HAPPY NEW YEAR 2019

>> PG. 4 INSIDE!

NATIONAL BOARD MEMBERS FORECAST

JACL CELEBRATES 90 YEARS

YEAR OF THE BOAR
2019 LEGACY FUND GRANTS PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

SAN FRANCISCO — The JACL Legacy Fund Grants Committee is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for the 2019 Legacy Fund grants. Committee Co-Chairs Roberta Barton and Toshi Abe encourage all eligible candidates to apply. Eligible applicants include all JACL chapters in good standing, District Councils and the JACL National Youth/Student Council.

The maximum grant award for 2019 is $5,000.

Grants will be awarded for projects and activities that support JACL’s mission and the 2019-20 Strategic Plan. Information on the Legacy Fund Grants Program and an application can be downloaded from the JACL website (www.jacl.org) under “Social Justice.” JACL’s Strategic Plan can also be accessed via the JACL website.

The Legacy Fund was established by the JACL National Council in 1990 at the JACL National Convention held in San Diego. Gifts were first donated to the fund by JACL members who gave a portion of their redress awards to further the legacy of patriotism and hard-won civil rights that is central to the story of Nikkei in America. A portion of the Legacy Fund Endowment is used to fund the grants program.

For additional information, contact LFG Committee Co-Chair Roberta Barton at rbarton4106@comcast.net or LFG Committee Co-Chair Toshi Abe at tobe@jacl.org.

Completed applications are due May 1. Grant recipients will be announced at the 50th JACL National Convention in Salt Lake City, to be held July 31-Aug. 4.

JACL KEITH KAWAMOTO Presented With Community Service Award

Keith Kawamoto was selected as this year’s recipient of the George Inagaki Community Service Award during a New Year’s program at the Venice Japanese Community Center in Los Angeles on Jan. 20. Kawamoto, a board member of the Venice-West Los Angeles chapter, was recognized for his recent efforts in getting the state of Kansas to recall 731 license plates with the racial slur “JAP.” He also received assurances from the Kansas DMV that it would no longer issue plates containing those three letters.

The award is named in honor of George Inagaki, former National JACL president from 1952-56 who is credited with starting the first JACL chapter in the West L.A. area in 1936. A large gathering that included L.A. City Councilmember Mike Bonin and other city and state officials was in attendance.

The complete back story can be found in the Pacific Citizen’s Sept. 7, 2018, and Nov. 16-Dec. 13, 2018 issues, as well as online at www.pacificcitizen.org under “digital archives.”

Keith Kawamoto was recognized with the George Inagaki Community Service Award by the Venice-West Los Angeles JACL chapter.

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JACL MEMBERS

Change of Address
If you’ve moved, please send new information to: National JACL, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115
(415) 921-5225 ext. 26

Allow 6 weeks for address changes.

To avoid interruptions in your membership, please notify your postmaster to include periodic updates of your changing zip code on your Change of Address Form (USPS Form 3575).
Caring for Someone with Dementia Can Take Its Toll

By Ron Mori

A new AARP poll on dementia care that takes a closer look at the experiences of family caregivers for those with dementia found that more than half say their social life has suffered, and nearly 45 percent say they feel alone. In addition, family caregivers are more likely to grow further apart from the ones they care for and other family members because of their caregiving responsibilities. Both social isolation and loneliness are linked to poorer physical and mental health outcomes.

The national survey looked at the demands of about 700 caregivers of individuals with dementia or other forms of cognitive impairment (most often their parents), as well as 400 caregivers who cared for a loved one without dementia. Regardless of the situation, on average, caregivers report having been caring for their loved one for almost three years. While 75 percent report that caring for someone with dementia has brought more meaning to their lives, most of the survey respondents indicate in their medical records.

For example:
- Caregivers for those with dementia spend on average 13.7 hours per week caregiving, while other caregivers spend 11.7 hours.
- About 32 percent of caregivers cite managing emotions and the demands of care as the biggest challenges of caring for someone with dementia.
- Respondents indicate their health status is no different whether they care for someone with dementia or not, but dementia caregivers are more likely than others to say that they have delayed seeking needed health care for themselves due to caregiving — 55 percent, compared to just 38 percent among other caregivers.

Caregivers for those with dementia also are more apt to report that caregiving has led to less sleep, more anxiety and depression, less time for themselves and with friends and feelings of loneliness. Furthermore, about 63 percent of dementia caregivers say their care responsibilities have led to working different hours, leaving work early or unexpectedly and worrying about finances — a higher percentage than other caregivers (36 percent).

Two-thirds of all caregivers surveyed report feeling closer to their loved one, but caregivers of those with dementia are more likely to say their relationship with their loved one over time has grown. Further, 65 percent of those who feel their relationship has grown feel a greater sense of responsibility, compared to just 30 percent of caregivers who say their relationship has grown. There are also some who have a greater sense of purpose, compared to just 30 percent of caregivers who say their relationship has grown.

In general, caregivers by and large indicate that they are receiving what they need from health care providers, yet those caring for someone with dementia also seek out more information about caregiving and from a greater variety of sources.

AARP helps family caregivers find the information and support they need to manage their own care along with their loved one's. Visit www.aarp.org/caregiving for more resources and information on family caregiving, including AARP's Dementia Care Guide.

To read the full report, visit https://www.aarp.org/research/topics/care-info-2018/dementia-caregivers-experiences.html.

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

Legal Ease: An Attorney's Perspective

How to Survive a Hospital Stay

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

Did you know that "medical errors" are the third-leading cause of death in the United States? According to a recent study by Johns Hopkins University, more than 250,000 people in the U.S. die every year because of medical mistakes, making it the third-leading cause of death after heart disease and cancer. (Source: www.nbc.com, Feb. 22, 2018)

Dr. Martin Makary, head professor of surgery at Johns Hopkins University's School of Medicine, defines medical errors as lapses in judgment, skill or coordination of care mistakes, systems failures that lead to patient deaths or the failure to rescue dying patients and preventable complications of care. "People don't just die from heart attacks and bacteria, they die from system-wide failings and poorly coordinated care," said Makary. "It's medical care gone awry.

Furthermore, the Johns Hopkins study contends that death from medical error has been understated, in large part, because such errors by health providers is not included on death certificates.

Interestingly, the study referenced another source that found that patients reported three times as many preventable adverse events than were indicated in their medical records. "We believe this study understates the true incidence of death due to medical errors because physicians don't report mistakes," Makary continued.

Nobody wants to go to the hospital. Hospitals are very dangerous places to be, and I hope you don't have to go there unless it is absolutely necessary. However, if you do, I have compiled a list of five Medical Survival Tips that should increase your chances of returning home safely and free from "medical errors." Perhaps the best approach to reducing "medical error" is to avoid all "unnecessary surgeries" in the first place. Every year, millions of Americans go under the knife, but many of them are enduring great pain and shelling out thousands of dollars for surgeries they don't really need.

Medical Survival Tip #1: Question Your Doctor

According to USA TODAY (June 19, 2013), tens of thousands of times each year, patients are wheeled into the nation's operating rooms for a surgery that isn't necessary. Why do surgeons continue to perform unnecessary surgery? You guessed it — money. The only people who seem to really benefit from these unnecessary medical procedures are the doctors who stand to make exorbitant amounts of money from performing them. The fee-for-service model of U.S. health care, where the hospitals and doctors get more money for every operation they perform, essentially rewards those who put more patients under the knife.

