



# PACIFIC CITIZEN



2018 JACL  
NATIONAL  
SCHOLARSHIP  
WINNERS  
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# The 2018 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 award of \$94,000 to 43 deserving applicants in their respective categories. With so many well-qualified students, the future of JACL is bright!

This year, the student applicants were asked, "What are the advantages and limitations of rallying around a single ethnic identity?" 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, Patty Wada, who as program manager of the Scholarship Program ensures the successful implementation of this program and has a direct and positively impactful effect on many of our most hopeful young leaders. Ms. Wada works tirelessly to coordinate the two scholarship committees and effortlessly handles the applications for more than 100 applicants each year.

I'd also like to thank the two National JACL Scholarship Committees. These committees, each from a distinct district, work diligently to review freshman and undergraduate, graduate, law, arts and student-aid applications and include Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific District Council (NCWNP District Council) and Central California District Council (CCDC), respectively.

Those dedicated individuals serving as selection committee members reviewing the freshman applications and as a part of the NCWNP District Council include Sharon Uyeda (chair), Darlene Sakata-Bagshaw and Nick Hori. Those who served on the undergraduate, graduate, law, arts, and student-aid selection committee from the CCDC include Roberta Barton (chair), Larry Ishimoto and Ralph Kumano.

On behalf of the entire National JACL, we thank these committed individuals on 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 for their higher education.

I am thrilled that the JACL Scholarship Program continues to be so successful. We will soon begin the 2019 application process to recognize the next group of outstanding student leaders. As we wrap up the 2018 scholarship season, please join me in congratulating all of our award recipients.

*Respectfully,*

**Matthew Farrells,**  
JACL National VP  
Planning & Development

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**Do you know a former JACL Scholarship recipient?**

Contact: Susan  
[BusMgr@PacificCitizen.org](mailto:BusMgr@PacificCitizen.org)

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

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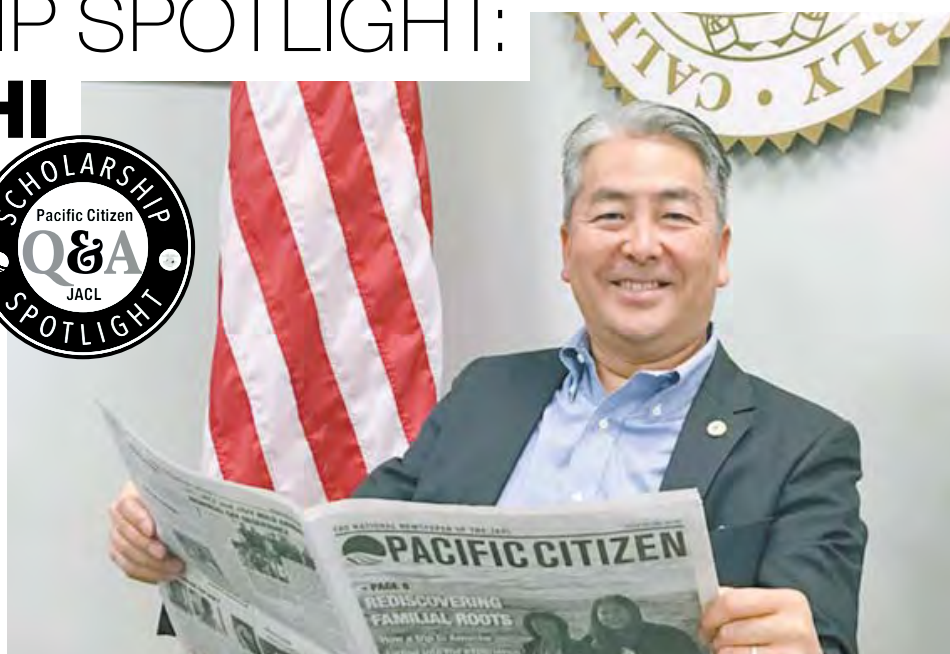
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# SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT: AL MURATSUCHI



Albert Muratsuchi has had a long association with JACL. The California Assemblyman, who represents the state's 66th district, which includes Torrance, Calif., and other parts of Los Angeles County's South Bay, served as the regional director of the Pacific Southwest District of the JACL from 1996-98. Prior to that, Muratsuchi, who attended the University of California, Berkeley, as an undergrad, was the recipient of the JACL's Thomas Hayashi Memorial Law Scholarship in 1991, which he used to attend UCLA School of Law.

The *Pacific Citizen* met with Assemblyman Muratsuchi during the summer at his district office to talk about how his JACL scholarship helped his career and how his connection with JACL shaped the trajectory of his political career.

**PACIFIC CITIZEN: How has receiving the JACL scholarship impacted your life, all these years later?**

**AL MURATSUCHI:** JACL's greatest gift to me was not just the Thomas Hayashi scholarship I received almost 30 years ago, but the community that JACL has always provided, starting with my undergraduate days at Berkeley when I became involved in the Japanese American redress movement, getting involved with the JACL San Francisco chapter at that time to fight for redress and then after graduating from college, I went out to Washington, D.C., where I once again found my community, this time through the JACL D.C. chapter. I met people like Pat and Lily Okura and then returned to California to attend UCLA for law school.

And then, of course, I was able to give back to the JACL community. One of my first jobs out of law school was serving as the JACL Pacific Southwest regional director in its Little Tokyo office. I was there for about two years.

While I fully appreciate the scholarship that allowed me to attend UCLA to get my law degree, I'm always most thankful to

JACL for the sense of community that it's always given to me.

**P.C.: What did you know about JACL as an organization before you won the scholarship?**

**MURATSUCHI:** I first started to learn about JACL when I was an undergrad at Berkeley. . . . As you know, I was born and raised a military brat overseas, and so I was not as aware of JACL. I started taking Asian American Studies classes at Berkeley — this was during the 1980s and the height of the redress years — and that's when I started learning about JACL's grassroots as well as national leadership in the fight for redress.

**P.C.: What is your greatest personal/professional achievement?**

**MURATSUCHI:** Well, like we all know, there are a lot of different ways to define achievement, whether personally or professionally.

I'm most proud of my family — my beautiful wife (Dr. Hiroko Higuchi) and beautiful daughter. I am very proud of her for being a good role model for our daughter (Sophia Keiko) by getting her Ph.D. from the University of Tokyo, and my daughter is participating in great Japanese American traditions like playing in FOR basketball.

Professionally, as you know, I won in 2012

(the year he first was elected to the California state legislature), then lost my re-election by less than a percentage point in 2014 and made my comeback in 2016. I am up for re-election again this year. I did well in the June primary, and we're moving along to the November general election.

Also on the professional side, I was able to author and get signed into law AB491 last year, which was a bill that I called the Civil Liberties Public Education Program 2.0.

My inspiration to go into politics and public service was the redress movement. I was inspired by civil rights attorneys like Dale Minami and Don Tamaki. I was an intern at the Asian Law Caucus in 1987, more than 30 years ago. That was at the height of the redress movement.

I was inspired by the civil rights leaders who petitioned our government and won the fight for the official apology and redress for the incarceration for over 120,000 Japanese Americans.

I've always held the redress movement as the greatest personal example of the potential for achieving social justice through the political process. So, I was very proud to be able to continue that effort as a California State Assembly Member and not only securing the \$3 million for [CCLPEP] fund-

ing for continuing to educate all Americans about the lessons of the Japanese American World War II incarceration, but also through my bill, to highlight the importance of recognizing how the lessons of the Japanese American internment are relevant to what we are seeing in terms of current-day challenges to civil liberties, whether it's the Trump administration's Muslim travel ban or whether it's the Trump administration's most recent efforts to tear families apart and put children in cages, which former first lady Laura Bush and others have highlighted as being reminiscent of the Japanese American internment camps.

That is one of my proudest professional achievements in terms of continuing to teach all Americans, especially President Trump, of the lessons of the Japanese American incarceration.

**P.C.: Any words of wisdom for this year's JACL scholarship recipients?**

**MURATSUCHI:** I would urge all JACL scholarship recipients to get involved in JACL and give back to the well from which you're drawing.

I indicated earlier that one of the greatest gifts JACL has given to me is the sense of community and the recognition that I am building on the work, all the hard work, of the Issei and Nisei and the Sansei who have preceded me in the fight for redress and for social justice, not only on the political front but also in my local community.

I had the privilege of serving as the president of the South Bay JACL chapter, and whether it's through great JACL traditions like the JACL scholarship program or whether it's through political leadership, JACL has provided since 1929 what I consider to be the greatest gift I've ever received from JACL — the sense of community.

I strongly urge all JACL scholarship recipients to show their appreciation for their scholarship by giving back, but also by gaining what I've gained from JACL over the years — that strong sense of community. ■



## SAN JOSE JACL AWARDS 2018 SCHOLARSHIPS

PHOTO: COURTESY OF SAN JOSE JACL

This year, the San Jose JACL scholarship committee selected eight high school seniors to receive chapter scholarships. Following are the recipients:

- **Melanie Chou** from University Preparatory Academy received the \$1,000 San Jose JACL Chapter Award.
- **Cristina Diaz** from Leland High School was awarded the \$3,000 Kenji Sakaue Memorial Scholarship.
- **Matthew Kao** from Bellermine College Preparatory was awarded a \$1,000 Ninja Youth Foundation Scholarship.
- **Elizabeth Namba** of Presentation High School was awarded a \$1,000 Ninja Youth Foundation Scholarship.
- **Noah Soo-Hoo** of Monta Vista High

- School was selected for the Ray and Lucy Matsumoto Business Scholarship.
- **Jillian Takeuchi** from Leland High School received the \$2,500 George Masunaga Endowment Scholarship.
- **Kaitlyn Wong** from Carmont High School was awarded the \$10,000 Oyama Family Foundation Scholarship (\$2,500 for four years).
- **Ashley Yabumoto** from Ann Sobrato High School was selected for the \$1,000 Masuo B. Nakamura Scholarship.

Members of this year's selection committee were Gary Jio, chairperson; Dr. Mitsu Kumagai, JoAnn Okabe-Kubo, Joyce Oyama and Sharon Uyeda. ■



Pictured (from left) are Gary Jio (chairperson), Sharon Uyeda (chapter co-president), Kaitlyn Wong, Cristina Diaz, Ashley Yabumoto, Noah Soo-Hoo, Jillian Takeuchi and Tom Oshidari (chapter co-president). Not pictured are Melanie Chou, Matthew Kao and Elizabeth Namba.



# 2018 JACL NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

## I ESSAY TOPIC I

This year's scholarship recipients were asked to respond to the following question:  
**'What are the advantages and limitations of rallying around a single ethnic identity?'**

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

### FRESHMAN



#### ALLIE CHOW

JACL Chapter: **SACRAMENTO**  
 Recipient of the *Sam & Florice Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship*  
**Chapman University**

#### Notables

Allie Chow's wide variety of volunteer work reflects the passion she holds for her community, whether it is helping out with her library's fundraising programs, distributing food to the homeless or dedicating time to her local parks and recreation services. As a summer camp volunteer counselor, she shares her leadership skills, compassion and musical talent to ensure participants enjoy a rich and wholesome experience.

#### Personal Statement

"Growing up with a strong Asian identity has allowed me to build a bond between people with similar histories and experiences and create an unlimited resource of wisdom, knowledge and everlasting friendships.

"This network of resources and support has created a foundation for a healthy environment both psychologically and socially. With a healthy mind and strong identity, I have experienced extreme happiness, strong engagement in academic excellence and have thrived and contributed to my community through volunteering and being an advocate for reducing tobacco initiation in adolescents.

"Living with a single ethnic identity gives an individual a sense of belonging and an understanding of the importance of [his/her] cultural background. For me, associating with a single ethnic identity helps me fit into a complex society and cope with inequities and fear of not being socially accepted.

"I have bonded with and found comfort in sharing issues and concerns with people who understand my feelings and emotions. These shared emotions, attitudes, behaviors, awareness and self-motivation provide me with the strength to be

resilient in the face of adversity and uncertainty.

"On the other side, I realize the idea of a single ethnic identity can limit oneself to better possibilities and solutions. Societies with racially and ethnically diverse cultures will be better prepared to deal with differences that will arise when working together on common goals.

"Diversity will be needed to bring about different ideas and opinions and the ease of asking questions, challenging the answers and ultimately selecting the best idea that fits the goal.

"Cultural diversity would allow me to choose the best aspects of various cultural beliefs instead of limiting myself to my own cultural beliefs. To truly make change in the world, no one can completely isolate themselves from those who vary from their beliefs and ethnic identity. We must all be open to cultural, spiritual and ethnic differences to understand and work toward improving our society."



#### GILLIAN DAVIDSON

JACL Chapter: **HOUSTON**  
 Recipient of the *Patricia & Gail Ishimoto Memorial Scholarship*  
**University of Texas at Austin**

#### Notables

Gillian Davidson was a member of her school's Honors Varsity Choir for all four years and advanced to the All-District Regional Choir for two years. For two summers, she participated in the University of Houston STEM Summer Camp. She also has tutored five Japanese students by introducing American culture and English language.

In addition, Davidson volunteered at a local animal shelter by walking dogs and helping them get adopted. From the age of four, she attended the Japanese Language Supplementary School of Houston, a Japanese education school, where she developed fluency in Japanese. She is a recent member of the Houston JACL, but

looks forward to engaging in the chapter's activities.

#### Personal Statement

"As being someone of two contracting origins, the advantages of single ethnic identity prove to be quite appealing as the struggle to connect to only one group presents a mental challenge. The restraints that enclose a single ethnic orientation often lack the vastness of cultural awareness and open-mindedness.

"There are just as many limitations to a single ethnic identity as there are advantages, perhaps even more. In comparison to other people of one ethnicity, I oftentimes have a better perspective on new cultures and typically have a greater understanding of the interplay between different cultures overall.

"A person of more than one ethnicity is almost like a mediator of cultures, they become a compilation of traditions and practices, while obtaining the responsibility and honor of representing and sharing their cultures to the world. Although I may struggle with identifying with one side more than the other, I have the choice of who I want to be, a choice only for me.

"Whether a person is of a single ethnic group or identifies with multiple groups, every person should live accordingly to their own preferences, claiming only to their birthright to live as a full-fledged member of society. Diversity is an elaborate mosaic: different people, different beliefs, different hopes and different dreams, explicitly pieced together for one grand image.

"So, while there are advantages and limitations rallying around a single ethnic identity, there are no written set of rules or laws that explicitly state how people must live within society according to their ethnicity, as we should all simply accept every individual for who they are."



#### KYRA HIRASUNA

JACL Chapter: **WASATCH FRONT NORTH**

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

#### Notables

Kyra Hirasuna played the clarinet in the Syracuse High School Symphonic Band and was section leader. She was also a member of the Northern Davis District Honor Band and the University of Utah Honor Band. In addition, Hirasuna was assistant volleyball coach at the Park Center in Murray and volleyball coach at West Point City.

For about five years, she taught and performed traditional Japanese dances for Ogden and Salt Lake's Hana Matsuris. She also performed dances for the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple's Nihon Matsuri and has participated in taiko at the Ogden Buddhist Temple.

Although a new student member of the Wasatch Front North Chapter, she has participated in the chapter's annual volleyball tournament for more than 10 years and has attended and volunteered at multiple dinners and fundraisers. This past year, she organized the dessert table at the scholarship dinner, where she plated and sold desserts and drinks to attendees.

#### Personal Statement

"Many hardships for my ancestors occurred during the Second World War, whether they were located in America or Japan. Although many losses were suffered, these hardships brought people together. When in times of need and suffering, they had each other's support and motivation. If anything, these trials and tribulations further strengthened the past- and present-day Japanese community. Personally, these stories of courageous Japanese men and women help me take pride in my

identity as a Japanese American.

"Rallying around a single ethnicity will unify that specific ethnic community. This unity empowers the group's voice and representation within a state. Another advantage of a single ethnicity group is it creates a feeling of comfort when living in such a diverse society. Making friends and relating to culturally different people can be difficult, so it is reassuring to know that there is a community of people who share more similar values and ideas.

"While rallying around one ethnicity brings together that group, it separates them from the rest of the world. This idea of separation may disable the community's ability to share their ideas and hear other's. The human race would be improved if we were able to understand one another better. It is important that we accept each other and look past uncontrollable, inevitable differences."



