



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

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# The 2017 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 announce the awarding of \$82,500 to 33 deserving student scholars. With so many well-qualified students, the future of JACL is bright!

Each year, the National Youth/Student Council provides a topic that applicants must answer. This year, the student applicants were asked, "The JACL is a multigenerational, multicultural and national organization. As a result, the JACL has to find a balance in the differing views of its members. Do you feel the JACL represents you in a way relevant to today's society? If yes, please elaborate and cite examples. If not, what should the JACL do differently?"

As you read their responses on the following pages, I hope you are as inspired and proud of these aspiring community leaders as I am. Their vision for the future is critical to JACL's long-term viability.

On behalf of National JACL, I would like to express my deepest appreciation for the team of dedicated individuals who ensures the scholarship program continues to be a major success.

First, JACL Regional Director Patty Wada, who as program manager of the Scholarship Program, ensures the successful implementation of this program and helps coordinate the two scholarship committees that handle more than 100 applications each year.

I'd also like to thank the two National JACL Scholarship Selection Committees. These committees work diligently to review freshman and undergraduate, graduate, law, arts and student-aid applications.

The committees for 2017 come from the Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific (NCWNP) District Council and the Central California District Council (CCDC), respectively.

Those dedicated NCWNP members serving on the selection committee reviewing the freshman

applications include Sharon Uyeda (chair), Darlene Bagshaw and Nick Hori. Those members from CCDC who served on the undergraduate, graduate, law, arts and student aid selection committee are Roberta Barton (chair), Larry Ishimoto, Ralph Kumano and Kacie Robles.

Lastly, I'd be remiss not to recognize and express the organization's appreciation to David and Carol Kawamoto of PSW for their ongoing leadership and support of the scholarship program.

Their stepping in to manage this year's program and their dedication and involvement have been instrumental in the evolution and success of the scholarship program over the years. Their unwavering participation reflects a true commitment to the JACL and our youth.

On behalf of the entire National

JACL, we thank this committed team of individuals for a job well done. We are very appreciative of the diligent work and great care that goes into reviewing all of the scholarship applications and the ongoing JACL tradition of acknowledging our young leaders and scholars with financial support in their pursuit of higher education.

I am thrilled that the JACL Scholarship Program continues to be so successful. We will soon begin the 2018 application process to recognize the next group of outstanding student leaders. As we wrap up the 2017 scholarship season, please join me in congratulating all of our award recipients.

Respectfully,

Matthew Farrells,  
JACL National VP Planning & Development



## Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

1) Publication Title: Pacific Citizen 2) Publication Number: 0030-8579 3) Filing Date: 10/01/17. 4) Issue Frequency: Semi-monthly, except once in January & December 5) Number of Issue Published Annually: 22 6) Annual Subscription Price: \$50 7-9) Mailing Address/Publisher: Japanese American Citizens League dba Pacific Citizen (Los Angeles County) 123 Astronaut E. S. Onizuka Street, Suite 313 Los Angeles, CA 90012-3819 Contact Person Manager: Allison Haramoto Telephone: (213) 620-1767 10) Owner: Japanese American Citizens League dba Pacific Citizen 1765 Sutter Street San Francisco, CA 94115 11) No known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities 12) Tax Status Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months 13) Publication Title: Pacific Citizen 14) Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: 9/22/17 15) Extent and Nature of Circulation: Membership Benefit and Paid Subscription a. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run) Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 8,322 No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: 8,248 b. Paid Circulation 1. Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 Average: 7,412 Single Issue: 7,320 2. Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 Average: 725 Single Issue: 750 c. Total Paid Distribution Average: 8,137 Single Issue: 8,070 f. Total Distribution Average: 8,137 Single Issue: 8,070 g. Copies not Distributed Average: 180 Single Issue: 172 h. Total Average: 8,317 Single Issue: 8,242 i. Percent Paid Average: 100% Single Issue: 100% 16) Publication of State of Ownership: Publication of this statement will be printed in the 09/22/17 issue



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

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

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

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**National JACL**  
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San Francisco, CA 94115  
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## A MOTHER'S TAKE

### Beautiful

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF MARSHA AIZUMI

By Marsha Aizumi

Last month, I was in New York City to celebrate reaching another decade with four of my friends. Three of these friends I have known since high school, and we were roommates at one time or another in college. So, we have known each other for a long time. Aiden calls them his “aunties” because they have loved him through his transition and love him the same today.

We decided on New York because it got the most votes from all of us, and there is so much to do there. For me, it was a chance to spend time with my college friends, and they gave me the flexibility to do some advocacy work with groups in NYC, which I was so grateful for. As I returned home, I realized I learned a lot because I was open to new experiences. Here are my reflections...

At the Statue of Liberty, I reflected on how my grandparents came to this country to find a better life for their family. They taught us to be kind, work hard and live a life of honesty and responsibility. As I looked up at Lady Liberty and saw her torch lighting the way, the shackles laying at her feet and her holding a tablet with July 4 inscribed on it, I felt she truly was a beacon of hope to all of those who come to our country for a better life. It certainly was for our family. I also thought how sad she must be at what our country is going through presently. Yet, liberty to me means having the ability to choose. And in times of adversity, there are so many who choose greater humanity. I saw it in New York, Texas after Hurricane Harvey and Florida with Irma. And so, I look to the future with hope...

I thought that New York was too busy to care about others, and yet I found this city to have people filled with compassion and kindness. On the bustling streets of New York, there were people who took the time to help us find our way. One man carried my suitcase down the steps to the subway platform as he saw me struggle with my luggage. One lady, walking her dog, overheard us talking about our



In New York's Times Square are longtime friends (from left) Jeanne Takatani, Susie Arie, Marsha Aizumi, Janice Hurtado and Judy Asazawa.

destination and turned us around so we weren't walking the wrong way. Finally, another person realized that we were going to JFK airport but that we were on the wrong subway (yikes!) chatting away like we knew where we were going. He reached out to help us get on the correct line. There was kindness wherever we turned...

At Central Park, we walked through Strawberry Fields and took a moment to stop and see the mosaic created with only one word: “Imagine.” I wondered what people thought when they saw those words. What did they imagine? For me, I took a moment to imagine peace, harmony and love. And I imagined a country led by wisdom, equality and hopeful leaders.



The Strawberry Fields mosaic “Imagine,” located in Central Park, is dedicated to the life and memory of John Lennon.

Sitting in the Stephen Sondheim Theatre waiting for the musical “Beautiful” to begin, I anticipated hearing songs that I loved and sang to when I was young. At the end of the musical, all I could think

about was how Carole King did not let adversity stop her from sharing her gifts with the world, how she listened to her heart and found greater success as a young, single mother living in a new place. I know she was afraid, but she did not let fear stop her. I hope I can continue to listen to my heart, ask for support when I need it and trust those around me when moving into new and perhaps intimidating places in my activism.

Finally, I am not a public transit person, I would rather take a taxi or Lyft my way around a city. My family calls me a bit high maintenance (who me?), but they indulge me. My girlfriends felt that the subway was part of the NYC experience and was considerably cheaper to utilize. Initially, I thought I was in for a long week, but once I saw it as an adventure, it became more fun. We laughed together when we scrambled onto the wrong subway, realized we were going the wrong way and had to jump off before the doors closed on us. The longer rides gave me an opportunity to catch up with my friends, and those are precious moments I might never have had. In the end, I learned that attitude is everything.

I believe that no matter where we are, who we are or how old we are, we can learn things that make us better human beings. And as that thought entered my mind, I heard Carole King singing, “You’ve got to get up every morning with a smile in your face and show the world all the love in your heart. Then people gonna treat you better... You’re gonna find, yes you will, that you’re beautiful, as you feel...”

*Marsha Aizumi is an advocate in the LGBT community 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

### ‘Show, Don’t Tell’

By Matthew Ormseth

The longer I work in journalism, the more I respect people of action who are less inclined to talk about what they’re doing and more inclined to do and let others (me) do the talking. As a reporter, I’m constantly asking: How much publicity should I give people? Are they blowing hot air, or are their words sincere? And it’s why we, as a profession, have swallowed and subsist on the old adage of “show, don’t tell.”

Show a reader, through a detail that reveals something of a subject’s personality, who that subject is, rather than simply air a quote in which he or she talks about his or her own self.

And it’s why we’re always hesitant to give sources page space to promote themselves — if that self-promotion cannot be substantiated in actions and facts, if all they ever do is tell and never show, then giving them that page space verges on unethical.

And something I’ve seen in people my age — the 20- and 30-somethings — is a complete disavowal of action that is

taken to be an action in itself.

Rejecting people’s attempts to affect change, writing them off as self-interested, or bigoted, or capitalistic, or — worst of all the nonsense words leaned on so heavily in academia — problematic, has become for some people an alternative for taking action itself. Or worse yet — it is being mistaken for action.

Writing off people’s real efforts to *do*, and raining criticism from Tweet decks and message boards, has substituted the act of doing for so many of my generation.

It is so easy to reject stances as flawed, shortsighted or uninformed; it is much harder to adopt a stance as your own, and apply it to the world.

I see people whose entire being seems to subsist on rejecting others’ values. I see entire organizations founded on something no less flimsy than a condemnation of all beliefs other than their own — except they have no beliefs. There is a vacuum at their core.

Perhaps this is a symptom of the environment in which my peers and I came of age.

As a liberal, I was acutely aware that my similarly liberal

world trembled on a tripwire, straining to go off should I take one wayward step, make one ill-thought-out comment that might be construed as insensitive or patriarchal or classist.

And I’m not saying that that sensitivity is wrong — I believed, and still believe, you should always consider the effect of your words on the people around you.

But I think that sensitivity made it far more appealing, and less fraught, to retreat from taking a stance on anything, and retire to the shooting gallery to take pot shots at people less sensitive, less compassionate, less paralyzed by self-awareness.

And in that environment, mocking the cretins who, unlike us, were not attuned to the world and the reverberations of their words within it, became far easier. And somewhere along the way, we mistook that contempt for action. We have not moved since.

But now, as a journalist, I see how vacuous that world is. A world of liberal flamethrowers what criticizes other liberals for their insufficiently liberal qualifications.

A world in which men writing books construed as tinged with patriarchy is worse than no books being written at all. Is that where we’re headed?

Are we headed toward a world so paralyzed by self-awareness that nothing is done or created? I hope not.

Us journalists would have nothing to write about: nothing to show and nothing worth telling.

*Matthew Ormseth is a graduate of Cornell University. He is a Yonsei, a hapa, a Millennial and a journalist.*



## FDR Presidential Library and Museum Set to Unveil Special Exhibit

A special reception of 'Close-ups of Time Forgotten: The WSU Hirahara Photos Created in a Secret World War II Underground Darkroom' featuring Patti Hirahara will be held on Oct. 12.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF PATTI HIRAHARA



**HYDE PARK, N.Y.** — The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum is pleased to present "Close-ups of Time Forgotten: The WSU Hirahara Photos Created in a Secret World War II Underground Darkroom" with Patti Hirahara on Oct. 12 in the Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home.

Attendees are also invited to view the Roosevelt Library's new special exhibit "Images of Internment: The Incarceration of Japanese Americans During World War II" following the program.

Trevor James Bond, co-director of the Center for Digital Scholarship and Curation and associate dean for digital initiatives and special collections at the Washington State University Libraries, will introduce the WSU George and Frank C. Hirahara Collection and its donor, Patti Hirahara of Anaheim, Calif., the last-born descendant of the Hirahara family in the U.S. and a third-generation photographer.

Hirahara will present and discuss some of the most iconic photos in the collection while exploring the efforts of two extraordinary men in her family who documented their lives as Japanese Americans incarcerated at Heart Mountain.

Patti Hirahara's unique family story of how her grandfather, George Hirahara, built a secret photo darkroom and miniphotostudio under his family's barrack apartment 15-9-A in Heart Mountain, Wyo., and produced a collection of more than 2,000 photographs is relatively unknown.

From 1943-45, George Hirahara and his high school-aged son, Frank C. Hirahara, took and processed what is considered to be the largest private collection of photos taken at this Japanese American concentration camp.

Being in America since 1907 from Wakayama Prefecture in Japan, three generations of Patti Hirahara's family came from

Yakima, Wash., where her grandfather ran the Pacific Hotel before his family's incarceration during WWII.

The Hirahara family, while in Heart Mountain, ordered their camera equipment and supplies from the Montgomery Ward and Sears Roebuck mail order catalogs.

In 2010, Patti Hirahara donated her grandfather and father's Heart Mountain photographs to Washington State University, Frank Hirahara's alma mater. A National Park Service grant a year later funded the collection's digitization and preservation, giving the public access to the documented weddings, cultural events, sports, funerals and more that took place under barged wire and the watchful eyes of guards.

Since then, the collection's images have been part of groundbreaking projects delving into the history of the Japanese American incarceration during WWII. These have included the Emmy Award-winning documentary "Witness: The Legacy of Heart Mountain," co-produced by ABC7 Los Angeles Eyewitness News anchor David Ono and Emmy Award-winning TV editor and videographer Jeff MacIntyre, and "Allegiance," a Broadway musical inspired by the personal experiences of actor George Takei.

**Registration for the free reception at 6 p.m. and program at 7 p.m. is required. To register, visit [www.fdrlibrary.org](http://www.fdrlibrary.org). For more information about the exhibit and special event, email [Clifford.laube@nara.gov](mailto:Clifford.laube@nara.gov).**



Photographs taken in Heart Mountain during World War II by George and Frank C. Hirahara are featured in the exhibit "Close-ups of Time Forgotten: The WSU Hirahara Photos Created in a Secret World War II Underground Darkroom."

