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THE 2016 NATIONAL JACL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The JACL Scholarship Program has had another fantastic year! In this special issue of the Pacific Citizen, the JACL is delighted to award $74,000 to 28 deserving applicants in their respective categories. With so many well-qualified students, we appreciate the JACL Regional Director Patty Wada, who as program manager of the Scholarship Program ensures the successful implementation of this program, which has a direct and positively impactful effect on many of our most hopeful young leaders. I'd also like to thank the two National JACL Scholarship Committees. These committees work diligently to review freshman and undergraduate, graduate, law, arts and financial need scholarship applications and include San Diego JACL and the Central California District Council, respectively. Those dedicated individuals serving as selection committee members reviewing the freshman applications and as part of the San Diego JACL include Carol Kawamoto (chair), David Isikata and Sidney Shiroma. Those who served on the undergraduate, graduate, law, arts and financial need selection committee include Roberta Barton (chair) of the Fresno chapter, Ralph Kanamoto of the Sanger chapter and Larry Ishimoto of the Tulare County chapter.

On behalf of the entire National JACL, we thank those committed individuals on a job well done and are particularly grateful to the San Diego JACL for serving in this capacity over the past three years. We are very appreciative of the difficult and diligent work and great care that goes into reviewing all of the applications that are a 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 2017 application process to recognize the next group of outstanding student leaders. As we wrap up the 2016 scholarship season, please join me in congratulating all of our award recipients.

Sincerely,
Matthew Farrell
JACL National VP
Planning & Development

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation


Announcing the Arrival of the Pacific Citizen Digital Edition!

A digital PDF of the Pacific Citizen will be available beginning with this issue, the Sept. 23 Scholarship Special.

CHECK YOUR IN-BOX

>> All JACL members and P.C. Nonmember Subscribers that requested a digital PDF of the latest P.C. will receive an EMAIL from the P.C. containing a direct link to the latest issue.

HOW TO CONTACT US
Email: pc@pacificcitizen.org
Online: www.pacificcitizen.org
Tel: (213) 620-1767
Fax: (213) 620-1768
Mail: 123 Ellison St., Suite 313
Los Angeles, CA 90012

STAFF
Executive Editor
Alison Haramoto
Business Manager
Sue Tokunaga
Production Artist
Sam Sanmote
Circulation Director
Les Timp

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JACL President: Gary Yamasaki
Interim Executive Director: Bill Yoshino
Interim Assistant Executive Director: Stephanie Nihira

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If you've moved, please send new information to National JACL, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115

(415) 921-5225
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A MOTHER’S TAKE

WELCOME HOME — OKAERI 2016

By Marsha Aizumi

On Oct. 14 and 15, Okaeri 2016: A Nikkei LGBTQ Gathering returns to the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles. In the two years since the first Okaeri welcomed home so many to our community, I have seen a growing visibility of Asian Pacific Islander LGBTQ support across the nation. Here are just a few of the events that I am aware of:

• In 2016, Sacramento created gatherings for LGBTQ individuals and their families. Sacramento JACL, Florin JACL, Cal State Sacramento and the Department of Education were involved in the Asian Pacific Islander Queer Sacramento daylong gathering.

• Also in 2016, San Jose created Tadaima, which means “I’m home” in Japanese. Taking place at San Jose State University, Aiden and I were thrilled to be part of an opening plenary. Komo Gauvreau, a lead organizer for the event, not only attended Okaeri 2014 but was also one of the volunteers who spent the whole day with us.

• Chicago has started a monthly gathering of support and community. They have screened a movie, had a barbeque and created a safe space for API LGBTQ families to meet, share and get support. Co-founder of this group J.J. Umemoto attended Okaeri 2014 with their mom and both will be attending Okaeri 2016 as well.

• Seattle JACL organized FAMILY: An API LGBTQ Gathering in 2015. Attracting over 100 individuals as far away as Ohio, they are now in the planning stages of doing FAMILY 2.0 in 2017. Leading this work is Sarah Baker, who attended Okaeri 2014 and will return to our 2016 event.

The Korean American community is now planning a national Korean American LGBTQ gathering in 2017 or 2018. Starting this month, they have created smaller local events to build capacity and movement toward the national event. The partnerships that we have created with the JACL in many cities has been instrumental in growing this movement as you can see. The stories that have come out of these events have fueled so many of us to continue to do this work, because we know what a difference that family and community can make to those who are struggling, feeling ashamed and losing hope.

At Okaeri 2016, we will begin on Friday night with a networking period, so people can meet new and old friends. On Saturday, we will open up with a keynote from Congressman Mike Honda, his daughter, Michelle, and his granddaughter, Malina. There will be workshops or plenaries on family acceptance, faith, movement building, mental health, being transgender, intersections of Nikkei and LGBTQ, as well as other topics. An “unconference time” will allow individuals of like interests to meet together. A party will end a day of learning for those who have any energy left. You may see me bifi if I am still standing.

Please see the event website (www.okaeri-losangeles.org) for more details. Registration is now open, and no one will be turned away for lack of funds to register. We sold out in 2014, so anyone interested in attending should register soon.

I believe Okaeri 2016 will be another gathering of transformation, growth and welcoming those in the Nikkei LGBTQ community to a place of acceptance, healing and love. I will be there ... I hope you will be there too ....

Marsha Aizumi is an advocate in the LGBTQ Community, on the PFLAG National Board and the author of the book “Two Spirits, One Heart: A Mother, Her Transgender Son and Their Journey to Love and Acceptance.”

A YONSEI TRANSPLANTED

THE HUMANITIES ARE WORTH STUDYING IN COLLEGE

By Matthew Onnseth

At times, it seems like a college degree costs more and is worth less than ever before. A degree from a private school will set you back a quarter of a million dollars; one from a public technical school will cost you a quarter for that. But they don’t teach you what to think; we teach you the ideologies, principles and moral codes.

I learned it. It’s little wonder so many of us in school are questioning why we’re here. If college doesn’t offer a surefire path to meaningful employment — or any employment, for that matter — why go?

When I first came to Cornell, I was showed around the usual humanities clichés (“We don’t teach you what to think; we teach you how to think,” etc.). As an English major, I’ve had my share of professors who’ve defended the humanities from condescension both real and imagined, faculty who sensed that their relevance and their legitimacy were being eroded by the greater emphasis being placed on STEM.

And now, on the fourth and last lap of my college education, I’ve had to reflect on what I’ve learned in my time here, and why I learned it. I don’t have the technical skills that any computer science or mechanical engineering classmate have. I don’t have a clear-cut career path waiting for me, unlike my peers in Cornell’s hotel school, who — by virtue of going to such a vocational-specific school — knew exactly the industry they plan on entering and have in and industry lingo.

A humanities degree doesn’t offer you technical skills; it doesn’t guarantee a job in a specific industry, or any industry for that matter. So, what’s it worth? Why study language, literature, history and philosophy? I don’t have the answer — at least, not yet. But I can offer one reason why the humanities are worth studying in college. They allow you to look at things more dimensionally, from not one vantage point but many, and they can help you comprehend the complexity of our world in all its competing ideologies, principles and moral codes.

I took a philosophy course as a freshman that exposed me to a whole spectrum of thought spanning from the medieval ages to today. It made me realize that no two persons’ intentions or motivations are identical; each of us operates in accordance with a unique set of values or morals that are Traci Kato-Kiriyama, Janet Uradomo, Sean Miura, Harold Kameya and Phil Shigekuni.

Aiden and I were thrilled to be part of an opening plenary. Komo Gauvreau, a lead organizer for the event, not only attended Okaeri 2014 but was also one of the volunteers who spent the whole day with us.

The partnerships that we have created with the JACL in many cities has been instrumental in growing this movement as you can see. The stories that have come out of these events have fueled so many of us to continue to do this work, because we know what a difference that family and community can make to those who are struggling, feeling ashamed and losing hope.

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Marsha Aizumi is an advocate in the LGBTQ Community, on the PFLAG National Board and the author of the book “Two Spirits, One Heart: A Mother, Her Transgender Son and Their Journey to Love and Acceptance.”
This year’s scholarship recipients were (from left) Megan Yamamoto, Kristen Masada, Leila Nakasone, Christopher Takeuchi, Kylie Kuwada, Alison Shikada and Jemma Jio.

Seven high school seniors received $20,000 in scholarships administered by the San Jose JACL during a brunch held at the Issai Memorial Building on May 7. Following are the 2016 recipients: Jemma Jio of Prospect High School received the $2,500 Phil Matsushita Community Scholarship and the $500 Ada Y. Uyeda Memorial Scholarship. Her parents are Gary Jio and JoAnn Okabe Endo.

Kylie Kuwada of Christopher High School received the $1,000 Masao B. Nakamura Memorial Scholarship. Her parents are Eric and Mariko Kuwada.

Kristen Masada from Leland High School received the $10,000 Oyama Family Foundation Scholarship (distribution is $2,500 for 4 years). Her parents are Marvin and Debra Masada.

Leila Nakasone from Mt. Pleasant High School received the $500 Sanette Yonoko Hayakawa Memorial Scholarship.

Asian Shikada of Puncheon High School received the $3,000 Kenji Sakaye Memorial Scholarship. Her parents are Ed and Rink Shikada.

Christopher Takeshi of Pioneer High School received the $300 San Jose JACL Chapter Award.

And Megan Yamamoto from Sobrato High School received the $2,500 George Masunaga Endowment Scholarship. Her parents are Craig and Dory Yamamoto.

Members of this year’s selection committee were Gary Jio, Dr. Mitsu Kamagai, JoAnn Okabe Kubo and Joyce Uyeda. Sharon Uyeda served as chair of the committee.

