm outside of Watsonville, Calif., in 1925. He and his family were interned in Poston Arizona during World War II.

While his dream of being a doctor was interrupted by the inadequacy of the internment camp schools, he joined and served in the U.S. Army and studied business. He ultimately graduated from U.C. Berkeley, where he met his wife, Tomi.

He became one of the first Japanese American CPAs in California, overcoming postwar discrimination. He loved accounting and helping other people navigate and negotiate the American tax system through his own firm. He maintained his accounting practice near and around the J-Town area of San Jose for five decades. He helped hundreds of families realize their dreams. He was a self-made man who succeeded by valuing his Japanese American heritage, education, hard work, service to the community and his family.

He was married to Tomi Kobara for almost 64 years. He raised four children: John, Mitch, Katie and Tomi in Saratoga, Calif. He loved his eight grandchildren: Jenna, Gia, Malia, Anna, Bobby, Joe, Izumi and Brisa. All of his immediate family thrives because of his support.

Rod was an avid golfer and loved the sport. He taught his sons how to play and was able to play many of the best courses around the world. He supported his artist-wife Tomi by becoming a critic and an amateur art valuator. He always volunteered in the community. He helped start a senior center for Issei, served as a leader with the Lion's Club, the YMCA and a proud member of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL). In his retirement, he became a SCORE counselor for the SBA and served on the board of directors of the Windward Artists Guild on Oahu.

In lieu of any gifts and flowers, we ask that you send a donation in Rod's honor to support the JACL.

BEN KUROKI

Ben Kuroki, a decorated gunner in the Army Air Forces of World War II died on Sept. 2 in Camarillo, Calif. He was 98.

Kuroki became an airman and received three Distinguished Flying Crosses, participating in European and North African raids after receiving special permission from the War Department. He flew a 58 bombing missions and was part of the famous Army's 442nd Regimental Combat Team during the Italian campaign and was a member of the Military Intelligence Service.

Like many Japanese Americans during World War II, Kuroki faced harsh bias and racism, but despite challenges, he went on to receive the Distinguished Service Medal in 2005 and was saluted by Time Magazine in 1944.

Kuroki was born in Gothenburg, Neb., a son of Japanese immigrants. He was raised in Hershey, Neb., as one of 10 brothers and sisters on a family farm. He joined the Army Air Force shortly after World War II broke with his brothers, who were rejected upon first try but received admittance by a draft board official.

He is survived by his wife, Shige; daughters, Julie, Kristyn Kuroki and Kerry Williams; sister, Rosemary Ura; gc: 4; ggc: 1.

PLACE A TRIBUTE

'In Memoriam' is a free listing that appears on a limited, space-available basis. Tributes honor your loved ones with text and photos and appear in a timely manner at the rate of \$20/column inch. Contact: tiffany@pacificcitizen.org or call (213) 620-1767

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'PLACES' >> continued from page 3

Advice I'd Tell My Little Sister:

1. Be comfortable, but know your boundaries.

Get outdoors! Meet new people! Live! You are four years away from potentially working a full-time job until you're 65, so have no regrets on how you spend your time now. BUT, and you must have known this was coming, know when to say NO. Do things based on your values and not on the values of others. Some choices in life are irreversible (drunk driving, use of narcotics, criminal behavior, etc). Demonstrating your character in college will prepare you for more difficult choices in life.

2. Figure out how to make a difference.

Most people immediately think of volunteering, for me, it was leadership. Being a senator for the university, serving on the board of local nonprofits and representing the school as a part of the Student Foundation not only gave me great speaking points for job interviews, but also a community of like-minded people, the opportunity to make change and learn critical professional skills.

One of my proudest days at Oregon State University was when my resolution calling for the review of a contract with the Department of Defense prompted the administration to ensure that over 119 military students at OSU received Federal Tuition Assistance, which amounted to \$535,500 annually in aid. Don't doubt that you can make change at any level, and don't forget that service is rewarding.

3. See the world . . . or at least the rest of the continental USA. During my last year of school,

I traveled to a new state every month for conferences, workshops and meetings. Most all of it was paid for by grants from my school, organizations and my workplace. Because of my involvement with Girl Scouts, I was chosen to represent Oregon and S.W. Washington at the Girls World Forum in Chicago. The week was filled with intense and fun work with 500 young women from over 80 countries. In 2013, I was selected to represent the United States at the annual sustainability summit in Adelboden, Switzerland, with 34 young women from 26 countries. Both trips were 100 percent paid for by grants.

Take advantage of the resources available to you. Additional education beyond four doors shows your commitment to learning and prepares you for life after college. Gain some career capital, learn another language and have fun.

If there is one book I'd recommend to college students and young professionals, it'd have to be "The Defining Decade: Why Your Twenties Matter — and How to Make the Most of Them Now." Dr. Meg Jay gives insightful guidance on work, love and health. If you don't have time to read the book, at least watch her TED Talk.

CONGRATULATIONS to the class of 2015, and best of luck to you.

Rhianna Taniguchi is an account executive at the Denver Post. She was the 2014 JACL Norman Y. Mineta Fellow.

COLLEGE >> continued from page 3

Join as many clubs and teams as you can — and ones you're actually interested in, too. Don't join the consulting club or a business fraternity because it sounds impressive; don't join an engineering project team unless you genuinely enjoy the work. As cliché as it may sound, the world doesn't need the next great investment banker or the next great physicist so much as it needs people who simply enjoy their lives.

I joined the club volleyball team at Cornell as a freshman, and I've met some of my best friends through the team. Being on the volleyball team won't help our careers — none of us are planning on playing professionally, or expecting to meet our future employers during a game of pick-up volleyball — but we do it nonetheless, for a reason no more profound than the simple fact that it brings us joy.

I guess that's what I'm trying to get at: Try to do things that bring you joy. You won't always get the chance — sometimes, you'll have to take a calculus course to meet a breadth requirement, or work a boring job that involves much of doing nothing so you can have enough money to buy books. But when you do get the chance — and you will, in college — take it.

Try to allow yourself joy. That's what life's about — there's no higher truth, no deeper principle. And as you move into your new dorm room or new apartment, and as you form new friendships and relationships, try to keep that in mind.

Study a subject you're interested in so you can work a job you don't hate. Much of college, and much of life, for that matter, is tedious and boring and frustrating, but there are moments of joy — plain, uncomplicated joy — to be had nonetheless. That's all the sermonizing I'll do for now.

FRESHMEN — GOOD LUCK!

Matthew Ormseth is currently a student at Cornell University majoring in English. He seeks to give an honest portrayal of life as both a university student and member of the Millennial generation.

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