#### HALEY HOM

JACL Chapter: **SAN DIEGO**  
 Recipient of the *Shigeki 'Shake' Ushio Memorial Scholarship*  
**University of Richmond**

#### Notables

Since her start as the first class of freshmen at a brand-new high school, Haley Hom has dedicated significant time and effort into shaping a healthy school culture. She always seeks to ensure that other students feel at home while at school and has proven to be a positive cultural >>>







influence on students and staff alike.

Her tireless work ethic and passion for learning are evident in her participation as founding member of the School Government and Leadership Team, Varsity Competitive Debate Team and Girls Varsity Basketball Team. Outside of school, she is a longstanding volunteer at her local Science Field Day and Children's Ministry.

**Personal Statement**

"A whole host of casual assumptions come with being labeled as an Asian among a predominantly white society — the expectation of highly competitive academic performance, knowledge of exotic cuisine and, perhaps, a penchant for thrifty shopping. At surface value, these stereotypes are not entirely bad.

"I have my Asian heritage to thank for the diligence to study hard and achieve good grades on difficult assignments. I enjoy introducing friends to my favorite childhood foods, teaching them how to hold chopsticks and laughing at their reactions to certain traditional dishes. And there's a certain thrill that accompanies a strategic bout of bargain hunting. I'm proud of my Asian background and wholeheartedly embrace my community, which laudes inspirational values like intelligence, grit and ambition.

"Of course, there are two sides to every coin. Although many of the characteristics typically associated with Asians are positive, several often carry negative connotations. People come to me for math help and assume that my reading and writing skills are poor, when I actually have a passion for literature, and AP calculus was the bane of my existence.

"Since Asian females are commonly portrayed as horrible drivers, people automatically label me as a bad driver as well, though I'm more careful than many of my white counterparts. But even with these false assumptions, I would never deny my Asian heritage . . . it is a personal source of strength.

"Asian' is a general demographic. By recognizing me as Asian, one may presume that I am studious, love rice and have a hard time parking a car. And they wouldn't necessarily be wrong. But my identity extends far beyond that basic categorization."



**TAYLOR ISHIDA**

JACL Chapter: **SACRAMENTO**  
*Recipient of the Sam & Florice Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship*  
**University of California, Los Angeles**

**Notables**

Taylor Ishida balances a heavy academic workload with involvement in her school's California Scholarship Federation, National Honor Society and Varsity Tennis Team. Over the past years, she has committed time and effort as a tutor with Homework Zone and Donation Coordinator with the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services. In addition, Ishida also devotes time to the Thumbs Up! Thumbs Down! Tobacco research project to aid in the elimination of tobacco in films. Her motivation for joining the Sacramento JACL is to support the Japanese and Asian community to understand and empathize with the foundation of its roots.

**Personal Statement**

"During my elementary school years, I had never heard of the Asian American stereotype. It was during my middle and high school years that reality set in with the awareness of racism swarming through social media and everyday life experiences. Being a part of a society that categorizes a person by the way she looks or where she's from has downfalls. Not only are these groups pigeonholed, but rallying around a single ethnic identity does not allow an individual to broaden one's horizon.

"Can you spread your wings when you're shielded by an invisible wall of misconceptions? Can you grow if knowledge is gained from only a single perspective? Individuals must open themselves up to multiple viewpoints and take a stand based on what they believe in their hearts, lest they be influenced by social media or stereotyping.

"In contrast, I am proud to be a Japanese American exposed to both the Japanese and American cultures. I'm fortunate as my grandparents and parents continue to carry out old Japanese customs within our household.

"But there has been a recent decline in the messages and teachings as Japanese Americans have become so assimilated in American culture that those traditions are becoming a lost art. What I hope can be transcended through the generations are the core Japanese values of perseverance, always trying your best and being respectful.

"I have also come to the conclusion that sometimes congregating amongst people of the same ethnicity can actually have a relaxing effect. A person may feel more secure and comfortable when around people with similar backgrounds. In addition, in initiating change, support from a single ethnic identity sometimes has bigger impact than a disparate one."



**REBECCA JACKSON**

JACL Chapter: **WASHINGTON, D.C.**  
*Recipient of the Kenji Kasai Memorial Scholarship*

**Biola University**

**Notables**

In 2017, Rebecca Jackson was appointed to the Smithsonian Institution in its Digital Media & Technology Department. She worked closely with a mentor as an editor and content producer for a number of DMT projects. Also in 2017, Jackson was one of five U.S. high school students selected to research, write and produce a short film highlighting one of the 10 internment camps.

Her film, "Minidoka: A Portrait of America," focused on her grandmother and artist Roger Shimomura. She completed a 12-week class and was certified as a studio technician. Jackson also learned to assist in various roles and volunteered to help on a number of shows.

During the summer before her junior year, she traveled to Tokyo and taught art and music at an

English camp.

Jackson became a student member of the Washington, D.C., chapter at the beginning of her freshman year. As a member, she has experienced some of the most meaningful events in her life. Through JACL, she learned about the Day of Remembrance and the Digital Storytelling Project, as well as participated in the Freedom Walk in downtown D.C.

**Personal Statement**

"Embracing one's ethnicity is one of the most amazing things an individual can do. On a recent college visit to Southern California, my mom and I met a Japanese American family and made an instant connection. Within a minute of meeting one another, we were talking about our grandparents, our family history, the internment and our race.

"My Japanese culture has shaped me into the person that I am today. As an artist, about 80 percent of the art I do is inspired by my race. My race is the fuel behind my passion for my pieces.

"There are, however, a few problems that come with rallying around one single ethnic group. Focusing too much on one's own race can lead to the exclusion of other races. When you close yourself off from others, it can add to the negative stereotype your race may already have.

"While it is wonderful to have pride and a sense of community within

your race, it is also very important to understand other people's cultures. I believe that embracing, celebrating and having that sense of community with your own ethnic group is very important, but it is also important to then go out and meet others from different backgrounds."



**LOGAN MANO**

JACL Chapter: **MT. OLYMPUS**  
*Recipient of the Shigeki 'Shake' Ushio Memorial Scholarship*

**Utah State University**

**Notables**

With the belief that he can succeed through hard work, Logan Mano involves himself in many different competitions, programs and extracurricular activities. His efforts have resulted in awards as a varsity wrestler, podium finishes in a regional history fair and a Best Film award, to name a few. However, Mano is most proud of his graduate letter from Boy's State 2017, where his hero, 442nd member Kasey >>

**San Diego JACL CONGRATULATES the 2018 Scholarship Winners**



**JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE**

- Brandon Matsumoto*
- Dominic Martino*
- Hailey Sasaki*
- Trevor Muraoka*
- \*Haley Hom\**
- \*Lauren Matsumoto\**

The \* indicates national award winners.

**Congratulations to Sacramento JACL's Scholarship Award Winners!!**



- Annika Masaki:** Sacramento JACL Chapter and National JACL Awards
- Taylor Ishida:** Sacramento JACL Chapter and National JACL Awards
- Allie Chow:** Sacramento JACL Chapter and National JACL Awards
- Corey Tanaka:** Sacramento JACL Chapter Awards
- Allysa Hum:** Sacramento JACL Chapter Awards





Kuminara, spoke.

Mano is a relatively new member of the Mt. Olympus JACL, but he has attended many chapter fundaromas and Christmas parties, as well as assisted with various tasks such as taking tickets or running booths.

#### Personal Statement

"I plan to attend Utah State University. I plan to major in biochemistry and take the pre-dental examination and continue my education into dental school. I chose Utah State because of the traditions of which have been a part of my life since I was born and the academic profile of this university.

"My career goal would include owning my own [dental] practice as well as devoting about three to six weeks out of the year to administering humanitarian dental hygiene care to people living in poverty in either this country or Third World countries. I want to devote my life to helping people all that I can.

"To me, dentistry is a way I can help the health of my community. I believe that taking my skills across seas to places that really need it could be beneficial to the people I assist, but I would hope I could also inspire people to have a desire to make a difference through devoting one's self-service. I want to help people, but more importantly, I want other people to want to help other people — and hopefully that spreads like a chain reaction.

"Success isn't measured by how far from the start you have come, it is measured by the distance you've traveled. The path to success is never a straight one. Sometimes, even a little step forward is a fight, but in the end, you could of only gone halfway and still endured and grown more than the kid who made it to the finish line."



**ANNIKA MAI MASAKI**  
JACL Chapter: **SACRAMENTO**  
*Recipient of the Takashi & Yuriko Moriuchi Memorial Scholarship*  
**University of California, Berkeley**  
**Notables**

Annika Mai Masaki was honored to represent her great-grandparents' scholarship presentation as well as speak about their commitment to the education of our youth. As a legacy to the empowerment of JACL youth, Masaki ignited her own path to academic and leadership success.

As the leader of the CK McClatchy

Mathletes, she lifted her team to first place in competition. In addition to math, her skills in French and biology allowed her to tutor fellow students. She is also active at the Sacramento Betsuin. Here, she feels the Obon festival is not just a cultural program but also allows for the Japanese community to come together and renew old ties.

#### Personal Statement

"Rallying around a single ethnic identity allows a broader group of people to connect through common cultural and ancestral ties. In the U.S., all Asians are usually lumped into one ethnic group. On the positive side, though this group does not necessarily share common cultural and ethnic backgrounds, as a larger group, their presence and voice in social and political discourse are much louder.

"In general terms, ethnicity is a strong bond that ties people together, providing a sense of belonging and community. In countries such as Japan, a strong sense of nationalism is created because the majority of the population shares a common cultural and ethnic background.

"Historically, the strength of one's ethnic identity and the power it holds over people could be seen in the colonization of Africa. In Africa, European colonization created nations and borders solely based on agreements made between the different European countries. No thought was given when different cultures and ethnic groups were split due to these new state borders. Although ethnic groups may have been separated by these arbitrary borders, they still maintained a common identity.

"I appreciate the JACL because it not only speaks on behalf of the Japanese American community but also speaks for all minorities in this country. Although the JACL was

created to promote and represent the Japanese American community, as the community has established itself in this country, the organization has also evolved to represent not only Japanese American causes but also involve itself in broader social matters important to our society.

"In order to have a successful society, we must recognize and accept all people and truly embrace our ethnic and cultural diversity."



**STEPHANIE A. MATSUMOTO**  
JACL Chapter: **STOCKTON**  
*Recipient of the Paul & Katherine Ohtaki Memorial Scholarship*  
**University of California, Davis**  
**Notables**

"Live life without regret" is Stephanie Matsumoto's motto. This is evident through her long and varied list of honors that includes varsity tennis and badminton, Girls State delegate and Stockton School Board Student Representative. Matsumoto's care for her community has also benefited many groups, including the Emergency Food Bank and Run Against Hunger.

In addition, Matsumoto's love for journalism inspired her to interview a Poston internee's descendant, whose story made the front page of the *Stagg Line* newspaper.

But more inspirational was her participation in a Lawrence Livermore Lab internship, which ignited her

passion for the biological sciences, thus steering her in the direction of studying biomedical engineering.

#### Personal Statement

"The way you identify yourself, whether it's through your gender, your sexuality or your ethnicity, can help you discover more about yourself and where you belong. Many people can fit in with more than one category, but some, like me, only have a single ethnic identity. While a person's single ethnic identity brings some limitations, it also allows [him or her] to have advantages in life by giving a sense of cultural belonging and an attachment to traditions.

"However, this is also a limitation. While a single ethnic identity prevents conflict, it also doesn't give the opportunity for a person to be a part of two or more ethnic backgrounds. Coming from two different ethnicities is like getting two different viewpoints on life, and I believe that's something someone with a single ethnicity wouldn't naturally have.

"With ethnic groups also comes a long line of traditions and values from that culture. To me, traditions seem like one of the most important things a person can carry. These traditions are important to many individuals, and it's up to each generation after to pass it on to their children. By rallying around a single ethnic identity, you get to be a part of keeping one tradition alive for many others.

"Neither having one ethnic identity or multiple identities can be better than the other. They both only have their advantages and limitations that can be commented on. What is most important is how a person views and uses their ethnic identity to be an advantage. While it varies from person to person, I feel like it is a good thing to appreciate what

you have and how it can get you farther in life."



**KAILEE NABETA**  
JACL Chapter: **BERKELEY**  
*Recipient of the Patricia & Gail Ishimoto Memorial Scholarship*  
**Boise State University**  
**Notables**

Kailee Nabeta was awarded the Mary Tsukamoto Award for her "Internment of Japanese Americans" entry at the Sacramento History Day competition. She has also dedicated many hours to swimming and has competed in both section and state competitions. Nabeta had the opportunity to travel to Japan and twice to Florida for swim training trips.

She has been a student member of the Berkeley JACL for more than four years. Nabeta is following in the footsteps of her grandmother and great-grandmother, who are both active members of the Berkeley chapter.

#### Personal Statement

"Throughout my 18 years, I have grown to appreciate being a Japanese American. During my middle school years, I did several reports that surrounded my own ethnicity, such as the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the internment of Japanese Americans. When deciding to do my history projects on these topics, I felt a sense of pride because I made these projects personal to me and my own family history."



## The Berkeley Chapter Congratulates Our 2018 National and Chapter Scholarship Recipients!

### National Recipients

**Freshman:**  
Kailee Nabeta  
Luka Uchiyama

**Graduate Students:**  
Mali McGuire

**Special Awards:**  
Kai Henthorn-Iwane



B E R K E L E Y

### Chapter Recipients

Jared Akiyama  
Alyssa Cho  
Kailee Nabeta  
Alexander Tsuetaki  
Luka Uchiyama  
Sydney Wong





“I believe when rallying behind my own ethnic identity, there is a sense of pride that comes with it. I am proud to say, “I am a Japanese American” when someone asks what ethnicity I am. I have also learned a lot about my Japanese culture when I go to Japanese functions.

“Although it is a great experience to learn about one’s own ethnicity, it also limits one’s perspective of the injustices that take place outside of one community. For instance, my mom grew up in Hawaii, where the majority of the population is Asian. While it was an advantage for her to limit her exposure and experience of racism and allowed her to enrich her Japanese heritage, she was not aware that she was a ‘minority,’ which was shocking to her when she moved to the ‘mainland.’

“I believe that the advantages of rallying around a single ethnic identity far outweigh the naivety that occurs when doing so. In the summer of 2015, I had the opportunity to travel to Japan to represent my USA swim team. I felt so proud to be a Japanese American and felt like I was swimming to represent not only my country, but also as a Japanese American because my family raised me to rally around my ethnic identity. I am thankful to them for raising me to be proud of my Japanese American heritage.”



**KOJI NAGATA-BROWN**  
 JACL Chapter: **SALT LAKE CITY**  
*Recipient of the CWO 4 Mitsugi Murakami Kasai (Ret.) Memorial Scholarship*  
**University of Utah**  
**Notables**

At Judge Memorial Catholic High School, Koji Nagata-Brown was senior class president. As a member of Youthlinc, he went to Pucallpa, Peru, in the summer of 2017, where he spent two weeks helping to restore the small village.

In June of this year, he traveled to Trat, Thailand, as an Alumni Leader and spent two weeks there continuing humanitarian work. In addition, he has been associated with the Boy Scouts of America since the age of 8, and this year earned the rank of Eagle Scout. Recently, Nagata-Brown helped a friend, Keaton Yoshinaga, in the creation and filming of a Japanese-themed movie trailer, which won first place at English Quest.

Nagata-Brown has been a member

of the Salt Lake City JACL since 2016 but has attended many events prior to officially joining the chapter. He has also been involved with the Mt. Olympus Chapter and has participated with the youth group at numerous events.

**Personal Statement**

“When I was young, my last name used to embarrass me. This was because it was different from the other kids at my elementary school. It was superlong, and I always had to explain how ‘Nagata’ was not my middle name, but actually just part of my last name. Over the years, I became less self-conscious about my last name and started to embrace it. You see, my last name is more than just a name given to me at birth, it represents who I am.

“‘Nagata-Brown’ is my heritage from two cultures; it represents a rich family legacy that I am proud of and welcome. Both sides of my family have so much history behind them. I am extremely proud of their accomplishments and contributions. That is why I am proud to be ‘Nagata-Brown.’