“Meet the Yamashitas: An Interactive Website” will make available to the public letters, telegrams, photographs, diaries, scrapbooks and camp crafts from the museum’s Yamashita Collection.

The JACS grant of more than $74,000 will support digitization of the Yamashita Collection, including seven 16mm home movies; help pay for translation of the Japanese language portions of the collection, including Gihachi Yamashita’s diaries and scrapbook; and partially fund the development of a microsite that will allow the public to explore and study the Yamashita Collection and the family’s wartime experiences.

The JACS grant proposals were selected through a competitive process. For 2016, grants totaling $2.8 million were awarded to 15 projects in five states. Since its establishment in 2006, the JACS grant program has awarded more than $21 million. A total of $18 million was authorized for the life of the program, whose mission is to teach future generations about the injustices of the WWII confinement of Japanese Americans and inspire commitment to equal justice under the law.

LOS ANGELES — Utilizing a total of more than $115,000 from two National Park Service Japanese American Confinement Sites grants for 2016, the Japanese American National Museum has begun conservation work on the Allen Hendershott Eaton Collection of art and artifacts and will soon begin digitization of the Gihachi and Tsurio Yamashita Collection for an interactive website that chronicles one family’s journeys during World War II.

JANM acquired the Eaton Collection in 2015, following the cancellation of a public auction that would have dismantled the memory and hardships of the Japanese Americans who created the artifacts while incarcerated during WWII. The Japanese American community joined together to speak out against the auction; JANM’s acquisition assured the preservation of the collection in perpetuity.

Conservation work has already been completed on two oil paintings and one painted wood sign in the Eaton Collection. Work has begun on 25 paper artifacts — mostly watercolor — prioritized based on their current condition. The $41,485 from the JACS grant will help fund conservation of an additional 12 paper artifacts when the first 25 are completed.

Money was also put toward evaluation of more than 100 three-dimensional objects to determine their conservation needs.

I,leads to the Editor

Dear Editor,

After reading a number of Letters to the Editor in recent issues of the Pacific Citizen, I am a little dismayed. I am probably a very recent addition to your ranks but have had a great deal of interest in issues that face the American of Japanese Ancestry (AJA) community. Specifically, what caught my attention was Jonathan Kaji’s letter in Vol. 163, No. 3 and the letters in Vol. 163, No. 4. As a member, I am hoping that our national leadership considers my perspective as a virtual outsider looking in.

First and foremost, I feel it would be a great benefit for our leadership to consult with their members in terms of what they want out of the organization.

This observation is primarily prompted by the issue over paper distribution of the Pacific Citizen. You must understand that a majority of the membership of JACL are older, and I would dare say legacy members of the Nisei generation.

Most chapters that I have met are primarily funded by their dues and membership. It is almost understandable that the budget is starting to show shortfalls because the memberships backing our finances are slowly dwindling as they pass.

To the first point, it is also important to ask our members what would help encourage them to recommend our organization to their children or grandchildren?

I think in many ways we need to challenge ourselves to be a voice and not an echo. I feel that many of the issues that the JACL champions are not issues that are important to our members.

I know it is a divisive and current issue, but that comes down to the recent hub-bub about honoring Black Lives Matters.

I know in Washington and among those seeking relevance in the civil rights community it is a hot topic, but realistically for your rank-and-file members, particularly the older generation, is that the hill you choose to die upon?

Personally, as a child growing up in the ’90s and having a strong ethnic background with a memory of the last riot, regarding this issue, I am more likely to identify with the rights of Takao Hirata or Ed Song Lee.

If you don’t know who they are, then we just discovered one of the problems. They are you and me. They are the forgotten Asian Americans trying to live the American dream in their own way.

Hirata worked as a printer. Lee was a college student working as a security guard. Hirata was dragged from his car and beaten; Lee was shot dead defending a business during the 1992 L.A. riot.

The real issue is whether what the JACL represents and defends resonates with our members and the Asian Community at large to encourage people to participate and join in.

Are we a voice for the AJA community? Or are we just part of the choir?

My hope is that JACL can adapt to the future. My own vision for the AJA community is to nurture future leaders who will take the helm of politics and business and pave the way for future generations.

If we truly are at an existential crisis, we need to come back full circle. Organizations like ours should always be more about the people than the money, and I believe that if we return to the grassroots from which it was born, we will adapt.

If our existence is solely to parrot other people’s issues, then why should we be surprised that our community is not willing to stick its neck out.

I feel that JACL mission should not only focus on the legacy of our past but also on cultivating a future for our children and their children. It is to champion the rights and issues of our Asian American community and not to shy away from opinions that are unpopular.

We are leaders after all. If the nail that sticks up gets pounded down? Leaders take the initiative and stand back up.

Thank you for taking the time to read my opinion.

Sincerely,

Ryan Yasukawa,
Salinas, Calif.
TATSUYA DANIEL  
JACL Chapter: Chicago  
Recipient of the Patricia & Gail Ishimoto Memorial Scholarship  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Notables  
Tatsuya Daniel was a percussionist in his high school band all four years, becoming drumline captain his senior year, in addition to being selected for the McHenry County Honors Band. Daniel was also on his school’s track-and-field and cross-country teams. Among his other activities, he also trained in aikido for four years, and as a member of his school’s math team, he was an individual medalist at regionals in algebra and geometry. As a member of First Robotics, he advanced to the world championships in St. Louis, Mo., last year.

Personal Statement  
“August 2015 marked the 70th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, of the deliberate and successful actions by the United States to end World War II. The anniversary was a great way to reflect on the current U.S.-Japan relationship and how far it has come. I think the JACL did a nice job with its participation in a symposium in November 2015 at Northwestern University because it got Japanese Americans thinking about their role in this relationship. However, the JACL should have taken it a step further to involve a wider demographic of young Americans by including Americans of European descent.

“In addition to involving European Americans, the JACL should have also looked for ways to involve Chinese Americans at such a symposium because future U.S.-Japan relations are going to depend largely on both countries’ relations with China. By starting discussions among these groups of young American, they can become more motivated to take charge of a relatively significant global issue. Specifically, it would have been good for JACL to address efforts to broaden and deepen trade and investment among Pacific countries, as well as to talk about the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which brought 11 Asia-Pacific countries together and accounts for about 40 percent of global GDP.

“Additionally, the JACL should strive to get Japanese Americans to be more aware of social injustices and how society can combat its many different forms. I think it was important for the JACL to send a delegation to Selma, Ala., for the 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday in order to realize the connection between the hardships faced by other Americans and the hardships faced by Japanese Americans.”

RIKI EIJIMA  
JACL Chapter: San Francisco  
Recipient of the Kyutaro & Yasuo Abiko Memorial Scholarship  
Occidental College

Notables  
Riki Eijima spent the summer of 2014 as an intern at the University of Denver doing archaeological fieldwork on the Amache Internment Camp. She wrote about her experience in an article published in the March 4, 2016, edition of the Pacific Citizen. Eijima played on her high school basketball team for four years and served as team captain from 2013-14, receiving the Coach’s Award that year. In 2013, Eijima was selected as a Tatsuyan Youth Ambassador Fellow and traveled on a goodwill exchange to provide aid to earthquake/tsunami-affected areas in Japan.

Personal Statement  
This year’s Oscars received a good deal of scrutiny for the lack of African-American nominations for the second year running. Last year, the Twitter tag OscarsSoWhite exploded in social media, and the conversation about the lack of diversity in Hollywood continues to cause controversy. However, it is not only the African-American community that has gone without notice from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences — Asian American, Latino/Hispanic and Native American artists and writers have also gone unrecognized. A significant omission occurred when the critically acclaimed ‘The Joy Luck Club’ was passed over in 1993.

“As in other professions, we need players in significant roles in the arts including the cinema, both in front of and behind the camera. Having representation that reflects society is important in order to have authenticity because walls of exclusion and glass ceilings in the professional world ultimately affect how we see ourselves and how others see us. Moreover, youth feel empowered when they see role models like Jeremy Lin or Sandra Oh and think, ‘He/she looks like me’, and ‘I can do that, too.’

“Is it too much to ask that ethnic groups have a seat at the table? The JACL has done excellent work in making known that they stand in solidarity with other minority groups and the LGBT community against injustice. We must also address our own grievances. Boycotting awards shows is not enough to effect change. Perhaps more effective would be working with the movie business to make diversity a tangible goal.

“The industry should be providing scholarships and mentorships to encourage participation by ethnic minorities. Along with recruitment, significant efforts at minority and promotion in executive management must be goals. Movie companies make millions of dollars off the viewing public. They can realize a better bottom line by making more films relevant to somonshus, who comprise at least 35 percent of this country’s population. Taking advantage of their buying power makes good business sense.”

KYLE ENG  
JACL Chapter: Mt. Olympus  
Recipient of the Doni & June Uejima Memorial Scholarship  
University of California, Berkeley

Notables  
Over the years, Kyle Eng has served as a volunteer for numerous events sponsored by his local JACL chapter. His engagement in the Nikkei community includes Tai-ko drumming, bon dancing, karate, volunteering at the Nikkei Senior Center and serving as president of the Salt Lake City Buddhist Temple YBA. Identified as an outstanding student leader, Eng was selected to participate in several leadership conferences including the UH­SSAA/UIAA Student Leadership Conference and the National Student Leadership Conference held in Washington, D.C. In addition, he was a three-year varsity letter in baseball, serving two years as captain, and a four-year varsity letter in basketball, also serving two years as captain.