## Tule Lake Committee Seeks Public's Help in Saving Portion of Tule Lake Site

**T**ule Lake Committee is asking for the public's help to save the historic Tule Lake concentration camp and segregation center site from destruction. The Tule Lake concentration camp is located in Modoc County in Northern California and is recognized as the infamous segregation center where Japanese Americans who protested the mass incarceration during World War II were punished for speaking out.

Modoc County recently sent out notices requesting public "comment" on the airport fence it sought to construct over the past decade to close off the airport that occupies two-thirds of the concentration camp site.

In July 2014, the Tule Lake Committee filed a lawsuit seeking Modoc County's compliance with environmental laws, and for the past three years, has been engaged in discussions about the airport with Modoc County, including settling the lawsuit.

However, Modoc County has recently issued Notices of Public Scoping and requests for comment, indicating its plans to build the fence.

The Tule Lake Committee is asking for the public's assistance in responding to the county's request for comments, either via letter or email. "Tulelake Airport Perimeter Fence Project" should be listed in the subject line, in addition to one's name and physical address. Submissions should be sent to Mitch Crosby, Modoc County Road Commissioner, 202 W. Fourth St., Alturas, CA 96101 or email [mitchcrosby@comodoc.ca.us](mailto:mitchcrosby@comodoc.ca.us).

The deadline for public comments is Oct. 10 at 5 p.m. The public notices are posted at [www.comodoc.ca.us/departments/airports](http://www.comodoc.ca.us/departments/airports).

**To see comments regarding the Stop the Fence issue, visit [www.change.org/tulelake](http://www.change.org/tulelake).**

## JACL SUBMITS AMICUS BRIEF TO SCOTUS IN OPPOSITION TO MUSLIM TRAVEL BAN

**M**ore than 70 years ago, the Japanese American Citizens League was compelled to submit amicus curiae briefs in the Hirabayashi, Yasui, and Korematsu cases to defend Japanese Americans convicted of violating orders that led to the imprisonment of almost 120,000 innocent people.

The organization once again submitted a brief on Sept. 19 in support of the respondents' plaintiffs in the case of *Trump v. International Refugee Assistance Program* and *Trump v. the State of Hawaii*, more commonly known as the Travel Ban. The brief is available for download on the JACL website ([www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org)).

JACL joins the Hirabayashi, Yasui and Korematsu families in drawing attention to the historical parallels between the Trump travel ban and what was done to the Japanese American community during World War II.

This serves as an opportunity for the court to learn from its past error in judgment to ensure the preservation of the civil rights of a minority group in the face of infringement from the executive branch.

In the JACL's original amicus brief in the Hirabayashi case, it noted that it was speaking "for all the minority racial groups in this country who may be the next victims

of similar discrimination resulting from war or other prejudices and hysterias, and for the preservation of civil rights for all."

JACL National President Gary Mayeda notes that "those next victims are today's Muslim community, and today, we share our story so

that it does not become their story."

In the wake of Sept. 11, this country made a clear determination that it would not fall into the same trap of scapegoating the Muslim community.

President George W. Bush noted that the country could not do to today's Muslims what was done to Bush's Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta during World War II.

Sadly, our government's action shows it has forgotten the example of Sec. Mineta as one among more than 120,000 Japanese Americans wrongfully imprisoned.

JACL was represented in preparation of the brief by a team led by former U.S. Solicitor General and Duke Law professor Walter Dellinger.

"The resonance between the two cases should caution the Court to apply careful and meaningful scrutiny to whether there is



**>> See JACL on page 16**



## 2017 JACL National Scholarship Winners

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

**'The JACL is a multigenerational, multicultural and national organization. As a result, the JACL has to find a balance in the differing views of its members. Do you feel the JACL represents you in a way relevant to today's society?**

**If yes, please elaborate and cite examples. If not, what should the JACL do differently?'**

**Editor's Note:** All student responses reflect those that were submitted to the P.C. by the respective JACL Scholarship Committees.

### FRESHMAN



#### Martha Castro

**JACL Chapter:** Berkeley/  
Diablo Valley

**Recipient of the Mr. and Mrs.  
Takashi Moriuchi Scholarship**  
Pomona College

#### Notables

Martha Castro was a Science Olympiad veteran who carved out time to give back to her community while balancing a wide variety of other extracurricular activities. She was a leader at her local women's shelter, co-editor of her school's newspaper and she volunteered at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital. At the same time, she stayed active with the Buddhist Church of Oakland as the Jr. YBA vp, was a varsity member of her school's cross-country team and swim team and played the bassoon in her school's orchestra and chamber groups.

#### Personal Statement

"I believe that the JACL represents me and my opinions well in this current day and age. I've received the monthly *Pacific Citizen*, visited the JACL's website and talked with other Japanese Americans since I became a member over a year ago and have heard a lot about what the JACL represents and supports in today's society.

"I've always found the articles in the *Pacific Citizen* extremely interesting, as they almost always pertain to a current issue that I'm committed to. One column, 'A Yonsei Transplanted,' especially appeals to me because the author, Matthew Ormseth, speaks from a point of

view very similar to mine. He, like me, is a young Yonsei experiencing a very different world than that in which our parents grew up.

"I also enjoy reading other articles in the [newspaper], the most recent concerning the issue of racism toward Muslims and a Muslim registry with the election of our new president. I find articles like these to be particularly interesting and meaningful to me because they relate both to current politics and events in the country and to important social issues surrounding other minority groups.

"I believe that awareness of these matters is crucial for people living in this country today and that JACL is doing an excellent job of educating its members about current affairs and how they relate to all Japanese Americans.

"In my opinion, the JACL brings together Japanese Americans of all ages by bringing awareness to the common thread that holds us all together: our immigrant past and the struggles that our grandparents and great-grandparents faced during [World War II].

"The JACL seeks to engage its youngest members with articles written by people of our own generation and succeeds tremendously. It seeks justice for minority groups that are threatened in similar ways as Japanese Americans were 75 years ago, and supports those in need, both locally and nationally."



#### John Conklin

**JACL Chapter:** Sonoma County  
**Recipient of the Henry and Chiyo  
Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship**

#### University of Chicago

#### Notables

Heavily involved in his local JACL chapter, John Conklin serves as a board member and the vp of civil rights and public affairs. He also maintains the chapter's website and volunteers at various events, such as Maturi festivals, mochitsuki and teriyaki barbecues. Conklin is also an experienced clarinetist, having played with many orchestras. In addition to these activities, he balanced his time as co-captain of his school's Mock Trial Team and fencing team.

#### Personal Statement

"My initial attractions to the JACL were its charitable and Japanese culture activities. I enjoyed volunteering to help raise funds for a variety of causes and help out at the Maturi Festival in Santa Rosa each year. In addition to helping my community, these activities allowed me to spend a considerable amount of time with many of the older members of the Sonoma County Chapter. These members really took me under their wing and immediately made me feel a part of the chapter [and] also a part of the larger Japanese American community.

"Once a member of the JACL, I began to have opportunities to satisfy my [Japanese culture] curiosity. Just by helping to prepare and set up for the many pancake breakfasts and teriyaki barbecues, I began to learn about Japanese culture and history by listening to the older members tell stories and reminisce.

"During high school, I became more and more interested in politics and civil rights. There, too, the JACL offered opportunities to explore these interests. As a member of the JACL Sonoma County Board of Directors, I have been able to propose for discussion new projects for furthering the JACL's mission of promoting civil rights for all Americans.

"Unfortunately, the average age of [JACL's] membership is climbing, and new blood is needed to keep

the JACL relevant for future generations. As a result, I believe that the JACL must increasingly focus its efforts on promoting civil rights for all Americans in order to appeal to these new generations.

"However, in order for this to happen, the JACL needs to survive. It needs to reach out to potential new members who, perhaps, are more 'American' than Japanese. I truly hope to see this metamorphosis as I continue my involvement with the JACL during college and beyond."



#### Kristen Fukunaga

**JACL Chapter:** Lodi

**Recipient of the Mr. and Mrs.  
Takashi Moriuchi Scholarship**

**The University of California,  
Los Angeles**

#### Notables

Kristen Fukunaga channeled her enthusiasm and passion for the environment by volunteering for events such as the City of Lodi Coastal Cleanup and serving as the Tokay High School Go Green Club's president. Her xeriscaping and beautification efforts can be seen around Lodi. As president of the NorCal Science and Technology Festival, Fukunaga was a pivotal leader of the student-led STEAM festival.

#### Personal Statement

"Okage sama de. I am who I am because of the legacy of those who came before me, who fought for the rights of Japanese American citizens and influenced me in unimaginable ways. This bravery and passion rooted in organizations like the Japanese American Citizens

League for the cause of human civil rights inspire me to embrace my individuality and the diversity of those around me. The JACL's resilient efforts and role in society continue to impact generations of Japanese Americans and represents a vital component of my identity and values that define who I am and aspire to become.

"I am Vietnamese, Japanese, French and American all at once, embracing my mixed heritage through a variety of means, from celebrating New Year's Eve in February to participating in annual mochitsuki's in December. As a result, growing up I was able to experience a fusion of cultures that showed me the importance of diversity in providing multiple perspectives and creating a more dynamic environment. In light of recent events, many individuals have wrongly manifested their fear of extremist terrorist groups through racist actions, including religious profiling, violent hate crimes and verbal harassment, yet the JACL has shown undeniable support toward Muslim and Arab communities, recognizing the importance of preserving fundamental constitutional rights and the true value of diversity.

"The JACL's actions not only reflect my cultural heritage and belief in the importance of diversity, but they also represent my background and position on immigration. Immigrants shouldn't be treated as outsiders or viewed as a threat but should be recognized as an essential part of our history, adding value to our communities by providing skills, introducing us to different cultures and reminding us of the importance of tolerance. The JACL has expressed similar sentiments in their protests against recent immigration bans and through their voice, they are not only representing my beliefs and my family's backgrounds, but also the voices of thousands of others who have ever felt victimized because of their race or culture."







### Amelia Claire Huster

**JACL Chapter:** Berkeley  
**Recipient of the Mr. & Mrs. Takashi Moriuchi Scholarship**  
**The University of California, Santa Cruz**

#### Notables

Community activism is the cornerstone of Amelia Huster's volunteerism. Many youth are content to observe local activities, but Huster embraces and possesses the self-motivation to tackle any challenge. From volunteering at Food Banks to educating children with the Berkeley Fire Departments, traversing San Francisco to Placer, teaching kids how to cook and writing articles for the *Pacific Citizen*, Huster has evolved into an impressive youth advocate. Her love of the JACL principles guided her to the National Convention in Washington, D.C. in July. Inspired by the convention platforms and activities, Huster aspires to continue her role with the Berkeley JACL. She hopes to continue her commitment to the ideals of the JACL by attending next year's convention in Philadelphia.

#### Personal Statement

"Choosing to be a member of the Berkeley JACL is one of the most influential decisions of my life. I feel that the JACL represents my culture and heritage, and being a member of the JACL has made me feel close to this culture. Attending events that I wouldn't have heard about without the JACL like the Day of Remembrance, an event to remember the internment and honor those who went through it, has allowed me to learn more about my family's past.

"While the JACL has connected me with my Japanese roots, it has also allowed me to become more involved in civil rights. Through the JACL, I have been able to write numerous articles on current events such as the 2017 election, I have been able to attend community meetings that focused on how different marginalized groups can support each other and I was even given the chance to write and deliver a post election speech in Japantown.

"I have learned that anyone can take ignorance and turn it into understanding through education. I will never be able to put into words how fortunate I feel to be a part of an organization that represents not only my family, culture and heritage, but also that I feel proud

to say I am a member of because I know that they will be on the right side of history, advocating for the civil rights of all people. The mix of Japanese cultural expression and civil engagement is why I feel the JACL represents me and who I am."



### Megan Kawakami

**JACL Chapter:** Clovis  
**Recipient of the Paul & Katherine Ohtaki Memorial Scholarship**  
**The University of California, Berkeley**

#### Notables

Listing an impressive collection of math competition placements, National Honor Society and CSF leadership positions, one can easily see why Megan Kawakami aspires to become an electrical engineer. Following in her father's footsteps, she chose electrical engineering as her major, in addition to computer science. Kawakami reflected on how both areas of studies are very intriguing with a broad range of applications that all benefit society. An accomplished pianist, she accompanies the Chinese Choir, Fresno Buddhist Temple choir and has participated in the California Music Educator's Association Solo and Ensemble Evaluations. Her community involvement in the Clovis JACL, Clovis Japanese Cultural School, scouting, Fresno YBA and the Central California YBA exhibit her desire to be connected to her cultural roots. And Kawakami's involvement with her local DOR programs, exhibits and receptions have heightened her desire to expand her knowledge of her Japanese American heritage.

#### Personal Statement

"As a Japanese American citizen, I am very proud of my culture. I believe that diversity is the heart of America and the key to success. I have helped to facilitate a leadership camp for 250 campers of different ethnic or financial backgrounds, different co-curricular involvement and different schools; this experience helped me to understand the importance of working with people from different backgrounds to obtain a variety of perspectives and build stronger relationships. I believe the JACL represents me to help in my pursuit to uphold my culture and sustain diversity.