Medical Survival Tip #2: Get a Second Opinion

When you're sick, it is not always easy to find the best treatment or cure. With thousands of diagnoses, some with similar symptoms, two brains work better than one. "Say what?" When your regular health care provider recommends surgery or a major treatment, it might be a good idea to get a second opinion.

Researchers at the Mayo Clinic examined 286 patient records of individuals who had decided to consult the Mayo Clinic's General Internal Medicine Division in Rochester, Minn., for a second opinion between 2003 and 2009. James Naessens, Sc.D., lead researcher at the Mayo Clinic, said there's an 80 percent chance your doctor is wrong.

Actually, researchers found that in only 12 percent of cases when someone sought a second medical opinion, that second opinion actually aligned with the first opinion. Now technically, that doesn't mean it's wrong or incorrect. Perhaps the most accurate way to say this is: Eighty-eight percent of the time the first doctor's opinion is said to be wrong by the second doctor's opinion.

According to Naessens, "Effective and efficient treatment depends on the right diagnosis. Knowing that more than one out of every five referral patients may be completely and incorrectly diagnosed is troubling." A second opinion may not only give you peace of mind, but also a second chance at survival.

To read the full report, visit https://www.aarp.org/research/topics/care-info-2018/dementia-caregivers-experiences.html.

Judd Matsunaga is the founding attorney of Elder Law Services of California, a law firm that specializes in Med-CAL Planning, Estate Planning and Probate. He can be contacted at (310) 348-2995 or judd@elderlawcalifornia.com. The opinions expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Pacific Citizen or JACL. The information presented does not constitute legal or tax advice and should not be treated as such.
‘It Will Take All of Us’ for JACL to Find Its Way Onward From Its 90th Year and Beyond

By Jeff Wen,
JACL National President

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I hope 2019 is off to a great start for everyone. I’m sure to do so this year bring, especially as we celebrate JACL’s 90th anniversary and consider what we need to do to ensure that JACL continues to thrive for years to come.

JACL’s strength comes from our members who are an amazing community of advocates rooted in a history of fight for social justice and civil rights. However, in order to continue to be effective in a time when strong advocates are needed more than ever, we need to ensure that we have systems in place to build strong leadership across our organization. We need to improve our infrastructure so that we can support each other in the fight to secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all citizens who are victimized by injustice and bigotry.

For JACL 2018 was a time of transition, as we experienced a number of changes at the staff and board level. After being elected I had one-on-one conversations with each of our board members to discuss their goals for the term and understand how we can move forward as a group.

We worked quickly to appoint Mariana Kilcrease to the position of VP for General Operations and Melita Kmetrico to the position of National Youth/Student Representative before the National Board meeting in September. The next appointment was Rob Sutainishi to the position of Pacific Citizen Editor. Board Chair Barry Chong immediately after the meeting. We also started monthly calls to provide additional opportunities for board members to provide updates on the various initiatives we are working on.

Having taken steps to fill out the board and better understand each of our positions, we worked for 2019 and the bold goals we have moving forward. We knew that in order for JACL to succeed we need to continue to improve our communication and operations so that our members are well connected.

We are working on a membership survey that will help us better understand the capacity of all of our chapters so that we can determine whether our resources need to be reallocated in our organization and leadership pipeline.

We are also thinking through ways to be more active in ensuring members are aware of advocacy and programming opportunities at the local, district and national levels. In addition, we are planning for an exciting National Convention in Salt Lake City that will provide more opportunities for our members to connect and learn from each other. We are taking a hard look at our external strategies and policies to ensure that we can operate efficiently and effectively. And we are embracing on a bold campaign to ensure that the wonderful educational programming we can continue to be stronger and stand.

These are just some of the initiatives that we on the National Board are working on. It has been exciting and energizing working with this great team in setting an agenda to move us forward. It will take a lot of hard work but we can do it together because we are willing to do what it takes to make sure JACL can rise to the challenge that we face everyday, so that people all over the country know that they can turn to us for what is right.

While we are willing to take the lead in this work it will take all of us, bringing our voices and energy together to make those changes and find new ways forward. See you in Salt Lake City!

It Is Important for JACL to Look Forward and Equip Itself to Handle Current and Future Challenges

By David Inouye,
JACL Executive Director

A s we begin a new year, it will be one of celebration for JACL and the country. We will be celebrating our 90th anniversary as an organization. Several of our chapters have already had their 50th celebrations over the past year. We look forward to our celebration in Salt Lake City at the annual National Convention set for July 31-Aug 4.

For the country this will be an interesting year to say the least. We are seeing the challenges of a politically divided government as the stalemate between Congress and the president is dragging the country down. As the government begins on its second month of the shutdown, we can expect to see more confusion at the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives begins to pass legislation that President Trump opposes.

The late December budget negotiations, which were fraught with conflict and ultimately resulted in a bipartisan deal, has not resolved the underlying issues that have led to the impasse in the first place. The budget deal, which provides $80 billion in new funding for federal agencies through 2019, includes funding for the national defense and homeland security agencies.

In terms of domestic policy, the budget deal provides funding for major programs, including $10 billion for the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and $9 billion for disaster relief efforts.

The budget deal also includes provisions for increased spending on education and health care, as well as funding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The deal includes $17 billion in new funding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which is tasked with managing public housing, providing rental assistance to low-income families, and overseeing other programs.

In terms of immigration policy, the budget deal includes funding for the Department of Homeland Security, which is responsible for enforcing immigration laws. The deal includes $15 billion in new funding for the Department of Homeland Security, which includes funding for the construction of new border wall and the expansion of immigration detention facilities.

In terms of foreign policy, the budget deal includes funding for the Department of State, which is responsible for conducting foreign policy and diplomacy on behalf of the United States. The deal includes $20 billion in new funding for the Department of State, which includes funding for foreign aid programs, military assistance, and diplomatic services.

In terms of environmental policy, the budget deal includes funding for the Department of the Interior, which is responsible for managing natural resources and protecting the environment. The deal includes $12 billion in new funding for the Department of the Interior, which includes funding for land and wildlife conservation, and water and natural resources management.

In terms of health care policy, the budget deal includes funding for the Department of Health and Human Services, which is responsible for providing health care and social services to individuals and families. The deal includes $10 billion in new funding for the Department of Health and Human Services, which includes funding for Medicaid, Medicare, and other health programs.

In terms of education policy, the budget deal includes funding for the Department of Education, which is responsible for providing assistance to schools and students. The deal includes $15 billion in new funding for the Department of Education, which includes funding for Title I programs, special education, and other education assistance programs.

In terms of other programs, the budget deal includes funding for the Department of Agriculture, which is responsible for providing food assistance and support to farmers and rural communities. The deal includes $10 billion in new funding for the Department of Agriculture, which includes funding for food assistance programs, rural development, and other programs.

In terms of veterans affairs, the budget deal includes funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs, which is responsible for providing care and support to veterans and their families. The deal includes $20 billion in new funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs, which includes funding for veterans health care programs, and other services.