Personal Statement  
“On Feb. 19, 1942, President Roosevelt enacted Executive Order 9066 — the internment of Japanese American citizens as a security provision — following the surprise Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor. Over 70 years later, I had the opportunity to walk on the same deserts of Topaz that once served as the prison grounds for these Japanese Americans. Standing with the sun glaring down upon me, I imagined the rows of barracks enclosed by barbed-wire fencing that filled the miles of empty desert, and finally, I fully understood the wrath of minority persecution Asian Americans suffered based solely on their appearance and lineage. With little support or advocacy from outside groups, the interned Japanese people — unable to advocate for themselves were helpless in fighting the persecution.

“Over half a century later, history seems to be repeating itself with a sharp rise in hate crimes against Muslims while prominent public figures call for anti-Muslim policy proposals. While I realize we cannot change history, we can learn from the past and never repeat the same mistakes we, as a society, once made.

“As the anti-Muslim hate groups call for nationwide protests against Muslim mosques, the JACL should take a stand against hate and act as the support system — absent from Japanese Americans during WWII — for minority Muslim groups. Muslim Americans should not be stigmatized or grouped together with extremist groups simply because of religious affiliation; it is unfair and immoral.
JULIE FUKUNAGA
JACL Chapter: Lodi
Recipient of the Henry & Chiyoko Kusuhara Memorial Scholarship
Stanford University
Notables
Among the many leadership roles Julie Fukunaga has undertaken, she is the founder of the first NorCal Science & Technology Festival, which was made possible through $10,000 in raised funds. The mission of the event was to make science, technology, engineering, and math accessible to everyone, especially underrepresented minorities and low-income students. Fukunaga also plays multiple musical instruments, including the saxophone, piano, organ, and, most impressively, the oboe, having been selected as principal oboist in the 2014 San Joaquin County Honor Band. Her numerous science and engineering awards include the Yale Science and Engineering Association Award, first place at the Sacramento Regional Science and Engineering Fair, first place in the San Joaquin County Science and Engineering Fair five years running and a gold medal at the International Genies Olympiad held at SUNY Oswego in New York.

Personal Statement
"A young boy arrives at MacArthur High School early one morning after hours of tinkering with his newest invention: a pencil box clock. In a nation constantly pushing for STEM-centric (science, technology, engineering and math) education, one would expect 14-year-old Ahmed Mohamed to be acknowledged for his hard work, creativity and dedication by his peers and educators. Instead, he was accused of bringing a bomb to school. Once local law enforcement was on the scene, he was questioned by police for an hour, handcuffed and taken into custody and denied the right to see his parents. Through no charges were levied, Mohamed was suspended from his high school for causing a ‘bomb hoax.’

The support nationwide for Mohamed was overwhelming. A picture of Mohamed wearing a NASA shirt and handcuffs went viral, making the photograph and the hashtag #StandWithAhmed trend on multiple social media sites, with close to one million mentions in 24 hours on Twitter alone. Mohamed took the opportunity to vocalize his situation on his own accord (which amassed 37,000 followers in one day), and caught the attention of notables such as Barack Obama, Mark Zuckerberg and NASA and Google officials. A traumatizing, unfortunate and unjust situation quickly turned into a positive one as people around the world joined Ahmed in his fight against racial profiling. What such an event shows is how powerful an organization of people can be when fighting for a common cause. The safety and protection of its children.

The JACL is concerned with upholding racial equality and eliminating stereotypes for cultural minorities in the United States. Showing support and raising awareness about how racial profiling won’t deter ambitions, instead teenagers would’ve made an impactful political statement. By reaching out and telling this young boy that he is not alone in the prejudices he has faced, the JACL can continue promoting racial equality and fairness for our nation and our nation’s youth.

TAYLOR GOTO
JACL Chapter: Sacramento
Recipient of the Shigeru ‘Shake’ Ushio Memorial Scholarship
University of California, San Diego
Notables
This past year, Taylor Goto has been an active member of the Sacramento chapter board. For 10 years, Taylor Goto has been an active community member, volunteering to help others in need. Taylor has been involved in numerous community service projects, including food drives, clothing drives, and tutor programs. Taylor is currently a member of the California Young Democrats and the Sacramento Democratic Club. Taylor is also a volunteer for the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army.

Goto’s outstanding community involvement, was awarded a $2,500 scholarship by the Institute for Civic Leadership to attend a two-week training program at the Global Leadership Academy in Canada. Goto is also the founder of a Garden Club, which promotes healthy eating habits. The club grows is donated to homeless shelters. In addition, Goto is a starter on his high school varsity tennis team for all four years.

Personal Statement
The Syrian refugee crisis has the potential to be all too similar to one of America’s darkest times: Japanese internment. Even though the Syrian Civil War and subsequent refugee crisis have been going on since 2011, the government has been slow to respond. Recently, the United States has only taken in 2,000 Syrian refugees. In September 2015, President Obama implemented a plan for the U.S. to take in a minimum of 10,000 Syrian refugees in the upcoming fiscal year. This plan has caused a national outcry.

"Obama’s opposition on the right is wary of incoming refugees, seeing them as a potential threat to national security. [It is] calling for measures to be taken against the Syrian refugees when they enter America. Ideas have been suggested like keeping refugees in camps to monitor them, or even requiring them to wear special indicators. The pushback against Syrian refugees mirrors a similar problem that occurred against Japanese Americans in the wake of WWII. Japanese Americans experienced racism and discrimination stemming from widespread fear in this country, leading to the internment of over 127,000 innocent Japanese Americans.

“Even though the American government has publicly apologized and compensated the Japanese Americans who were forced into internment camps, there has been no hard evidence proving the internment of a group of people can happen again. The U.S. 1944 Supreme Court case Korematsu v. United States supporting Japanese internment was ever overturned. JACL needs to get involved in the politics, advocating for the rights of Syrian refugees. Former Tule Lake Internment Camp survivor Mr. Fujikura, now 88, says, “To judge someone by ethnicity or their religion was wrong then, and it’s wrong today.”" The JACL can speak for the voiceless refugees who need ethical backing and the support of Japanese Americans who understand the dark side of American politics.

JEMMA JIO
JACL Chapter: San Jose
Recipient of the Paul & Katherine Ohtaki Memorial Scholarship
California State University, San Diego
Notables
Jemma Jio was a standout varsity athlete in basketball, volleyball and tennis. In 2015, she received the Coach’s Award in tennis, and during her senior year was the captain of the women’s basketball team. Jio is a member of the Youth Leadership Council at the Wesley United Methodist Church, volunteering in numerous events and causes including a mission trip to Japan in 2014 to do earthquake and tsunami disaster relief work. In addition, Jio was a volunteer for her local JACL chapter scholarship luncheon for 13 years.

Personal Statement
“One month after the November 2015 ISIS Paris bombings, there was a terrorist attack in San Bernardino, Calif. Fourteen people were killed and 22 injured in a mass shooting by Syed Farook and Tahsheen Malik, an extremist couple of the Jihadi movement. The couple died in a police shootout, but the FBI was able to confiscate Syed’s cell phone. Since it was an iPhone, the FBI ordered that Apple create a "backdoor" into the iOS operating system to access the extremist's contacts, searches, history, etc., and try to decipher the couple's actions before the attack to possibly prevent future attacks.

The government having access to the contents of Syed’s phone could provide leads to other terrorists but places suspicion and scrutiny on many innocent people; which is similar to the way Japanese Americans were treated so many decades ago.

Congratulations!

Jemma
We are so proud of your accomplishments,
Mom, Dad, Tutu and your O’hana

Thank you!

Many thanks to the San Jose JACL chapter for your support, and to the National Scholarship Committee, for the honor of your scholarship award.

Jemma B. Jio, San Jose Chapter
"Unfortunately, the line that the government is about to cross is similar to the line it crossed after the attack on Pearl Harbor during World War II with Executive Order 9066 authorizing the relocation of Japanese Americans.

"During this hysteria, again the government seems to be throwing the American people's civil liberties out the window. Abiding to the FBI demand by Apple would create a repeat of infringement on civil liberties, rights that organizations like the JACL work very hard to protect. I believe that the JACL can help prevent the 'interment of technology' through educational opportunities, press conferences and panel discussions. What policies will the government institute to guarantee that all phones are safeguarded? How will we know our freedoms will be maintained? What actions can be taken now so that in four years, Americans will not have to feel alienated in their own country?"

SIMON LANGOWSKI
JACL Chapter: Hoosier Recipient of the Mr. & Mrs. Takashi Morichuki Memorial Scholarship Purdue University

Notables

Simon Langowski has won numerous awards in math and science, including first place in both the Indiana State Competition in Algebra 2 in 2013 and the Rose Hulman Math Contest in 2015 with a perfect score. He is also an accomplished percussionist, being a two-time gold medalist on the marimba at the Indiana State School Music Association Contest. Langowski also plays the bells for the annual JACL Hoosier chapter Christmas party.

Personal Statement

"I live in Indiana, a state that was known for cornfields, sports and friendliness; but, as of this past spring, is now known for the infamous Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA). Despite its appealing name, which it shares with several Religious Freedom Restoration Acts throughout the United States (most notably the Federal one in 1993 that JACL supports for protecting Native American rights), this bill was not designed so altruistically. Many observers noted that the Indiana RFRA seemed to be designed to allow discrimination against lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgender and other nontraditional orientations by using religious grounds as justification to deny service to these groups.

"This, of course, prompted a response to repeal or amend the bill to prevent such a possibility. Public criticism is a necessary first step. Perhaps I was just overwhelmed by all the other voices of denunciation of this bill, boycotts by companies such as Subaru and Angie’s List; the theoretical loss of GenCon (a favorite convention I had visited just last year); and all the news stories in the media, but I felt that I did not clearly hear JACL’s voice on the issue. JACL should have issued a statement explaining how they support religious freedom, but not to the point where religion can be used for discrimination.