“Rallying around a single ethnic identity can give you a sense of comfort and belonging because of similarities of color, dialect and even experience. But at the same time, it could preclude you from opportunities for growth you would gain by moving outside of your comfort zone.

“I believe people are much more alike than they are different. We all share the same human spirit. My wish is for all ethnic backgrounds to be treated equally, not differentiated by the color of their skin, the hyphen between two last names or their cultural differences. I think we should celebrate and embrace every individual for [his/her] uniqueness and always remember — every person has [his/her] own story to tell.”



**MEGAN TERESA (SUZUKI) PELLI**  
 JACL Chapter: **WASHINGTON, D.C.**  
*Recipient of the Paul & Katherine Ohtaki Memorial Scholarship*  
**University of Virginia**  
**Notables**

Megan Pelli is an accomplished cross-country runner. She utilized her skills to motivate her team members and was recognized by them accordingly. National Honor Society, Latin Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta have also nurtured her leadership

skills, leading to peer tutoring and serving as a lector for her church. However, Pelli’s most treasured experience was her internship in Japan, where she served as an English teacher to Nichidai Middle School students at Nihon University. There, she shared her American culture with the students and helped facilitate a three-day “English Camp” in a nearby city.

**Personal Statement**

“America is a colorful mosaic, rich in the heterogeneous array of vibrant customs, language, traditions and values. This plethora of various heritages has created a unique environment where our differing cultures and ethnicities are seen as one of our greatest national strengths. Diversity is generally a noble ideology that ought to be celebrated; however, differing cultures can also bring polarization between groups when each group becomes solely focused on their own advancement.

“Each culture is like a differently colored tile, making the mosaic of our nation more beautiful as a whole. Exploring one’s ethnic identity and cultural heritage will significantly enhance personal identity and help to develop a greater sense of belonging and self-worth. Celebrating your culture allows the opportunity to share the rich story of who you are and where you are from to others.

“Progress happens in baby steps. In my own lifetime, I have seen the steady shift from the idea that in order to be equal, we must minimize our differences, to blatantly celebrating those same differences and encouraging diversity. Our society is currently in the midst of a social revolution where people are realizing they no longer have to stay silent to minimize their differences, but now is the time to express them and appreciate them, making our mosaic richer in color today.

“Diversity makes America a beautifully multifaceted country; however, it also can have a dangerous dark side. In its negative form, diversity highlights our differences in a way

that promotes suspicion, prejudice and resentment. Diversity without love leads to discrimination, rabid factionalism and survival of the fittest.

“Rallying around a single ethnic flag can help us appreciate our own value and contribution to society, increasing respect and appreciation of others and national harmony.”



**MIYA SAKAI-CHENG**  
 JACL Chapter: **STOCKTON**  
*Recipient of the Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship*  
**Harvard University**  
**Notables**  
 Miya Sakai-Cheng held various

leadership positions in the Lincoln Literacy Leaders group. She also facilitated book readings and educational activities at elementary schools within the Lincoln School District. In addition, Sakai-Cheng worked with Lambda Theta Phi to raise money for Stockton charities.

She has been a member of the Stockton JACL since the summer of 2013. Through the chapter, she has helped the membership coordinator organize membership data and has contacted lapsed members to rejoin.

In early 2017, she was initiated as the student representative of the Stockton JACL board. As a participant at the Stockton 2017 Day of Remembrance, Sakai-Cheng researched and created a presentation on the San Joaquin County Fairgrounds, which served as a relocation center, and lit a candle in honor of the inhabitants of Rohwer, Ark., where her grandparents were incarcerated.

**Personal Statement**

“Ethnic identity is extremely powerful. It influences both the way we are perceived by others and



**Congratulations**  
**Koji Nagata-Brown**

We are so proud of you

Mom, Dad, Mei, Lala,  
 Auntie Steph, Uncle Stan, Alli, Sarah,  
 Grandma and Grandpa

**Congratulations**  
**Koji Nagata-Brown**

The Salt Lake JACL chapter recognizes and congratulates Koji on receiving the Mitsugi Murakami Kasai Memorial Scholarship

**CONGRATULATIONS**

**TO OUR NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!**

Miya Sakai-Cheng  
 Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship

Stephanie Matsumoto  
 Paul & Katherine Ohtaki Memorial Scholarship

STOCKTON CHAPTER, JACL





the way we perceive ourselves. Rallying around a single ethnic identity enables us to maintain our individuality in an increasingly homogeneous world while preserving traditions that would have otherwise become obsolete. However, doing so has the potential to cloud our perspectives, resulting in intolerance for those who are different.

“No matter how far we have traveled, ethnic identity helps us feel connected to our origins and strengthens our sense of self. It is a source of pride, particularly for minorities, who are often overshadowed or overlooked by the majority. Oftentimes, this pride is instilled through participation in traditions through familial or religious communities. There is something extremely empowering in being a part of traditions unique to your commonality, but on a more profound level, the continuation of tradition ensures we do not forget our past, and we leave a lasting legacy.

“At the same time, adhering to an ethnic identity has its limitations. It can contribute to a divide between cultures, or, at its worst, serve as a basis of discrimination. If we become consumed by our own ethnic identity, we may come to believe we are inherently better than others and disregard or disparage unfamiliar traditions and beliefs.

“In conclusion, identifying with an ethnicity differentiates and empowers groups of people while upholding meaningful traditions, as long as these groups can exist harmoniously with mutual respect.”



#### LINDSEY M. SANO

JACL Chapter: **MERCED-LIVINGSTON**

Recipient of the *Takashi & Yuriko Moriuchi Memorial Scholarship*  
**California State University, Fresno**

#### Notables

Lindsey Sano is an accomplished academic and multigold medal decathlon winner in multiple subjects. She has also been a mentor and leader in Link Crew; Family, Career and Community Leaders of America; Kiwanis and has helped feed the homeless. Sano always bears in mind all that it took to get her to where she is today — she is perpetually appreciative for the help she has received to shape her into the person she has become. Having vision issues from her childhood, she aspires to

become an optometrist. Sano has always been inspired by her father’s cousin and intrigued by the delicate anatomy and physiology of the eye.

#### Personal Statement

“In society, we live under various categories. Whether it is distinguished by the color of [one’s] skin, religion or ethnicity, we have created invisible barriers to separate and divide ourselves. By valuing a single ethnic group, it allows the population to feel stronger and empowered in strength in unity and numbers.

“On the other hand, there must be a balance of equality between the ethnic groups. There becomes a risk of valuing the groups over one another. The thing that we must remember is that we need to look at similarities rather than our differences. However, we must also relish our differences, as it allows a sense of diversity and a much more interesting community and world where we can value our unique characteristics.

“While building connections with people who share similar characteristics is wonderful, it also has the possibility to lead to a very harmful and empowering risk. There needs to be a balance between empowering people within your group and holding your group at a higher value and standard than others. It creates an unbalanced society [when] one is seen as more prestigious than the rest. This inequality is unhealthy for our society, as it no longer holds its purpose of holding peace in a positive manner. It serves as a negative impression that breaks the sense of diversity and focuses more on the differences rather than the positives of being unique. This is when events of racism and prejudice enter and create a clash of the ‘ultimate’ ethnicity.

“We must create a unity between ourselves and look upon our differences as a sign of diversity to brighten and help make our world just a little bit more interesting.”



#### COLIN S. TAKEDA

JACL Chapter: **VENTURA COUNTY**  
Recipient of the *Paul & Katherine Ohtaki Memorial Scholarship*  
**Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering**

#### Notables

Summa Cum Laude, AP Scholar with Honors and Cross-Country team captain are all honors earned by Colin Takeda. His efforts in the area of alternative energy also garnered him first place at the California State

Science Fair.

In addition, training with the Azuma Kotobuki Kai Japanese Dance Group has allowed his artistic side to preserve and promote the traditional art of Nihon Buyo. Takeda’s artistic and engineering talents culminated in a summer studying with Hollywood special effects artists, where he designed and created a dragon eye the likes of the Hobbit Smaug.

#### Personal Statement

“Ethnicity is a little complicated when it comes to me. Both my parents are Sansei Japanese Americans, and I have three Nisei and one Kibei grandparent. And yet, my 23andME profile indicates I am only 63.1 percent Japanese. However, I was raised 100 percent Japanese American. This means white rice at Thanksgiving dinner, grandma bringing us too many Japanese cookies and candies and having a Japanese dentist, optometrist and gardener. It means loving sushi and a good bowl of ramen and cheering for Japan during the Olympics.

“If I were to celebrate my ethnicity equitably, should I go to Korean festivals 5.7 percent of the time? Should I start eating more Mongolian food? And how do I honor the traditions of being ‘broadly East Asian’? The limitation of rallying around a single ethnic identity is that none of us are truly one race or one ethnicity no matter how ‘pure’ we think we are.

“I identify with a single ethnic group of Americans who have ancestors from Japan. But it is not a ‘Japanese’ ethnic group but a Japanese American ethnic group. Our experience and history is very different from our relatives who live in Japan. We have a shared history and culture that is rich in tradition. But we also have a shared history marred by persecution, discrimination and injustice.

“I will honor and celebrate our shared culture and traditions, but I will also join the fight to prevent a repeat of past injustices. I am proud to identify myself as Japanese American. However, what I have learned from my DNA analysis is that it doesn’t really matter how much Japanese DNA you have in your genome, but how much shared JA history and tradition you have in your heart.”



#### KAITLYN E. TANG

JACL Chapter: **SOUTH BAY**

Recipient of the *Takashi & Yuriko Moriuchi Memorial Scholarship*  
**Stanford University**

#### Notables

Mu Alpha Theta, the Math National Honor Society, is but one achievement in a long list accomplished by Kaitlyn Tang. With multiple AP Scholar Distinctions, National Merit Scholar, National Social Science Honor Society, CSF and Sociedadad Honoraria Hispanica also on this young scholar’s list, it is no wonder that she is destined for Stanford. Plans to explore STEM may lead her to a career in digital humanities, but does not define Tang. Her most memorable experience was through Best Buddies, where she mentored disabled students with whom she has forged heartfelt lifelong friendships.

#### Personal Statement

“My family has always been a distinctly mixed-ethnicity household. Some may argue that rallying around a single ethnic identity brings one closer to their heritage, but I believe one’s heritage does not have to be limited to a sole identity.

“Whether it was waking up early to watch the World Cup or eating my dad’s signature feijoada, farofa and rice, my dad’s Brazilian heritage has always influenced my family greatly. Three years ago, the same age my dad was when he immigrated

from Brazil, my dad took my sisters and me to visit his homeland. Each person we met would welcome us in the same way, with open arms and an immense pride for their country. My family has taken a lot from my dad’s Brazilian heritage, and whether it’s sharing giant chocolate eggs each Easter or embracing all of those around us with open arms, part of my identity lies within my dad’s homeland.

“Being Japanese American has also influenced my life greatly. My grandpa and I bonded through our mutual love for history. As I grew older, my grandfather noticed my special interest in history and began to take me on weekly excursions. We went on countless adventures together, spending Saturday afternoons at the Japanese American National Museum and sweltering weekends at Manzanar while I learned the details of my family’s past.

“Through my experiences, I have experienced how influential rallying around multiple ethnic identities can be. I am rich in my identity, and rallying around a single ethnic identity would limit my growth as an individual. We should learn to embrace others in their entirety, regardless of if we share a single ethnic identity. This is what truly makes America great.”



The Ventura County Chapter  
would like to congratulate

**Colin Takeda**  
recipient of the  
**Paul & Katherine Ohtaki**  
Memorial Scholarship



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**LUKA UCHIYAMA**

JACL Chapter: **BERKELEY**  
*Recipient of the Deni & June Uejima Memorial Scholarship*  
**California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo**  
**Notables**

Luka Uchiyama’s passion for education and learning shows through her relentless approach to scholastic excellence and myriad of volunteer activities. Her leadership in the classroom and strong work ethic have left strong impressions on her peers and teachers alike. While putting in the time and effort to reach high academic heights, Uchiyama also organized volunteer events, such as a blood drive and a canned-food drive, participated as the president of her school’s choir program and has held many positions in the leadership program.

**Personal Statement**

“Family on me, family on three — one, two, three!

“For the Japanese school middle school class of 2016, it is the last *bunkasai* — a culture festival where each homeroom class puts on a small performance — and we all come together for our last cheer. A wash of nostalgia flows over me as we wait the last few minutes before the showcase of our play. My chest filled with pride as I recognized the culture we created within ourselves after all of these years.

“My mind, then, remembered something else: these last few weeks of Japanese school — including our *bunkasai* — were the last few times that we were going to be a part of that culture. In those few moments before our play, I felt frightened. The community that we established was irreplaceable, something that we wouldn’t be able to see with any other group of people — how was our culture to be maintained after we all go our own separate ways?

“Single ethnic communities have been one of the most vibrant communities, as they are often built upon shared experiences of challenges they’ve faced in their journey for a better opportunity. Rallying around each challenge creates strong bonds, and as a result, establishes a group of people who are the most kind and compassionate, especially to members of their own community.

“However in recent times, these same struggles have become apart of the past, and the new generation of single ethnicity individuals can no

longer relate to the experiences that have defined the community from the beginning. In particular, people may define themselves as Japanese American, but hold different values than their relatives before them.

Ultimately, as more and more single ethnicity communities dwindle in membership, the challenge continues to maintain the vibrancy of the community while holding the same value in history and culture.”



**JADE VIEIRA**

JACL Chapter: **FRENCH CAMP**  
*Recipient of the Takashi & Yuriko Moriuchi Memorial Scholarship*  
**University of California, Los Angeles**  
**Notables**

Jade Vieira selected UCLA as her choice to pursue her ultimate career goal as a physician specializing in emergency care. Perhaps stemming from her childhood encounter with heart surgery, she learned the importance of the life she has been blessed with and the need to take risks at times as life can be so short. This has been inspirational in Vieira’s study of the biological sciences leading to training in life-saving efforts as an emergency care physician.

In addition to her numerous scholastic achievements, Vieira helped establish a Debate Club at Aspire Benjamin Holt College Preparatory Academy and presided over the Interact Club. Not only an active member of the French Camp JACL and assisting the Stockton JACL, she also studied Buyo Bando. Learning Japanese classical dance was an important way of preserving Japanese cultural history in an ever-changing and modernizing world.

**Personal Statement**

“Many things have changed throughout history, including events that did not happen too long ago, such as the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. Some of these changes include civil rights, gender equality and diversity in certain industries (like television and media). One concept that is somewhat new to our society is interracial marriage and the concept of multiple ethnicities in one person.

“In the 1900s, it was considered blasphemous to marry outside your race or culture in America. Because of this standard, many biracial and multiracial individuals felt ashamed of their complete heritage and their

roots because society has made it so hard to be able to fit into more than one label or category.

“The advantages of rallying around a single ethnic identity are the freedom of expressing one’s self and only having to follow one culture. The downfall of identifying as one ethnic group is that some people do not have the same opportunity to experience cultural traditions around the world without feeling like an outsider.

“I think that today it is hard to embrace an identity or even multiple identities. Acts of close-mindedness and fearing the unknown can lead to discrimination, stereotypes and a constant division between groups. Currently, the JACL is like a tapestry, weaving many different cultures, ideas and beliefs that make up one image, which is the image of equality and justice for all.”



**SHUN WETLESEN**

JACL Chapter: **PORTLAND**  
*Recipient of the Deni & June Uejima Memorial Scholarship*  
**Pacific University**  
**Notables**

In order to get more in touch with his Japanese roots, Shun Wetlesen began practicing Kendo in his freshman year of high school. After the beginner classes, his interest blossomed into a love for the martial art, and he began entering tournaments and working to climb up the ranks. He is currently a Shodan at the Obukan Kendo Club and strives for a first place tournament finish.

Wetlesen is a relatively new member of the Portland JACL, but he also has experience working with the Japanese community in other ways.

**Personal Statement**

“The United States as a nation has existed on the basic principle of a nation that accepts all cultures. Throughout history, this has lead to the labeling of the United States as a ‘melting pot’ of other cultures. This identity can indeed be seen throughout various aspects of American lifestyle.