In terms of homeland security, the budget deal includes funding for the Department of Homeland Security, which is responsible for managing immigration and customs enforcement, as well as protecting the country from terrorist threats. The deal includes $15 billion in new funding for the Department of Homeland Security, which includes funding for immigration enforcement, and other homeland security programs.

In terms of housing and community development, the budget deal includes funding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which is responsible for providing housing assistance and support to individuals and families. The deal includes $10 billion in new funding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which includes funding for housing assistance programs, and other housing and community development programs.

In terms of transportation, the budget deal includes funding for the Department of Transportation, which is responsible for managing transportation infrastructure and public transportation systems. The deal includes $15 billion in new funding for the Department of Transportation, which includes funding for transportation infrastructure programs, and other transportation programs.

In terms of science and technology, the budget deal includes funding for the Department of Energy, which is responsible for conducting research and development in science and technology. The deal includes $10 billion in new funding for the Department of Energy, which includes funding for science and technology programs, and other research and development programs.

In terms of other programs, the budget deal includes funding for the Department of Commerce, which is responsible for conducting economic and demographic research, as well as providing assistance to businesses. The deal includes $10 billion in new funding for the Department of Commerce, which includes funding for economic research programs, and other business assistance programs.

In terms of other programs, the budget deal includes funding for the Department of Labor, which is responsible for providing labor education and training programs, as well as enforcing labor laws. The deal includes $10 billion in new funding for the Department of Labor, which includes funding for labor education and training programs, and other labor enforcement programs.

In terms of other programs, the budget deal includes funding for the Department of Justice, which is responsible for enforcing federal laws and protecting the country from crime and other threats. The deal includes $10 billion in new funding for the Department of Justice, which includes funding for law enforcement programs, and other crime prevention programs.

In terms of other programs, the budget deal includes funding for the Department of Treasury, which is responsible for managing the federal budget, as well as providing financial assistance to individuals and families. The deal includes $10 billion in new funding for the Department of Treasury, which includes funding for financial assistance programs, and other budget management programs.

In terms of other programs, the budget deal includes funding for the Department of Agriculture, which is responsible for providing food assistance and support to farmers and rural communities. The deal includes $10 billion in new funding for the Department of Agriculture, which includes funding for food assistance programs, rural development, and other programs.

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Key to JACL’s Future Success — Community Spirit

By James Kirihara, JACL Secretary/Treasurer

My Japanese family has been involved in the Twin Cities JACL chapter throughout my life, while my personal involvement has been focused at the national level, particularly in the National Youth/Student Council and now as a National Board member. I naturally look back to my time in the NY/SC for some of my fondest JACL memories due to the relationships that were developed, the shared vision among our group and a healthy mix of both fun and serious activities and programming.

It is in the spirit of community that these summits appealed to me and other youth members, and I believe that community spirit is the key to JACL’s future success and longevity. JACL is unique in that it is both a civil rights organization as well a Japanese American community group.

As someone who grew up in the Midwest with few people who shared my Japanese family history and background, JACL has represented a way for me to connect with my family heritage and culture in a way that no other organization can mirror.

In conclusion, as this New Year begins, JACL has many great opportunities ahead. From continuing the great work of the scholarship and Legacy Fund Grant programs, to ushering in new interns and fellows to support programs and advocacy efforts of JACL, to reviving existing and forging new fundraising initiatives, JACL will continue to thrive and challenge the status quo.

Lastly, I’d be remiss not to recognize the hard work and dedication of staff and volunteers that carry out the good work of JACL. These individuals devote their time and a huge amount of effort to ensure our programs like the Legacy Fund Grant and scholarship programs remain positively impactful on our community and organization’s members.

Fundraising Remains Key: National Campaign Coming Soon

By Matt Farrells, JACL VP Planning & Development

Happy New Year! I wish everyone a healthy and prosperous new year. As we enter 2019, I’d like to take a quick moment to reflect on the accomplishments of the previous year. The VP Planning & Development role has several programs under its purview, including internships and fellowships, scholarship, Legacy Fund grants and fund development programs.

This past fall, JACL completed another successful round of the scholarship program, where the organization awarded more than $91,000 in scholarships to 42 deserving applicants. The scholarship program supports JACL’s mission to assist young community members to pursue higher education and elevate JACL’s visibility within the civil rights arena. I believe this is one of the premier programs that ensures that JACL continues to engage young community members and hopefully contribute to filling the membership ranks of the JACL for years to come.

Looking ahead to 2019, the Legacy Fund Grant program and fund development are two areas of focus. First, the Legacy Fund Grant committee and staff are hard at work to deliver another successful round of legacy fund grants this summer. Each year, JACL awards approximately $60,000 in grants to numerous applicants with the goal of furthering the mission of the JACL. In 2018, many well-deserving recipients received a grant, and the committee continues to seek ways to grow the program into 2019.

In addition to the Legacy Fund Grant program, another major area of focus for JACL in 2019 is fund development. At the 2016 National Convention in Las Vegas, I ran on the platform of making fund development my No. 1 priority during my term, and I am happy to report that we’ve made significant strides in planning a national fundraising campaign.

We are currently in the process of interviewing JACL leaders, documenting a shared vision between the board and executive director as to the optimal use of funds, and designing the marketing collateral to convey our important message to the public. In additional, we are finalizing an implementation strategy to execute the fundraising plan. More details will be forthcoming.

In conclusion, as this New Year begins, JACL has many great opportunities ahead. From continuing the great work of the scholarship and Legacy Fund Grant programs, to ushering in new interns and fellows to support programs and advocacy efforts of JACL, to reviving existing and forging new fundraising initiatives, JACL will continue to thrive and challenge the status quo.

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Save the Date!

2019 JACL National Convention in Salt Lake City!
July 31 - Aug. 4, 2019

Little America Hotel - 500 S. Main Street - Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Our Golf Tournament will be held on Wednesday, July 31 followed by our Welcoming Reception.

An all-day bus tour of Topaz is also scheduled for Sunday, August 4.

More details to be posted on our National JACL website, www.jacl.org

For convention sponsorships or donations, please contact Mr. Dean Hirabayashi at the National JACL Credit Union, (801) 424-5225.
Looking Ahead to Salt Lake City: ‘Advocacy, Inclusion & Action’

By Marissa Kitazawa, JACL VP of General Operations

JACL has always taken pride in our identity as one of the largest and oldest API civil rights organizations. The history of our organization has always been a complicated one filled with struggles for equality, unjust incarceration of our community and continued fight for social justice of all communities.

This year marks our 90th anniversary, and as I reflect on that history, I am galvanized by the resiliency of our community.

Growing up as a Yonsei, my view of history has been filtered through the lens of my paternal grandparents’ incarceration, my maternal grandfather’s service in the U.S. Army and my maternal grandmother’s survival of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima.

The Japanese American community has been able to build significant political power to receive redress and reparations, and we continue to speak out in solidarity with other communities as to not let the mistakes of 1942 repeat itself.

I’ve always admired that on a national level — JACL was quick to respond immediately after 9/11 that the attack on Muslims should not be segregated like Japanese Americans were after Pearl Harbor.

This past year, we responded against the Muslim ban and family separation. In addition to the national level, we’ve made accomplishments through our grassroots efforts as well.