"JACL has already shown support for protecting different sexual orientations. Emergency Resolution 06-04 promised this summer, for legalized JACL’s support for transgender persons. Thomas Jefferson once said, ‘The price of freedom is eternal vigilance,’ watching for laws that allow discrimination is part of our vigilance. The anti-discrimination amendment that was added to RFRA to protect LGBT individuals shows how public pressure and vigilance can be effective.

"I wasn’t old enough to vote yet (my first election will be this year), but contrary to the idealism, one vote wouldn’t have mattered. Nor would any one letter. Rather, it is only when we come together as a group in protest (or endorsement) that we can truly make a difference. The mass protest of many people, corporations, individuals refusing to travel to certain cities was effective in making a difference. It is for this purpose that JACL exists: to be the group that makes the difference."

KATELYN NAKAMURA
JACL Chapter: French Camp Recipient of the CWO 4 Mitsugi Murakami Kasai (Ret) Memorial Scholarship University of California, Los Angeles

Notables

Katelyn Nakamura has been actively involved in her local JACL chapter since 2010. Among her accomplishments, Nakamura has assumed numerous leadership roles in her community, including serving as a Youth Deacon at the Calvary Presbyterian Church. During the 2015-16 school year, was elected as the sole student trustee on the Lincoln Unified School District Board, representing 9,000 students. Nakamura was also a four-year member of her school’s varsity volleyball team, serving as captain for a year.

Personal Statement

"My parents joined JACL after hearing about this organization at church from their friends. Through JACL, I have learned that it is important to stand up for your own beliefs and to support others in need. JACL strives to make a difference not only for Japanese Americans but for other groups who are being discriminated against or who aren’t experiencing full civil rights.

"Through the JACL club, I was given the opportunity to start women’s empowerment club at my high school called WAVES (Worth, Achievement, Volunteering, Empowerment and Success). One project I spearheaded was the district-wide free viewing of the documentary film ‘Empowerment Project.’ This film showcased extraordinary women doing extraordinary things, and the message is meant to challenge young women to pursue their dreams and pose the question: ‘What would you do if you weren’t afraid to fail?’

"I did not clearly hear JACL’s voice on the issues. JACL’s support for religious freedom, but not to the point where religion can be used for discrimination.

"The price of freedom is eternal vigilance; watching for laws that allow discrimination is part of our vigilance. The anti-discrimination amendment that was added to RFRA to protect LGBT individual shows how public pressure and vigilance can be effective."

RACHEL ODA
JACL Chapter: South Bay Recipient of the Sam & Frieza Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship Pomona College
Notables

Rachel Oda has been a tireless volunteer for a variety of groups that help disadvantaged, special needs and homeless youths. Among her awards is the Frederick B. Douglas and Susan B. Anthony Award for outstanding commitment to social justice. Oda is also a soleist on her varsity dance team and was a finalist in the L.A. County Mock Trial Championship.

Personal Statement

"Kamooke Mayor David Bowers’ horribly wrong statement about Japanese internment camps caused extreme uproar across the media and the Japanese American community. His blatantly ignorant comment attempted to justify FBI’s imprisonment of Japanese ‘foreign nations’ for posing a threat of harm and characterizing Japanese Americans as ‘our enemies.’

"Not only did this event expose the ongoing bigotry toward Japanese Americans, but it also provided an opportunity to spread the truth behind internment on a universal, media platform and propel ‘tough’ legislation. I believe, in my opinion, the JACL should have immediately responded to Bowers by releasing a statement to rectify his wrong and overgeneralization. The statement could have highlighted which parts of his statement were wrong (such as his obvious assumption that the Japanese American detainees were not American citizens). Moreover, the statement could have explained the truth about our history and set the right foot forward for the Japanese American community.

"When the event surfaced across the media, I immediately lapped at the articles and read through various newspapers to analyze how they were responding. I was extremely proud to find that various prominent figures in the Japanese American community had posted personal statements against Bowers and explained what really happened. However, all of their statements were published on colossal social media sites such as Twitter or Facebook. I think the articles would have been much more impactful if they had also quoted an established organization, like the JACL. Responding to Bowers’ statement would have further solidified the powerful news articles that championed our rights and asserted the truth behind our history while also giving the JACL a global audience.

"Although moments like these are frustrating and stir up harsh emotions, I looked at the glass half full—opportunist perspective, they allow us to educate others and right the wrongs. This is our duty as Japanese American activists—a duty I am proud to uphold."

BROOKE SHIMASAKI
JACL Chapter: Stockton Recipient of the Henry & Ohyio Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship University of California, Los Angeles

Notables

Brooke Shimasaki has been extremely active as a leader and tireless volunteer in her school, community, church and local JACL chapter. She has served on the board of the Stockton JACL chapter for the past three years. Not only does she do volunteer work at the Stockton Buddhist church, but she also was a volunteer for two years during the Greek festival at Saint Basil Greek Orthodox Church. In addition, Shimasaki was also a four-year varsity athlete on her high school golf (captain for two years) and track and field teams.

Personal Statement

"During wartime, racial prejudice toward ‘foreigners’ minorities is not uncommon; history proves to have repeated itself time and time again, from Japanese internment during World War II to Red Scare racists during the Cold War. And today, even after the United..."
States has taken bold steps toward equality and tolerance, many Americans revert back to prejudice ways, targeting Muslims living in the United States. Outbreaks of violence in the Middle East on account of ISIS, along with Islamic terrorist attacks—both domestically and internationally—foster fear among many Americans prompting citizens to support the closure of U.S. borders to Islamic refugees.

“By drawing parallels between the attitudes toward Japanese Americans during World War II and the attitudes toward Muslims today, it can be implied that war hysteria and hatred may cloud the judgements of Americans. Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, citizens feared that Japanese Americans would betray their home country of the United States. Amongst this time of panic and distress, the government mandated Executive Order 9066, forcing its own Japanese American citizens out of their homes and businesses and into relocation camps, treating these Americans like they were potential war traitors due to their ethnicity. United States citizens must learn from past mistakes and make different, more positive choices when faced with having to make decisions concerning Islamic refugees.

“Despite the opinion of many, the JACL should support Islamic immigrants seeking refuge in the United States and should also actively work to end racist sentiment. Many members of the JACL, especially in my California chapter, have experienced repercussions of Executive Order 9066 from either firsthand experience or through stories told by parents and grandparents. Members have seen or even experienced the negative outcome of decisions made out of fear. Therefore, the JACL should have a strong sense of empathy toward Islamic refugees and Islamic Americans who are similarly being persecuted due to their ethnicity.”

**Joy Yuzuriha**

**JACL Chapter: Portland**

**Recipient of the Hanayagi Rokumie Memorial Cultural Scholarship Stanford University**

Notables

Joy Yuzuriha is a multitalented musician who is accomplished on a variety of instruments, including the clarinet, saxophone, flute and piano. Her musical experiences range from classical to Broadway musicals. She has won numerous awards for playing the clarinet and was selected to be in the first clarinet section in the 2015 All-Northwest Honor Band. Yuzuriha has also studied classical Japanese dance (Butoh) since the age of four. She was also co-captain of her high school varsity bowling team.

**Personal Statement**

"One week ago, the Japanese American community held a ‘Day of Remembrance,’ as they do every year, on the anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066. But this year, there was an urgency and immediacy in the speeches. As I sat there in the Japanese American National Museum with four generations of Japanese Americans and fellow concerned citizens including Muslim Americans, I was not alone in having the uncomfortable feeling that history was repeating itself. But the message I heard from this gathering was unified and clear—‘never again!’

“Never again will we allow fellow citizens to be unfairly targeted and discriminated against. Never again will we allow an innocent person to feel humiliated, dehumanized and betrayed as my grandmother told me she felt when she was sent to Heart Mountain. Never again will we allow the vast majority of Americans to remain silent and ignorant of the injustice and racism occurring in their own neighborhoods. And never again will we allow our leaders to shirk their duty to protect all of our citizens. Our collective voice carries the weight of our shared community history. As we have done so since 1929, I am certain we will speak out at every opportunity in support of any person or group of people who are being oppressed.”
Intern. In this role, she secured funding for the Manzanar Ambassador Scholarship, a sustainable scholarship and leadership development program that provides a scholarship for youth to attend the Manzanar Pilgrimage that is contingent upon a commitment to serve on the planning committee the following year. Inohsita also continues to serve her chapter in leadership positions as a board member and on several chapter committees. Inohsita has also been selected to participate in the Kakehukai program and looks forward to taking the trip with the delegation in March.

**Personal Statement**

“The JACL’s efforts to form alliances with the black community are a new frontier, and we will not get everything right the first time. However, it is important that we continue to listen to and be responsive to the needs of the black community.”

**DAVIS KATAKURA**

**JACL Chapter: SELANOGO**

**Recipient of the Saburo Kido Memorial Scholarship**

**U.S. Naval Academy Notables**

Davis Katakura is majoring in quantitative economics and has an impressive 4.0 GPA. He was ranked first in his graduating class at Mariana High School and was a member of the California Scholarship Federation and president of the National Honors Society. In addition to being selected as an Advanced Placement Scholar with Distinction by the College Board, he received the Golden Shield academic award multiple times, including being one of only two junior students awarded a gold medal in science. Katakura received scholarships from the Navy, Army and Air Force ROTC. In 2015, he was nominated by Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) for congressional appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy and has earned honors on the Superintendent’s List at the academy. He is currently enrolled in an Advanced Placement Japanese Level 4 conversational course taught by a Japanese Naval Commander from the Japanese National Defense Academy. Katakura plans on majoring in Japanese language, participating in a semester abroad at either the Japanese National Defense Academy or Keio University and possibly attending a summer language program in Japan. In his future career with the U.S. Navy, Katakura hopes to serve in Japan.