"JACL both supports and motivates me in my efforts to preserve

Japanese culture. At my high school, I led the (Japanese) Club to volunteer at the Japanese Shinzen Gardens, travel to the S.F. Japantown and attend our local Obon festival and food bazaar. At our monthly meetings, I helped teach the club about Japanese language and practices. The efforts of JACL were an influence on my actions.

"I participated in a History Day competition, and I entered with a project publicizing the injustice of the Internment camps during World War II. While volunteering at the Day of Remembrance events and 9066 exhibitions, I have seen how JACL works to promote equality and social justice, mirroring my views and concerns.

"I think that JACL has represented not only myself but also every minority in our nation to uphold our liberties and speak out for justice."



### Derek Morimoto

**JACL Chapter:** South Bay  
**Recipient of the Deni & June Uejima Memorial Scholarship**  
**The University of California, Berkeley**

#### Notables

Derek Morimoto's impressive list of academic honors that includes the National Honor Society, AP Scholars with Honors and West High School CSF Tutoring Coordinator depicts his solid academic base to successfully navigate the UC Berkeley Electrical Engineering program. Morimoto amazed his West High School counselor Yoko Druten by making the curriculum look easy while also performing with the Advanced Band/Wind Ensemble and competing on the tennis team throughout high school. Perhaps more representative of Morimoto as a young man is characterized through his community service and Eagle Scout achievements. He earned his Eagle Scout award in the troop his Ojii-chan founded after the war. Many of Morimoto's activities unearthed local family history, fostering a desire to continue his family's legacy for future generations to understand and appreciate. His award-winning essay for the Go For Broke Essay contest is a testament to his *gaman* in working to preserve all that his grandparents endured and rebuilt for his generation to explore and enjoy.

#### Personal Statement

"Forcibly removed from his home along with 120,000 other Japanese American citizens, stripped of his rights and forced to live behind barbed wire during World War II, Ojii-chan endured much fear and intolerance. He later returned to Los Angeles, where he helped to re-establish Little Tokyo and rebuild their community. Ojii-chan believed in creating a community to foster a culture that endures for generations. Similar to Ojii-chan, I feel that the JACL represents our Asian Pacific American community to maintain our civil liberties and promote cultural diversity and equality for all people.

"Twenty-five years after President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, I participated in a flag ceremony at the Ronald Reagan Library with my Boy Scout Troop. I realized that his national apology and recognition of injustice would not have been possible without the JACL.

"I also served as a liaison to West High School's CSF and Interact Club, helping to organize volunteers for the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute events. As a board member for both school clubs, I [had] the opportunity to expose our members, representing a diverse group of cultures, to our Japanese culture. I carry on JACL's mission to inform and pass on the Japanese American culture and history. By sharing our cultures with others, we can bridge the diversity gap."



### Christopher Okamoto

**JACL Chapter:** Mount Olympus  
**Recipient of the Henry and Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship**  
**Colorado School of Mines**

#### Notables

A distinguished athlete, Christopher Okamoto played varsity basketball all four years of high school while also competing in DECA Business and Marketing competitions and staying involved with his local church. As the president of his Youth Buddhist Assn., he leads his peers in various volunteer activities and enjoys exploring the relevance of Buddhism in every life.

#### Personal Statement

"Although I believe that the JACL represents me to a good extent, I believe that there is still room for improvement, particularly in regards

to the youth members. As a high school student, I don't feel as represented as the other factions in the JACL such as the Nisei or Sansei.

"Currently, there are very few national programs like the JACL Youth Legacy Program that are inclusive of high school students. The primary opportunities where high school members can participate are with their local chapters, the youth leadership summits and the National JACL conventions.

"Although these are all valuable opportunities, I believe the JACL can better represent high school students by allowing high school members to participate in these national youth programs. High school students are perfectly capable and mature enough to engage in these programs. Furthermore, these programs will provide phenomenal lifetime learning experiences for the high school students, as it does for college students.

"This change is also beneficial in that high school students would have more opportunities to attend JACL events if their schedules prevent them from participating in other ones. For instance, I wasn't able to attend the JACL National Convention in [Las Vegas] last year because of a baseball showcase. Having more programs open to high school students provides them with more opportunities to engage with the world they live in and prepare them to be knowledgeable and active U.S. citizens in the future.

"The JACL is very effective in promoting a more just and equal society for all. The JACL is not only active and incessant in its endeavors, but it keeps its members informed and engaged in pursuit of the same goal. Nonetheless, I believe they can improve by better representing youth members, particularly high school students, by providing more programs for them to participate in.

"It will better prepare them for the world ahead and increase their awareness of the importance of civil rights. The JACL is a valuable organization, and its success is instrumental in promoting a better society for today and the future."



### Michelle Oshita

**JACL Chapter:** Stockton  
**Recipient of the Hanayagi Rokumie Memorial Cultural Scholarship**







**University of the Pacific  
Notables**

Michelle Oshita was captain of the Science Olympiad in her senior year at Tokay High School and was a 12-time regional medalist and a five-time state medalist. Oshita also played JV/varsity badminton and varsity golf. Since she was very young, Oshita attended yearly JACL picnics and volunteered at many JACL events. She is active with the Stockton Buddhist Temple Young Buddhist Assn. and has served in many leadership positions. Oshita excels in *nihon buyo* (Japanese Classical dance) and has been dancing since 2009.

**Personal Statement**

"As two high school student sections cheer in an intense league basketball game, one of Tokay High School's elite senior basketball players steps up to the free throw line after he acquired two free throws from a foul. As he makes his shot, the positive support from the home team is soon drowned out by chants of 'USA, USA' from the opposing team.

"Many of Tokay High's students, myself included, grew silent and stunned from these racial taunts toward one of our own Pakistani students. This muteness, however, soon grew into shouts of fury against these discriminatory remarks. The story and demand for apology was soon heard throughout the city of Lodi and Tri City Athletic League, which consists of high school teams throughout the greater Stockton region of Northern California. Many students turned to Twitter to inform others about the appalling event, but Pakistani students made it well known that this was nothing new.

"This seemingly miniscule event on a worldly scale reflects the discriminatory attitudes toward Syrian refugees in national politics today. President Donald Trump divided the country even further with his controversial travel ban.

"Americans seem to be reversing any social equality improvement in the country, which President Barack Obama and other preceding presidents worked tirelessly for. If this issue continues to persist and we do not welcome Syrian refugees with open arms, our future may be destined to parallel the times of World War II and Japanese internment camps.

"The JACL's commitment to acting upon hate crimes across the country embodies my own belief and desire for social equality for Japanese Americans and all minority groups in America today.

"I completely support the JACL's call for a Syrian refugee resettlement program and know that respect for diversity can piece together our disunited nation."



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

**Notables**

With her pursuit of an International Baccalaureate Diploma, Alexandra Ridge's scope of activities also reflects an air of international flavor. She not only qualified as a semifinalist for the World Languages Sterling Scholar program at Skyline High School but also has dedicated time to providing Braille resources for visually impaired children. Approximately 100 children's books were modified with the addition of typed braille by her Braille Resources to Visually Impaired Children group and donated to children in Florida. Although she expands her studies to the University of Utah, Alexandra intends to remain active within her Salt Lake City JACL community. For the past seven years, her family has hosted an exchange student through the two-week Matsumoto Sister City exchange program. Ridge has assisted her JACL with many JACL Matsumoto Sister City picnics. Looking into her future, Ridge hopes participate in the Kakehashi Project to further broaden her appreciation of her Japanese heritage. She also desires to continue the tradition of being closely connected to the Matsumoto Sister City exchange program in order to afford future generations an important cultural connection to their Japanese heritage.

**Personal Statement**

"I feel that the Japanese American Citizens League functions differently depending on the area one lives in; for example, some chapters are more active than others. In my community, the presence of the JACL seems limited to an extent. Culture and heritage is an important factor in influencing involvement in an organization such as the JACL. The JACL can perhaps implement informational meetings or conferences about the topic of self-identification, especially when it comes to stereotypes, mixed Asians and Japanese Americans that feel very disjointed with their Japanese culture. Being a sixth-generation Japanese (American), I personally would love to know more about where I come from.

"I especially believe that there

should be more involvement and opportunities for young members to appreciate their heritage, work together in volunteer positions and spread awareness about political activeness. International affairs within the JACL are important to the organization.

"I find that making connections with my previous Japanese exchange students (have) developed our understandings of each other's cultures and societies. There should be ample opportunity for the interaction of Japanese and Japanese American students."



**Trey Sano**  
**JACL Chapter: Fresno**  
**Recipient of the Paul & Katherine Ohtaki Memorial Scholarship**  
**University of the Pacific**

**Notables**

A passion for science inspired Trey Sano's path to the University of the Pacific's accelerated Dentistry Program. He desires a career through which he can give back to his community. Sano expressed great appreciation toward Mrs. Hanada (Fresno JACL) for mentoring him to become more active within his chapter and the Central California District. Although Mrs. Hanada may have called upon him to serve his community, ultimately, Sano's commitment to the JACL ideals led him to be an exemplary youth member. He is also a youth minister's assistant for the Fresno Betsuin Buddhist Temple. Sano finds these two area organizations have a great symbiotic relationship as he sees "many principles of the JACL and Jodo Shinshu Buddhism go hand-in-hand." Rev. Hamasaki noted Sano's charisma and organizational skills shined as he led meetings of the Central California Jr. YBA. Sano's caring leadership qualities will undoubtedly carry him through his studies and back to the community he so heartedly desires to serve.

**Personal Statement**

"I joined the Japanese American Citizens League in the summer of 2014. As a member of the JACL, I understand what the JACL stands for and the ideals it expresses as a national civil rights advocacy organization. Initially, I believed that the JACL was an organization that advocated issues to benefit only people of Japanese descent. However, I have come to realize that the JACL

advocates for all who are affected by injustice and prejudice. For this reason, I believe that the JACL represents me significantly.

"I believe the issue today is the overgeneralization of everything. Almost everyone is guilty of it. When someone is ignorant, they begin to assume and overgeneralize. Many people are unfamiliar of Islam, so when they hear that terrorists follow that religion, they automatically assume that Muslims are all terrorists or have a higher probability of being one.

"As a Buddhist, I often deal with people who are unfamiliar with my religion and therefore, choose to not respect or understand it. In Buddhism, we are taught to respect all religions and individuals regardless of their history or beliefs. I'm a strong advocate of this idea and believe in the fair treatment of all individuals. I know the JACL also supports this belief and does [everything possible] in seeing [fair treatment for all] come to fruition."



**Halle Sousa**  
**JACL Chapter: San Jose**  
**Recipient of the Sam & Florice Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship**  
**The University of California, San Diego**

**Notables**

Halle Sousa was a member of the International Thespian Society at Notre Dame High School and served as the student music director. She also participated in the Girl Scout program for 13 years and earned the Bronze Award. During the summer of 2016, Sousa was a community high school intern for the University of Denver Amache summer field school. Through this program, she was able to do research at the site of her grandfather's incarceration. She then built on this summer experience through the Digital Storytelling Project with the National Japanese Memorial Foundation and created a documentary. Although a relatively new member of JACL, Sousa plans to become involved in the near future.

**Personal Statement**

"The JACL and I are similar in that we have both widened our spectrum of awareness to different social issues. For example, despite initially being concerned solely with the affairs of Japanese Americans, the JACL has succeeded in expand-

ing its civil rights agenda since its establishment in 1929.

"Now advocating for the rights of same-sex couples, immigration reform and multiethnic marriages in addition to its original mission, I believe that the transformation of the JACL reflects the personal journey that I have made in high school. My personal agenda and that of the JACL have evolved so that they are relevant to the needs of today's society, and I believe that this makes us all the more likely to contribute to positive change in the future.

"The League's original mission, to advocate for the rights of the Japanese American community, was very similar to the initial purpose behind my school service project. My goal had been to teach others about this important part of history (incarceration of Japanese Americans), but in light of the current political climate, I have also identified the purpose of my project as preventing history from repeating itself. Recent federal actions have prompted both of us to take a stand and teach others about the importance of learning from our mistakes. We are called to embrace those outside of the Japanese American community in order to achieve a brighter future.

"The Japanese American Citizens League and I have both taken our own steps toward progress, and now it is time for the United States of America to do the same."



**Junko Taniguchi**  
**JACL Chapter: Berkeley**  
**Recipient of the CWO4 Mitsugi Murakami Kasai Memorial Scholarship**  
**Smith College**

**Notables**

Junko Taniguchi was on the varsity swim team at Lowell High School and team captain during her senior year. She also participated in open-water swimming and placed first in the open-water swim from Angel Island to Tiburon. In addition, Taniguchi was a participant in the Takahashi Youth Ambassador Fellowship Program and received several Certificates of Recognition from legislators, and she earned the Girl Scout Bronze and Silver Awards from the Buddhist Church of San Francisco. The JACL has been a large presence in her life, as she has attended many spaghetti crab feeds and other fund-







raisers. More recently, Taniguchi volunteered at events where JACL was a sponsor, such as the 75th anniversary of the Military Intelligence Service put on by NJAHS and the Day of Remembrance program.

#### Personal Statement

"As a fourth-generation Japanese American, I strongly feel that the JACL represents my responsibility to speak out when injustices happen. Because of the work that generations before me did, I can live a comfortable life, and I don't have to worry about fighting for my rights as a Japanese American.