On a grassroots level, I was inspired by victories like Keith Kawamoto from the WLA Venice-Culver Chapter. He was able to get Kanas to recall license plates with the ethnic slur, JP.

Working on a grassroots level is equally as crucial as our increased membership numbers dating back to 2014. Our membership has increased from 8,800 members, so while it will certainly take considerable effort from all our chapters, an increase in 1,200 members nationally is within reach.

In addition, 2018 showed that we may be at the cusp of reversing the course of continued decline in our membership nationally as our rate of membership improved from 4 percent in 2017 to 0.7 percent in 2018.

We, in fact, had 35 different chapters that increased their membership in 2018. Increasing our membership is not only crucial in expanding the reach of our educational programs and civil rights advocacy, but also absolutely necessary to bring in the operating revenue for us to develop these programs and resources, and perhaps most importantly, fund additional staff positions to coordinate and carry out the work of the JACL.

With renewed focus on serving our mission and engaging our valuable members, we can make 2019 a year of growth for our chapters across the nation!

It is appropriate that the theme for this year’s National Convention is “Advocacy, Inclusion & Action.”

The convention will be hosted in Salt Lake City, Utah, on July 31-Aug. 6. With working on planning our focus this year to include more family oriented programming and engaging workshops and plenaries.

Convention planning is well underway and this year will be spearheaded by the mighty impacts of Utah Chapters’ Wasatch Front North Chapter, Salt Lake Chapter and Mt. Olympus Chapter.

In addition to a successful convention, in 2018 I hope to create meaningful change and build a strong and sustainable infrastructure for the organization.

I’ve always found a meaningful attachment to this quote by Nelson Mandela, “The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.”

There has been a lot of transition and change in leadership and personnel the last several years. My goal is to work closely with the National Board and Executive Director David Inoue to build a strong base and organizational and financial stability and that so we can spend more time focusing on our mission.

Lately, I am humbled and honored to serve as VP of General Operations and build upon the JACL legacy. Although I’ve only served in this position for the past four months, I am inspired and energized by the leadership on the National Board, especially our fearless leader, Jeffrey Moy. I am also thankful for all the dedicated staff members who work tirelessly behind the scenes and really are the heart of this organization.

Thank you to everyone who has supported JACL. The strength of our organization is in the engagement of our membership, who are not afraid to stand up against injustice.

As we celebrate all that we have accomplished in the last 90 years, I look toward what the future will bring.

JACL Membership Outlook for 2019

By Haruka Roudebush, VP of 1,000 Club, Membership & Services

Hello and akemashite! (Happy New Year) to everyone in the JACL family! A new year is once again upon us, giving us a moment to look ahead and plot out our course for the immediate future.

When it comes to JACL membership, one of my stated goals during my campaign for election as the VP of 1,000 Club, Membership and Services was to bring our national membership total back up to 10,000 members, which would match our membership numbers dating back to 2014.

We are currently at a little above 8,800 members, so while it will certainly take considerable effort from all our chapters, an increase in 1,200 members nationally is within reach.

In addition, 2018 showed that we may be at the cusp of reversing the course of continued decline in our membership nationally as our rate of membership improved from 4 percent in 2017 to 0.7 percent in 2018.

We, in fact, had 35 different chapters that increased their membership in 2018. Increasing our membership is not only crucial in expanding the reach of our educational programs and civil rights advocacy, but also absolutely necessary to bring in the operating revenue for us to develop these programs and resources, and perhaps most importantly, fund additional staff positions to coordinate and carry out the work of the JACL.

With renewed focus on serving our mission and engaging our valuable members, we can make 2019 a year of growth for our chapters across the nation!

In order to reach our goal of 10,000 members, we are taking both structural and systematic approaches to revitalizing JACL membership nationally.

In 2018, we established a National Membership Committee with membership representatives from our various districts and chapters to help us develop membership initiatives and implement them on the ground at local chapters.

The National Membership Committee has convened open conference calls to brainstorm, troubleshoot and exchange ideas and best practices for membership recruitment and retention.

In addition, under the leadership of Pacific Northwest District Governor Chip Larouche, the committee has begun working on developing and updating information resources for chapter leadership, including updating the National JACL Chapter President’s Handbook, which was last revised in 2007.

In addition to these membership initiatives, the National Membership Committee will be implementing a survey for all chapters to assess their current membership outreach and engagement practices and capacity, and it will work with each chapter based on chapter membership assessment survey results to formulate individualized plans for each chapter to pursue growth in membership.

On top of providing resources, space and structure for our chapter leaders to better engage our general membership, we must work on streamlining our operations so that our JACL staff resources can be used more effectively.

A major structural change that I have proposed to our membership structure is to adjust our membership dues to a standardized rate nationally.

Currently, JACL members pay both membership dues to the national organization and an additional chapter membership fee for 61 of our 102 chapters nationally.

Those chapters opting to assess an additional chapter membership fee from their members set their own separate chapter dues rates, which results in a dizzyingly complex dues structure and causes confusion in leadership working membership staff to manage.

Because of the complexities in our existing dues structure, we have been prevented from upgrading and updating our membership database software.

Standardizing our chapter dues structure would allow for database software upgrades, which would in turn enable JACL to implement additional features such as automatic credit card renewals, which would ensure fewer lapsed and lost memberships and alleviate the administrative workload of staff, which would enable them to dedicate more staff time to pursuing membership campaigns and benefits as well as to our programs for members.

While there is much work to be done to achieve our goal of 10,000 members nationally, I hope what is not lost in the details and decisions is the experience our organization and chapters provide for our members.

We absolutely want members who support the JACL because of what it has accomplished for our community in the past and because of our ongoing educational, historical preservation and advocacy efforts.

More importantly though, our membership will be sustained because our members find that in JACL, not only are they able to support a worthy cause and engaging programs and activities, but they are also able to find a sense of connection to their families, culture and community.

I’d like to extend my thanks and appreciation to all of our JACL staff members, fellows, interns and volunteers for their continued diligence and dedication to the JACL and to all of our members nationally who keep us all going with your continued support.

May 2019 bring us good health and success — and 1,200 new members!
‘We Must Carry Our Shared Passion Forward and Help This Organization Grow and Adapt’

By Sarah Baker, JACL VP Public Affairs

How is it already 2019? Wasn’t 2000 just a couple of years ago? Every year I try and reflect on where I have been and the things I am proud of. My proudest memory of the JACL during my tenure (2014-present) is when, in 2017, the National Council adopted the resolution regarding the Dakota Access Pipeline.

The resolution was hotly debated at the National Convention in Washington, D.C., and it was not clear what the outcome of the final vote would be. In fact, debate went into the next day. Even at the end of the day, not everyone agreed that the resolution should pass. But we were able to have critical and constructive conversations to hear out both sides that allowed the National Council to come to an informed decision.

As Japanese Americans continue to face hate speech within the highest offices of government, violent hate crimes have been on the rise since the incredibly divisive 2016 presidential campaign. It is for these reasons that JACL has never been more important than it is today in relating contemporary issues such as immigrant detention centers and the Muslim travel ban to the historical prejudice faced by our ancestors during the exclusion of Asians from immigration and naturalization and mass incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II.