“Despite how these cultures come together to form American culture, there are still many cases of groups of people rallying around their culture or ethnic identity in order to become part of a smaller community. Although there are benefits to rallying under a single ethnic identity, the limited nature of the action also prevents

further understanding of those around an individual.

“There is certainly an advantage to the unification of a group of people behind one ethnic identity. This advantage is the sense of belonging that one achieves by doing so. By rallying behind a single cultural identity, it becomes easier to be accepted. Those with similar ethnic identities have similar experiences; this is what comprises that identity.

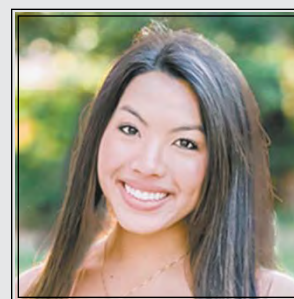
“While rallying behind a single cultural identity does have certain benefits, there are also limits to it. By limiting ourselves to certain ethnic people, we also prevent the sharing of culture. By secluding

ourselves to a certain group of people based on their past experiences, we also prevent the sharing of culture between two people.

“This lack of understanding between cultures also makes it easier to discriminate against those of other ethnic identities. For instance, the current discrimination that Muslims face in the United States is a result of most Americans not fully understanding what a Muslim is and what constitutes [his/her] religious beliefs.

“It is by sharing our culture with others and moving past the limited mind-set of a single ethnic identity that this understanding is possible.”

**UNDERGRADUATES**



**JENNA AOKI**

JACL Chapter: **CLOVIS**  
*Recipient of the Railroad & Mine Workers Memorial Scholarship*  
**California State University, Fresno**  
**Notables**

Jenna Aoki is planning a career as a middle school or high school physical education teacher. She also aspires to obtain a master’s or doctorate degree to become a high school academic guidance counselor or college professor. Aoki is a high-achieving student in the CSU Fresno Smittcamp Family Honors College and works as a research assistant in the Department of Kinesiology and student campus

photographer. She also is on the Fresno State Spirit Squad.

Aoki credits the JACL for helping her develop a greater sense of identity and purpose and has a strong sense of pride for her Japanese culture. She is active in the JACL at the local and national levels, including serving as a CCDC youth delegate at National Convention, participating as a Kakehashi alum, attending NY/SC retreats and appearing in a film re-enactment for a public TV documentary about San Joaquin Valley detainees, where she also helped fundraise for the film.

In addition, Aoki is the development coordinator for the Fresno chapter of Camp Kesem, a national nonprofit organization that supports children affected by the effects of a parent who has cancer. In her first year in that role, Aoki helped the chapter raise more than \$28,000 to support summer camp tuitions and other initiatives. Aoki’s additional community involvement includes the Girl Scouts, Junior Young >>>

**Clovis JACL Chapter**  
**is proud of our**  
**National Scholarship Recipient:**  
**Jenna Aoki**

*Congratulations to the 2018 scholarship recipients.*  
*Ross and Grace Masaki*





Buddhist Assn., Tzu Chi Medical Clinic and Shinzen Garden.

**Personal Statement**

“By supporting other ethnic groups in addition to Japanese Americans, the JACL has shown the world that we are stronger united and can truly help make a difference. Oftentimes, it is believed that much has changed since the incarceration of Japanese Americans, but what we must realize is the fact that history has the tendency to repeat itself.

“I strongly believe that without JACL’s advocacy for other ethnic groups’ rights, we would not be where we are today and could be living in an even darker world. In closing, I know it is imperative to keep pushing and advocating for not only Japanese Americans’ rights, but also all rights, no matter how the individuals identify themselves.”



**JOHN MIYATAKE CONKLIN**

JACL Chapter: **SONOMA COUNTY**  
*Recipient of the Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship*  
**University of Chicago**

**Notables**

John Conklin plans to major in Japanese and East Asian languages and civilization. He recently completed a summer scholarship program to live and study in Hokkaido, Japan, through the Hokkaido International Foundation. He is thoroughly committed to the study of civil rights in the United States and would like to attend law school in the future with the goal of becoming a public interest constitutional lawyer and scholar. Conklin’s dream is to argue an important civil rights case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

For Conklin’s JACL chapter, he served as vp for civil rights and public affairs for four years and organized voter registration events as well as assistance programs to get senior citizens to polling places. He also was selected to represent the chapter at the JACL-OCA Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C., this past spring.

In addition, Conklin served as an intern for the Marin County Public Defender’s Office, where he studied rehabilitation programs for prisoners with mental health issues and authored a policy paper for the County Board of Supervisors that addressed countywide issues related to child-parent prison visitation and mental health.

He is currently a member of the university’s Mock Trial Team and the Asian American Intersvarsity. His community involvement includes membership in United Against Inequities in Disease, which identifies and develops programs to address health inequities in local underserved communities.

**Personal Statement**

“In its best sense, when the word ‘rally’ is used to call people together for protecting endangered members of a community or furthering a just cause, the cry to rally motivates us to act together for a common good that is also good for people in other communities.

“However, when uttered for purposes of causing members of a particular ethnic community to put their own narrow interests above those of other communities in a jingoistic fashion, such as the ‘rally round the flag’ or ‘love it or leave it mentality,’ as a means to ignore or deflect legitimate criticism, then we see clearly the limitations of rallying to a particular ethnic identity.

“The formation and mission of the JACL reflects the best sense of rallying for a cause — using the experience of Japanese Americans’ internment to remind all Americans of the consequences of ethnic and racial prejudice and the necessity of guarding the civil rights of all Americans, regardless of their ethnicity and religious and political beliefs.”



**KRISTEN CUNNINGHAM**

JACL Chapter: **SEATTLE**  
*Recipient of the Shigeru Nakahira Memorial Scholarship*  
**Whitworth University**

**Notables**

Kristen Cunningham became a JACL member as a high school sophomore after years of accompanying her mother and sister to chapter board meetings. She volunteered for many events, including the annual chapter banquet, annual health fair, Bunka No Hi and Day of Remembrance trip to the State Capitol.

Her school activities are extensive, including Whitworth Phi Eta Sigma national freshman honor society, National Honor Society, Whitworth Association for Computing Machinery and Kamiak Show Band, Orchestra, Spanish Club, Academic Coaches, Technical Crew and Winterguard.

In the community, Cunningham volunteered for Drops4Life to

organize a fundraiser for victims of Typhoon Haiyan, served on the Mukilteo Library Teen Advisory Board and led outreach activities teaching computer science skills to students at local schools.

**Personal Statement**

“I feel as though the JACL and organizations similar to the JACL are particularly interesting when you think about it. When I think about rallying behind a single ethnic identity, my mind jumps to groupings such as Asian, Caucasian, African and so on. In reference to a single ethnic identity, my mind does not instantly think of ‘Japanese American’ because I have always considered that to be two different ethnic groups.

“However, upon reflection, I have come to see the beauty in recognizing Japanese American as a single ethnic group. Growing up, I felt like I would have to choose between which ethnicity I would want to identify with. I could fit in with one or the other, but I couldn’t belong to both. Because of this, I would normally group myself with the ethnic group that I would best fit into at that moment. I would switch back and forth between seeing myself as Caucasian and seeing myself as Asian. This gave me somewhat of an advantage, but only on a surface level.

“On an underlying level, I never felt like I was truly connected with anyone in either group. I had nowhere that I truly belonged. Once I started identifying as Japanese American, that feeling started to disappear. I no longer switched between the two different ways that I could see myself and instead found a combination of both. This shift has helped me grow more confident and comfortable with who I am. Every day, I am thankful that I am able to identify as both Japanese and Caucasian.”



**ZACHARY ISHIMOTO**

JACL Chapter: **SOUTH BAY**  
*Recipient of the Dr. Thomas T. Yatabe Memorial Scholarship*  
**The University of Southern California**

**Notables**

Zachary Ishimoto is a Kakehashi alum who created a website to document his trip by blogging his thoughts about Japanese food, lifelong impacts of a visit to Hiroshima and a very memorable homestay. He also participated in writing an action plan for members of Japan’s Min-

istry of Foreign Affairs during his Kakehashi trip.

As a business major, he would like to enable future leaders of Japan-U.S. exchanges to form networks and help young people develop wider perspectives to encourage active roles at the global level.

Ishimoto received the Gardena Valley JACL Scholarship in high school and was a Go for Broke National Essay Scholarship Contest Winner in multiple years. In high school, he organized outreach programs with

the Go for Broke Education Center to conduct history lessons with his fellow students and the principal that featured Japanese American veterans who came to speak to six classes.

Among his other achievements, Ishimoto is also certified as a brown belt by the United States Judo Federation and earned its Academic Honors distinction for eight consecutive years. He also is a recipient of the South Bay Judo Academic Scholarship Award and the Yonsei Basketball >>

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

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

**Sonoma County  
 JACL**

proudly congratulates  
**John Miyatake  
 Conklin**  
 recipient of the  
**2018  
 Henry & Chiyo  
 Kuwahara  
 Memorial Scholarship**





Association Scholarship. College academic honors include the USC Alumni Group Scholarship, SCion Scholarship, USC Asian Pacific Alumni Association Distinguished Scholar Award and USC Marshall School of Business Dean's List.

Ishimoto is the recruitment director for the Asian Pacific American Student Assembly and secretary for the USC Nikkei Student Union. He also is a member of Beta Alpha Psi, Chinese American Student Assn. and Asian American Business Assn.

**Personal Statement**

"Throughout my life, I have been influenced by two cultures that are almost polar opposites. While at times paralyzing, for the most part, I like to think that I've captured the best of both worlds. I am not limited by a single or dual ethnic identity. I embrace who I am.

"I am frugal with my money, but at the same time, I am generous with my heart if I see someone in need. I work hard at school and am proud of my grades, but I am respectful and modest when it comes to talking about my accomplishments. One day, I hope to have the perfect balance without compromising either. It is these two cultures that have defined me as a person and allow me to be in the best place I could ever be: in both."



**SARA JAY**

JACL Chapters: **ARIZONA AND WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ**  
 Recipient of the *Saburo Kido Memorial Scholarship*  
**Arizona State University**  
**Notables**

Sara Jay is majoring in neurobiology, physiology and behavior as she prepares for a career in pediatric medicine as a physician assistant or doctor. She received the Arizona JACL Sara Hutchings Clardy Scholarship and a Watsonville-Santa Cruz

JACL Scholarship. School activities include the French Honor Society and National Honor Society. Jay also was a member of the swim and tennis teams and started the Science Club. In addition, she served as secretary of the Phoenix Suzuki Kokoro Dance Kai, president of the Arizona Young Buddhist Assn. and historian of the Southern District Junior Young Buddhist Assn. She also volunteered for four years with the Watsonville Kokoro No Gakko.

**Personal Statement**

"People who identify as Japanese do not always have the luxury of being able to speak of their ethnic identity without receiving negative feedback. Many ethnicities in the U.S. are known to be on the receiving end of racial slurs or prejudicial actions. Most of the time, these comments can be ignored, as they happen daily, and I know the people who carry these racially backed opinions are close-minded and can't comprehend the full effect of their words.

"For example, I find myself being asked, 'What are you?' as if I am a what, and not a who, a human. Or when someone asks why my skin isn't yellow, as if I am not allowed to go in the sun and have tan skin. These are called microaggressions, brief and commonplace daily verbal indignities that communicate hostile and derogatory racial insults toward people of color.

"They are just one of the limitations someone who identifies as a single ethnic identity must live with. I find myself trying to disregard the comments of people I am surrounded by, but I can sense annoyance bubbling inside me. It should not be a daily job of people of any ethnic identity to have to tolerate microaggressions like those above."



**LAUREN MATSUMOTO**  
 JACL Chapter: **SAN DIEGO**

*Recipient of the Kyutaro & Yasuo Abiko Memorial Scholarship*  
**The University of California, San Diego**  
**Notables**

Lauren Matsumoto is majoring in international business with a minor in accounting and Japanese studies. As a Kakehashi alum, she credits the program for sparking her interest in a career related to international relations and Japan-U.S. relations. Matsumoto was selected as the high school representative speaker on the Kakehashi trip for a meeting with Okinawa Gov. Hirokazu Naka.

She also represented the Pacific Southwest District at the JACL-OCA Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C., this past spring and serves on the JACL San Diego Advisory Council. In addition, Matsumoto is the UC San Diego Nikkei Student Union Cultural chairperson. In that role, she organized the UCSD Day of Remembrance, UCSD Manzanar Pilgrimage and Manzanar at Dusk program with the Manzanar Committee and Intercollegiate Nikkei Council.

Among her other accomplishments, she was one of five student participants in the pilot project "Keeping Japanese American Incarceration Stories Alive," which was created and presented by the Manzanar Committee and Manzanar National Historic Site this year.

Her other extracurricular memberships include the Japanese Student Assn., Women in Business, Asian Pacific-Islander Student Alliance and Asian Pacific-Islander Middle Eastern Desi American and International Studies Student Assn. She also volunteers in the community for the San Diego Chinese Center and the Walnut Grove Buddhist Church.

**Personal Statement**

"A strong sense of solidarity is important yet can be used wrongly and limit political action for civil rights when support is not given. If one continues to focus only on the injustices [her/her] community faces, it is hypocritical and selfish to

disregard the injustices other communities face on a local, national and global scale.

"Though the injustices that [he/she faces] may not be the same to other communities, they are very much similar, and this understanding and empathy helps build better allies and strengthens relationships.

"Our rallies are based upon supporting one another as we go through similar struggles, and this support should be extended outward to other communities because we are all fighting toward the common goal to be guaranteed our basic human rights and seen as equals."



**PAIGE MAWHINNEY**  
 JACL Chapter: **MILE HIGH**  
*Recipient of the Alice Yuriko Endo Memorial Scholarship*  
**Drake University**  
**Notables**

Paige Mawhinney volunteered for many JACL events that impacted her in different ways as she connected with her Japanese heritage. Volunteering for Aki Matsuri, Cherry Blossom Festival, Mochizuki and Day of Remembrance provided opportunities to learn more about JACL and opened

doors to additional service roles in the Japanese American community, which led to Mawhinney receiving a chapter scholarship and a JACL Honors award.

On an educational trip to Belize that focused on the intersection of conservation, economic development and indigenous rights, Mawhinney planted trees, helped at a local school, did survey work and engaged in a variety of service-learning activities. She also is active in many campus organizations, including Women in Business, Alpha Phi Omega, Campus Fellowship and Executive Council.

During her career at Mountain Vista High School, she was very involved in extracurricular activities including the Key Club, Rotary Interact, track and field, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Future Business Leaders of America and the National Honor Society.

Her community service volunteer talents have included assistance work at Westley Acres Retirement Community, Grace United Methodist Church, Greenwood Community Church, Highlands Ranch Community Association and the Denver Zoo.

**Personal Statement**

"Within the Japanese American community, I began volunteering to learn more about my ethnic background and become more involved with fellow Japanese Americans. When first volunteering, I never felt singled out since I was not actively involved within the community at that time. I was welcomed into the community and was embraced with the feeling of belonging."



**Congratulations Paige**

on receiving the  
**Alice Yuriko Endo Memorial Scholarship.**

**We are so proud of you!**

**Love Mom and Dad**



**Congratulations**

**Sara Jay**



**Saburo Kido Memorial Scholarship Honoree**

**Two Chapters, Twice the Pride**

**Arizona and Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Chapters**



**Sara Sachiko Jay**

**Congratulations on receiving the Saburo Kido Scholarship!**

**Love you – Mom, Dad, Lyndsay & Emiko**





“With many controversial topics in today’s society, there can be fear in people about wanting to rally around a single ethnic identity. However, the members of Mile High JACL [have] embraced everyone with an open mind and an open heart and wanted to involve the community, especially in their program, the Day of Remembrance.

“Though there are advantages and limitations with rallying around a single ethnic group, if you’re willing to step out and commit yourself to a specific group, you’re able to wholeheartedly embrace the group and the values behind it as part of your identity.”