"However, in today's political environment where many other people's rights are being infringed upon right before our eyes, and after learning about the struggle that Japanese Americans have faced in American history, I feel that it is my responsibility to speak up for other Americans and be a supporting voice.

"In January, I had the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C., to participate in the Women's March and bring to the new administration the issues that I care about, such as women's, LGBTQ, minority and immigrants' rights. The JACL has a long history of doing just that — supporting other groups fighting for civil rights — and that is something

I admire and wish to continue in the future.

"On a smaller scale, the JACL represents an organization that will help preserve Japanese American Culture in the U.S. As a Takahashi Youth Ambassador, I researched my family history and learned to appreciate and value my Japanese American heritage. In order to build a stronger sense of community, we researched and presented a tour of Japantown that included personal stories and historic sites. I feel an increasing responsibility to protect Japanese American culture in the U.S., especially in San Francisco's Japantown."



#### Kiana Tsudama

**JACL Chapter:** Fresno  
**Shigeki 'Shake' Ushio Memorial Scholarship**  
**The University of California, Los Angeles**  
**Notables**

Kiana Tsudama was on her high school cheer team and competition cheer team for all four years. In her senior year, she was class president. Tsudama has been very active in the Central California Junior Young Buddhist Assn. and held many leadership positions. Since 2015, Kiana has been on the Fresno Shinzen Japanese Friendship Garden Tea House Restoration Team. Her JACL involvement has been as a volunteer at the Shinzen Run and a 9066 luncheon.

#### Personal Statement

"The continuous efforts of the JACL to protect Japanese Americans' interests and rights as well as those of other minorities have not been lost on me. There are immense amounts of negativity and tension between a myriad of people in America following the 2016 election. It was difficult to listen to the cheers of triumph from numerous people at my school and even from some of my close friends in the Japanese American community.

"The statement the JACL released succeeding the election results accurately reflects how I felt about the outcome; many of the JACL statements align with my perspective on many issues that arise in our society.

"Those statements provide a sense of comfort knowing not only

one person, but a group of people, share my views and are actively working to protect them. There is not much we can do to change the fact that [Donald Trump] is president. Therefore, it is imperative we unite and 'combat the forces of racism that have been emboldened by the campaign' (Bill Yoshino, 'JACL Statement on the Election of President-Elect Trump').

"Asian Americans have been repeatedly made fun of with horrible stereotypes. I have even experienced being the punch line of jokes and have been made fun of with stereotypes. The things I have heard include, 'Do you eat dog?' and 'Oh, you're just becoming a doctor because your parents want you to, right?'

"Normally, I would ignore the racist comments, but when I read the October/November JACL Digest, I saw how the Philadelphia JACL chapter combated the yellowface portrayal of Asians in Puccini's 'Turandot.' Seeing this encouraged me to properly address the ignorance I have experienced in the past and will experience in the future. It made me realize nothing will change unless someone takes action and stands up to the rising tide of discriminatory rhetoric no matter where it originates."



#### Andrew Yamashita

**JACL Chapter:** Contra Costa  
**Recipient of the Patricia & Gail Ishimoto Memorial Scholarship**  
**University of Washington, Seattle**  
**Notables**

Andrew Yamashita played the trumpet in the wind ensemble and jazz bands for four years at El Cerrito High School. He also spent 18 days in Nicaragua as a participant in Global Glimpse. Yamashita earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 2016 and participated in the World Jamboree in Yamaguchi-ken, Japan. For seven summers, he attended Daruma no Gakko, which is partially funded by JACL. Since 2015, Yamashita has been a Youth Minister Assistant for Jodo Shinshu Buddhism and has served the Berkeley Buddhist Temple.

#### Personal Statement

"One thing the JACL could do to better represent my generation



#### Congratulations

John Conklin  
on receiving the  
Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial  
Scholarship!

From Your Friends at Patient Terrier  
Vineyard (Harry and Frederick)



#### Greater L.A. JACL congratulates its scholarship recipients



Cole Masuno,  
Kaylin Kawada,  
Sydney Smanpongse,  
Chloe Masuda and  
Kyle Kawashiri



And GLA JACL congratulates all graduates!

#### Congratulations

MEGAN,

We are so very  
proud of you!  
Love, Dad, Mom  
& Emily



JAPANESE  
AMERICAN  
CITIZENS  
LEAGUE

SAN JOSE

JACL

congratulates

**HALLE SOUSA**

recipient of the  
Sam & Florice Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship

#### The Berkeley Chapter Congratulates Our 2017 National and Chapter Scholarship Recipients!

##### National Recipients

Freshman and  
chapter awardees:

- Martha Castro
- Amelia Huster
- Junko Taniguchi

Graduate Students:

- Jessica Kawamura
- Tara Umemoto



##### Chapter Recipients

- Hope Fa-Kaji
- Kelsey Hirota
- Rachel Hirota
- Kyra Kawamoto
- Mia Li
- Akira Roueche
- Cailyn Sakurai
- Toshio Steimetz
- Courtney Tamaki





is to do more to protect immigrants. In 2013, the organization supported a resolution to change immigration laws for Asian and Pacific Islanders, and while that is a step in the right direction, the JACL should be addressing immigration reform for a larger group than just Asian and Pacific Islanders.

"In particular, I think the JACL should ally itself with groups fighting for immigration rights for Mexicans. This is because our Japanese ancestors share a common struggle with them. The Immigration Act of 1924 banned Japanese immigration due to the anti-Japanese hysteria started by farmers angry at the success of the independent Issei farmers.

"While Asians have worked for over a century to create a more positive stereotype and abate the nativist fears that fueled segregation and hatred, that anger has now turned to the Mexicans.

"The topic that is most relevant to me today is the JACL's stance on marriage equality. JACL represents many different people and religions, but the fact that it supports gay marriage as an individual right stating that restricting it would violate protection from the constitution, shows me that religion and stereotypes played no part in determining the correct thing to do.

Additionally, being the second non-LGBTQ group to openly support gay marriage shows that the JACL is willing to act and stand for their values.

"Overall, the JACL stands for many of the issues I believe to be important, [but] there are things they could do to help more people and encourage more activity among its target demographic. Groups like the JACL are more necessary than ever, but they must continue to change and react if they are to stay relevant."

## UNDER-GRADUATES



**Kristen N. Cunningham**

**JACL Chapter: Seattle**

*Recipient of the Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship*

### Whitworth University

#### Notables

Kristen Cunningham is a hard-working student who loves to learn new things. She also intentionally seeks opportunities to serve her community. Since enrolling as a freshman last year, she has maintained a 4.0 GPA while studying mathematics and computer science. One of her community service projects is visiting high schools to help other students in their computer science classes. Cunningham is not easily discouraged and with just one semester of computer science, approached the project with full enthusiasm and an open attitude. She has fond memories of the JACL as a child tagging along with her mother to chapter board meetings. She remembers feeling really welcomed when she finally became a board member three years ago, sitting at the table to contribute to discussions on her own. In addition to volunteering for many JACL events and attending the National Convention, Cunningham participates in the chapter's annual Day of Remembrance trip to the state capitol to meet with legislators.

#### Personal Statement

"Throughout human history, people have been setting limits and rules for how others can live their lives. Only by abiding to these

rules can one be fully accepted into society. Most of these rules were to keep peace and balance, but they were also to keep power and influence. Due to this, many of the rules regulated racial hierarchy, racial equality, sexual orientation, gender equality and other noncontrollable variables.

"As our society has evolved, these restraints have been challenged, and some have been overturned. As generations pass, they are becoming more openly diverse as people have been able to break free from their individual oppression. Personally, I consider myself to be very diverse. Not only do I see myself as diverse because of my Japanese American heritage, but I also see myself as diverse because of my middle-class upbringing, my gender and my previous experiences, such as being in showband and visiting Japan.

"The reason I feel comfortable expressing everything that makes me different is because with each passing generation, differences are more widely accepted and embraced. This is the same reason that I feel as though the JACL represents me in a way relevant to today's society. It is the JACL's commitment to honor diversity and promote cultural, educational and social values that makes me aspire to do more to follow its lead and help however I can."



**Emerson Ford**

**JACL Chapter: Salt Lake City**  
*Recipient of the Dr. Thomas T. Yatabe Memorial Scholarship*  
**University of Utah**

#### Notables

Emerson Ford is majoring in computer science and achieving a 4.0 GPA. He was admitted to college and earned an Honors at Entrance Scholarship through 2020. He earned several scholarships in high school, won many Foreign Extemporaneous Speech competitions as a member of the debate team, was a National AP Scholar and graduated Magna Cum Laude. Ford is very active in college and community service, including freshmen ambassador board member for the Union Programming Council, student outreach leader for the Lassonde Institute and the New Student and Family Programs and member of the Asian American Student Assn. and the Japanese Cultural Assn. He volunteers for JACL commu-

### Salt Lake Chapter Board Congratulates our 2017 Chapter and National Scholarship Awardees



**Katie Iwamoto-Fukumitsu** - Salt Lake Chapter Scholarship  
**Ashlyn McBride** - Salt Lake Chapter Scholarship  
**Alexandra Ridge** - Salt Lake Chapter Scholarship & Paul and Katherine Ohtaki Memorial Scholarship  
**Emerson Ford** - Dr. Thomas T. Yatabe Memorial Scholarship



### Venice-West LA JACL Congratulates 2017 Scholarship Recipients

#### Masumi Asahi

Chiyo M. Hattori Memorial Scholarship  
National JACL - Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara  
Memorial Scholarship

#### Mariko Rooks

Jack Nomura Memorial High School  
Scholarship



### Congratulations Ventura JACL Scholarship Winners!

Chloe Bergan, Justin Kawaguchi,  
Jeni Kawate, Jason Kurohara,  
Allison Mitsuuchi, Brittney Sawai,  
Hana Sugioka, Emily Taketa, Claire Woolson  
National Scholarship Winner:  
Sophia Nakasone



**PORTLAND JACL**  
SUPPORTING CIVIL RIGHTS SINCE 1928

### Congratulations to our National JACL Scholarship Winners!

#### Weston Koyama

Thomas T. Hayashi Memorial Law Scholarship

#### Madeline Masog

Saburo Kido Memorial Scholarship

#### Joy Yuzuriha

Shigeru Nakahira Memorial Scholarship



快、おめでとう！

### Congratulations!

## KAI

We are very proud of you!  
Follow your dreams!  
Mom, Dad, & Kana





nity events and serves as one of two youth committee members for the Nihon Matsuri, the largest Japanese festival in Salt Lake City.

#### Personal Statement

"I feel as though JACL should increase youth recruitment, especially on college campuses. Having a strong college campus presence could substantially increase youth mobilization and solve all of these issues (culture disconnect and microaggressions).

"With a strong youth presence, JACL would get more input on the struggle that youth are facing today with ideas on how to combat it. Then by taking these ideas and encouraging their college youth to combat it, many Japanese American youth would feel more comfortable in their identity and would connect better with JACL. This would, in turn, strengthen the Japanese American identity among the youth. Additionally, this would have JACL become the solution in the 'cultural disconnect' struggle. Japanese American youth could come to JACL for a safe place to connect with their identity – while finding others who are doing the same."



#### Madeline Masog

**JACL Chapter: Portland**  
*Recipient of the Saburo Kido Memorial Scholarship*  
**Pacific University**

#### Notables

Madeline Masog is studying exercise science. She participated in the Kakehashi program in 2015 and is looking forward to sharing her experience with other Japanese American students wanting to learn more about their heritage. In addition to the National JACL scholarship, Masog received the Yoshiko Kennedy Scholarship, Ronald Reagan National Leadership Award, ELKS National Foundation Most Valuable Scholarship, Pacific University Honors Scholarship, Pacific University Talent Scholarship, Pacific University World Language Scholarship, Pacific University Forensic Talent Scholarship and Willamette University Merit Scholarship. She is very active in campus activities, including the Pacific University Symphonic Band, where she is a section leader clarinetist; Pacific University Japan Club; Pacific University Psychology Club; Pacific University Scholarship Club; Pacific

University Pacesetters CASBE Panel; and Pacific University Varsity Women's Rowing Team. Her community involvement includes Columbia County Fair and Rodeo, Portland Junior Winterhawks Youth Hockey Organization and Oregon SOLV Tsunami Response Team.

#### Personal Statement

"I am interested in medicine, more specifically, neurosurgical medicine. I find psychology quite interesting, and I thoroughly enjoy the study of languages. I am currently studying Japanese, which is my third language behind English and German. I have a strong interest in Japanese culture, U.S./Japan relations and I have set my sights on traveling to Japan to study Japanese language/culture more in-depth while teaching English to children before my college career is complete."



#### Bryce A. Mawhinney

**JACL Chapter: Mile High**  
*Recipient of the Alice Yuriko Endo Memorial Scholarship*  
**University of Colorado at Boulder**

#### Notables

Bryce Mawhinney will continue pursuing a degree in marketing, accounting and economics. 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 cuisine at the Fall Festival, learned the value of team work 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. In addition, he was 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

"While it is always refreshing to hear a variety of opinions, it's gratifying to read something you're familiar with and connect with right away. When I read Amelia Huster's (a high school student) speech that recounted stories her grandmother told her about discrimination

against Japanese American citizens (*Pacific Citizen* 2016 Holiday Issue), it instantly reminds me of the stories my own grandmother has told me. Living in Japan during World War II, she was luckily never imprisoned in an internment camp. However, she was still subjected to the widespread discrimination when she moved to America after the war. She's shared many stories with me about the difficulties of being a single mother and raising three daughters as a Japanese American immigrant.