Although history may repeat itself, the current rise in xenophobic sentiment is undeniable. In the face of earlier times of oppression, we must discuss the content of the resolution and any potential changes that could be made to help it gain the votes it would need to pass.

The next day, debate continued, and the resolution was adopted with votes both for and against. The reason this memory stands out to me is because that process embodies what the JACL is about. We are an organization that truly values and practices democracy.

At the end of the day, not everyone agreed that the resolution should pass. But we were able to have critical and constructive conversations to hear out both sides that allowed the National Council to come to an informed decision.

Does the path we take to get there?

With our 90th anniversary coming up, I wonder what the next 90 will bring us. Will we exist as an organization? Will we change into something else entirely? There is no way to predict the future, but we can absolutely shape it.

Thinking about the year ahead, I believe key to the JACL’s longevity is the passion brought to the table by its members. For some of us, it’s the historical context that keeps our ties to the organization, while for others it’s the thought of the impact we can make for future generations.

We each have our own personal reasons for being members, but underlying that I believe we all hold a commitment to social justice and activism.

As the social and political landscapes shift, the JACL has the opportunity to remain at the forefront of issues relating to communities of color and other marginalized groups. It is up to our members to carry our shared passion forward and help this organization grow and adapt with the times.

My goal for this year is to help empower JACL’s members, chapters and districts to make change in their communities.

I think one of the largest challenges we are faced with currently is knowing what issues to address and when. There are just so many!

Every day brings something new and I cringe when I see notifications on my phone from NPR. But what we have to realize is that change doesn’t have to be on a national scale. In fact, change is better started locally so that we can gain power and constituents.

As such a large organization, we have not only the opportunity to make a difference, but also the obligation. Change starts with the individual, and it is up to each of us to step up to the plate.

P.C. Aims to Increase Its Engagement With Readers

By Rob Buscher, Pacific Citizen Editorial Board Chair

Greetings JACL members and Pacific Citizen subscribers, and a very Happy New Year to you all. It is a great privilege to be taking the helm of P.C.’s Editorial Board during the start of our organization’s 90th anniversary year.

So much has happened in the 90 years that the JACL and P.C. have been in existence, seeing our community of immigrants gradually acculturate to mainstream American ways of life and finding acceptance within many of this country’s finest institutions and professions.

The world was a much different place in 1929 when our Nisei ancestors established this organization, when immigrants and other racial minorities faced threats of physical harm simply for existing. While much has changed from the era when our Issei forbearers were denied citizenship based on grounds of racial exclusion, some things are unfortunately as relevant today as they were back then.

In the last few years, political discourse scapegoating immigrants and refugees has been mainstreamed into the dominant party’s rhetoric, leading to a resurgence of xenophobic bigotry that perpetuates all communities of color. Emboldened by remarks that equate to hate speech within the highest
2019: INTO THE YEAR OF THE BOAR

By Kota Mizutani,
JACL National Youth/Student Council Chair

Happy New Year! 明けましておめでとう!

Among the many reasons to be excited for this year as the National Youth/Student Council (NY/SC) Chair, I am particularly thrilled to welcome 2019 as it is my zodiac year: the Year of the Boar. Despite my protests, my family refers to the boar as a pig, insisting that I am more reminiscent of the former’s connotations. That’s fair. In the Japanese version of the zodiac story that I grew up with, in which all the zodiac animals participate in a great race, the boar finishes last because it becomes hungry, decides to have a snack and falls asleep.

Rest assured, neither I nor the NY/SC will be resigned to such a fate in 2019. Yet, what we can take away from our beloved boar is a reminder to stop every now and then and reflect.

Here are some quick metrics from this past year. In 2018, the NY/SC:
- Organized six summits, two retreats and seven National Convention programs
- Hosted programs in nine cities, six states and six districts
- Published four Nikkei-mashou newsletters
- Engaged more than 200 youth in-person and 1,500 youth online
- Engaged more than 200 youth in-person and 1,500 youth online

Beyond the numbers, though, we also achieved a few milestones last year. For the first time, the NY/SC held a summit in Milwaukee, Wis., coordinating a daylong event that centered the unique challenges Nikkei and AAPI members face in the Midwest, built solidarity among Nikkei and AAPI advocates across generations and planned for the future of the young Nikkei community in the region.

Similarly, for the first time in more than five years, the NY/SC organized a summit in the Intermountain District, hosting an event that brought more than 50 young Nikkei and AAPIs together to discuss Japanese American history and build a network among participants.

In addition to new locations, the NY/SC also took on new civil rights issues. Mostly notably, in light of the recent #metoo and #timesup movements, we highlighted sexual harassment and assault for the first time at convention during an NY/SC-organized panel at the 2018 National Convention in Philadelphia.

Panelists Beckie Masaki (former-1y of the Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence), Michelle Huey (NY/SC) and Nina Wallace (Densho) broke down the history of sexual violence in the Nikkei and AAPI communities and what we can do to address it.

With an eye toward the future, perhaps the most exciting NY/SC development for me this past year was the council’s new membership. In 2018, we welcomed five new youth leaders to the NY/SC from three different districts: Jess Juanich, new PNW Youth Representative; Jaime Hasama, new MDC Youth Representative; Caitlin Takeda, new EDC Youth Representative; and Aiko Dzikowski and Kako Yamada of EDC.

With each new council member, the NY/SC gains unique experiences, perspectives and ideas on how to better engage young leaders in Nikkei and AAPI communities. It is a true honor and privilege to see the council grow and evolve over the years along with its council members.

Moving forward into 2019, I look forward to activating and cementing much of the groundwork we accomplished over the past few years. After coordinating closely between the NY/SC, the newly formed Young Professionals Caucus and other district leaders, we are beginning to see regionally based youth structures develop in robust districts, such as PSW and PNW.

While certainly positive that we’ve seen a recent hike in interest among young members, the NY/SC is limited by capacity and size to accommodate such interest. We hope district-based youth structures will continue to introduce opportunities for locally involved youth members, whether they be nearby college students or Kakehashi alumni, to contribute to the JACL and wield our unique resources for Nikkei and AAPI youth programming.

Last year also saw the first complete year of Nikkei-mashou issues, and 2019 promises to bring new and exciting modifications for the increasingly popular news source for NY/SC activities. In addition to regular NY/SC updates, we hope to introduce broader Nikkei and AAPI content, including interviews with prominent community leaders as well as opportunities for all JACL members to contribute to the conversation via written articles, artistic pieces and other media.

* See next page

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Wishing you luck and prosperity in the new year!

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If you’re interested in the Nikkei-mashou and have not yet subscribed, please contact us at jsc@jac.org. Thank you to all who have taken the time to check it out!

Although still months away, the NY/SC is also gearing up for the 2019 JACL National Convention, which will take place in Salt Lake City. Typically, we host a consistent set of tailored convention programs and events, but this upcoming convention looks to incorporate a new approach to convention youth programming.

Whereas youth participating in convention as chapter or district delegates previously could not always participate in concurrent youth-oriented programming, the 2019 JACL National Convention will provide opportunities for all youth attendees — from chapter delegates to volunteers — to enjoy an enhanced slate of youth events. Of course, neither the work ahead of us this year nor the preparation it took to get here would be made possible without the support of so many JACL members who’ve either participated in NY/SC events, recruited youth members, shared the NY/SC’s mission or even just read the Nikkei-mashou. We give special thanks to our JACL staff program manager, Mariko Fujimoto, who provides invaluable guidance and keeps us on task.