**ALEXANDRA RIDGE**  
JACL Chapter: **MOUNT OLYMPUS**  
*Recipient of the Alice Yuriko Endo Memorial Scholarship*  
**The University of Utah**  
**Notables**

Alexandra Ridge has many interests guiding her decision in choosing a career, including journalism, civil rights, politics, education, medicine, art history, linguistics/language, psychology and biology. As a Kakehashi alum, she is especially interested in Japanese language/culture and Japan-U.S. relations and hopes to return as a volunteer for future Kakehashi programs.

She is fluent in Spanish, is quickly learning Italian and will study Japanese language in the fall semester. Ridge even presented several times in Italian in her art history class and excelled in two rigorous Italian Renaissance courses hosted by the British Institute of Florence.

Ridge also is very involved in community work as the vp of braille resources to Visually Impaired Children, a nonprofit organization that adds braille to children’s books and also donates those books to children who could otherwise not afford them. She also is active in the local Sister Cities program, where she has hosted visiting students from Matsumoto, Japan.

At the University of Utah, Ridge is a member of the National Honors Society and member of the Honors College.

**Personal Statement**

“This topic surfaces especially when applying for schools and programs. I have noticed that some sources ask me to list my ‘primary’ ethnicity; I am pressed to select

whichever of my two halves will prove to be advantageous in the situation. Do I indicate that I am Asian for a scholarship opportunity? Is it better for me to say I am white when applying to UC schools in consideration of their current Asian demographics? Being able to shift and sway between identities may be seen as a blessing to some, confined to their single ethnicity, but I would prefer not to have the option to change my mind based on what I believe someone wants to portray in a brochure.”



**TREY SANO**  
JACL Chapter: **FRESNO**  
*Recipient of the Dr. Thomas T. Yatabe Memorial Scholarship*  
**University of the Pacific**  
**Notables**

Trey Sano is enrolled in the Accelerated Pre dentistry 3+4 Program in preparation to become an oral surgeon. He exemplifies JACL youth involvement in his community by spreading the message of diversity, inclusion and leadership. Among his many service activities are the Junior Young Buddhist Assn. and Junior Asian Basketball Team, as well as volunteer work at a convalescent home, food bank and JACL events.

He is the recipient of scholarships from the Fresno Betsuin Temple, Clovis JACL, Fresno JACL and CCDC JACL. In addition, he recently served as a guest speaker at the Buddhist Church of Stockton’s Nirvana Day observance, where he addressed the congregation with a message of diversity, inclusion and tolerance that captivated the audience of all ages. His public speaking skills have inspired young adults to step into leadership roles.

**Personal Statement**

“I believe that rallying around a single ethnic identity is a powerful thing. When there is a large group of people all connected by an identity, it can give them the strength to make a stand for what they believe in.

“I think that without enough representation, it can be difficult to rally around that identity. That being said, when there are a number of other identities that are fighting for the same things, it can lead to increased support for all groups.

“Many social activist groups fight for the same thing: equality. Many feel underrepresented or that their identity is of less value because they are the minority. As a Japanese

American, I feel that I am only seen as Asian.

“I believe that while I have made many friends with Caucasian individuals, I am still not thought of as an equal. I came from a majority white, Christian high school. I made plenty of friends, but being Asian and Buddhist, I still sometimes felt like I didn’t completely belong.

“One of my friends is Muslim and felt scared to tell anyone, thinking he would be treated differently. We both confided in one another about this feeling of being isolated. I think that connection of being different is what brought us closer as friends and individuals.”



**KARLIE TERUYA**  
JACL Chapter: **DIABLO VALLEY**  
*Recipient of the Saburo Kido Memorial Scholarship*  
**University of Southern California**  
**Notables**

With her parents active in the local chapter, Karlie Teruya remembers many JACL meetings taking place in her living room. She was inspired by watching Japanese Americans in positions of power have a positive impact on their community.

Last year, Teruya received a scholarship from the Diablo Valley JACL to help her pursue dreams of entering the film industry. She hopes to bring diversity to an industry extremely lacking in Asian American representation. Teruya is a staff writer for the USC *Daily Trojan* student newspaper and was the floor manager of the Anenberg Television Network “See It Live” student-produced news show. Among her many scholastic honors are Alpha Delta Lambda Honor Society, USC Director’s Scholarship, Pedrozzi Foundation Scholarship, Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Month Scholarship, Livermore Arts Commission Scholarship, Herb Newkirk “Service Above Self” Scholarship and National Merit Commended Scholar.

Teruya’s community involvement is very diverse. She is active in the USC branch of Hillel, a Jewish youth organization. She also served on the board of directors of her local synagogue, and as co-chair of the Youth 7-12 Committee, developed a new educational program for teens. Teruya also served as communications vp for the East Bay Division of Jewish Youth, and during that

time, was president of Raising the Barre, a nonprofit organization that performs community service projects with the goal of improving the world through dance.

**Personal Statement**

“Being around people who share your experiences is something powerful, and those who share an ethnicity can understand each other’s worldviews in a way other people cannot. Rallying around a single ethnic identity can help bring like-minded

people together, but it can also lead to people being forced to choose between two pieces of themselves.

“We must be able to recognize what we share while also celebrating what makes us different. Instead of seeing myself as Japanese and Jewish, I see myself as a Japanese Jew. While this may seem like a small difference, it is important that I view the pieces of my racial and ethnic identities not as two separate entities but as one existence that makes up who I am.”

**GRADUATES**



**TREVOR FUJINAKA**  
JACL Chapter: **SAN FRANCISCO**  
*Recipient of the Kenji Kajiwara Memorial Scholarship*  
**Boston University, Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine**  
**Notables**

Trevor Fujinaka has been a JACL member for more than a decade, starting as an active student mem-

ber in high school participating in many youth events. He is a graduate of California Polytechnic State University and the University of the Pacific. His scholastic honors include the President’s List, Magna Cum Laude and Tao Kappa Omega. Campus activities include Boston University Periodontology Class Representative and University of Pacific Periodontology Study Club President.

Much of Fujinaka’s community service has a focus on dental health. He volunteered for Student Outreach for Public Education conducting patient interviews, triage, oral cancer screenings, oral hygiene instruction and referrals. He also assisted dental professionals at a free dental



*Congratulations Trevor!*

*We are all very proud of you and what you have accomplished!*

*Love from all the Fujinakas*

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**Trevor Fujinaka**

Recipient of the Kenji Kajiwara Memorial Scholarship!



from the  
**San Francisco JACL**

**The Fresno JACL Congratulates**  
**Trey Sano!**

**We are proud of your academic achievements and bright future!**





event hosted by the California Dental Assn. that helped thousands of patients in an underserved community. In addition, Fujinaka also traveled internationally to volunteer for 1000 Smiles, a mission trip to Jamaica that teamed dental providers with thousands of underserved Jamaicans to provide free dental care.

**Personal Statement**

“In my recent studies in a racially diverse and multinational dental field, I have noticed the clustering of ethnic identities through the residents that come overseas from various regions.

Although from different countries, the Middle Eastern residents aggregate due to their shared values, traditions, language and religion. Bonding as a group, they can feel more comfortable in a foreign and unfamiliar city with friends that share the same experiences. They are bonded by shared customs but not exclusive in their cultural judgments.

“Although there may be different ethnic groups, we celebrate our different cultures and share similar values as health care professionals. Collaboration with different ethnic groups is essential to understanding the differences in each culture and to avoid problems from misunderstandings.

Assembling around a single ethnic identity can be beneficial only in the presence of collaboration and tolerance of other cultures.”



**KRISTEN HAYASHI**  
JACL Chapter: **PASADENA**  
*Recipient of the Minoru Yasui Memorial Scholarship*  
**The University of California, Riverside**  
**Notables**

Kristen Hayashi became acquainted with JACL through a historical, scholarly perspective from her dissertation research into the return and resettlement of Japanese Americans in post-WWII Los Angeles. She wants to pursue a career that makes advancements in public education via informal education such as museum exhibitions or historical writing. It is her hope that her work helps to advance social justice for historically marginalized groups through the documentation, research, preservation and sharing of these lesser-known stories.

Hayashi has made scholarly presentations at conferences of the

Association for Asian American Studies, American Historical Assn., California Preservation Foundation, Historical Society of Southern California, Asian Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation, National Council of Public History and many others. She has also been the recipient of numerous honors, awards and fellowships in her field of study.

She currently is a graduate research assistant in the history department of UC Riverside and the collections manager for the Japanese American National Museum. Hayashi is a board member of the Little Tokyo Historical Society and is on its Historic Preservation Advocacy Committee, and she is a board member and the secretary of Makoto Taiko.

**Personal Statement**

“Although Japanese Americans have had success in advocating for past injustices targeted specifically toward their ethnic group, the work of groups like the JACL is not complete. Limiting the scope of the JACL’s work to solely focus on issues related to the Japanese American community would exclude many communities that need someone to advocate for them.

“Today, our Japanese American community looks different from that of our Nisei grandparents’ generation. Those who identify as Japanese American are increasingly identifying with other ethnic groups, as well. Additionally, in this political moment, comments from a few elected officials suggesting that Japanese internment is a historical precedent for what we can do with refugees in our country today, underscores the importance for Japanese Americans to reach out and unite with communities under attack to ensure civil liberties for all.”



**MARISA KANEMITSU**  
JACL Chapter: **SOUTH BAY**  
*Recipient of the Dr. Newton K. Wesley (Uyesugi) Memorial Scholarship*  
**Emory University, Rollins School of Public Health**  
**Notables**

Marisa Kanemitsu is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, with a degree in public health; she is focusing her current studies on global health. Eventually, she hopes to work in the government or nonprofit sector or pursue a medical degree in primary care. Kanemitsu’s ultimate goal is to improve the health

of children, particularly to address the prevalence of chronic diseases such as childhood diabetes and obesity.

Kanemitsu is a Kakehashi alum, and her scholastic honors include the American Association of Japanese University Women Scholarship, JACL National Scholarship, Golden Key International Honors Society and UC Berkeley University Dean’s Honors. She is currently an AmeriCorps health fellow for the Children’s Clinic and previously served as an AmeriCorps FoodCorps service member. In the community, she volunteers with the Little Tokyo Service Center, in addition to previous community work as a mentor for FitKids360, a health coach for the Community Health Worker Program and for UCSF Benioff Oakland Children’s Hospital.

**Personal Statement**

“In an ever-globalizing world, it is more important than ever to include other voices in conversations and actively remain open-minded. While there is comfort and security in being part of an ethnically similar group, it can be limiting to reduce people down to a single ethnic identity. Putting a single label on a group of people does not capture the nuances and complexities of what it means to be human.

“There are numerous examples throughout history of ethnic groups being targeted and discriminated against: The Jewish [population] during the Holocaust, Japanese Americans during World War II, Muslims in a post-9/11 society, among many others. In all these cases, there was a strong ethnic majority using their collective voices to demonize and persecute another ethnic group, confining individuals of that group to stereotypes. Unfortunately, it becomes all too easy to become insulated in a bubble, surrounded by people who look, think or act alike. When the collective voice becomes louder and stronger, it becomes easy for dangerous rhetoric to spread and cause harm.”



**ERIC LANGOWSKI**  
JACL Chapter: **HOOSIER**  
*Recipient of the Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship*  
**University of Chicago**  
**Notables**

Eric Langowski is pursuing a master’s degree in computational analysis and public policy. His JACL

involvement began at the chapter level participating in various social events. In 2014, he attended the National Convention as his chapter’s NY/SC representative and soon knew that he wanted to become more involved in JACL.

He is a Kakehashi alum and joined the MDC board as its NY/SC representative just a few years ago. Last year, Langowski developed a highly successful mentorship program for the National Convention that continued this year with support from another Legacy Fund grant. He is most proud about writing two resolutions passed at this year’s convention related to MDC teacher-training workshops and maintaining the MDC Regional Director position in the national budget. He was also appointed as the Nominations Committee Chairperson and serves as the NY/SC Treasurer.

Langowski is currently working on a project with many others across the country that explores the issue of single ethnic identity as reflected in the JACL creed. He also contributes many hours to campus and community service. He is a student assistant at the Asian Cultural Center and chairs the University Student Association Election Commission. In addition, he was an intern with Asian Pacific Islander American Vote and a trip planner with Youth Advocating Leadership and Learning, is a cellist with the community-based Bloomington Symphony Orchestra and serves on its Community Engagement Committee.

**Personal Statement**

“We say ‘never again,’ but it happens every day. If we truly stand against the injustice, inequity, racism, hate and suffering of wartime incarceration, shouldn’t we truly embrace solidarity, resistance, love, justice and peace? If we stand with

solidarity and resistance, how can we be ‘deeply disappointed’ with the DACA repeal? If we stand with love, how can we not stand alongside our fellow people of color as they fight police brutality and racist institutions designed to take humanity and break it down into bodies? If we do not continue the resistance against oppression, as it has perhaps moved on beyond our single ethnic identity to others, can we truly say, ‘never again’?”



**CONNOR MAWHINNEY**  
JACL Chapter: **MILE HIGH**  
*Recipient of the Minoru Yasui Memorial Scholarship*  
**College of William and Mary**  
**Notables**

Connor Mawhinney has volunteered for events in the Japanese American community since 2012. Among his favorites are the Cherry Blossom Festival, Mochitsuki, Aki Matsuri, Kohaku Uta Gassen and Day of Remembrance. He was awarded the Raymond A. Mason School of Business Master of Accounting Merit Scholarship. Other honors include the William and Mary Dean’s List, second place in the Navigant Consulting Case Competition and Sakura Foundation Scholarship. He is a president’s aide at William and Mary and a member of the Finance Academy and the Gibbs Accounting Society.



**Congratulations Connor**  
on receiving the  
**Minoru Yasui Memorial Scholarship.**  
**We are so proud of you!**  
**Love Mom and Dad**

**Mile High JACL Chapter**  
Proudly Congratulates  
the 2018 National Scholarship Winners:  
Connor Mawhinney  
Recipient of the Minoru Yasui Memorial Scholarship  
&  
Paige Mawhinney  
Recipient of the Alice Yuriko Endo Memorial Scholarship





Mawhinney's community involvement is extensive and includes service to Camp Kesem as a counselor for children whose families have been affected by cancer, Unified Special Needs Sports as a peer and coach, Local Highlands Ranch Race Series, Denver Zoo, Greenwood Community Church and Highlands Ranch Reading Buddy.

**Personal Statement**

"Defining ethnic identities promotes a sense of unity, belonging and community; forces that promote and act toward social change. Humans are, by nature, social beings who live, act and thrive in groups and communities. By emphasizing your commonalities, these social groups can form that you identify with to promote, share and continue these commonalities around people who accept and encourage them as well.

"Connecting with people of similar ethnicities creates bonds between people simply outside of friendships or relationships. And as these ethnic groups grow and get bigger, the force and support from the members in them allow these groups to carry a powerful voice. This voice is used to promote ethnicity, encourage those around the world who can relate that they have a community that will accept them, and it protects the members from discrimination against individuals.

"It is hard for an individual to lead a social change on their own, but the voice of millions of people speaking out can drive the world toward change. They may not be perfect nor entirely accurate, but ethnic identities can develop the support and demand the change that so many across the globe wish to see."

passionate dental students, mentors and professors and through their combined thoughts, efforts and skills take proactive strides to positively transform the system.

McGuire graduated from Loyola Marymount University as a health-care systems engineering major with a 4.0 GPA. She earned Magna Cum Laude, Student Service and Leadership Award, Columbia Scholastic Press Association Gold Crown Award and Associated Collegiate Press Pacemaker Award and was inducted in the Sigma Xi Scientific Research Honor Society. In addition, she earned many scholarships from LMU, the Buddhist Temple and JACL.

While at LMU, she was also a research assistant for several scientific projects. She currently is a graduate intern for Kaiser Permanente, where she collaborated with consultants of their Strategy, Decision Support and Transformation and designed a two-dimensional educational animation. Her community involvement includes service for the LMU Hawaiian and Filipino Cultural Clubs and Nikkei Student Union. She also was active in the Junior Young Buddhist and Young Buddhist Assns.

**Personal Statement**

"But it is also because of them that I can be genetically Chinese, culturally fourth-generation Japanese American and have an Irish last name. Like for many, there will never be an accurate box to check to describe ourselves. Everyone has their own story and self-chosen identity.