**Personal Statement**

“The conviction of NYPD police officer Peter Liang, an Asian American, has left the nation divided over his recent conviction based on an accidental fatal shooting. Currently convicted of second-degree manslaughter, facing 15 years in prison and dismissed from the police department, some members of the community are concerned that Peter Liang is used as a scapegoat in order to advertise the legitimacy of the justice system in checking police oficers. The argument is that if Peter Liang had been white, his case would be either overlooked or dismissed. Therefore, Chinese Americans are also victims of discrimination, along with other minorities.

“The JACL could respond by advocating for racial justice for Peter Liang and also for equality in the unemployment of law enforcement oficers. Asian Americans should not be victims of discrimination for aspiring to be public servants. Instead, employers should foster a healthy diversity comprised of talented individuals within government and law enforcement positions.”

**BRYCE A. MAWHINNEY**

**JACL Chapter: Mile High**

**Recipient of the Shigeru Nakahira Memorial Scholarship**

**University of Colorado at Boulder Notables**

Bryce Mawhinney is studying marketing, accounting and economics in college. He describes his involvement in Mile High JACL as a most rewarding experience because he learned something different with each event. He gained hands-on exposure to traditional Japanese culture at the Fall Festival, learned the value of teamwork with the Young Buddhist Assn., at Mochitsuki and discovered that specialized jobs result in maximum potential product output at Kohaku Uta Gassen. Through his volunteering activities, Mawhinney was selected as the recipient of the Mile High JACL M. Tagawa Memorial Scholarship. He was also named to the Dean’s List at both the University of Colorado and Eckerd College and received numerous academic awards as an Advanced Placement Scholar.

**Personal Statement**

“Only so often does an event happen that stops the world in its tracks. Many times, it’s often for the wrong reasons. However, this summer there was a monumental positive event that has changed history forever. It was a decision that concluded a passionate debate.

“On June 26, 2015, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that it was unconstitutional to ban same-sex marriages. This was a civil rights breakthrough and had been a long time coming for many people. JACL should have responded positively toward this decision and wholeheartedly supported it.”

“The Japanese American Citizens League is based on ensuring civil rights for Japanese Americans, however it softly expands to the civil rights of all people. Many Japanese Americans were positively affected by this decision by the Supreme Court, so the JACL should support these citizens and the decision as well.”

**GARRETT T. SANO**

**JACL Chapter: Fresno**

**Recipient of the Henry & Chiyko Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship**

**California State University, Fresno Notables**

Garrett Sano will continue his studies majoring in prenursing. He volunteers for many JACL community events and for the Fresno Buddhist Church. Sano was recognized as an athlete scholar at Buchanan High School and coached in the Junior Asian Basketball Assn. Among his many accomplishments, Sano was an honors student at Fresno City College, where he received the Fresno City Community College Don and Carol Munshower Pay It Forward Scholarship.

**Personal Statement**

“During World War II, anti-Japanese sentiments were very high in the United States. This is very similar to Muslim Americans today, where many people are suspicious of their Muslim neighbors. I believe that JACL should try and defend innocent Muslim Americans from as much political and social backlash as possible. We should especially be wary of proposals and laws that would infringe on the rights of Muslim Americans.

“It is a shame that the religion of Islam is associated with terrorists and extremists that cause so much pain and destruction. However, if Japanese Americans, who faced a similar past, do not stand up with Muslim Americans, then who will?”

> Bryce Arai,

> Congratulations to you!

> We are so proud of you and what you’ve accomplished.

> With Love,

> Mom, Dad, Connor, Paige and Setsuko

---

Florin JACL proudly salutes

**BREANA INOSHITA**,

recipient of the

**Alice Yuriko Endo Memorial Scholarship.**
Takeshita hopes to build upon her JACL Chapter: New York as an urban history major who silence and push for more inclusion presentation in the Oscars and the arts such endeavors in leisure, sport and criticize; Asian Americans experiences to pursue a career in art helped form the civic identity of Kansha Project, which will allow residents and the ways in which such endeavors in leisure, sport and art helped form the civic identity of Insei and Nisei. Takeshita is excited to participate this year in the Kansha Project, which will allow her to talk firsthand to internees and connect with other youth who identify as Japanese American. As an urban history major who has lived in New York, Tokyo, Chicago, Boston and Paris, she has always been incredibly interested in cities and the problems that they face. Most recently, she completed a final research project on a refugee organization in Paris and learned directly about the issues facing West African and Syrian refugees in Paris, such as lack of housing and social networks. Takeshita hopes to build upon her experiences to pursue a career in urban affairs and make cities better places for marginalized people to live in. She is described by one of her mentors as a “stellar scholar, a thoughtful citizen and a fighter for equal rights and opportunities.”

“JACL has always been an important part of my life, and I am proud to be a member.”

Kaylene Yamada JACL Chapter: Wasatch Front North Recipient of the Henry & Chiyoko Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship University of Utah 

Kaylene Yamada has been a student in the University of Utah Honors College since 2012 and is currently working on her honors thesis to earn an honors biology Bachelor of Science degree. She has been a member of the Young Buddhists Assn since 2006 and has been very active in her local JACL chapter, including serving as a youth delegate to the National JACL Conventions in Chicago and Washington, D.C.

“JACL has always been an important part of my life, and I am proud to be a member.”

Kristi M. Agari JACL Chapter: Stockton Recipient of the Dr. George Goro & Nettie Muramoto Memorial Scholarship

Kristi Agari has been dedicated to the history of Asian/Asian American resettlers and the ways in which this has lived in New York, Tokyo, Chicago after incarceration. During her freshman year at the University of the Pacific, she contributed to the building and introduction of the Elizabeth Humbarger Tolerance Garden at the San Joaquin Delta College, created by the Stockton JACL. For her community service with the JACL, Agari received the California Scholarship Federation Seymour Award, Elks Lodge Most Valuable Student Award, JACL Baba Family Award and JACL Matsumoto Family Award. Her academic achievements are just as impressive. Agari has maintained a near-perfect GPA and was ranked second in the second-year dental school class. Her hard work and dedication on a biomedical research project has resulted in significant scientific findings, which she presented at an international meeting of the American Association for Dental Research, the most prestigious conference for dental and oral health research.

“JACL has always been an important part of my life, and I am proud to be a member.”
Personal Statement

“Our successes are never solely based on our individual efforts. I have been more fortunate than most growing up with a strong support system of family and friends, and I realize that many do not have these same opportunities. I am glad affirmative actions tries to help correct some of those imbalances. It is uncertain what the future political environment of the United States will hold, but it is important for the JACL to continue to take a stand against civil rights abuses. Japanese Americans are frequently cast as the model minority, often erroneously separating us from other ethnic groups. Although we might not face the same discrimination that existed during World War II, many other minorities now do and for the JACL to ignore their plight goes against our values. Principles matter a lot to me, and this I believe: Life is not a zero-sum proposition. It is not a competition with the gay sealed to my right. When opportunities are provided we need to help, whether that future generations of Japanese Americans or other minorities standing where we once stood.”

TRACI K. ISHIGO
JACL Chapter: San Fernando Valley
Recipient of the Rev. H. John & Asako Yamashita Memorial Scholarship
University of Southern California
Notables

Brandon Ishikata has been a tireless advocate for the inclusion of LGBT individuals into all aspects of American life and has rightly earned the recognition and awards that he has received, including the Henry & Chiyoko Kuwahara Scholarship.

His extended family, including his numerous cousins, have been wholeheartedly supportive of his endeavors.

We are proud of Brandon’s accomplishments!
Glen and Robin Ishikata, Parents
Grayce Kitagaki, Grandmother
ISAAC KAZUO UYEHARA
JACL Chapter: Philadelphia
Recipient of the Henry & Chiyoko Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship
Princeton University

NOTABLES

ISAAC UYEHARA is a lifetime JACL member in the Philadelphia chapter, served on the chapter board and represented the Eastern District Council on the National Youth Student Council. At the national level, he represented his district on the National Education Committee, served on the Legislative Committee and was a judge for the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. He also participated in the OCA-JACL Leadership Summit and the first Kakehashi trip in the winter. As a writer, liturgist and preacher, he hopes to help the stories of Japanese Americans in unique and liberative ways. In particular, he hopes to help create an authentically Japanese American liberation theology, one which will assist in remembering past trauma, articulating pain and shame and experiencing communal healing from the forces that continue to dehumanize us.

Personal Statement

"In Selma this past March, I met Japanese American activist Todd Endo, who walked alongside Martin Luther King Jr. during the now-famous trek to Birmingham for voting rights in 1965. I learned from him the intimate history of Japanese American and black activism and solidarity, and his influence, as well as the theological teachings of black liberation theology, have oriented me and my activism not only inwardly within my own spheres but also outward toward the African-American community. As Japanese American community organizer Scot Nakagawa has written, ‘Anti-blackness is the fulcrum of white supremacy’—our struggles with racism as Nikkei are intricately connected with the ongoing oppression of black people in our country, and we must show up for one another.”

Isaac Uyehara is a lifetime JACL member in the Philadelphia chapter, served on the chapter board and represented the Eastern District Council on the National Youth Student Council. At the national level, he represented his district on the National Education Committee, served on the Legislative Committee and was a judge for the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. He also participated in the OCA-JACL Leadership Summit and the first Kakehashi trip in the winter. As a writer, liturgist and preacher, he hopes to help the stories of Japanese Americans in unique and liberative ways. In particular, he hopes to help create an authentically Japanese American liberation theology, one which will assist in remembering past trauma, articulating pain and shame and experiencing communal healing from the forces that continue to dehumanize us.