This year will undoubtedly pose both new and familiar challenges for the NY/SC as well as the JACL overall. Yet, with the same commitment and enthusiasm that helped fuel us through these past few years, I am confident that, with eyes diligently affixed to an ever-expanding finish line, the NY/SC will charge forward into the Year of the Bear.

The NY/SC Looks Forward to Continuing to Shape Its Identity Through Community and Activism


Happy New Year to the JACL!

I am so proud to have served another year with the Japanese American Citizens League. From the moment I joined, it has felt so powerful to be involved with a historic organization deeply committed to civil rights, and over the years, my membership and my fellow JACLers have given me hope, inspiration and a sense of community.

As we enter 2019 and navigate an era of widening political divisions, we on the National Youth/Student Council find our role as political activists increasingly pressing. It is important to build foundations and strengthen ties both within our own Nikkei community and without so that we can continue to advocate for ourselves and other communities that are under attack.

In the past year, the NY/SC has worked hard to strengthen the Japanese American community across geographical and generational divides. We spent 2018 striving to find one another and create opportunities to come together as Japanese Americans because reminding ourselves of who we are, what is important to us and that we have each other is central to all the work we do.


“The Japanese American Citizens League takes positions on immigrant rights and against internments and relocation . . . because of a deliberate choice to remember what was done to us and to forge a political identity around it . . . . We are agency involved in the way we use our identity, but it is not completely autonomous from what history hands us.”

Indeed, the NY/SC and youth of the JACL are focused on finding ourselves as JA youth in this particular moment, and often we have asked the same question: What does it mean to be JA? How do we use the lens of our history to guide our actions today?

One of the best ways to understand this is to find your community, and across the county, we did just that.

We gathered together in the Midwest to discuss identity and carrying forth the Japanese American legacy in our work. Youth of the Intermountain District brought together far-dispersed youth of the communities in the Salt Lake City area to form a new multi-chapter group that meets regularly. NY/SC members in California also joined youth of the Pacific Southwest, Central California and the Northern California Western Nevada Pacific districts to see the George Takei musical “Allegiance” and discuss JA history. In the Eastern District, Japanese and Asian American youth came together to experience the beauty of the Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival together and share a meal.

Across districts, the NY/SC reminded ourselves of the importance of staying connected to one another and recognizing the strength in our community, our history, our diversity, our community and our identity.

We discussed our own experiences and those of our families with race, ethnicity, immigration and identity, and through those conversations, we found similarities and differences to one another, as well as parallels to current political events. By finding each other, we were better able to understand the question of what it means to be a Japanese American.

Moving into 2019, the NY/SC is excited to build strong relationships with other communities and extend our Nikkei family. Among the most notable of our upcoming events is our participation in the 2019 Convención Panamericana Nikkei (the Pan-American Nikkei Convention, COPANI), which will be held in San Francisco this September (the first time it will be back in the United States for several decades).

The body of COPANI is comprised of 13 countries in North, Central and South America, as well as Japan, and will be the first convention of its kind for the NY/SC. It’s an incredible opportunity to meet with Latin American Nikkei community members and exchange cultures, histories and experiences. We hope

See next page

Special Issues Coming Soon

MAY……………………Senior Caregiving
JUNE .………………………….. Travel & Food

Do you have a story from your community that you would like to see in the Pacific Citizen?

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The PSW District Is ‘Committed to Advancing the Goals of the JACL’

By Carol Kawamoto, JACL Governor, Pacific Southwest District

O n behalf of the Pacific Southwest District, I’d like to wish all of you a very Happy New Year. And, I’d like to also wish a happy 90th anniversary to the JACL.

Ninety years! What a phenomenal, long and distinguished history for our organization.

JACL has been a notable presence for our community. In our early years, the Japanese-American community was often shunned and discriminated against. They were forced into labor camps and segregated areas. They were denied their naturalization rights for Japanese Americans (and others) was included in the McCarran-Walter Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952.

Soon thereafter, the JACL continued its educational objective when chapters organized classes to prepare the Issei for their successful application for naturalized U.S. citizenship.

The early legislative work of the JACL proved invaluable in its contributions in the battle for Constitutional rights for our community during World War II.

We have also developed supportive coalitions working to help new immigrants combat voter suppression and ethically motivated discrimination. In 2001, JACL was the first organization to publicly express support of the Muslim American community after the terrorist attacks on 9/11. We reminded people of the admitted mistakes made against people of Japanese ancestry during WWII and urged everyone not to make the same mistakes against other groups. We build strong coalitions with Arab Americans and groups. and ties continue to this day.

In recent years, it has become more and more important to see the importance of our country’s new immigrants and the overprivileged faced by people of color. It is obvious that the work of the JACL is far from done.

This is our opportunity to give significant meaning to our corporate identity as an educational organization. It is very important that we continue to teach the lessons of the Japanese American experience and provide vital support to all others. This is who we have been for 90 years and we will continue to be.

I am proud to be a member of the JACL. Being a Sami, I have seen the great work of our Nisei predecessors and truly benefited from their mentorship and guidance support in my leadership in JACL.

I am now observing a new generation of dedicated JACL leaders. Your current group of National JACL officers is comprised entirely of young professional leaders. It is an honor to work with this group of intelligent and motivated individuals. They share a passion for improving our community and understand the value of being part of a league.

The Pacific Southwest District is committed to advancing the goals of the JACL. Many of the members have served as watchdogs for our community. Others have volunteered on JACL’s district and national programs. And many have taken leadership roles at the various levels of our organization.

PSW is blessed with a great volunteer workforce. With a multiple generation workforce together, I foresee many more great years for the JACL in carrying out our mission.
Let’s Be Grateful for the ‘Glass Half-Full’ and Smile!

By Chip Larouche, JACL Governor, Pacific Northwest District

I think 2018 was the year of the frown. I like to observe people, and it was quite noticeable that people with smiles were definitely in the minority. The 21st century is not only in a 24/7 news cycle, but if you’re carrying a smartphone, you’re likely being notified of every bad thing happening in the world every 10 minutes! Even my beloved National JACL published 21 official statements in 2018. I list key words from the headlines for each of them below, and even without reading the rest of the statement, most of these few words probably bring a frown to your face, too.

- JACL Condemns Use
- JACL Convention
- Continues Attack
- Eliminates Funding
- House Has No Place
- JACL Deplores
- Needs a Refresher
- Continues Inhumane Treatment
- JACL Disappointed

On the plus side, the chapters in the Pacific Northwest District are doing great things in their neighborhoods. Portland continues to be JACL’s largest chapter, and Seattle is now the third-largest. Even though our aging JACL members are passing away with uncomfortable regularity, the Pacific Northwest District grew its membership by 12 members in 2018, while the National JACL numbers continued to decline.

Smaller Chapters like Alaska, Olympia, Gresham-Tualatin, Puyallup and Spokane are key organizations in their communities where festivals, civil rights challenges, scholarships and tributes happen throughout the year. These are the kinds of thoughts I prefer to dwell on, which bring a smile to my face.