"I think it's important for people like Amelia to demonstrate that this younger generation is educated about our history and isn't forgetting what our relatives sacrificed for us. Since the audience of this newspaper is multicultural and multigenerational, it's critical that we show everyone of all ages that we still appreciate the sacrifice and struggles our relatives endured so that we can live in a better world today."



#### Kako Annika Yamada

**JACL Chapter: New York**  
*Recipient of the Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship*  
**Emory University**

#### Notables

Kako Yamada will continue her studies majoring in political science and gender studies with a 4.0 GPA. Yamada's professor describes her as a "sponge" when it comes to learning and that she makes everyone in the class better than they ever thought they could be. Yamada was also selected this year as one of only 20 students in the "Who's Who Among Students in American

Universities and Colleges" for her outstanding scholarship, leadership and community involvement. This summer, she is participating in the Bard Globalization and International Relations program interning at organizations such as Amnesty International and the United Nations in New York City. She plans to study abroad in Tokyo next year and participate in a three-campus program to study comparatively in Japan, China, and South Korea to gain skills in and outside of the classroom to become a global leader.

#### Personal Statement

"I am 8 years old. I stand next to the shopping cart in the seafood corner of Stop & Shop. I am excited for the lobsters that I can take home and pet in the sink. 'And for you, ma'am?' Mama stands. It is our turn. I wait. Mama waits. A white lady orders. My Japanese American identity is one that I have struggled with for much of my life. From a young age, I was exposed to microaggressions and gulped like shards of broken glass what it meant to be a Japanese American woman. I share the difficulties experienced by many who do not fully belong in the United States nor Japan. Throughout my academic career, I felt lost and invisible in conversations of American History and Civil Rights Movements. However, I feel that I belong fully in the JACL. The JACL represents me so potently in today's society by placing the Japanese American identity into the discussion of these historic and current events."



Joy S. Yuzuriha

**JACL Chapter: Portland**  
*Recipient of the Shigeru Nakahira Memorial Scholarship*  
**Stanford University**

#### Notables

Joy Yuzuriha will begin her second year majoring in computer science and music with a 3.8 GPA. Her passion for much of her life has been music, especially instrumental performance and dance performance. Yuzuriha has discovered a way to combine her musical passion with her involvement in JACL through the Minidoka Swing Band, which teaches youth about the World War II imprisonment of Japanese Americans through the music of the era of incarceration. She became the youngest member of the band as a seventh grader, playing second tenor saxophone and serving as the band's youth ambassador. In 2015, Yuzuriha traveled with the band to Minamisoma and Fujisawa, Japan, to perform on the 70th anniversary of the incarceration and represent the Yonsei generation. Her ultimate goal in pursuing computer science and music is to integrate the two areas of study. Joy believes that both areas encompass the potential for boundless amounts of creativity and intellectual vitality, and she considers technology and the arts to be crucial components to a successful education.

#### Personal Statement

"My whole life, I have been reminded of my being a Yonsei, a fourth-generation Japanese American, and the sufferings and successes that preceded my current life in the United States. The opportunities and organizations that the JACL has offered me, both locally and nationally, have helped me remember my past, while allowing me to explore my passions that define who I am. As one of the JACL's missions is to 'promote and preserve the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American community,' I feel that this organization's goals are well-aligned with my own passions to remember the trials and tribulations that



Bryce Arai,

Congratulations on your scholarship!

We are so proud of you and what you've accomplished!

With Love,  
Mom, Dad, Connor, Paige and Baba





my ancestors had to endure and how the events of the past affect our society today.”

## GRADUATE



### Masumi Asahi

**JACL Chapter:** West Los Angeles

*Recipient of the Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship*  
**Western University of Health Sciences**

#### Notables

Masumi Asahi is a third-year medical student who plans to promote excellence in patient care and forward education through teaching in his career as a health professional. His teaching experience began at the University of California, Los Angeles, where he served as director of the university's Kyodo Taiko group. He also teaches a weekly taiko drumming class at the Koyasan Temple in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo. Asahi continues to expand his depth of knowledge by teaching first-year and second-year medical students alongside faculty and as a predoctoral teaching fellow. He currently volunteers for the Asian American Health Professions Student Assn. and for many free health clinics in the Los Angeles area. He also was a volunteer for the UCLA Nikkei Student Union and attended the Manzanar Pilgrimage as student volunteer. Asahi plans to continue volunteering to improve the lives of those in need and enrich and develop the culture of the surrounding community. Like a gardener who creates the right growing conditions, Asahi hopes to use his health professional degree to cultivate a culture of compassion while caring for the various fruits and flowers within the garden of his community.

#### Personal Statement

“Human rights are an important part of society and play an integral part in our lives as health-care providers. The modern version of the Hippocratic Oath adopted clauses from the Declaration of Geneva, which states that I will not use my medical knowledge to violate human rights and civil liberties, even under threat. The dharma of Buddha regards human rights as an extension of human nature. As a rising physician and member of the JACL, I will uphold these principles and

commit to a moral and ethical conduct in the service of my patients.”



### Mai Ichihara

**JACL Chapter:** Washington, D.C.

*Recipient of the Kenji Kajiwar Memorial Scholarship*  
**Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies**

#### Notables

Mai Ichihara is a graduate of George Washington University, where she received a degree in international affairs and earned cum laude honors. She was also on the Dean's List and was awarded the GW Service Excellence: Student Choice Award. Ichihara was also active in many campus organizations, including the Emerging Leaders Program, Kappa Phi Lambda Sorority, Japanese American Student Alliance, Asian Student Alliance, Global Language Network and Conference on Asian Pacific American Leadership. Her professional experience is equally as impressive. Ichihara was a senior program assistant for the Natural Resources Defense Council, associate producer for TV Asahi America and public diplomacy intern for the U.S. Department of State in the Office of Japanese and Korean Affairs. She also interned for the Study Abroad Foundation, White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and Sen. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.). Two years ago, she quit her job as a political news producer and committed to fight for environmental justice. Inspired by a faculty member's community activism, she became a community garden apprentice for Wangari Gardens, where she devoted every weekend to crop maintenance, hoping to improve food access for low-income neighborhoods. She also contributes climate change articles to an environmental blog and volunteers for a D.C. nonprofit to revitalize the city's urban green spaces. Ichihara lives by the credo of one of her civil servant heroes, the Hon. Norman Mineta: “As you use one hand to climb up the ladder of success, use the other hand to bring up others.”

#### Personal Statement

“As a child of immigrants, I was nurtured not in wealth but in grit, and I am grateful for this rugged upbringing that forged my core val-

ues like resilience and compassion. Nevertheless, I refuse to mollify the experience; it was disparaging to face barriers buttressed by my socioeconomic and minority status. My parents, in their naiveté, chased after the American dream to escape social conformity. In Japan, “The nail that sticks out gets hammered down,” but as immigrants in the U.S., they struggled with the language barrier, workplace discrimination and absence of proximate family support and professional network, all of which are disadvantages that trickled down to me. That is why organizations like the Japanese American Citizens League are indispensable to the empowerment of multicultural, multigenerational residents in the United States. JACL understands the unfair obstacles faced by minorities, and my only wish is for JACL to continue expanding its presence beyond the coasts and major cities. I was unaware of its resources growing up in Monument, Colo., and there are still countless victims of injustice who stand to benefit from JACL.”



### Jessica Kawamura

**JACL Chapter:** Berkeley  
*Recipient of the Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship*  
**Emory University**

#### Notables

Jessica Kawamura holds a degree in ethnic studies and public policy from Brown University as well as a master's degree in public policy from the University of California, Berkeley. She is currently a master of divinity candidate and serves on the Community and Diversity Committee of the Candler School of Theology. Other school service includes volunteering for the Candler Reconciling Ministries Student Group, Students of Color in Public Policy and Graduate Student Assembly at UC Berkeley and Asian American Students Assn. and Interfaith House at Brown University. During her time at Brown University, Kawamura also studied for a semester abroad at Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan. Her community service is also extensive. She is active in the National Japanese American United Methodist Caucus and the Atlanta Comfort Women Task Force. She previously volunteered for the Church of the Village United

Methodist Church, Asian Americans for Equality, Asian American Impact Fund Giving Circle, Homeless Children's Playtime Project and the Conference on Asian Pacific American Leadership. Kawamura feels a call to serve in the local church in the California Nevada Conference and in historic Japanese American congregations on the West Coast. She hopes to nurture spiritual formation and healing through the local church, growing congregations through community engagement and prophetic witness.

#### Personal Statement

“I feel there is opportunity for the JACL to be more prominent in dialogues about racial justice, particularly given the current political climate. For example, the JACL was not as engaged as it could have been, specifically in social media dialogue, around the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066. Perhaps if the National JACL is not already doing so, it could create resources and provide staff support for local chapters to further engage around issues including xenophobia, Islamophobia and the recent rise in hate crimes. We should purposefully engage in intersectional and anti-racist organizing. Most importantly, we should not be hesitant to speak out about social justice, even when issues are controversial. What my generation needs and want most is honest, open and courageous dialogue. We need spaces of gathering, healing and conversation rooted in our heritage and in our history, community that empowers us to go out to act for justice, honoring those who came before us.”



### Dilan D. Nakatomi

**JACL Chapter:** Sacramento  
*Recipient of the Railroad & Mineworkers Memorial Scholarship*  
**Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California**

#### Notables

Dilan Nakatomi earned a degree in psychobiology from the University of California, Los Angeles, where he made the Dean's Honor List three consecutive years and graduated cum laude in the top 20 percent of his class. He will begin medical school this fall with aspirations to become a pediatrician.

Nakatomi is a 2015 alumna of the Kakehashi program and a Sacramento JACL scholarship recipient. He is very active in his community, particularly as a leader for youth. His volunteer service includes head coach for the Sacramento Betsuin Church high school boys' basketball championship team and coach for the Sacramento Asian Sports Foundation summer league youth basketball program. Nakatomi's collegiate activities also reflect his interest in serving youth through his internship with the Infant Development Program, leading children's activities, volunteering for Project Literacy, tutoring children in low-income areas in math, reading and science and participating in the Bruins Public Health Club, teaching elementary school students how to adopt healthy lifestyles.

#### Personal Statement

“In its fight for civil rights, the JACL fully embodies my *bachan's* favorite refrain, “*combate*.” Through the generations, it has stood for inclusiveness, equality and acceptance for all of those who are the victims of discrimination and bigotry. Today, Japanese Americans are no longer the primary victims of prejudices in our country, but the fight does not end. It has branched out to other minority groups who are being targeted such as the Jewish and Muslim communities. We, as Japanese Americans, understand their plight because their story is part of our own. We will never forget how our ancestors were singled out for internment simply based on their ethnic background, similarly to the Muslim immigration orders of today. And, we will never stand by as the Jewish community receives the same type of threats and hate that our ancestors faced when they returned from internment camps. With the release of statements in clear condemnation and opposition to those who repress others' rights, the JACL strongly represents my support for these groups and social equality at large.”



### Tara Umemoto

**JACL Chapter:** Berkeley  
*Recipient of the Minoru Yasui Memorial Scholarship*

**The University of California, Berkeley**







### Notables

Tara Umemoto earned a bachelor's degree in social welfare and is continuing her studies to earn a master's degree in the same major with plans to pursue a career in child welfare services at a public agency. She is currently volunteering for the Oakland Unified School District as a wellness consultant, organizing events, trainings and orientations, as well as supporting parents in wellness education. Her previous community and school service includes Safe Routes to School and Wellness VISTA Specialist, Camp Always Counselor, Sierra Forever Families Intern, Alameda County Court Appointed Special Advocate, Social Workers in the Classroom Teaching Assistant, Berkeley Buddhist Temple Board Member, Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California Kase Nikkei Community Intern, UC Berkeley Nikkei Student Union Core Member and Nikkei Choral Ensemble Administrative Director. Umemoto also exhibited extraordinary leadership skills as soon as she joined the Berkeley JACL Board and the Civil Rights Committee. Early on, she left an indelible impression on the board, exhibiting her intelligence and creative, well-thought-out opinions. She has the respect of longtime board members and her peers, and she exemplifies poise, maturity and concern for the disadvantaged and targeted communities.

### Personal Statement

"Our community currently faces two main issues: (1) the struggle with identity because of the growing diversity of the Japanese American community, and (2) mental health stigma. Identity affects our community in a number of ways, but for people like me, it affects us in that we are Japanese but do not speak [Japanese]. I am Yonsei, fourth-generation Japanese. My parents also do not speak Japanese, and my grandparents never spoke [Japanese] to my parents, so I also do not speak [Japanese]. This affects our treatment in society, as many people assume we speak an Asian language and that we do not belong here. However, many of us only know this home. I, along with many other peers, have struggled with mental health issues and talking about very real feelings and emotions and pressures that we experience because of a stigma that exists. These relate to civil rights in that mental health can easily affect things such as education and employment. If someone is not mentally well, then it makes it that much harder to do well in school and do well in the workforce."