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AMANDA WAKE
JACL Chapter: New York City
Recipient of the Minoru Yasui Memorial Scholarship
New York University

Personal Statement

“By standing in solidarity with other communities of color, Asian Americans can add to a growing movement that is working to bring people together rather than divide them. However, this is best accomplished on the ground, and no amount of press releases and commentary will replace the place of engaging individual members and the public. By implementing more goal-oriented and active campaigns that include personal interaction with other members and allied communities, we also create a reason for new members to join. We must show ourselves as our current organizational structure is capable of capturing youth passionate about civil rights and if not, if it is possible for a membership organization like JACL to remain relevant. I am advocating for the JACL to respond to social and political events with a pragmatic dedication to our mission and vision. For us to be a force for civil rights, we must help create a politically informed and united Asian American community that takes action to realize their own communities and stands in unity with other communities. Given that Japanese Americans are the only Asian American ethnic population to be decreasing in the United States, we must ally ourselves with other communities if we want to have an important voice in the national civil rights arena.”

GENTA IWASAKI
JACL Chapter: St. Louis
Recipient of the Thomas T. Hayashi Memorial Law Scholarship
Washington University in St. Louis

Personal Statement

“Amanda Wake is a strong leader whose sharp analysis and deep relationships catalyze individual transformation and collective action for justice. Those abilities are reflected in her passion for youth leadership development, which has driven her professional career and community service. Wake led a national youth initiative working with youth leaders and allied organizations across the country to amplify the expertise and leadership of young people of color. In this work, she translated the skills she developed working with Asian youth in Oakland, Calif., to providing facilitation leadership across race, geography and community. Whether engaging young queer and trans black organizers from Georgia or Latina community leaders who are young parents in rural California, Wake created the opportunity for young leaders and organizations to align their work. As the “Twin Japan” international student group, which connected native Japanese with foreign exchange students to explore Japanese culture together. He has also served on the St. Louis JACL board since 2014, participated as a representative to the OCA-JACL Leadership Summit, served on the Resolutions Committee for this year’s JACL National Convention and serves as the Voter Registration Chair for his chapter’s Cotter Foundation grant project. He also has an interest in politics and hopes to make his way into local or state politics after retirement from his law career.

Personal Statement

“I have learned that the most important thing about being an ally is first, showing up to have the backs of the people most affected. Second, it is bringing our folks along with you. We must own the fact that there is anti-black racism within our own community. The JACL could do anti-black racism workshops for members, mobilize people to rallies and protests. We can honor the bonds that we share with the black community and acknowledge the shoulders that we stand on.”

AMANDA WAKE
JACL Chapter: New York City
Recipient of the Minoru Yasui Memorial Scholarship
New York University

Personal Statement

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LINDSEY SUGIMOTO
JACL Chapter: West Los Angeles
Recipient of the Grace Andow Memorial Law Scholarship
University of California Berkeley School of Law

Personal Statement

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See LAW on page 16
The 11-year ‘Stamp Our Story’ campaign continues to grow.

Many JACL members have watched and even supported the stamp campaign since it began in 2005. Ventura County JACL’s Alice O. King joined with her Nisei friends in the Service of Granite Bay, Calif., and Chiz Okina of Gardena, Calif., to start “Stamp Our Story.” Takahashi and Okina are both widows of Nisei veterans, and all these former incarcerees are well aware of the importance of the story of the Nisei WWII soldiers during the war.

The US Postal Service denied their petition to continue to be the “squeaky wheel” and not allow their Nisei friends Fusa Takahashi and Rep. Ken Calvert (Corona). Three politicians from Southern California also joined them: Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (Huntington Beach) and Rep. El Royce (Fullerton), as well as Rep. Don Young, sent letters of support. These politicians from Southern California also joined them:

The USPS has been steadfast in restricting stamps that would directly honor military service. Since last fall, the organization’s focus has shifted to a stamp proposal that would tell the story of the Nisei WWII soldiers through the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in Washington, D.C. The memorial is a National Monument that tells the soldiers’ story within the context of the incarceration of Japanese Americans during the war.

Postmaster General Megan Brennan and her advisory committee officially placed this 2015 proposed “sadder and consider” stamp, which is the last step prior to release. Past campaign proposals were not elevated to this category. But this last step can take many years, and often such proposals never see the light of day.

Campaigners are urging support to continue to be the “squeaky wheel” and not allow Brennan to forget this effort. Activists are asking members of Congress and state governors to send a letter of support to Brennan, urging her to issue the stamp next year, as 2016 marks the 75th commemoration of Executive Order 9066 and the start of the incarceration of Nikkei citizens during the war.

So far this year, 42 representatives from both parties have responded and voiced their support: 35 Democrats and 7 Republicans. The governors of Hawaii and California have joined as well.

Over the summer, the campaign received a boost from six GOP members of Congress. The Alaskan congressional delegation of Sen. Dan Sullivan and Sen. Lisa Murkowski, as well as Reps. Don Young, sent letters of support. Three politicians from Southern California also joined them: Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (Huntington Beach) and Rep. Ken Calvert (Corona).

“I am writing to strongly encourage you to support the issuance of a Naturalized States commemorative postage stamp to provide timely and deserved recognition for the Nisei veterans,” wrote Sullivan in his June 30 letter. “It will soon be three-quarters of a century since the Nisei first served our nation. Commemorating their efforts with a stamp would be a fitting tribute to their courage, loyalty, and patriotism to the United States. This stamp would also serve as a constant reminder of the importance of civil liberties and the depth of character that led these individuals to offer themselves on behalf of their country in tumultuous times.”

Hawaii’s Democratic Gov. David Ige voiced his support soon after. His late father, Tokio Ige, was awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star as a Nisei soldier in the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team “A” Company.

“Much has been written to document the heroics of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the 100th Infantry Battalion, the most decorated outfit in the history of American military,” wrote Ige. “The regiment and battalion were comprised primarily of AJA (Americans of Japanese Ancestry), many of whose families were confined in internment camps in the U.S. while they were engaging in combat in various European WWII warfronts. … We humbly request your consideration of this historic commemorative stamp on behalf of the State of Hawaii and the families of these American heroes.”

For the past 20 years, my boss, Judd Matsunaga, has held free Elder Law seminars every summer during Nisei Week. Over the past couple of years, I’ve had the opportunity to join him by speaking to the attendees about Estate Planning and Medi-Cal planning. Through the seminars, I’ve come to learn that people tend to ask the same three questions when it comes to their estate plan. I’d like to share those questions in this article and, to the best of my abilities, offer an answer.

FAQ #1: What’s the difference between a will and a trust?

We’ve all seen movies and TV shows that depict potential beneficiaries bickering in an attorney’s office, anxiously awaiting the reading of a deceased family member’s “Last Will and Testament.” Upon learning that Great Aunt Agnes bequeathed her mansion and millions to her cat, the wails of the greedy family members can be heard echoing the city streets.

This scenario may make entertaining television, but it generally doesn’t occur in reality. A will and a trust are similar in that they both stipulate whom your assets will be distributed to upon your passing. But a key difference is that a living trust avoids probate. Property left through a will passes through probate, meaning the court oversees the will’s administration to ensure that the assets are properly distributed.

Avoiding probate becomes increasingly important if you own real property, for example, a home or rental property as it is extremely time consuming and expensive; all in all, a real headache.

One thing I’ve noticed is that my Japanese and Japanese American clients are very modest. They always say to me, “I don’t have anything! Just a home and a little bit of savings.” You may think the same about your own estate. But even if you don’t think you have much, the truth is that assets are assets. Bottom line — if you own a home and/or some savings and you want to make sure your children inherit it all in the easiest way possible, you should consider a living trust, not a will.

FAQ #2: How often do I need to update my trust?

Think of your living trust as a car. After your initial purchase, you may need to take it in to the shop every once in a while to see if any maintenance is required. In order to see if your trust needs a tune-up, consider the following:

First, have there been any changes to your family dynamic? If so, you may need to amend your trust.

If you have grandchildren now, you may want to include them as beneficiaries. If your sister has passed away, you may need to remove her as a trustee and add someone else in her place. If your son has gotten divorced, you may want to double check that his ex-wife has no right to your assets.

Second, does your trust include A-B Trust provisions? If you’re married and you created your trust 10-plus years ago, chances are you have an outdated provision that can leave you with a loss of control over your assets, extensive record keeping, additional filing of tax returns and other burdensome tasks. This “A-B Trust” provision was historically used to reduce estate taxes, but dramatic changes in the law altered the way it is currently drafted. One thing to note is that this update must be done while both spouses are alive; once one spouse passes away, the provision is ceased into the trust.

Third, have there been any major changes in the law? Each year, Congress passes new laws, and the IRS issues new regulations. Trust provisions are routinely redrafted in order to keep up with the times. A good rule of thumb is to meet with your attorney every five to 10 years to see if your trust needs updating.

FAQ #3: Do I still need a trust if I add my child(ren) to title to my home?

Many people attempt to avoid probate by adding their child or children’s names to title to the family home. However, there are several drawbacks to doing so.
NCWNP

Art Then & Now — A Thread That Connects Us
Emeryville, CA
Oct. 7 Opening Reception, 5-7 p.m.; Oct. 8-9, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
J-Sei Building, 2nd Floor Atrium 1285 66th St.

This exhibit and benefit sale will offer unique paintings, art wear, jewelry, artisan paper and quillwork by internationally known Japanese American artists from the past and today. Works by artists including Ruth Asawa, Chiura Obata, Arthur Okamura, Vicky Mihara Avery, Ellen Bepp and Keiki Fujita will be featured. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of American History in conjunction with the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066. The event is sponsored by the JACL Berkeley chapter.

Info: Email kikielcoulour@gmail.com.