"The same limitation of single ethnic identity continues to prove itself today: close-mindedness. Historically, we looked to race, ethnicity and religion to gain meaning, understanding and clarity, but categorizing and labeling people is becoming obsolete.

"We now live in an increasingly complex world where surface-level descriptions and stereotypes are inadequate at explaining it. In other words, no single ethnic identity sums anyone up.

"Our world, interconnected by dynamic systems of communication and transportation, requires better systems and understandings for each other, our interactions and our relationships.

"Through my experiences, I have collaborated with, learned from and provided help to people of a variety of combinations of beliefs, languages and identities.

"Since birth, I have relied on a diverse community to raise and prepare me for any challenges I face. Now, I strive to contribute acceptance, understanding and open-mindedness to others in hopes that my current efforts now will have a positive impact — big or small — on the world around me."



**MEGAN ONO**  
JACL Chapter: **SELANOCO**  
*Recipient of the Rev. H. John & Asako Yamashita Memorial Scholarship*  
**University of Southern California**  
**Notables**

Megan Ono is pursuing a master's degree in nonprofit leadership and management. Ono's goal is to leverage her background in marketing and communications to bring visibility and support to underresourced communities while maintaining her deep involvement in the Japanese American community.

Ono also has a deep interest in Japan-U.S. relations. Her involvement in JACL started with participation in the "Bridging Communities" program. After receiving the chapter's Clarence Nishizu Memorial Scholarship, she became a student JACL member.

She received many academic awards from California State University, Long Beach, including graduating Cum Laude, President's

Honor List and Associated Students Incorporated Striking Student Leader.

At USC, Ono is a Price Student Ambassador and serves on the Graduate Policy Administration Community. She also was active in the Nikkei Student Union and the Asian American Pacific Islander Journey to Success Initiative.

Her community involvement includes Kizuna Board Member, Kizuna High School Leadership Program, New Generation Nikkei Fund, Japan America Society of Southern California, Asian American Journalists Association, Manzanar at Dusk and Rising Stars Youth Leadership Program.

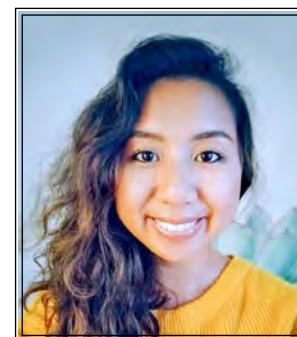
**Personal Statement**

"Certainly, there are advantages of rallying behind a single ethnic community. In fact, much of the volunteer service I engage with is focused on the Japanese American community, preserving our unique traditions, ensuring vital programs and institutions remain intact. However, through my graduate studies and service outside of the Japanese American community, I've discovered the importance of 'lifting as you climb.'

"While there are persisting issues within our community, we must not forget to look at how far we've come and share the lessons learned with others. I have the honor and privilege of sharing the Japanese

American story to inspire youth within and outside our community, shaping a more understanding and socially just world.

"My decision to further my education and pursue a career in the nonprofit sector is a direct result of my commitment to this goal. I hope to bring the knowledge and resources I attain in the nonprofit field to rally behind organizations in the Japanese American community already doing incredible work and strengthen nonprofits in other communities who lack many of the resources we take for granted."



**REBECCA OZAKI**  
JACL Chapter: **CHICAGO**  
*Recipient of the Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship*  
**University of Illinois at Chicago, Jane Adams College of Social Work**



**MALI MCGUIRE**  
JACL Chapter: **BERKELEY**  
*Recipient of the Dr. Kiyoshi Sonoda Memorial Scholarship*  
**University of the Pacific Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry**  
**Notables**

Mali McGuire is passionate in her dedication to dentistry and has a strong desire to improve the system through increased accessibility and affordability, so that she can provide direct care to more patients in need. She hopes to connect with other



# SELANOCO JACL

## proudly congratulates

# Megan Ono

2018 Recipient of the Reverend H. John & Asako Yamashita Memorial Scholarship



## Congratulations Megan

### on receiving the Rev H. John & Asako Yamashita scholarship

Your future is bright ~  
with love,  
Ando & Ono family





**Notables**

Rebecca Ozaki is an alum of the 2014 Kakehashi program and served as the National JACL program coordinator last year. She currently serves on the Chicago chapter board as the Youth co-chair.

Ozaki also participated in the Kansha Project Alumni Board, the chapter Scholarship Committee, the JACL-OCA Leadership Summit and as a National Convention delegate for several years.

As a studying social worker, civil rights advocate, volunteer, board member and former JACL staff, her education and career have held intentional focus on racial equity work and uplifting marginalized communities.

Ozaki is an intern working this year in the child-welfare system to ensure the safety of children and permanency, stability and creation of families.

Next year, Ozaki plans to work in a grassroots organization to protect the rights of senior citizens with safe and stable housing.

Her extracurricular activities also reflect this focus, including UIC Asian American Resource and Cultural Center, Asian Americans Advancing Justice, UIUC Division of Disability Resources and Educational Services and UIUC Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Relations. With such a full plate, Ozaki still manages to carry a 4.0 GPA.

**Personal Statement**

“I believe that part of the Japanese American legacy should be intertwined with recognizing how we can uplift other marginalized communities that are still experiencing deep and unjust forms of oppression in their everyday lives.

“As I mentioned that unity amongst community, and particularly the youth that have grown into leadership, has emerged through the strength of the JACL and in rallying around a single identity, the youth have also began to expand to connect the Japanese American community to other communities through coalition building on different levels.

“When assisting in organizing the JACL Youth Legacy Program, conversations amongst participants of various ethnic identities were formed through the legacy of the Japanese American concentration.

“I was able to witness Asian American youth develop strong bonds and cultivate solutions for their own communities.

“Limiting the Japanese American community to focus only on our history and issues affecting only the Japanese may limit our potential to work toward racial equity for all communities, including black communities or Southeast Asian communities.”

**LAW**



**COURTNEY CHOY**

JACL Chapter: **HONOLULU**  
 Recipient of the *Sho Sato Memorial Law Scholarship*  
**University of Hawaii at Manoa, William S. Richardson School of Law**

**Notables**

Courtney Choy is triple majoring in marketing, management and international business, with a 3.97 GPA. She is a recent Kakehashi alum and because of that experience hopes to establish a program or organization dedicated to furthering Japan-U.S. relations.

She also completed a summer internship in Ehime, Japan, through the university’s Center for Japanese Studies. Choy was one of only two interns selected to engage in cross-cultural relations between Hawaii and Japan, which included preparing and conducting presentations on Hawaiian culture to students at elementary schools, high schools and universities, as well as municipalities in Saijo and Matsuyama, Japan.

Choy is a recipient of several scholarships and a member of the Beta Gamma Sigma International Honor Society for placing in the top 10 percent of her class. She founded a local chapter of “I Am That Girl” (IATG), a service and leadership organization, and serves as the chapter leader for the university. She also volunteers for the Manoa Scholars Club and Circle K International “Key to College” Committee and performs with Hālau Hula Kā Lehua Tuahine.

**Personal Statement**

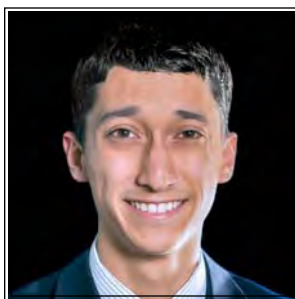
“The advantages of rallying around a single ethnic identity include being able to confide in and connect with others who understand your position or situation. The support felt with those of a similar ethnic identity can be realized not only culturally, but politically and economically as well. Ethnicity also gives way for conversation to be vulnerable and share our deepest selves. However, with this power comes great responsibility in knowing the challenges ethnicity holds over us.

“The limitations of rallying around a single ethnic identity include neglecting diversity and the inclusion of all races regardless of their cultural and traditional beliefs. Our views can be narrowed significantly if we focus on those with whom we most identify rather than getting to know those who are unlike us. It presents a

boundary for those unfamiliar with a certain ethnicity where feelings of being on the ‘outside’ can manifest.

“Within an ethnic identity, there can also be a lack of understanding for the implications around a particular time in the history of that ethnicity and its people. Throughout generations of an ethnic identity, there is possibility of cultural loss and misunderstanding of the traditional meaning in various customs.

“Growing up in Hawaii, the most important lesson I’ve learned is that ethnic identity provides a community the foundation for understanding, for everyone to learn, listen and advocate for equality and justice.”



**GARRETT KITAMURA**  
 JACL Chapter: **SNAKE RIVER**  
 Recipient of the *Thomas T. Hayashi Memorial Law Scholarship*  
**University of Virginia School of Law**

**Notables**

Garrett Kitamura has been involved in JACL and with other Japanese American youth through Future Farmers of America and the Buddhist temple. As an FFA state officer, he conducted a leadership tour, large-scale convention presentations and workshops at high schools across Oregon. He currently serves FFA and the university as a public speaking coach, staging manager and award presentation coordinator for the officers that have preceded him. It was this level of commitment that earned Kitamura the American FFA Degree in 2014.

Kitamura also worked in the Oregon Legislature as an intern and assistant for Rep. Cliff Bentz (R-Ore.), where he helped draft legislative bills, research constituent issues and prepare multimedia presentations.

In addition, he holds membership

in numerous prestigious societies such as Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Tau Delta-International English Honor, Order of Omega Honor, Mortar Board Honor, Golden Key Honor, University Honor and Phi Kappa Phi Honor. He also has earned 10 times Dean’s List recognition and four times perfect GPA recognition.

**Personal Statement**


“Our world is obsessed with race. At its best, classifying races creates identifiable communities; it allows statisticians and social scientists to determine who can say what, which groups are being underserved and eases the process of tracing the origins of linguistic and cultural trends.

“At its worst, racial classification brings to mind images of segregation, ethnic cleansing and prejudice. Given that this process of labeling and grouping people based on their lineage carries such varying



**CONGRATULATIONS  
 GARRETT KITAMURA**  
 We are very proud of you!  
 Love, Mom & Dad  
 Becky, Brian & Jenny

Snake River Valley JACL Proudly Congratulates the  
 2018 Chapter Scholarship Recipients:



Haily Shigeta, Quinn Susuki  
 & Ethan Kameshige  
 - and -  
 Garrett Kitamura  
 Recipient of the National JACL  
 Thomas T. Hayashi Memorial Law Scholarship



**Congratulations Becky!**

We are so grateful for your work and ongoing support for the Japanese American community in Chicago.

**JACL** CHICAGO CHAPTER  
 Japanese American Citizens League





outcomes, how should this tool of classification be utilized?

“The solution seems simple enough: Keep the good and avoid the bad. Racial classification and identification should solely be used to assist underprivileged communities and create clear, identifiable means by which people can bond and create communities. However, for people of mixed ethnicity like me, my very existence brings to the surface the inherent negative outcomes of even the best-intended use of racial classification.”



### MICHAEL TAYAG

JACL Chapter: **SAN JOSE**  
Recipient of the *Grace Andow Memorial Law Scholarship*  
**Yale Law School**

#### Notables

Michael Tayag is a graduate of Stanford University with a degree in comparative studies in race and ethnicity. He has worked to advance civil and human rights, especially for the Asian Pacific American community, since entering college nine years ago and is looking forward to continuing that advocacy work through more involvement in JACL.

Tayag is now pursuing a law degree to equip himself to occupy the nexus among direct legal services, impact litigation and legal advocacy. He will apply his law education to a career as an investigator at a local Office of Labor Standards Enforcement. In conjunction with his career, he would like to continue working pro bono with workers' rights clinics, participating in proworker legislative advocacy and encouraging workers to join supportive community-based organizations.

His passion for service is reflected in leadership roles in many campus organizations. As chair of the Filipino American Student Union Issues Committee, he organized a leadership conference that brought high school youth to Stanford to explore issues, learn leadership skills and build networks. The signature event also encouraged Filipino high school students to apply to Stanford, thereby contributing to the diversity of the undergraduate population.

Inspired by the sacrifices his mother made to give him a better life, Tayag has a deep-seated desire to give back. In fact, this commitment has extended well beyond the campus to Hong Kong, where he lived among

migrant domestic workers to better understand their lives and needs. By immersing himself in the lives of marginalized communities, he is able to be a better leader and advocate.

#### Personal Statement

“Ultimately, I believe that political movement entered on Pan-Ethnic identities like ‘Asian American,’ and single ethnic identities like ‘Japanese American’ or ‘Filipino American’ should not be mutually exclusive. With attacks on all Asian Americans and people of color, it is critical that we revive the strength of a unified, multigenerational Asian American political movement, while recognizing the need to employ culturally-relevant strategies in organizing specific ethnic communities — especially for recent immigrants who are less likely to politically identify as Asian American.”

## STUDENT AID



### SOPHIAH KAWACHI

JACL Chapter: **WASHINGTON, D.C.**  
Recipient of the *Dr. George Goro & Nettie Muramoto Memorial Scholarship*

#### James Madison University

#### Notables

As a newer JACL member, Sophiah Kawachi is looking forward to becoming more active in her chapter. Kawachi has lived in Senegal, West Africa, and Quebec City, Canada. She is bilingual in French and beginning Japanese. As the daughter of missionaries in West Africa, she met many passionate American medical professionals who came to serve at clinics organized by her parents' missionary team. The more she learned about how the professionals served those who had limited access to medical care in isolated villages, the more she was inspired to serve medically in challenging contexts.

Toward her career goal of becoming a medical doctor, Kawachi participated in a premed internship at the Instituto Giannina Gaslini in Genoa, Italy, one of the best pediatric hospitals in Europe. She is one of only a handful of JMU students asked to work as a teaching assistant in the Biology Lab this semester, which provides an opportunity to serve others in an academic context while developing leadership skills essential to a future career in medicine.

She is on the Dean's List at JMU and serves as the chairperson of the Tri-Beta Biology Honors Society Pledge Class Service Committee. Kawachi also was a member of the University Chamber Orchestra, Women's Choir, Swing Dance Club and Rugby Club.

#### Personal Statement

“At the same time, rallying behind one ethnic identity can sometimes create a loss of individuality for me. I start defining myself by the characteristics that I share with others of the same ethnicity. I lose the traits and particularities about me that make me unique. I must remind myself that my ethnicity does not define the person I am. It is simply something that I have in common with other people. It unites me with others, but it does not make me the same as them. The mixture that is my ethnicity, half-Japanese and half-Caucasian, reminds me of the unfixed nature of my personality.

“I am not the same Sophi today as I was yesterday. I am often changing, sometimes sweeter than stressed, and sometimes more stressed than sweet. Some traits are more developed one day, and less so another. My passion for medicine, Shakespeare, art, classical music and challenges out of my comfort zone defines me and makes up the person I am today — a person composed of many pieces, some very different and some very similar to the pieces that make up others.”

## CREATIVE ARTS



### KAI HENTHORN-IWANE

JACL Chapter: **BERKELEY**  
Recipient of the *Henry & Chiyo Kawahara Memorial Creative Arts Scholarship*

#### Loyola Marymount University

#### Notables

Kai Henthorn-Iwane graduated from Berkeley High School with a 4.0 GPA. He earned the highest possible ACT score, which is a distinction achieved by less than one-tenth of one percent of all students taking the college aptitude test. He is the recipient of the Loyola Marymount Presidential Scholarship, Chapman Presidential Scholarship, UC Davis Regent Scholarship and USC Director's Scholarship, as well as earning the College Board AP Scholar with

Distinction Award and the National Merit Letter of Commendation.

He volunteers for Saint Mary Magdalen Parish, where he participated in projects supporting a Catholic parish in Mexicali and the “Church Without Walls” youth group. Henthorn-Iwane also is a math tutor at Rosa Parks Middle School. In addition, he is an illustrator for the school newspaper and placed first in the KQED/Legischool California High School Political Cartoon Contest. He also takes art classes at the Academy of Art in San Francisco, where his work was selected for the Pre-College Experience Art Exhibition for Drawing and Composition, Figure Drawing and Still Life Painting classes. His artwork was published in BLICK Celebrating Art and exhibited in YOUTH .2. POWER Oakland Art Murmur.

Henthorn-Iwane dreams to one day author a graphic novel series that uses the same interesting plot structures as popular Japanese graphic novels,

also known as manga. In this way, he hopes to champion his Japanese cultural heritage while making the fruit of that heritage accessible to everyone.