### Midori M. Wong

**JACL Chapter: New England**  
*Recipient of the Rev. H. John & Asako Yamashita Memorial Scholarship*  
**Massachusetts Institute of Technology**

### Notables

Midori Wong is earning a master's degree, with a 4.6 GPA, in real estate development after earning a bachelor's degree in urban studies and planning from the University of California, San Diego. She has received numerous academic awards, including the William Wheaton Fellowship at MIT, National Commercial Real Estate Women Network Foundation Scholar (one of only three graduate students selected nationwide) and the Appraisal Institute Education Trust Minorities and Women Educational Scholarship. At the University of California, San Diego, Wong received the Michael Addison Research Award (most outstanding research paper by a UCSD Warren College senior), Academic Distinction Award (highest GPA in program class) and Urban Studies and Planning Program Honors (completion of undergraduate honors thesis). In 2015, Wong was selected as a 78th Assembly District Women of the Year Honoree, California State Assembly Speaker Honorable Toni G. Atkins. She also was a finalist in the Minoru Yasui Oratorical Contest in high school and received several chapter and national JACL scholarships.

### Personal Statement

"I believe JACL can represent me and my generation in ways more relevant to today's society by continuing to build an identity as a forward-looking, multicultural organization and by connecting to younger generations. The millennials will be our country's largest living generation and will soon be the dominant population in the workforce. I think that JACL needs to create a new value proposition that communicates to this generation. One place to start would be to look at other successful movements and organizations and evaluate JACL's role as a collaborator in those groups, or JACL's ability to scale some of those successful elements to our own organization in a way that is still authentic to JACL's identity and history."

## LAW



### Kimberlee Hanamura-Valashinas

**JACL Chapter: New England**  
*Recipient of the Thomas T. Hayashi Memorial Law Scholarship*  
**Case Western Reserve University**

### Notables

Kimberlee Hanamura-Valashinas is a first-year law student. She earned many academic awards in college, including Dean's List and magna cum laude. She is interested in estate planning, national security law and laws applicable to the military family community. As a military spouse, Hanamura-Valashinas is a strong advocate for the legal rights surrounding military families. She hopes to dedicate a portion of her career to helping military families with all legal issues, such as landlord/tenant laws, residency laws, tax laws and licensing laws for military spouses who are required to get licensed in each state they are transferred to due to new military orders.

### Personal Statement

"The election of our new president brings an uncertainty in our nation's democratic process. Known as a sanctuary for refugees and land of opportunity for those seeking the 'American Dream,' new policies have been enacted that portray us as a hostile nation, such as the targeting of sanctuary cities, Muslim travel ban, immediate deportation of undocumented immigrants and the commencement of a wall that sends a clear message that non-Americans are not welcome. As an Asian American woman with an immigrant mother and a family history of Japanese internment, these policies deeply affect my values and beliefs. The work that the JACL has accomplished in the preservation of the Japanese internment history serves not as a means of remembering the past, but to set precedent as a piece of monumental history that must not be repeated. My voice is continuously heard through the JACL's strong stance in objection to these Presidential Executive Orders. Furthermore, as a military spouse with JACL resources and strong ties to the military family community, I am able to educate my fellow colleagues and neighbors

about the dangers of taking a step back into the past by using national security as an excuse to isolate individuals of protected classes."



### Weston Koyama

**JACL Chapter: Portland**  
*Recipient of the Thomas T. Hayashi Memorial Law Scholarship*  
**University of Oregon**

Weston Koyama is a graduate of Portland State University and attended Sarah Lawrence College and Bennington College. He has earned several scholastic honors at the University of Oregon School of Law, including the inaugural Minoru Masui Fellowship, the Wayne Morse Fellowship and a Merit Scholarship. He also was on the Dean's List at Portland State University and was a Brockway Scholar for multiple terms at Bennington College. Koyama is currently a member of the Asian Pacific American Law Student Assn. and was a member of the Japanese Student Society at Portland State University. Most recently, his work experience has focused on Japanese American incarceration and student advocacy. He reviewed World War II-era letters and photographs for appraisal and created digital catalogs of donated artifacts as a data analyst for the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center. He also created an organizing committee with the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon to politically activate Asian students on campuses across Oregon. One of Koyama's other interests is in technology-assisted accessibility solutions for persons with disabilities.

### Personal Statement

"I think the ability for the JACL to attract new Nikkei-jin hinges on overcoming perceptions that linger as a part of a complicated legacy. This legacy need not be a source of weakness; the ability to lean into uncomfortable situations, namely situations of competing culturally informed paths to justice, is an immense strength. This struggle to reconcile cultural answers is also a pool of empathy that I think all Japanese Americans can relate to. My suggestion stated at the start of this essay, to take pride in this tension, can be stated another way: Tap into this pool of empathy. Indeed,

the resolution to all conflicts starts with empathy."



### Lisa Matsue

**JACL Chapter: New York**  
*Recipient of the Sho Sato Memorial Law Scholarship*  
**Fordham University**

Lisa Matsue is a graduate of Keio University in Japan. Shortly after graduation, she joined the news department of TV Asahi, one of the six national broadcasting networks in Japan. During her more than three years working at the network, she learned about the outstanding creative and technological skills of Japanese television and realized that Japanese media networks have no global influence or status. She later discovered it was the result of various internal and external complications with program contracts that limit program viewership to only Japanese audiences. The experience motivated Matsue to pursue a career where she can help share with the world Japanese media's phenomenal technology and skills in creating documentaries. She also realized that she wanted to achieve her goal by breaking some of the fundamental legal barriers that prevent Japanese media networks from connecting with the world, especially with the U.S. Matsue hopes to gain a deeper understanding of the U.S. legal system, especially in copyright and intellectual property law, and pursue a career in cross-border Internet protocol and transactional law.

### Personal Statement

"What is intriguing about these accomplishments is how JACL successfully coordinated such large groups of people, who all had different goals and motives. While Japanese Americans were united in seeking their rights and finding a home on American land, not all Japanese Americans had the same beliefs or were in the same situation. Some Issei and Nisei resented Japanese associations and did not want to cooperate with them. Not all Japanese American felt the same way about rebelling against internment or about their rights to restitution. In many ways, the people that JACL has represented in the past are very similar to people JACL represents now. I strongly believe that JACL was able to unify







these groups of different people by listening to varying opinions, trying to understand different views, but always keeping a firm grip on the goals of the organization.”



### Mika Rothman

**JACL Chapter: Seattle**  
*Recipient of the Grace Andow Memorial Law Scholarship*  
**University of Washington**

#### Notables

Mika Rothman is a third-generation JACL member currently serving on her chapter board and its Civil Rights Committee. Her experiences growing up attending chapter meetings with her mother and then participating on her own helped form Rothman's passion for civil rights and social justice. Her passion led to work as a digital project manager and a field organizer for Barack Obama's presidential campaign and later as the senior legal assistant in the White House Counsel's office under President Obama, helping to prepare materials to consider in clemency decisions for nonviolent drug offenders. Most recently, Rothman served as a volunteer for Asian Pacific Americans for Civic Engagement.

#### Personal Statement

“This past summer, I participated in the pilgrimage to the Minidoka Internment Camp, where many of my family members were interned. Walking around the camp formed a closer connection to my Grandpa Junx and Grandma Aki, who both passed away before I was old enough to talk to them about civil rights and social justice. Later that day, pilgrimage participants were placed into groups of varying ages and diverse geographic and racial backgrounds. In those groups, we discussed the past and current injustices. Comments about the injustice of the camps were met with nodding heads. However, subsequent questions about current racial and social injustices, like the criminal justice system and immigration, exposed deep disagreements between young and old, urban and rural and those of and not of Japanese ethnicity. I left immediately frustrated by those whose opinions didn't align with my own. After reflecting on the challenging parts of the discussion within the

context of the purpose of the pilgrimage, I found the value in our conflicting positions. Had we been able to continue these conversations, our common beliefs in social justice and civil rights — convening themes of the pilgrimage — would have pulled us closer to understanding each other's positions. To replace understanding with frustration, I believe, is to progress toward a strength of civil rights and social justice that we all seek.”



### Rei Yamada

**JACL Chapter: New York**  
*Recipient of the Dr. George Goro & Nettie Muramoto Memorial Scholarship*

**Thomas Jefferson University**

#### Notables

Rei Yamada graduated with honors from Cornell University, where she majored in human biology. She received several scholarships to pursue a law degree and has co-authored numerous articles in scientific research publications. Her campus and community service is extensive, including New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center Antepartum/Postpartum Unit, Japan-U.S. Association, Cross-Cultural Adoptee Mentorship Program, Mount Auburn Hospital Food and Nutrition, Cornell College Human Ecology Ambassadors and New Student Program and Project SOLVE: Association for Psychoeducational Tutoring. Ever since Yamada became bilingual, she has wanted to work with populations with language barriers because of her family's experience as immigrants from Japan. She moved to the U.S. at the age of 7, and as her English skills improved, Yamada soon became her family's translator. Through this role, she realized that by supporting others to overcome barriers to communication, she could connect with people and help reduce the negative emotional and cognitive responses generated by miscommunication. Yamada's goal is not only to use her language skills to assist others, but also to become a compassionate physician who provides culturally sensitive care.

#### Personal Statement

“I feel that my values align strongly with the missions of the JACL's youth programs that encourage

cross-cultural understanding and the development of youth leaders in the global community (e.g., the Kakehashi Project). In addition, as I grew up sometimes resisting my bicultural identity and wishing that I could feel a sense of belonging in one country, I appreciate that the JACL has programs that address the search for personal identity commonly experienced by young Asian Americans. At the same time, JACL does not wholly represent me: a woman in medicine who aspires to provide culturally sensitive care to Japanese American patients in today's increasingly diverse society. To do so, it is essential to gain an understanding of the health and health behaviors of Japanese Americans, health disparities among Asian Americans and Japanese patients' expectations for health-care services that may differ from those of American patients. While I am intrigued by the JACL's Nutrition Education Program to develop culturally sensitive educational materials for Japanese Americans and other communities, I believe that having more health-related programs would better support the interests of members like me who strive to promote fairness, equality and social justice in health care.”

## PERFORMING ARTS



### Sophia Nakasone

**JACL Chapter: Ventura County**  
*Recipient of the Aiko Susanna Hiratsuka Memorial Performing Arts Scholarship*

#### Notables

Sophia Nakasone is a college freshman intending to major in dance and business administration. She graduated from Carpinteria High School with a 4.6 GPA, where she earned the AP Scholar Award, Presidential Award for Academic Excellence and the Director's Award. Nakasone served in leadership roles in many school activities, including Muses, choir, yearbook, American Sign Language Club, Virtual Enterprise, Link Crew and the California Scholastic Federation. Her community service involvement included the Carpinteria Valley Arts Council, American Cancer

Society, Breast Cancer Resource Center and Arts for Humanity. Nakasone has also won international awards at the Tremaine Dance Convention.

#### Personal Statement

“I decided to join the JACL because I knew it would be another community of people from all over the nation who could relate to what it is like to grow up feeling different from everyone else. I am a performing artist. I sing, dance and do musical theater. I have always grown up performing and have never seen many other Asian Americans as the leads onstage or in movies. One of my biggest inspirations, Stella Abrera, became the first Filipino American principal ballerina at the American Ballet Theatre not too long ago. However, her success was overshadowed by Misty Copeland, who was the first African-American principal ballerina at the same company. While both dancers deserve to be equally recognized for their hard work and success, only one dancer got publicity for this accomplishment. The JACL has taught me that regardless of my race, I am not deserving any less of success and recognition than anyone else as long as I work hard to make myself known.”

## CREATIVE ARTS



### Kai Oliver

**JACL Chapter: Seattle**  
*Recipient of the Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Creative Arts Scholarship*

**DigiPen Institute of Technology**

#### Notables

Kai Oliver will be a freshman majoring in graphic art and animation. He graduated from Joseph Charter

School with a 3.87 GPA. Oliver lives on a small farm in a very rural area in Oregon about the same size as the Kansai region of Japan. His mother, who was born in Japan, emigrated to the U.S. at age 30. JACL helped Oliver's mother through emigration and helped her acquire her U.S. citizenship, and when Oliver decided to attend college in Seattle, his mother encouraged him to join the local chapter to benefit his new community through JACL. Oliver received several scholastic honors in high school, including first-place winner in the Academic Bowl and the Max Kiel Award for Outstanding Male Freshman. He also served in leadership positions in student government, played on a number of sports teams, performed in the school band and was active in Future Farmers of America. Oliver has found the time to serve his local community on projects ranging from collecting food and necessities of daily life for families in need to teaching youth hockey and leading a playground renovation. In addition, he has won awards for his art at the Tamastlikt Cultural Institute, ArtWORKz Junior Art Show and Competition, Eastern Oregon Art Competition, Wallowa Valley Arts Festival and Wallowa Valley Youth Arts Festival.

#### Personal Statement

“My chosen field of study is traditional and digital art, and recently, I have won considerable recognition for my work. It would really be exciting to me to create images that would artistically acquaint people with JACL and its objectives, projects and accomplishments. Many people underestimate the importance of digital art and ‘video games,’ but the emergence of virtual reality, digital apps, YouTube and other digital and visual communications convince me it is the way of the future. I believe my art has a message of peace and understanding and is cross-cultural. My dream is to be a leader in an important movement and create art and even digital games and apps that heal both psychologically and physiologically. We are beginning to see that happen. There is more to do, and I hope my career will include helping JACL make a contribution to that healing.”