‘Talk Story and Treasures: Nikkei Artifacts Tell Tales We Must Not Forget’
Berkeley, CA
Oct. 8; Noon-1 p.m. and 2-4 p.m. (open viewings), Program 1-2 p.m.
Berkeley Methodist Church 1710 Carleton St.

Price: Free
JACL Berkeley and NSU present ‘Talk Story and Treasures,’ sponsored by Berkeley JACL and JC Berkeley Nikkei Student Union with support from Friends of Topaz, J-Sei and Berkeley Methodist United. Community members are invited to spend an afternoon viewing historical artifacts, photographs and family treasures lent by community members for the afternoon. The program will also feature speakers who will share their stories associated with the artifacts. RSVP by Sept. 20, as attendance is expected to reach capacity.

Info: Email berkeleyjso@gmail.com.

PSW

‘Only the Oaks Remain: The Story of Tuna Canyon Detention Center’ Premiere
Pacoima, CA
Oct. 7; 7-9 p.m.
San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center 12853 Brand St.

Price: Donations Kindly Accepted
The SFWJACC is hosting the premiere of ‘Only the Oaks Remain,’ which tells the true stories of the Japanese, German, Italian im-

migrants and Japanese—Peruvian and others that were targeted as dangerous enemy aliens and imprisoned in the Tuna Canyon Detention Station during World War II. This project was funded, in part, by a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service and Japanese American Confinement Site Program.

Info: Visit www.tunacanyon.org or email membertunacanyon@gmail.com.

Bridging Communities Benefit Dance
Pasco, WA
Oct. 22; 7-11:30 p.m.
San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center 12853 Branston St.

Price: $35 Pre-sale; $50 at the Door
The Bridging Communities Benefit Dance, presented by JACL-PSWD, invites you to a benefit evening to support various programs. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the event will feature a live band and dancing. Appetizers and munchies will also be offered, along with a no-host bar. Door prizes and opportunity drawings will be held throughout the evening. Come out and enjoy the evening with music performed by Kokoro.

Info: Contact Nancy Takanaka at (213) 628-4471, ext. 101, or email ntakayama@jaca-pswd.org.

2016 Japanese Food Festival
Universal City, CA
Nov. 13, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Hilton Los Angeles/Universal City

55 Universal Hollywood Dr.

Price: Adults $5 and child $2.50
Presale price by Nov. 10; Adults $7 and child $3.50 after Nov. 11
Come and taste Japanese cuisine at its finest. Sample sushi, au-

dacious ramen, and much more! The event will also feature the premiere screening of "Tsukiji Wonderland," the story about the story behind the documentary "Ripe Dreams of Sushi." Door prizes and drawings will also be held.

Contact: Visit https://JapaneseFoodFestivalUSA.org.

MDC

Denver Taiko 40th Anniversary Concert
Denver, CO
Oct. 8, 7 p.m. and Oct. 9, 2 p.m.
Newman Center for Performing Arts 2344 E. 13th Ave.

Price: $25 General Admission; $10 Student/Senior
Denver Taiko is a community-

based, nonprofit organization committed to honoring and sharing Japanese drumming through performance and providing an engaging creative outlet for those interested in the art of Taiko. Come and join the group's 40th anniversary tribute.


History of Kimono
Denver, CO
Oct. 19, Noon-1 p.m.
Japan America Society of Colorado 1331 Grant St.

Price: Free
Japan America Society of Colorado member Hiroko Johnson will host this lecture about the history of kimono. Originally an imported fashion from China and made popular by courtiers, kimono have evolved to become the iconic dress of Japan. Follow the development of design, uses, and styles and techniques with Johnson, professor emeritus and lecturer in Japanese art history at California State University, San Diego.


Vision and Vigilance:
Minoru Yasui Portland, OR
Oct. 9; 10 a.m.-Noon
Portland Center Stage 128 N.W. 11th Ave.

Price: Free
Experience the story of Minoru Yasui, who purposely violated the military curfew imposed by Executive Order 9066 to test its constitutionality. The event will feature a play reading of "Citizen Min," film excerpt of “Never Give Up,” a photo exhibit and community discussion. The event is presented by the Minoru Yasui Tribute Project, Oregon Humanities and the Nikkei Endowment.

Info: To RSVP, call (503) 445-3700.

Portland Taiko’s “Sound in Motion”
Portland, OR
Oct. 16; 3-5 p.m.
Callier Center Theater 6852 S.W. Barnes Road
Price: $32-$38
“Sound in Motion,” Portland Taiko’s fall concert, will feature Portland Taiko and Los Angeles’ award-winning TaikoProject in an energetic evening of contemporary taiko works. TaikoProject is making its Portland debut.

Info: Visit info@portlandtaiko.org.

Centennial Celebration:
Minoru Yasui
Hood River, OR
Oct. 18, 7-9 p.m.; Oct. 19, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
Columbia Center for the Arts 801 Beale St.

Price: $15; Seniors $10
As the 100th anniversary of the birthday of Minoru Yasui passes, this evening will also host a Japanese fall festival along Broadway Street between 92nd and 94th Streets as well. Come and enjoy Japanese heritage and culture at the fair with about 60 vendors and stores. Visit www.japanblockfair.com or email todoto@japanblockfair.com.

Asia Society at 60: Past, Present and Future
New York, NY
Oct. 26; 6-8 p.m.
Asia Society 725 Park Ave.

Price: Members $10; Nonmembers $15
Join Asia Society as it reflects on the 60th anniversary of its founding by John D. Rockefeller III, who established Asia Society to provide a greater understanding and knowledge of Asia in the U.S., which has evolved over the decades to reach beyond an American audience, responding to the global shift toward Asia. A special screening of the short film “Asia Society at 60,” narrated by Asia Society Trustee Emeritus Tom Brokaw, will also be shown.


Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival
Philadelphia, PA
Nov. 10-20
Various locations in Philadelphia
The Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival is back this year paying tribute to rising stars in Asian American filmmaking. This celebration is the only one of its kind in the Philadelphia area and is now the largest AAPA film festival on the East Coast. It attracts actors, filmmakers and audiences from the area and all around the world. Come support the films in this year’s lineup.


IDC

Minidoka: Artist as Witness Opening Reception
Boise, ID
Oct. 7; 5:30-8 p.m.
Boise Art Museum 670 E. Julia Davis Dr.
Price: $10 nonmembers/Free for BAM members & BU State ID holders
A public lecture by an internationally known contemporary Japanese American artist and creator of the “Tag Project.” Hear about Wendy Maruyama’s artwork related to the Minidoka War Relocation Center in Idaho and the ways art can be used to document events and express personal experiences.

Info: To purchase tickets, visit www.boiseartmuseum.org/special-events or call Rebecca at (208) 343-6359, ext. 15.

Wendy Maruyama, Artist Lecture
Boise, ID
Nov. 9; 6 p.m.
Boise State University Special Events Center 1800 University Dr.
Price: Members $12; Students/Seniors $15; Nonmembers $20
Join Asia Society as it reflects on the 60th anniversary of its founding by John D. Rockefeller III, who established Asia Society to provide a greater understanding and knowledge of Asia in the U.S., which has evolved over the decades to reach beyond an American audience, responding to the global shift toward Asia. A special screening of the short film “Asia Society at 60,” narrated by Asia Society Trustee Emeritus Tom Brokaw, will also be shown.


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ADVERTISE HERE
Events in the calendar section are listed based on space availability. Place a ‘Spotlight’ ad with photos of your event for maximum exposure. FOR MORE INFO: pc@pacificcitizen.org (213) 620-1767

PACIFIC CITIZEN
In Memoriam

Fujimoto, Edward 'Fuzzy,' 84, South Pasadena, CA, Aug. 16; he was a Korean War veteran; he is survived by his wife, Irene; sons, Brian and Kevin (Flo), sisters, Kimiko (George), Yoshiko; and many nieces and nephews as well as relatives here and in Japan, gc: 2.

Honda, Yoshiye, 91, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 12; she was interned at Gila River Relocation Center in Arizona during WWII; she was born in Seattle, WA; she was interned at Gila Relocation Center in Arizona during WWII; she was also the survivor of a Bronze Star; she is survived by her son, Anson; daughter, Shirley A. Masahiro; two brothers; four sisters; gc: 2; ggc: 3.

Kawabe, Glen, 71, La Habra, CA, Sept. 9; he is survived by his wife, Dianne; daughter, Gloria Higa; sister, Florence T. Sakae; gc: 3.

Kawabe, Mary, 92, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 11; she was born in Seattle, WA; she is survived by her husband, Noboru; son, Mark; daughter, Kuroda, Mary, 92, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 11; she was born in Seattle, WA; she is survived by her husband, Noboru; son, Mark; daughter, Gloria Higa; sister, Florence T. Sakae; gc: 3.

Kuroda, Mary, 92, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 11; she was born in Seattle, WA; she is survived by her husband, Noboru; son, Mark; daughter, Gloria Higa; sister, Florence T. Sakae; gc: 3.

Koizumi, Isao, 84, Los Angeles, CA, Aug. 29; he was a U.S. Army veteran; he is survived by his son, Kazuo Shinzato; his wife, Yoshino "Doris"; sons, Warren and Myles; daughter, Lani (John) Cha, Keiko Omori; daughters, Setsuko Alyce Kuroda, Mary, 92, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 11; she was born in Seattle, WA; she is survived by her husband, Noboru; son, Mark; daughter, Gloria Higa; sister, Florence T. Sakae; gc: 3.

Kuroda, George, 75, Villa Park, CA, Sept. 15; he was predeceased by his wife, Kari and his brother, Joe; he is also survived by many other family members and friends; gc: 5; ggc: 4.