#### Personal Statement

“As an artist, I approach the JACL essay question through the lens of my creative aspirations. Artists don't create art in a cultural vacuum; they don't just draw from their imagination but from concepts and images of their culture.

“When artists rally behind an ethnic identity while conceptualizing, developing and releasing their work, the way they rally behind that ethnic identity determines what their art is and how it is received. While focusing artistic endeavors on an ethnic identity opens opportunities for powerful stories, historical material, cultural reference points and aesthetics, it also presents real challenges of potentially lowered accessibility and the danger of being too derivative.”

## PERFORMING ARTS



### AINE NAKAMURA

JACL Chapter: **NEW YORK**  
Recipient of the *Aiko Susanna Tashiro Hiratsuka Memorial Performing Arts Scholarship*  
**New York University**

#### Notables

Aine Nakamura graduated from New School University with a major in voice and will pursue a master's degree in music performance and composition. She has a reverence for nature and a desire to learn about and incorporate spiritual elements of Japanese music and American Negro Spirituals.

Two of her passions are justice and peace; Nakamura is a musician (voice and *sanshin* (lute)) and peace activist with the New York Okinawan Club, and she recently performed at the New York Public Library



Congratulations to our scholarship winner

**Aine Nakamura**

from the JACL, New York Chapter!

SAN JOSE  
JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE  
**JACL** congratulates

**MICHAEL TAYAG**

recipient of the  
Grace Andow Memorial Law Scholarship





highlighting music as a peace activity. Nakamura trained as a disciple in the Okinawan traditional music community Noborikawa School of the Tokyo and Kawasaki branches. Among her honors, she was selected to the National Society of Leadership and Success for her school and was a recipient of the Jazz Award. She also was sponsored for “Shima no Uta: SONGS OF ISLANDS — Okinawa and Yaeyama” for a self-curated event based on her independent study project.

**Personal Statement**

“Born as a Japanese American, I have experienced cultural conflicts in the U.S. as Japanese and in Japan as someone from America. At the same time, the experiences and observing the experiences have made me become a citizen of this earth and build my own artistic aesthetics and sensitivity. “I came back to my birth country, America, in 2016 for my education, and I have been

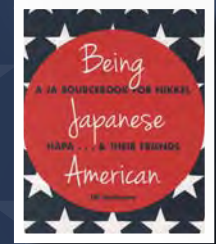
meeting people in the Okinawan circle where I play Okinawan music. I feel blessed to be in the community as I now have people whom I can consult with on everyday lives, *kurashi*, and whom I care especially in a constantly changing city like New York.

“To be kind to people, ask for help when in need and work with people on a same objective will bring one mental and physical stabilities. If these are with people with similar racial backgrounds, it would also bring mutual understanding in the context of your own ethnic backgrounds.

“At the same time, I believe it is important for one to find and build one’s own identity and life, taking responsibilities to make one’s own choices regardless of which group of people you are socializing with. Because, then, one’s experiences, hardships and gratitude become her/his own depth, and she/he can find a way to contribute to the community and a wider society in an honest way.” ■

Mt. Olympus JACL Chapter  
Proudly Congratulates the  
2018 Scholarship Winners:  
Ethan Hirabayashi,  
Logan Mano and  
Alexandra Ridge

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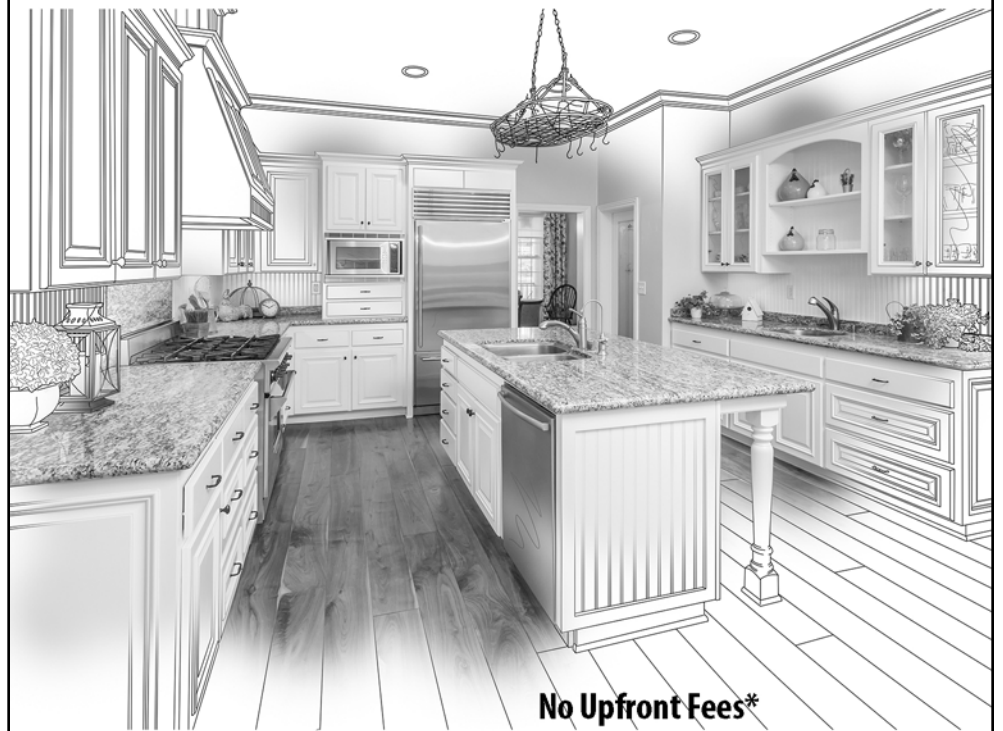
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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

## NCWNP

**AAPA Fall Seminar: The Asian Parent Playbook for Talking to Teens**  
Cupertino, CA  
Oct. 17; 6:30-9 p.m.  
Price: Free

The Asian American Parents Assn. is pleased to invite Stanford CHIPAO to present the Asian Parent Playbook for Talking to Teens. This program will feature skits and a Q & A session illustrating common problems and strategies for having more productive conversations with your teenager about tough topics, including school, relationships and growing up.  
Info: Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aapa-fall-seminar-the-asian-parent-playbook-for-talking-to-teens-tickets-49876266255?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>.

**Health, Sports & Culture Day at JAMsj**  
San Jose, CA  
Oct. 21; 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.  
Japanese American Museum of San Jose  
535 N. Fifth St.  
Price: Free with admission to the museum

Please join the JAMsj for an afternoon of cultural demonstrations that bring health, sports and culture together. There will be various performances by local talent in addition to relay races and various games for kids. Don't miss this family-friendly activity that celebrates health and culture!  
Info: Visit [www.jamsj.org](http://www.jamsj.org).

**'Loyal Americans: Japanese American Imprisonment During World War II' Exhibition**  
Hayward, CA  
Thru Oct. 28; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
(Wed.-Sun.)

Haywood Area Historical Society  
22380 Foothill Blvd.

Price: Free  
Supported by Eden Township JACL, this exhibit features artifacts and stories from Japanese American families extracted from their homes and later incarcerated during World War II. Many of the personal accounts and loaned artifacts are from local families and their descendants. Thanks to a generous grant from the Edward E. and Donna L. Martins Foundation, admission to the museum is currently free.  
Info: Visit [www.haywardarea-history.org](http://www.haywardarea-history.org) or call (510) 581-0223.

**NJHS Annual Veterans Day Event 2018**

San Francisco, CA  
Nov. 10; 10 a.m.-Noon  
MIS Historic Learning Center  
640 Old Mason St.

Save the date for this annual event hosted by the National Japanese American Historical Society that honors our veterans. Following the program, a lunch will be served. Details will be forthcoming.  
Info: Visit [www.njahs.org](http://www.njahs.org).

**WakamatsuFest150**  
Placerville, CA

June 6-9, 2019  
Wakamatsu Farm  
941 Cold Springs Road

To celebrate the site of the first Japanese colony in America, this festival will celebrate 150 years of Japanese American heritage, arts and cuisine. Wakamatsu Farm also is the site of the birthplace of the first Japanese American and the gravesite of the first Japanese woman in the U.S. Don't miss this special anniversary presented by the American River Conservancy.  
Info: Visit [www.ARConservancy.org/wakamatsu](http://www.ARConservancy.org/wakamatsu) or email [wakamatsu@ARConservancy.org](mailto:wakamatsu@ARConservancy.org).

## PSW

**Screening of 'Yonsei Eyes'**  
Oct. 13; 2 p.m.

Pacoima, CA  
San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center  
12953 Branford St.  
Price: Donation \$10; Under 18 \$5; Preorder Bento \$12 (deadline to order is Oct. 6)

Join the SFV JACL for a showing of "Yonsei Eyes," a film that follows two Yonsei young adults as they travel with their grandmothers to the 2016 Tule Lake Pilgrimage. Producer/director Jon Osaki will also be present for a Q & A session following the screening. In addition, there will also be a screening of the short film "My Dog Teny," based on the book written and directed by Yoshito Wayne Osaki.  
Info: Contact Nancy Takayama ([nt.high.mtn@gmail.com](mailto:nt.high.mtn@gmail.com)), Nancy Oda ([nancyoda64@gmail.com](mailto:nancyoda64@gmail.com)) or Nancy Gohata ([nancygohata@gmail.com](mailto:nancygohata@gmail.com)).

**Tanaka Farms Pumpkin Patch**  
Irvine, CA

Thru Oct. 31; 9 a.m.-6 p.m. daily  
5380 3/4 University Dr.  
Price: Admission \$4 (children 2 and under are free); Entry Package \$12 (includes admission, wagon ride, petting zoo); Game/Activity Tickets \$4; Parking Passes (required on weekends) \$5; Wagon Ride \$6; Petting Zoo \$4.

Tanaka Farms invites you to its annual Pumpkin Patch featuring acres of pumpkins, a corn maze, wagon rides, petting zoo and much more! Every weekend also features games, ATV rides, crafts, Tanaka Farms Food Shack, Scarecrow contest voting, famous pumpkin cannon, face painting and much more for the entire family.  
Info: Visit [www.tanakafarms.com](http://www.tanakafarms.com).

**Kaiju vs. Heroes: Mark Nagata's Journey Through the World of Japanese Toys**  
Los Angeles, CA  
Thru March 24, 2019  
Japanese American National Museum  
100 N. Central Ave.

Immerse yourself in the world of Mark Nagata, a toy designer and fervent toy collector, who brings to the museum his amazing collection of dazzling vintage and contemporary Japanese vinyl toy monsters and heroes. Nagata's pursuit of these toys took him on an unexpected journey that brought new realizations about his cultural identity as an American of Japanese ancestry.  
Info: Visit [www.janm.org](http://www.janm.org).

**Kokoro Craft Boutique**  
Los Angeles, CA

Oct. 7; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
JANM  
100 N. Central Ave.  
Price: Free

The 10th annual Kokoro Craft Boutique, organized by volunteers at JANM, will feature more than 50 vendors. Proceeds will benefit JANM's education programs. Those who make a purchase of \$20 or more will receive free same-day museum admission and a 10 percent discount at participating Little Tokyo restaurants.  
Info: Visit [www.janm.org](http://www.janm.org).

## PNW

**Tech Intern Blueprint**  
Seattle, WA  
Oct. 6; 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
Keiro Northwest  
1601 E. Yesler Way  
Price: Free; Registration is required.

Seattle JACL presents this event featuring Ray Parker, author of Tech Intern Blueprint, who will explain the best ways of landing the world's most lucrative tech internships and jobs through discussion of résumé building, interview tips and other materials related to searching for that perfect job.  
Info: Visit <https://jaclrayparker.eventbrite.com> to register.

**Japan Week 2018**  
Bellevue, WA  
Oct. 6; 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Bellevue College  
3000 Landerholm Circle S.E.  
Price: Free

This event is dedicated to celebrating Japan's rich culture and history. There will be a day of games, music, workshops, activities, foods, a Flea Market, cosplay contest, karaoke and plenty of food.  
Info: Visit <https://studentweb.bellevuecollege.edu/japan-week/>.

**Conversation on Leadership With Phyllis J. Campbell**  
Seattle, WA  
Oct. 11; 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
Keiro Northwest  
1601 E. Yesler Way  
Price: Free; registration is required.

Seattle JACL will host this conversation with Phyllis J. Campbell, chairman, Pacific Northwest for JPMorgan Chase. Bridgette Takeuchi, CEO of Keiro NW will moderate the conversation.

Campbell will provide insights and advice on championing equality and social justice based on her experience at JPMorgan Chase and other leadership positions in business and nonprofit sectors.  
Info: Visit <https://jaclcampbell.eventbrite.com> to register.

## IDC

**The Center for Asian Pacific American Women Denver Reception**  
Denver, CO

Oct. 26; 5:30-8 p.m.  
Tamai Tower Penthouse at Sakura Square  
1255 Ninth St.  
Price: Free

This free reception sponsored by the Center for Asian Pacific American Women will offer participants the opportunity to interact with community partners including the Asian Chamber of Commerce, Sakura Square and CU-Denver, as well as network with leaders from the private and public sectors and meet board members and graduates from the CAPAW's leadership program, APAWLI.  
Info: Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-center-for-asian-pacific-american-women-denver-reception-tickets-48665968221>.

## MDC

**A-Squared Asian American Performing Arts Festival 2018**  
Chicago, IL  
Nov. 8; 7-10 p.m.  
Links Hall

3111 N. Western Ave.  
Price: \$20-\$40

Co-presented by A-Squared Theatre, Asian Improv Arts Midwest and Links Hall, this event features contemporary performances by American artists descended from the Asian diaspora, including dance, music, performance art, theater and more. The event will also feature a fusion of cuisines from the Asian continent.  
Info: Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-squared-asian-american-performing-arts-festival-2018-tickets-47603373973?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>.

## EDC

**From Manga to Musical: The Journey of 'The Four Immigrants'**  
Cambridge, MA  
Oct. 10; 6-7:30 p.m.  
Houghton Library, Harvard Yard  
Farkas Hall, Room 203  
10-12 Holyoke St.  
Price: Free

In this lecture, Min Kahng, playwright and composer, will discuss the origins and development of his musical "The Four Immigrants: An American Musical Manga," which is based on a 1931 graphic memoir by Henry Yoshitaka Kiyama. The play offers a glimpse

of the Issei experience in the Bay Area around 1904-24. In addition, Kahng will also give a vocal workshop on musical theater earlier that afternoon from 4-5:15 that will allow participants to achieve their best performance of a song and include a Q & A session.  
Info: Visit <https://ofa.fas.harvard.edu/min-kahng-manga-musical-at-harvard>.

**Yayoi Kusama: 'Where the Lights in My Heart Go'**  
Lincoln, MA  
Thru Oct. 28

DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum  
51 Sandy Pond Road

"Where the Lights in My Heart Go" is a 10-by-10-foot polished steel chamber with a mirrored interior that contains small holes in the walls and ceiling to allow natural light to penetrate the darkened room.  
Info: Visit <https://decordova.org/art/exhibition/yayoi-kusama-where-lights-my-heart-go>.

**Japanomania! Japanese Art Goes Global**  
Salem, MA  
Thru Dec. 30  
Peabody Essex Museum  
161 Essex St.

This exhibit covers the beauty and complex stories behind the museum's celebrated Japanese export art collection from the period of Portuguese merchants in the 1500s through Japan's emergence on the world stage in the late 19th century and beyond.  
Info: Visit <https://www.pem.org/exhibitions/japanomania-japanese-art-goes-global>.

**'Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and World War II'**  
Washington, D.C.  
Thru Jan. 6, 2019

The Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of American History  
Documents Gallery, 2nd Floor  
14th Street and Constitution Avenue N.W.

Don't miss this opportunity to view this important exhibit before its closure in January. The exhibit includes the documents, artifacts and the original EO 9066 and original artwork by Roger Shimomura.  
Info: Visit <http://americanhistory.si.edu/exhibitions/righting-wrong-japanese-americans-and-world-war-ii>.