*The Sonoma County JACL congratulates  
**JACK CONKLIN**  
As the recipient of the Henry and Chiyo  
Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship*



A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

## NCWNP

### Otsukimi/Moon Viewing Festival

**Oakland, CA**  
**Oct. 1; 5:30-8:30 p.m.**  
**Lakeside Park Garden Center**  
**666 Bellevue Ave.**  
**Price: Free; \$5 weekend parking**  
 Please join the Oakland Fukuoka Sister City Assn. for an evening of Japanese food, entertainment and moon viewing to celebrate the 51st anniversary of the festival. In addition, the event will honor the 100th birthday of the late Frank Ogawa. Japanese bento box dinners are available only on a prepaid basis by check or online.  
**Info: Visit [www.oakland-fukuoka.org](http://www.oakland-fukuoka.org) or email [ofsca1962@gmail.com](mailto:ofsca1962@gmail.com).**

### Wesley Aki Matsuri Fall Festival

**San Jose, CA**  
**Oct. 7; 11 a.m.-4 p.m.**  
**Wesley United Methodist Church**  
**566 N. Fifth St.**  
**Price: Free**  
 Come and celebrate the fall season at the 85th Wesley Aki Matsuri Fall Festival. The event honors a traditional time in Japan to be thankful for a good harvest and well being of each family in the community. In addition to crafts, food, cultural displays and Kids Zone, the festival will also feature a performance by San Jose Taiko.  
**Info: Visit [wesleysj.net](http://wesleysj.net).**

### 'A Salute to Mike' a Champion for All People

**San Jose, CA**  
**Oct. 21, 6-9 p.m.**  
**Holiday Inn — San Jose**  
**1350 N. First St.**  
**Price: Individual \$140, San Jose JACL Member \$125**  
 The JACL San Jose chapter, founded on the premise of civil liberties for all, invites guests to join its members in celebrating Mike Honda's leadership in championing these goals over his many decades of public service. Celebration begins at 6 p.m. with no-host cocktails and silent auction, followed by dinner and the program.  
**Info: Visit [www.sanjosejaci.org](http://www.sanjosejaci.org) or call (408) 295-1250.**

### Growing Up Sansei, a Grateful Crane Ensemble Event

**San Jose, CA and San Francisco, CA**  
**Oct. 21-22; Sat. 1-4 p.m. and Sun. 3-6 p.m.**  
**Sat.: San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin**  
**640 N. Fifth St.**  
**Sun.: Buddhist Church of San Francisco**  
**1881 Pine St.**  
**Price: \$20 General admission**  
 What is it about growing up Sansei and family dysfunction and the recognition from those who were there to experience it? These questions and more will be addressed in Soji Kashiwagi's

new comedy/drama "Garage Door Opener." Following the reading, a discussion will be led by Satsuki Ina, who will facilitate a dialogue about the play and answer questions about issues such as camp and its aftereffects on the Japanese American community.  
**Info: Call BCSF at (415) 776-3158, SJBCB at (408) 293-9292 or order tickets online at [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com).**

### Kimochi Silver Bells Arts & Crafts and Food Faire

**San Francisco, CA**  
**Dec. 16; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.**  
**The Event Center at St. Mary's Cathedral**  
**1111 Gough St.**  
 Don't miss this one-stop shopping event for all your holiday gifting needs! This popular event will feature unique homemade and crafted items perfect for everyone on your gift list. A complimentary shuttle service will be available to/from Japantown, and all proceeds will benefit Kimochi.

## PSW

### Gedatsu Church Autumn Moon Festival

**Rosemead, CA**  
**Sept. 30 (11 a.m.-6 p.m.) and Oct. 1 (11 a.m.-5 p.m.)**  
**Gedatsu Church**  
**7850 Hill Dr.**  
**Price: Free**  
 Come celebrate the fall season and welcoming of the new moon at this year's family-friendly festival, featuring game booths, homemade crafts, farmer's market and delicious foods such as the church's famous Huli-Huli chicken, chow mein, sushi and much more! Proceeds will benefit the church's programs and supports youth basketball.  
**Info: Visit [gedatsu-usa.org](http://gedatsu-usa.org).**

### Kokoro Craft Boutique

**Los Angeles, CA**  
**Oct. 1; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.**  
**Japanese American National Museum**  
**100 N. Central Ave.**  
**Price: Free**  
 The ninth annual Kokoro Craft Boutique, organized by JANM volunteers, will feature more than 50 vendors selling unique jewelry, kimono fabric fashions, "Giant Robot" merchandise, handbags, ceramics, origami, glass art and more. Proceeds will benefit JANM's education programs. Those who make a boutique purchase of \$20 or more will receive free same-day admission to the museum and a 10% discount at participating Little Tokyo restaurants during the month of October (one-time use only).  
**Info: Visit [janm.org/events](http://janm.org/events) or email [kokorocraft@gmail.com](mailto:kokorocraft@gmail.com).**

### Transpacific Musiclands Outdoor

### Concert

**Los Angeles, CA**  
**Oct. 14; 5-9:30 p.m.**  
**Japanese American National Museum**  
**100 N. Central Ave.**  
**Price: \$15 General; \$12 Members; all-day museum admission included.**

Curated by Shin Miyata, a Tokyo-based music promoter and cultural ambassador, this concert will feature performers from Latin America, Japan and Los Angeles. This outdoor concert is held in conjunction with the exhibition "Transpacific Borderlands: The Art of Japanese Diaspora in Lima, Los Angeles, Mexico City and Sao Paulo." Also joining in throughout the evening will be special guest musicians and DJ sets.  
**Info: Visit [www.janm.org](http://www.janm.org).**

### Yayoi Kusama: 'Infinity Mirrors'

**Los Angeles, CA**  
**Oct. 21-Jan. 1, 2018**  
**The Broad Contemporary Art Museum**  
**221 S. Grand Ave.**  
**Price: \$25 Advance tickets; \$30 Standby tickets; Children 12 and under free**  
 This exhibit will explore the celebrated Japanese artist's immersive Infinity Mirror Rooms — the artist's most iconic kaleidoscopic environments — alongside large-scale installations and key paintings, sculptures and works on paper. Tickets go on sale beginning Sept. 1. Don't miss your chance to view this rare exhibit of Kusama's greatest works.  
**Info: Visit [thebroad.org/art/special-exhibitions/yayoi-kusama-infinity-mirrors](http://thebroad.org/art/special-exhibitions/yayoi-kusama-infinity-mirrors).**

## PNW

### 'Gaining Influence — Developing Leaders for Equity and Justice in Private, Public and Nonprofit Sectors' Seminar

**Seattle, WA**  
**Sept. 30; all day**  
**Keiro Northwest**  
**1601 E. Yesler Way**  
**Price: Free; registration is required.**  
 This daylong seminar, presented by the Seattle Chapter of the JACL and supported by the Seattle JACL Presidents Youth Leadership Fund, with financial assistance by the Robert Chinn Foundation, will offer emerging leaders, early career professionals, students and other young adults the opportunity to meet some of the most influential Asian American leaders in the private, public and nonprofit sectors, as well as learn how their professional success is intertwined with their championing of equity and social justice.  
**Info: Visit <https://jacileadershipsept30.eventbrite.com>.**

### 2017 Sukiyaki Bazaar

**Portland, OR**  
**Oct. 1; 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.**  
**Oregon Buddhist Temple**  
**3720 S.E. 34th Ave.**  
**Price: Beef sukiyaki \$14; vegetable sukiyaki \$14, chicken bento \$10, chow mein \$8**  
 This year's Sukiyaki Bazaar welcomes the first callings of fall and all that it brings with familiar foods, warmth, friends and family. Come enjoy sukiyaki, chicken bento and chow mein, as well as view beautiful calligraphy and small gifts that will be available for purchase by the Dharma School. Preordering food is highly recommended.  
**Info: Call Mie McGraw and Elaine Yuzuriha at (971) 227-7240.**

## IDC

### Mile High JACL Community Forum

**Denver, CO**  
**Sept. 28; 6:30-8:30 p.m.**  
**Sakura Square Mezzanine**  
**1255 19th St.**  
 Join the Mile High JACL for a viewing of the documentary film "Conscience and the Constitution." This film is about Heart Mountain and the Resisters. In addition, speaker Carolyn Takeshita will be present to discuss the film with the audience, which will immediately follow the film's showing. Light refreshments will be served.  
**Info: Visit [milehighjaci.org](http://milehighjaci.org).**

### Shodo/Sumi Paintings of Sensou Miyajima and Tei Kobayashi

**Boulder, CO**  
**Thru Oct. 27**  
**University of Colorado Boulder Norlin Library, Reading Room N345**  
**Price: Free (Open 11 a.m.-4 p.m., M-F)**  
 Enjoy this collaboration of artwork by Sensou Miyajima and Tei Kobayashi in this exhibit highlighting Japanese calligraphy. Viewers will enjoy a "glimpse into the heart of Hikaru Genji as he speaks of his love in Lady Murasaki Shikibu's Waka from the Heian Period, revel in the ephemera of Haiku or relish in the quiet beauty of the morning glory."  
**Info: Visit [colorado.edu](http://colorado.edu).**

## MDC

### Chrysanthemum Banquet

**Bloomington, MN**  
**Nov. 11; 11 a.m.-2 p.m.**  
**Normandale Hylands United Methodist Church**  
**9920 Normandale Blvd.**  
 This event will feature a luncheon, silent auction and guest speaker John Matsunaga, a Minneapolis-based visual artist/photographer, educator and activist. His work in the visual arts explores Asian American and Japanese American history, identity and experience, with an emphasis on the wartime incarceration of Japanese Americans. He is currently a member of the education committee of the Twin Cities chapter.  
**Info: Visit [tcjaci.org](http://tcjaci.org).**

## EDC

### Boston Asian American Film Festival

**Boston, MA**  
**Oct. 19-22**  
 Various venues; check website for exact locations  
 The Boston Asian American Film Festival empowers Asian Americans through film by showcasing Asian American experiences and serving as a resource to filmmakers and the Greater Boston Community. BAAFF is a production of the Asian American Resource Workshop and builds on 35 years of AARW supporting the Asian American community through film. The entire festival lineup will be announced in early October.  
**Info: Visit [baaff.org](http://baaff.org).**

### Chinatown Food Tour

**New York, NY**  
**Oct. 28; 1-4 p.m.**  
**Museum of Chinese in America**  
**215 Centre St.**  
**Price: \$35 Adult; \$25 Student and Senior; \$18 MOCA Member; Children under 5 free**  
 Please join MOCA for a companion walking tour of its latest exhibition "Sour, Sweet, Bitter, Spicy: Stories of Chinese Food and Identity in America." You'll get to know the diverse food and cooking styles of Chinese cuisine while exploring stories of the neighborhood through this multiregional tasting tour of Chinatown. The tour includes various food samples.  
**Info: Visit [www.mocanyc.org](http://www.mocanyc.org).**

### FDR Library's Images of Internment Exhibition

**Hyde Park, NY**  
**Thru Dec. 31**  
**FDR Presidential Library & Museum**  
**4079 Albany Post Road**  
**Price: Regular hours and admission apply.**  
 This special exhibit provides a visual record of the forced removal of Japanese Americans during World War II and displays more than 200 photographs by WRA photographers Dorothea Lange, Clem Albers, Francis Stewart and Hikaru Iwasaki from the National Archives. The exhibition also features photographs taken by Ansel Adams at Manzanar and a selection of photos from the WSU George and Frank C. Hirahara photo collection of Heart Mountain.  
**Info: Visit <https://fdrlibrary.org/exhibitions> or call (800) FDR-VISIT.**

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**FOR MORE INFO:**  
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# IN MEMORIAM

**Anzai, Robert James, 33,** Wahia-wa, HI, July 25; he is survived by his parents, Paul and Liane Anzai; and his brother, Charles.

**Furumoto, Fusaye 'Mary,' 97,** Los Angeles, CA, Aug. 16; she was predeceased by her husband, Masaru; and children, Masako and Ikuo (Regina) Furumoto; she is survived by her daughter, Ikuye (Akira) Tanimoto; gc: 3; ggc: 2.

**Hamaguchi, Robert, 70,** San Francisco, CA, Sept. 4; he is survived by his wife, Carolyn; children, Kristi Hiatt (Darren), Scott Hamaguchi (LeAnne) and Staci Byrne (Bryan); gc: 3.

**Hirota, Masako, 92,** Alhambra, CA, Aug. 25; she was predeceased by her husband, Koichi; she is survived by her children, Akemi (John) Uomoto, Yutaka Richard (Donna) Hirota, Sachi (Arthur) Hashima and Misako (John) Winnen; gc: 6; ggc: 3.



**Kagawa, Lynne Fumiye, 90,** Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 1; she was predeceased by her son, Scotty, who died Aug. 29 at age 65; she is survived by her children, Sandy Omura, Randy (Jodi) and Patrick (Tracy) Kagawa; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 7; ggc: 14.



**Machida, Fumy L., 91,** Los Angeles, CA, Aug. 8; she was predeceased by her husband, Roy; she is survived by their daughters, Sharon (Dan) Okada, Kiyo (Douglas) Woodruff, Debra Machida and Linda (Geoff) Grundy;

siblings, Kathy Sasaki, Mary Kitahara, Ben Ebihara and Roy Ebihara; gc: 5.



**Miyamoto, Grace Miyako, 82,** Los Angeles, CA, Aug. 24; she is survived by her sons, Nyle (Michele) and Bryce (Kay); siblings, Fred and Mary (Brent); gc: 3.