Kurose, George, 75, Villa Park, CA, Sept. 15; he was predeceased by his wife, Kari and his brother, Joe; he is also survived by many other family members and friends; gc: 5; ggc: 4.

Nitta, Kenneth Kaname, 81, Ewa Beach, HI, Sept. 6; she is survived by his wife, Rosita; brothers, George and Thomas; sisters, Ichio Koga and Alice Asato; gc: 3; ggc: 3.

Nitta, Janice, 81, Fullerton, CA, Sept. 5; she is survived by her brother, Kenji Oiwake; Victor (Billie) Honda; children, Susan Ann) Honda, Janet (Takeshi) Honda, Yoshiko; and many nieces and nephews as well as relatives here and in Japan, gc: 2.

Sakuma, Chizuko, 90, Montebello, CA, Aug. 29; she is survived by her brother, Tadashi (Gen) Sakuma; sisters, Mitsu Higuchi and Ikuko Hozaki; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Shirai, Tetsuichi, 98, Monterey Park, CA, Sept. 21; he was born in Hawaii; he is survived by his son, Kazuo Shinzato; daughters, Setsuko Alyce (John) Cha, Keiko Omori, Gracy Kono; gc: 9; ggc: 6.

Sumida, Shizuo 'Larry,' 91, Pepeekeo, HI; he was a U.S. Army veteran; he is survived by his son, Anson; daughter, Shirley A. Masahiro; two brothers; four sisters; gc: 2; ggc: 3.

Sumida, Shizuo 'Larry,' 91, Pepeekeo, HI; he was a U.S. Army veteran; he is survived by his son, Anson; daughter, Shirley A. Masahiro; two brothers; four sisters; gc: 2; ggc: 3.

Tanita, Bernadette T., 68, North Hollywood, CA, Sept. 14; she was born in Hawaii and was predeceased by her husband, Philip A. Tanita; father, James C. Owan; she is survived by her former mother, Betty H. Owan; brother, Curtis K., Alan S. (Cristeta C.) and Wayne J. Owan; nieces, Cara E and Erica C. Owan; nephews, Ryan C. Owan and Wayne J. Owan Jr.; grandniece, Chassity Rae Owan Peru.

Tsuniwishi, Sally Sayono, 90, Torrance, CA, Sept. 10; she was born in Kohala, HI; she was interned at Jerome Relocation Camp in Arkansas and Gila Relocation Center in Arizona; she was predeceased by her husband, Rev. Arthur Makoto Tsuniwishi; she is survived by her son, Jonathan, Mark (DeeAnn) and Chris (Janice); daughters, Koko (Rod) Yee, Gail (Fred) Wagner, Lani (John) Fredrick, Carol and Julie (Wyatt) Loo; brother, Ralph (Shirley); sisters, Marian, Pat, Esther (George); sister-in-law, Frances Tsuniwishi; brothers-in-law, Noel, Yoshi (Fumi) Tsuniwishi; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews; gc: 14.

Uchima, Ansho Masaru, 93, Redondo Beach, CA, Sept. 3; he was a Korean War veteran and recipient of a Bronze Star; he was predeceased by his wife, Tadayo; he is survived by his son, Ray (Estela); and many other relatives; gc: 1; ggc: 1.

Uno, Grace Shizuko, 90, Honolulu, HI; Sept. 14; she is survived by her sons, Joseph and Thomas A.; daughter, Barbara U. Hiraide; gc: 5; ggc: 2.
COLLEGE >> continued from page 3

at 220 mph every half hour.
We all have different roles in the functioning of the world, and some roles are more consequential than others. Some roles will have a greater impact on a greater number of lives. But at some level, you have to understand the percentages. You’re one in 7.125 billion. Your voice is worth more on your IQ level. That way, I explained to my dad (who was horrified, by the way), your vote would count more if you were smart, because it meant you could make better or at least better-informed decisions. I now see how arrogant and unintelligent that was, and I have the humanities to thank for that. One voice doesn’t count more than any other. We’re all one in a million — or maybe one in 7.125 billion.

Matthew Orensht 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.

STAMP >> continued from page 13

Listed below are the military affairs contacts for Congress members who represent camp districts. Also listed are the members of Congress that have already voiced their support. Check to see if your representative and senators have spoken out.

For more details and to read the letters of support in their entirety, visit the campaign’s website at www.StampOurStory.org.

Arizona
Poston
Rep. Paul Gosar
(R-AZ 04)
Contact: Trevor Pearson
Email: Trevor.Pearson@mail.house.gov
Phone: (202) 225-3361

Gila River
Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick
(D-AZ 06)
Contact: Ken Montoya
Email: Ken.Montoya@mail.house.gov
Phone: (202) 225-2315

Jerome
Rep. Bruce Westerman
(R-AZ 04)
Contact: Courtland Sykes
Email: Courtland.Sykes@mail.house.gov
Phone: (202) 225-3361

Arkansas
Topsfield
Rep. Chris Stewart
(R-UT 02)
Contact: Billy Valderrama
Email: Billy.Valderrama@mail.house.gov
Phone: (202) 225-4676

Idaho
Minidoka
Rep. Mike Simpson
(R-ID 02)
Contact: Billy Valderrama
Email: Billy.Valderrama@mail.house.gov
Phone: (202) 225-5531

Utah
Topaz
Rep. Chris Stewart
(R-UT 02)
Contact: Gordon Larsen
Email: Gordon.Larsen@mail.house.gov
Phone: (202) 225-9730

Wyoming
Heart Mountain
Rep. Cynthia Lummis
(R-WY 01)
Contact: Will Carraco
Email: Will.Carraco@mail.house.gov
Phone: (202) 225-2311

As of Sept. 20, the following is the list of 42 supporters for the stamp from Congress:

Alaska (2)
Rep. Don Young
(R-Alaska At Large)
Sens. Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan

Arizona (3)
Rep. Raoul Grijalva
(D-Tucson)

California (24)
Reps. Karen Bass
(D-Los Angeles), Julia Brownley
(D-Oak Park), Ken Calvert
(D-Corona), Judy Chu
(D-Monterey Park), Paul Cook
(R-Yucca Valley), Susan Davis
(D-San Diego), Mark DeSaulnier
(D-Concord), Anna Eshoo
(D-Atherton), Sam Farr
(D-Carmel), Mark Honda
(D-San Jose), Barbara Lee
(D-Oakland), Ted Lieu
(D-Torrance), Zoe Lofgren
(D-San Jose), Alan Lowenthal
(D-Long Beach), Doris Matsui
(D-Sacramento), Grace Napolitano
(D-Norwalk), Buck McKeon
(D-Santa Clarita), Dana Rohrabacher
(D-Huntington Beach), Ed Royce
(D-Fullerton), Loretta Sanchez
(D-Arnhem), Adam Schiff
(D-Burbank), Jackie Speier
(D-Hillborough), Eric Swalwell
(D-Dublin), Mark Takano
(D-Riverside), California
Gov. Jerry Brown
(D)

Hawaii (4)
Reps. Tulsi Gabbard
(D-Hilo), Mark Takai
(deceased), U.S. Rep. Chin-Ho OIo
(D-Honolulu) and Brian Schatz

Maryland (1)
Rep. Chris Van Hollen
(D-Kensington)

Nevada (1)
Rep. Dina Titus
(D-Las Vegas)

New York (3)
Reps. Gregory Meeks
(D-Queens), Charles Rangel
(D-Manhattan), Nydia Velazquez
(D-Brooklyn)

Oregon (1)
Sen. Ron Wyden

Washington (4)
Reps. Derek Kilmer
(D-Olympia), Jared Huffman
(D-Santa Rosa), Jim McDermott
(D-Seattle), Adam Smith
(D-Bellevue)

LAW >> continued from page 12

“Though there is no viable solution to this dichotomy, it would provide stability and ease to know that there is a shared but measured facet of the American identity. It would also bring awareness within the community of other minority groups that may be experiencing similar stigma from greater America, as the JACL continues to play a prominent role in fostering relationships between minority groups. For example, JACL can continue to serve as a central facilitator in the conversation of the obstacles of Muslim Americans, American citizens misbranded by the stigma of today by the current treatment of others.”

FAQS >> continued from page 13

Adding your children on title leaves you vulnerable to your children’s creditors. Let’s say you add your daughter, Erin, onto title so the property is left to her when you’re gone. Thereafter, Erin rear-ends someone on the freeway, and the accident victim sues Erin for personal injuries. If the court renders a judgment against Erin, then the accident victim can go after the family home — even if you’re still living in it.

In some circumstances, parents remove themselves from title completely and transfer full interest in the property to a child. That plan is also complicated, as it leaves you at risk of being kicked out of your own home. If you get into a fight with your son, and he decides to sell the home, then you’re out of a place to live.

If you want to make sure your home goes to your kids, a better solution would be to have them inherit it through your trust. This not only protects you, but it also has excellent tax benefits should your children choose to sell the home later on down the line.

Staci Yamashita-Tiida, Esq., is a Estate Planning attorney at Elder Law Services of California. She can be contacted at (310) 348-2995. The opinions expressed in this article are the author’s own and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Pacific Citizen or JACL. The information presented does not constitute legal advice and should not be treated as such.

TIPS FOR THE WISE CAR BUYER

1. Before you leave home, visit our Auto Center at jaclcu.com to find the best deal.
2. Make your way to the dealer and purchase your new car.
3. Next call or head over to National JACL Credit Union.

Get a better rate and up to $500 cash back.

Call us to get pre-approved.

Tell them you want to finance at JACL CU.

Use this innovative auto buying resource that connects you with comprehensive research and comparison tools. Make a smart buying decision with competitive credit union financing. Know Before You Go!