We lost Sen. John McCain this year. He always had the ability to put things in perspective, and he had a great smile, too. He once said, “Our political differences, no matter how sharply they are debated, are really quite narrow in comparison to the remarkably durable national consensus on our founding convictions.”

How true. I guess I’m old enough to remember when you could have different thoughts on an issue, even debate an issue with a colleague, and still be friends afterwards and go out for dinner or a cocktail, with continued respect and civility for each other.

On July 25, 2017, John McCain had a pretty famous speech on the Senate floor, and he said lots of great things that day, but the one that really made me think was when he said, “Stop listening to the bombastic loudmouths on the radio and television and the Internet. To hell with them…”

So, I’m thinking, perhaps that’s part of what we need to do so we can smile more in 2019.

For example: If you’re watching your favorite news station, and they’ve just finished their third bad news story and are heading to the next one, change the station to the Animal Planet. There is bound to be a puppy or a kitten or maybe a penguin that will put a smile on your face and make your frown go away, even if it’s only for 10 minutes!

If I’m reading about the latest injustice of the day, sure I want to empathize with the victim or the bad situation, but I find that dwelling on it with a frown on my face isn’t going to do much good (for me or the victim), but it helps me get back to a smile if I remember that I’m an American and how lucky I am.

We have three branches of the Federal government that keep each other in check (although sometimes, it seems messy and not terribly efficient), I live in a great little city, and work in another great one. There are lots of opportunities to volunteer (like JACL!) and help out lots of people who didn’t have as many of the breaks that I did growing up.

And one of the things that always puts me in a good mood is remembering the JACL slogan that was coined by Mike Masaoka: “For Better Americans in a Greater America.”

So, those are my resolutions for the year. Try to be a better American, support JACL in many ways and smile more!

Happy New Year everybody.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR OR GONG HEY FAT CHOU TO ALL JACL MEMBERS! LOOKING BACK ON 2018, I AM HAPPY TO REPORT THAT ALL NINE CHAPTERS OF THE INTERMOUNTAIN DISTRICT ARE STRONG AND VIBRANT, RETAINING THEIR MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS AND CONSISTENTLY TAKING THE TIME AND EFFORT TO HAVE SOCIAL/CULTURAL ACTIVITIES THAT BRING THEIR MEMBERS TOGETHER AND ORGANIZING FUNDRAISING EVENTS THAT SUSTAIN THEIR CHAPTER PROGRAMS AND OFTEN FUND THEIR SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES. SOME OF THE LARGER CHAPTERS TOOK ON MORE AMBITIOUS PROJECTS TO INFORM AND EDUCATE, WHICH BROUGHT HUNDREDS OF PARTICIPANTS TOGETHER.

OUR DISTRICT WAS FORTUNATE TO HAVE THREE PROJECTS FUNDED BY LEGACY FUND GRANTS LAST YEAR. IDAHO FALLS UTILIZED ITS GRANT TO PUT ON A SUCCESSFUL TEACHER-TRAINING EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP IN OCTOBER THAT INCLUDED A TRIP TO THE MINIDOKA CAMP. THE GRANT TO THE SNAKE RIVER CHAPTER SUPPORTED YEAR-ROUND STUDENT VISITS TO THE FOUR RIVERS CULTURAL CENTER'S MUSEUM, WHICH HOUSES JAPANESE AMERICAN ARTIFACTS, WORLD WAR II PHOTOS AS WELL AS A REPLICA OF A CAMP BARRED ROOM. AND THE MT. OLYMPUS CHAPTER USED ITS GRANT TO REPRINT 2,000 COPIES OF THE "POWER OF WORDS" PAMPHLET.

DISTRICT YOUTH PARTICIPATED IN THE THREE KAKEHASHI TRIPS TO JAPAN, AND FOUR ATTENDED THE NATIONAL CONVENTION IN PHILADELPHIA. I WANT TO QUOTE ONE STUDENT'S COMMENTS ON HIS CONVENTION EXPERIENCE. "UPON COMPLETION OF THE CONVENTION, I WAS FILLED WITH HOPE AND EXCITMENT FOR THE FUTURE OF JACL. BEING AROUND SO MANY INSPIRING YOUTH OF DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS WITH A PASSION FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE LIT A FIRE WITHIN ME. I AM OPTIMISTIC THAT JACL WILL CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR ALL OPRESSED PERSONS AND COMMUNITIES AS WE MOVE FORWARD IN THE WORLD. IT IS MY WISH THAT ALL YOUNG PEOPLE WITH EVEN THE SLIGHTEST YEARNINGS FOR A MORE UNDERSTANDING SOCIETY JOIN THE JACL AND BECOME THE CHARGE THIS COUNTRY NEEDS. ALTHOUGH NOT PERFECT AND IMMUNE TO FLAWS, I BELIEVE THAT JACL HAS A BRIGHT FUTURE WHEN THE YOUTH BECOME MORE INVOLVED."

THE FUTURE OF JACL IS TRULY IN THE HANDS OF THE YOUTH WE BRING IN TODAY.

THIS TAKE US TO THE BIG EVENT FOR OUR DISTRICT THIS YEAR — THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY NATIONAL CONVENTION IN SALT LAKE CITY! ALL THREE UTAH CHAPTERS ARE DIVING IN TO PUT ON THE BEST CONVENTION THEY CAN. SOON, ALL THE CHAPTERS IN OUR DISTRICT MAY BE INVOLVED IN CONTRIBUTING THEIR TIME AND TALENT.

I'VE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE CONVENTION PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS, AND THERE'S A LOT OF ENERGY AND EXCITEMENT AROUND THE EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS THEY'D LIKE TO POSSIBLY BRING IN FROM ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS CIA FOR BROKE, THE JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM, TOPAZ MUSEUM AND CUMBERLAND SPICE 150.

THE INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS MAY FOCUS ON FAMILY HISTORY/ANCESTRY/GENEALOGY, IMMIGRATION/DEPORTATION, LGBTQ ISSUES, CAMP CONSORTIUM OR CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP.

WE ARE ALSO TRYING TO BRING IN A VARIETY OF VENDORS WITH UNIQUE PRODUCTS SUCH AS A WOMAN'S CLOTHING MAKER, A SKIN-CARE CONSULTANT AND A KAMON DESIGNER.

THE YOUTH WILL HAVE THEIR OWN TRACT OF ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING A TALENT SHOWCASE. WE'D LIKE TO START OFF THE CONVENTION WITH A GOLF AND TAIKO AND TOP OFF THE CONVENTION WITH AN OPTIONAL DAY TRIP TO THE TOPAZ CAMP.

THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S NATIONAL CONVENTION IS "ADVOCACY, INCLUSION AND ACTION," AND WE'LL BE HEADQUARTERED AT THE BEAUTIFUL LITTLE AMERICA HOTEL DOWNTOWN. SO, SAVE THE DATES OF JULY 25- Aug. 4 TO ATTEND THE CONVENTION, AND ENCOURAGE YOUR YOUTH TO ATTEND AS WELL.