**Nanamura, Mary, 85,** San Jose, CA, July 23; she is survived by her husband, Tom; daughter, Carol Isozaki (Les Isozaki); gc: 2.



**Nakashoji, Norio, 78,** Sacramento, CA, Aug. 27; he is survived by his wife, Frances; children, Nancy (Gary) and Rick (Lisa); siblings, Frank, Sam, Sally, Betty, Mike and Bob; gc: 5.

**Nakata, Francis 'Frank,' 83,** Los Angeles, CA, Aug. 23; he is survived by his wife, Alicia; daughters, Janae Nakata (Bob Sanders) and Vicki Nakata (David Graetz); sister, Jeanne Gee.

**Oda, Lisa, 69,** Chicago, IL, Sept. 11; she is survived by her husband,

Stanley; daughter, Clea Grimm Pizzo (Marc); siblings, Cary Grimm (Kara) and Beverly Somerville; she is also survived by nieces and nephews; gc: 2.



**Shiroma, Allen Isao, 83,** Dixon, CA, Sept. 13; he is survived by his wife, Maureen Gordon Shiroma.



**Takeuchi, May Yaye, 92,** Sacramento, CA, Aug. 25; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the WRA Center in Poston, AZ; she was predeceased by her husband, Duke; and son, Douglas; she is survived by her children, Susan Schmid (John) and Kevin Takeuchi; siblings, George Ogawa (Taye), Jane Matsueda (Jim) and Ruth Ogawa; sisters-in-law, Dorothy Takeuchi and Masa Takeuchi; she is also survived by many nephews and nieces.

**Toyoshima, Shigeto 'Toyo,' 101,** Monterey Park, CA, Aug. 30; during WWII, he was incarcerated at the Heart Mountain WRA Center in WY, from which he volunteered to serve in the Army's MIS; he is survived by his wife, Kiku; sons, Glenn (Marion) and Lawrence (Suzanne); brother, Shiz Toyoshima; he is also survived by nieces and nephews; gc: 3; ggc: 2.

**Tada, Chieko Moritani, 98,** Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 12; during WWII, she was incarcerated at the Amache WRA Center in CO; she was predeceased by her husband, Tetsuya; she is survived by her nephews and nieces and by her grandnieces and grandnephews.

**Uyeno, Dora, 94,** Denver, CO, Aug. 24; she was predeceased by her husband, George.

## SAB AKIYAMA



Saburo (Sab) Akiyama of Hood River, Ore., passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, on a Thursday afternoon on Sept. 7, 2017, at Brookside Manor in Hood River. Sab was born at home on April 7, 1924, in Oak Grove, Ore. — the fourth of five children of Tomeseichi and Itsu Ono Akiyama (in Japanese, Saburo is "third son"). He was preceded in death by his parents, beloved wife, Betty (2016), brothers Henry (2010) and George (2010) and sister, Kiyo (2016).

Sab spent his childhood working on the family's orchard in Oak Grove. At 16, he and his family were forced to leave the family home as a result of Executive Order 9066 requiring all people of Japanese ancestry to be incarcerated at inland camps run by the War Relocation Authority, regardless of citizenship. While incarcerated, Sab graduated from Tri-State high school at the Tule Lake internment camp. Later, he and his family were relocated to Minidoka internment camp. He enlisted in the United States Army at age 20 with other young men from the camps to demonstrate that the Japanese were as loyal and patriotic as any other American citizen. Sab — like many Nisei (second-generation Japanese Americans) — felt he had to prove himself. He taught Japanese language to the Counter Intelligence Services. He was honorably discharged in 1946, having received a Good Conduct Medal, American Theater Ribbon and a World War II Victory Ribbon.

Sab attended Pacific University on the GI Bill in Forest Grove, Ore., where he graduated in 1951 with a Doctorate of Optometry. He moved to the Oregon Coast where he worked as an optometrist at the Reinhart Clinic in Wheeler. It was there that Sab met his future wife, Betty Dyksterhuis. They married on June 4, 1956, in Oregon City and purchased a home in Neahkahnie, where Sab continued working as an optometrist. In time, Sab and Betty welcomed four daughters: Kathryn, Diana, Patricia and Jennifer.

In 1960, Sab had an opportunity to buy Harold Keir's optometry practice on Oak Street in his hometown of Hood River. Thereafter, Sab served multiple generations of families who relied on him for eye glasses, contact lenses, professional evaluations, and an informed, observant, caring and charming chair-side manner. Sab was active in the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), where he served as an officer and in many other volunteer roles. He was a member of the Lions Club, the Hood River bowling league, and the Chamber of Commerce among other civic activities. After nearly 40 years, Sab retired and sold his practice in 1995.

His extended family and others in the Hood River community will forever remember Sab's proficiency at finding and digging razor clams in the surf of many Oregon and Washington beaches. Indeed, he taught his daughters, nephews and many friends how to spot and dig clams with a shovel (never a clam gun!).

Sab and brothers, George and Nobi, were avid and expert matsutake mushroom hunters. Every year, they hoped for a wet August so they'd have favorable mushroom hunting in fall — at forever-secret locations.

Sab will be remembered for his smile and gentle sense of humor, his unfailing devotion to Betty over 60 years, his steadfast support for his daughters and their families, his open mind, eternal curiosity, inventive household repairs and his willingness to take on any challenge. He and friend, Pete Watts, remodeled the Neahkahnie house (over several years) and built grandfather clocks from kilts together. He started many vegetable garden plants from seed under a grow light contraption in the basement of the family home; his tomatoes were phenomenal. Sab bowled, golfed, gardened, followed current events, read, learned to make pottery as well as stained glass, and astonished his daughters with precise, handmade and tasty date-pinwheel-cookies. He loved food — especially sweets — and delighted in cinnamon rolls and lemon meringue pie ("now if a guy could have a piece of lemon pie ...").

Sab is survived by older brother, Noboru (Florence), and sister-in-law, Ruth Akiyama; daughters, Kathy, Diana (Michael Jackson), Patricia (David Larsen), Jennifer (Patrick Tahara); and three grandchildren who brought him much joy: Jasmine, Kazuhiro and Emiko. He is also survived by cherished nieces, nephews and extended family, along with many longtime friends who join together in mourning his passing.

The family expresses its deep and heartfelt thanks to the extraordinary caregivers and staff at Brookside Manor, who assisted Sab with compassionate and loving care over the past 18 months. The family also offers their profound gratitude to the amazing people at Heart of Hospice, who were an abiding and comforting source of support for Sab. There are truly angels who walk among us, and who inspire us.

A memorial celebration of life and reception/brunch is being planned for a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the St. Mark's Endowment Fund for Betty Akiyama, (541) 386-2077, [www.stmarks-hr.org](http://www.stmarks-hr.org) or email [stmarks@gorge.net](mailto:stmarks@gorge.net) and/or to the Hood River Heart of Hospice in the Columbia Gorge, (541) 386-1942, [www.heartofhospice.org](http://www.heartofhospice.org). To learn more about Sab's life, please visit Den-sho's Digital Archive at [www.densho.org](http://www.densho.org).

(Arrangements by Anderson's Tribute Center, 1401 Belmont Ave., Hood River, Ore. 97031; [www.AndersonsTributeCenter.com](http://www.AndersonsTributeCenter.com))

### 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.

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By Kenji Kuramitsu,  
NY/SC Representative

## YOUTH PERSPECTIVE

# Were We All Immigrants

I was proud to see the JACL recently issue a statement alongside coalition partners, condemning the Trump administration's latest assault on undocumented youth through the targeting of DACA. Often, in a whirl to condemn xenophobia and anti-immigrant animus, I will hear the refrain "we were all immigrants once." Our Executive Director's statement opened with a variation on this remark: "As Americans, we all have an immigration story."

I understand the positive intentions behind these words and the point for serious reflection they call us to — that we may better shield and support all immigrants today. Yet, my fear is that phrasing like this unintentionally excludes important partners in our work for civil rights and racial justice. While strategically and contextually accurate for the Nikkei community, the idea that we all have an immigration story is flimsier than it may appear.

That is, not everyone came to this continent as immigrants. Some of those living in the United States have indigenous roots, tracing unbroken, familial relationships with this land back hun-

dreds of generations. Others are the descendants of the forcibly enslaved, those stolen to this nation without consent. Still others were occupants of sovereign nations and kingdoms that were invaded and are continually crushed by illegal American occupation.

This conversation has played out in a Texas textbook's euphemizing of enslaved Africans as migrant "workers," as well as Ben Carson's comment that black people came to this country as "immigrants." Branding all American descendants of "immigrants" should give us pause. We should not trust claims that Native and African-Americans "immigrated" to the U.S. any more than we believe Nikkei willingly "evacuated" to paradisiacal camps.

We may be called to reflect proudly on our ocean-crossing ancestors. The only "immigration story" for many Native peoples, on the other hand, may be witnessing the devouring of their lands and lives at the hands of European immigrants. Inviting remembrance of our "immigration story" as a shared point of reflection is not a universally uplifting experience.

There are healthier starting points to begin to nurture multiethnic reflection and shared action. One such point may be honoring all our ancestors — enslaved, indigenous, as well as

immigrant — many of whom fought ceaselessly against literal extinction and cultural exsanguination. Another may be to acknowledge our shared predicament now as people of conscience — as citizens and undocumented, as people of color and as those without it, as women, men and nonbinary folks — all numbering our days here in this churning, peculiar nation founded on genocide and enslavement.

As James Baldwin has said, history is the present: "We, with every breath, every move, are history. And what goes around, comes around."

We are living in an age that reveals more nakedly than ever the living impacts of past conquests. For those of us with proud "immigrant stories," we must wrestle with the fact that we, like our ancestors, are implicated in a settler colonial project — choosing each day to live, breathe and die on stolen land.

This conversation around dreams, dreamers and their destruction is immensely important. I celebrate the JACL's willingness to tackle this conversation and bring as many coalition partners and allies along as possible.

*Kenji Kuramitsu is the NY/SC Youth Representative of the JACL.*

**JACL >>**  
**continued**  
**from page 4**

really any national security basis for the Travel Ban, or whether it in fact exceeds the president's authority," said George T. Frampton Jr., co-counsel for JACL.

JACL and legal co-counsel will conduct a conference call for its members and the public to discuss the historical context of the Japanese American story and the legal arguments of the brief on Sept. 26 at 4 p.m. EDT.

*To register for the call and receive call information that will be sent prior to the call, please RSVP at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdxKDZ4PfaSVUf0nhpjiMAYCX7tGVTX2Zj-GEI3M08BaAh\\_tw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdxKDZ4PfaSVUf0nhpjiMAYCX7tGVTX2Zj-GEI3M08BaAh_tw/viewform).*

Other counsel on the team included Joseph Roth of the Osborn Maledon firm in Phoenix, Ariz., and Thomas Frampton, a Climenko Fellow at Harvard Law School.

*To download a PDF of the amicus brief, visit <https://jACL.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/JACL-Travel-Ban-Amicus.pdf>.*

## AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL

### 2017 TOUR SCHEDULE

- Eastern Canada Holiday Tour (Carol Hida) WAIT LIST . . . . . Sep 6-14  
Montreal, Quebec, Ottawa, Toronto, Niagara Falls.
- Classical Japan Autumn Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida) WAIT LIST . . . . . Oct 5-16  
Tokyo, Mt. Fuji, Yamanashi, Shizuoka, Nagoya, Gifu, Hiroshima, Kyoto.
- Japan Autumn Countryside Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida). . . . . Oct 19-29  
Tokyo, Sado Island, Kanazawa, Amanohashidate, Tottori, Matsue, Tamatsukuri Onsen, Hiroshima.
- New Orleans & Deep South Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida). . . . . Nov 5-12  
New Orleans, Natchez, Lafayette.
- So. America Patagonia-Easter Island Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida). . . Nov 7-22  
Buenos Aires, Ushuaia, Calafate (Perito Moreno Glacier), Paine National Park (Grey Glacier), Punta Arenas, Santiago, Easter Island.

### 2018 TOUR SCHEDULE

- Hokkaido Snow Festivals Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida). . . . . Feb 3-12  
Lake Akan, Abashiri, Sounkyo, Sapporo, Otaru, Noboribetsu, Lake Toya.
- Japan Yukkuri Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida) . . . . . Apr 4-17  
Tokyo, Shimoda, Shizuoka, Takayama, Kanazawa, Noto Peninsula, Kyoto, Miyako Odori Show.
- Danube River Holiday Cruise (Carol Hida) . . . . . Apr 23-May 4  
Prague, Vilshofen, Passau, Linz, Weissenkirchen, Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest. With AMA Waterways.
- Heritage of America Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida). . . . . Apr 27-May 6  
New York City, Philadelphia, Gettysburg, Shenandoah Valley, Charlottesville, Williamsburg, Yorktown, Washington DC.
- Cape Cod-Islands of New England Tour (Carol Hida & Elaine Ishida). . Jun 1-8  
Providence, Newport, Boston, Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, Hyannis, Nantucket.
- Tokyo, Hakone, Atami, Hiroshima, Kyoto.
- Classical Japan Autumn Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida). . . . . WAIT LIST
- New England Autumn Holiday Tour (Carol Hida). . . . . Oct 12-19
- Costa Rica Holiday Tour (Carol Hida). . . . . Nov 7-15
- Okinawa Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida). . . . . Nov 7-16

For more information and reservations, please contact:

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