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# IN MEMORIAM

**Abe, Yasuo, 92**, July 26; he is survived by his sister, Arlyne Namba; he is also survived by other relatives.

**Arita, Gordon John, 67**, Las Vegas, CA, July 29; he was predeceased by his wife, Linda Arita; and brother, Edwin; he is survived by his children, Kristin (Sean) Kim and Matthew Arita; sisters, Luanne (Robert) Niimi and Nadine (Robert) Courtney; sister-in-law, Karen Arita; nieces, 2.

**Eguchi, George Kazunori, 92**, Walnut, CA, Aug. 16; he is survived by his daughters, Amy Eguchi, Pamela (Allan) Miller and Elaine Eguchi; step-children, Louis Nishiyama, Teresa (Greg) Baker and Gina (David) Bonn; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3; ggc: 1.

**Hamanishi, Tom, 98**, Bellevue, WA, Aug. 17; he was predeceased by his wife, Punchy; he is survived by his children, Larry, Phyllis (Richard You) and Marvin (Frances); gc: 2.

**Hayashi, Hideyuki, 77**, Los Angeles, CA, Aug. 18; he is survived by his sisters, Naomie Nakamura, Takaye (Robert) Takamoto and Sharon Hayashi; he is also survived by nieces and nephews.

**Hozaki, Ikuko, 83**, Altadena, CA, July 22; she is survived by her children, Cyndy Hozaki (Ron Okuda), Teri Hozaki (Kaz Tanaka) and Dale (Ceci Nakama); siblings, Alice Higuchi and Tabo (Geri) Sakuma; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

**Ige, Tokujiro Henry, 94**, Los Angeles, CA, July 28; he was predeceased by his sister, Sadako Suzuki; he is survived by his wife, Kimiko; children, Deborah (James) Rathbun, Cathy (Peter) Tseng, Ronald Ige, Eileen (Curtis) Wong; brothers, Frank (Kay) and John (Kazuko); he is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 7; ggc: 2.

**Inouye, Shinji, 90**, Los Angeles, CA, Aug. 2; a Korean War veteran, he is survived by his siblings, Kenichi (Tsuayako) Inouye and Hiromi Choy; brother-in-law, Shunzo (Yoriko) Mise; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Ishii, Toshio 'Chuck,' 87**, Gardena, CA, June 10; he was predeceased by his wife, Katherine; he is survived by his children, Jody (John) Nakashima, Gary and Lisa (Kevin) Brookman; siblings, Chizuko Minami and Takeshi (Kathleen) Ishii; sister-in-law, Kinuko Yanagihara; gc: 2; gc: 2.

**Ito, John Hiroyuki, 83**, Gardena, CA, July 10; he is survived by his children, Jerome (Linh), Kai (Evan) Watanabe and Scott (Sue) Yamakoshi; gc: 11.

**Ito, Toshiko Joy Nagamori, 93**,

Alhambra, CA, July 14; she was predeceased by her husband, James; during WWII, her family and she were forcibly removed from their Los Angeles home and incarcerated at the Santa Anita race track assembly center and then at the Heart Mountain WRA Center in WY; her experiences were detailed in the 2013 documentary "Witness: The Legacy of Heart Mountain," which won three local Emmy Awards, and her 2009 book "Memoirs of Toshi Ito." She is survived by her children, Chrislyn Kodama (Eric) and Lance Ito (Margaret York); gc: 2; and ggc: 2.

**Izumi, Fujiko, 96**, Arleta, CA, July 10; she is survived by her children, Brenda (Dennis) Creed, Richard (Judi) and Michael (Debra); she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 6; ggc: 3.

**Izumi, Mitsuko, 76**, Monterey Park, CA, June 10; she is survived by her husband, Al; children 2; and by other family members; gc: 3.

**Jeo, Franklin Harold, 83**, Aug. 14; he is survived by his sisters, Leona Hasegawa and Lucy Kano; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and a great nephew.



**Kato, Kazuye, 96**, Mission Viejo, CA, Aug. 27; she was predeceased by her husband, Tsugio; and daughter, Jane; she is survived by her children, Becky (Bob) Applegate, Calvin (Gail) and Mary Kato; son-in-law, Loren Porretto; gc: 6; ggc: 1.



**Kawahara, Roberta Mary (Gulish), 77**, Seattle, WA, Aug. 22; she is survived by her husband, Donald; children, Alyssa Lettiere and Sean; son-in-law, Aaron; sisters, Christine Ubongen and Lynn Avenmarg; nephews and a niece; gc: 2.

**Kawahara, Takashi, 99**, Los Angeles, CA, June 25; during WWII, he was incarcerated at the Poston WRA

Center in AZ, where he met his future wife, Viola Ishino, whom he married before being deployed to Italy as a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. He was predeceased by his wife; he is survived by his children, Holly (Allan) Etmund, Sheri (Dave) Fisher, Sheldon (Naomi), James (Leslie), Barbara Arita and Paul (Randi); gc: 13; ggc: 7.

**Kawakami, Kazuo Paul, 89**, Los Angeles, CA, July 5; he was predeceased by his son, Mark; he is survived by his wife, Virginia; sons, Kent and Dan; daughters-in-law, Hoi Yee, Kristi and Sandy; gc: 5.

**Kawato, Grace Sachiko, 92**, Chino Hills, CA, May 30; she is survived by her children, Elsie and Wesley Kawato; siblings, May Hashimoto, Shigenari (Michiko) Hirai and Kohei Tanabe; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Kayano, Roy Masayuki, 93**, Torrance, CA, July 1; he is survived by his children, David Kayano and Linda Quon (Wing); brother, Hugo (Mariko); gc: 3.

**Kita, Tomio, 95**, Camarillo, CA, July 18; he is survived by his wife, Yoshimi Kita; children, Alan Hitoshi (Dawn) and Cindy (David) Chin; brother, Bill Shiro (Marian) Kita; sister-in-law, Yoshiko Kita; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.



**Koga, Jack, 90**, Los Angeles, CA, June 30; he is survived by his wife, Tsukiko "Skeeter"; children, Byron Koga, Cheryl Gromis and Diane Shigekawa; gc: 8.

**Komae, Jean S., 95**, Torrance, CA, May 20; she was predeceased by her husband, Ryo; son, Stanley; she is survived by her sons, Glenn (Stephanie) and Kent (Jody); sisters-in-law, Masa Fukui, Kathy Fukui, and Kimi Nakamura; gc: 9; ggc: 10.

**Matsumura, Tsutomu, 91**, Los Angeles, CA, July 29; an Army veteran, he is survived by his wife, Sachiko Matsumura; children, Vicki (Lawrence) Uchida, Brian (Ayako) Matsumura and Jana (Ryuichi) Nakagawa; siblings, Masaru and Kazue Matsumura; sister-in-law, Midori Matsumura; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4.

**Nakabayashi, Robin Hitoshi, 87**, San Gabriel, CA, July 30; he was predeceased by his wife, Janie; he is survived by his sons, Mark and Greg (Kathy); he is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3.

**Nakada, Harry Masanao, 93**, North Hills, CA, July 4; he is survived by his children, Gary, Patti Kimura, Lois (Tadao) Okui, William and Douglas; siblings, Tom (Kitty), Dave (Barbara), Bob (Sally) and Lily Okumura; gc: 5; ggc: 10.

**Nakamoto, Hatsuko, 95**, Buena Park, CA, July 17; she is survived by her sons, Charlie and John (Sandie); gc: 5; ggc: 1..

**Nakayama, Rose, 94**, Los Angeles, CA, July 11; she was predeceased by her husband, Toshio; and sons, Grant and Steven; she is survived by her daughters, Janet (Brad) Fujikuni and Carol (Todd) Inatomi; gc: 3.

**Sugita, Akira, 88**, Gardena, CA, June 6; a Korean War veteran, he is survived by his sister, Takako Yamashiro; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Sugita, Kaoru, 95**, Arleta, CA, Aug. 16; she was predeceased by her siblings, Frank, Arthur and Alice Emi; she is survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Sumi, Norimichi, 85**, Redondo Beach, CA, June 20; a Korean War veteran, he is survived by his children, Nora Schaffer, Lena Ng and Mark Sumi; sisters, Aki Hiraga, Eiko Matsumoto and Nobuko Igasaki; gc: 4.

**Takagaki, Shizue, 91**, Los Angeles, CA, July 4; she is survived by her daughters, Linda (Curtis) Patterson, Cher (Gerald) Harada and Pamela; sister, Diana (Ron) Wohnoutka; she is also survived by many other relatives; gc: 4; ggc: 2.

**Tatsumi, Yoshiro, 86**, Palmdale, CA, July 2.

**Teruya, Dorothy Kishiko, 78**, Culver City, CA, July 23; she is survived by her siblings, James Teruya and Gladys Nishikawa; she is also survived by many nieces and other relatives.

**Tokuda, Hideko Inouye, 91**, Los Angeles, CA, July 23; during WWII, she was incarcerated at the Gila River WRA Center in AZ; she was predeceased by her husband, Tsuyoshi (Tom); and siblings, Taro Inouye and Yoshiko Muto; she is survived by her sister-in-law, Etsuko Tokuda, and several nieces and nephews.

**Uchida, George Sei, 89**, Los Angeles, CA, July 12; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Manzanar WRA Center in CA; he is survived by his wife, Frances Uchida; children, Kimberly, Kevin (Liza), Kristin (Greg), Kelly (Brett) and Kirk (Aiko); gc: 5.

**Yabuno, Katsumasa, 90**, North Hills, CA, July 25; a military veteran, he is survived by his wife, Aiko Yabuno; children, Yolanda, Steve (Vicki),

Randall (Ellen) and Wayne (Sue); siblings, Sadao Yabuno, Satomi Yabuno and Ethel (Tony) Suzuki; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3.

**Yada, Sonny Isamu, 53**, Tustin, CA, June 24; he is survived by his wife, Jane; son, Grayson; mother, Itsuko Yada; siblings, Michael, James, Frank and Penny Inada; he is also survived by many relatives.

**Yamada, Frances L., 68**, CA, July 30; she is survived by her husband, Bob; children, Mike, Brian (Marion) and Ali; mother, Bo Ying Yim; sister, Ellen Yim; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 1.

**Yamada, Tomiko, 94**, Torrance, CA, May 9; she is survived by her daughter-in-law, Diane Yamada; gc: 2.

**Yoshida, Betty Fusaye, 85**, Westminster, CA, July 29; she is survived by her children, Vernon (Rumi), Noreen (Michael) Peer and Carrie (Emil) Francisco; hanai daughter, Connie (Bobby) Kang; siblings, Kiyo Kinjo, Shigeru (Doris) Yamaguchi and Yukie Yamashiro; gc: 2.

**Yoshioka, Ronald 'Roncho' Tadato, 84**, Honolulu, HI, July 7; he is survived by his children, Darren (Suzanne), Marvi Shibuya, Janelle Mayeshiro and Darnell (Kerrie Koda); siblings, Masato (Yukiko), Lawrence (Dorothea), Ethel (Paul) Uemura and Ellen Kim; gc: 5. ■

## 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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# DISRUPT EVERYTHING

## STUDY FINDS STUDENT LOAN DEBT PREVENTS SAVING, BUYING A HOME

By Ron Mori

A lot of us remember the responsibility of paying off student loans and how happy we were when that debt was cleared. We were raised with the expectation that education is the key to our futures. But along with that key comes the loans — loans that have ballooned in the years since I was in school.

New research from the Association of Young Americans and AARP shows that student loan debt is preventing Americans across three generations from saving for retirement or buying a home.

As many students begin their academic year, nearly half of those with student loan debt say they owe more than \$30,000. According to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, borrowers have more than \$1.4 trillion in student loan debt. The new research specifically shows that of those who have student debt, 45 percent of Millennials, 48 percent of Generation Xers and 50 percent of Baby Boomers owe \$30,000 or more.

The survey highlights how three generations view major issues facing the nation.

“AYA and AARP are working together because issues of financial security that include growing student loan debt are important to AARP’s members, their families and many Americans of all ages,” said AARP Senior VP Jean Setzfand. “Millennials, Gen Xers and Boomers have far more similarities than differences. This research highlights the long-term

negative toll student loan debt has on multiple generations. The choice to fund you or your loved one’s education can boost your family’s future opportunities. However, due to the high cost of education, our joint research shows that the education decision should be considered in the context of other major financial decisions such as retirement savings, home ownership and paying for other necessities such as health care.”

**Student loan debt has prevented or delayed:**

• **Saving for Retirement** — 4 in 10 (40 percent) say student loan debts have stopped him/her from saving for retirement, including 41 percent of Millennials, 38 percent of Gen Xers and 31 percent of Boomers.

• **Buying a Home** — 1 in 3 (32 percent) say student loan debt has prevented or delayed him/her from buying a home, including 36 percent of Millennials, 26 percent of Gen Xers and 32 percent of Boomers.

• **Helping a Family Member** — 1 in 4 (25 percent) say student loan debt prevented or delayed him/her from financially helping a family member, including 23 percent of Millennials, 29 percent of Gen Xers and 26 percent of Boomers.

• **Getting Health Care** — Nearly 1 in 5 (16 percent) said student loan debt prevented or delayed him/her from getting needed health care, including 17 percent of Millennials, 16 percent of Gen Xers and 9 percent of Boomers.

Six in 10 Americans don’t view the benefits of college as worth the cost. Across generations, the views about college not being worth the cost held steady with 61 percent of Millennials,

62 percent of Gen Xers and 53 percent of Boomers sharing the same view.

Americans believe major institutions can play a role in the cost of college and loan repayment:

**Colleges**

• 3 in 4 (74 percent) agree strongly or somewhat that community colleges should be free for anyone who qualifies.

• 6 in 10 (66 percent) agree strongly or somewhat that colleges and universities should share the financial responsibility with students who default on their loans.

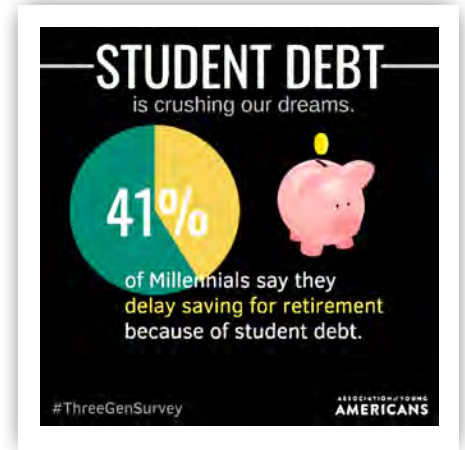
**Government**

• 8 in 10 (86 percent) agree strongly or somewhat that state and federal government should invest in career and technical education programs as alternatives to college.

• 8 in 10 (79 percent) believe strongly or somewhat that state governments should increase support for public universities so more people can afford college tuition.

• 7 in 10 (76 percent) strongly or somewhat believe that the federal government should help people refinance student loan debt.

• 6 in 10 strongly or somewhat agree that the federal government should forgive some student loan debt (61 percent), help people repay some student loan debt (58 percent) and tax stock market transactions to subsidize



tuition at public colleges and universities (60 percent).

These survey results don’t necessarily reflect the policy positions of AYA or AARP.

*(Methodology: This poll was conducted via NORC’s AmeriSpeak nationally representative online panel for AARP from July 10-Aug. 7, 2018, with 4,862 adults between the ages of 18-74 encompassing Millennial, Generation X and Baby Boomer adults. The margin of error is +/-2.01% at the 95% confidence level.)*

Ron Mori is a member of the Washington, D.C., JACL chapter and manager of community, states and national affairs — multicultural leadership for AARP.

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Tokyo, Mt. Fuji, Shizuoka, Nagoya, Gifu, Hiroshima, Kyoto.

New England Autumn Holiday Tour (Carol Hida). . . . . Oct 12-19  
Boston, North Conway, Burlington, Portland, Maple Sugar Farm, Ben & Jerry’s Ice Cream Factory, Washington Cog Railway.

Costa Rica Holiday Tour (Carol Hida). . . . . Nov 7-15  
San Jose, La Fortuna, Monteverde, Punta Arenas, Rain/Cloud Forest, Volcano National Parks, Hotsprings, Coffee Plantation.

Okinawa Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida) . . . . . Nov 7-16  
Naha, Onnason, Islands of Ishigaki, Iriomote & Taketomi.

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