ALMOST EVERY CHAPTER WILL HAVE A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE EVENT IN MID- TO LATE FEBRUARY. UTAH WILL HAVE ITS 17TH CONVENTION CEREMONY IN THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ON PRESIDENT'S DAY, FEB. 18. DEER VALLEY DOR ATTRACTION MANAGED TO BUILD A RECEPTION ROOM LAST YEAR. I CONGRATULATE ALL OF THE CHAPTERS FOR ALL THE GOOD WORK THEY HAVE BEEN DOING IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.

KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!

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JACL CALLS FOR END TO GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN AND CONDEMNS BORDER WALL

By JACL National

WASHINGTON, D.C. — AS THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN ENTERS ITS FOURTH WEEK, APPARENTLY 800,000 GOVERNMENT WORKERS ARE Missing their First Paycheck of the Year. The Result for Many of These Workers Will Be an Inability to Pay for Fundamental Expenses Such as Mortgages, Rent, Car, Utilities and Food.

The Closure of Our Government Affects Us All as Our National Parks Have Been Overrun into Disrepair; Our Food Is Endangered as Inspections Are Canceled; Farmers Are Unable in Purchase the Seeds They Need Because They Are Unable to Pay for the Seeds They Need. Although Not Perfect and Immune to Flaws, I Believe that JACL Has a Bright Future When the Youth Become More Involved.

The Future of JACL Is Truly in the Hands of the Youth We Bring in Today.

This Takes Us to the Big Event for Our District This Year — the 90th Anniversary National Convention in Salt Lake City! All Three Utah Chapters Are Diving in to Put on the Best Convention They Can. Soon, All the Chapters in Our District May Be Involved in Contributing Their Time and Talent.

I've Been Involved in the Convention Planning Committee Meetings, and There's a Lot of Energy and Excitement Around the Educational Exhibits They'd Like to Possibly Bring in from Organizations Such as CIA for Broke, the Japanese American National Museum, Topaz Museum and Golden Spike 150.

The Interactive Workshops May Focus on Family History/Ancestry/Genealogy, Immigration/Deportation, LGBTQ Issues, Camp Consortium or Chapter Membership.

We Are Also Trying to Bring in a Variety of Vendors with Unique Products Such as a Woman's Clothing Maker, a Skin-Care Consultant and a Kamon Designer.

The Youth Will Have Their Own Tract of Activities, Including a Talent Showcase. We'd Like to Start off the Convention with Golf and Taiko and Top off the Convention with an Optional Day Trip to the Topaz Camp.

The Theme of This Year's National Convention Is "Advocacy, Inclusion and Action," and We'll Be Headquartered at the Beautiful Little America Hotel Downtown. So, Save the Dates of July 25 - Aug. 4 to Attend the Convention, and Encourage Your Youth to Attend as Well.

Almost Every Chapter Will Have a Day of Remembrance Event in Mid- to Late February. Utah Will Have Its 17th Consecutive Ceremony in the Governor's Office on President's Day, Feb. 18. Deer Valley DOR Attracts Hundreds and Has Become a Staging Room Only. I Congratulate All of the Chapters for All the Good Work They Have Been Doing in Their Communities.

Keep Up the Great Work!


For Sale: $14,000 (Negotiable) Steinway Grand Piano

Steinway M medium grand piano belonged to my mother, noted Washington, D.C. area pianist Aiko Tashiro Hiratsuka. Made in 1916, rebuilt with Steinway parts in 1972, 5 ft. x 7 ft., with ebony satin finish. Good condition. Recently appraised by Steinway at $18,000. Piano is in Arlington, VA.

jaybird002@yahoo.com or 703-243-0608.
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NCWNP’s 39th Annual San Jose Day of</td>
<td>June 24-27, 12:45 a.m.-1 a.m.; Extended Care</td>
<td>Palo Alto, CA</td>
<td>Celebration of Japanese American culture and history with vendors, food, crafts, and kids activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WakamatsuFest150: American heritage, arts and cuisine</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Event celebrating American heritage and cultural diversity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 Montgomery St.</td>
<td>June 10, 2-4 p.m.; Extended Care</td>
<td>San Francisco, CA</td>
<td>Event featuring American photographers, artists, and musicians.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medaka No Gakko Japanese</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, San Jose, CA. Event features performances by Japanese American artists and speakers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Liberties’ Exhibit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Event at the San Jose Museum of Art focusing on the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Jose, CA</td>
<td>June 10, 2-4 p.m.; Extended Care</td>
<td></td>
<td>Event features performances by several renowned photographers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles Day of Remembrance</td>
<td>February 16; Social hour 5 p.m.; Dinner 6 p.m.</td>
<td>Los Angeles, CA</td>
<td>Event features a concert, a silent auction, and a general store.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livingston-Mercer’s Day of Remembrance Banquet</td>
<td>February 16, 5 p.m.</td>
<td>San Diego, CA</td>
<td>Event features a banquet and speeches.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCDC’s Annual Day of Resistance Lunch and Officer Installation</td>
<td>February 17; Noon social hour; Program/Lunch 1-3 p.m.</td>
<td>Fresno, CA</td>
<td>Event includes a lunch and speeches by guest speakers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Safe and Families Together</td>
<td>February 19; 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Livingston-Mercer’s Day of Remembrance</td>
<td>Event features a discussion and screening of a film.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ten. Bistro.</td>
<td>February 21; 5 p.m.</td>
<td>Livingston-Mercer’s Day of Remembrance</td>
<td>Event features a discussion and screening of a film.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCWNP’s 39th Annual San Jose Day of Remembrance</td>
<td>January 13; 1-3 p.m.</td>
<td>San Jose, CA</td>
<td>Event features performances by several renowned photographers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCWNP’s 39th Annual San Jose Day of Remembrance</td>
<td>February 16; 2 p.m.</td>
<td>San Jose, CA</td>
<td>Event features performances by several renowned photographers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Palo Alto, CA</td>
<td>Event features performances by several renowned photographers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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MEMORIAM

Asaba, Pauline, 97, Seattle, WA, Dec. 17; she was predeceased by her husband, Wataru Asaba; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and great-grandnieces.

Ezaki, Mitsuko, 99, Campbell, CA, Dec. 24; she is predeceased by her husband, Wallace Kai Chan; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and great-grandnieces and great-grandnieces.

Chan, Alice, 90, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 21; she was predeceased by her husband, Wallace Kai Chan; she is survived by her sons, Milton Chan and Wallace (Ellen Natsume) Chan Jr.; gc: 2.

Ezaki, Mitsuko, 99, Campbell, CA, Dec. 19; she is predeceased by her brothers, James Hajime Kitaguchi and Lorie Iwai; gc: 6; gc: 2.

Horiguchi, Ben Hisashi, 92, Burbank, CA, Jan. 4; he was predeceased by his wife, Beth; he is survived by his sons, James and Jeff; gc: 5.

Iwai, Shiro 'Sam,' 82, Montebello, CA, Dec. 15; he was incarcerated at the Granada WRA Center (Camp Amache) in CO, the Tule Lake WRA Center in CA and the Crystal City Internment Center in TX; he was predeceased by his wife, Mo; he is survived by his children, Rick (Corinna), Perry (Phillip), Nancy, and his grandchildren, Brett, Sean, Erin, Grant, Halle and Katherine.

Kimura, Buddy William, 81, Tryon, N.C., Dec. 21; he served in the Navy Reserves during the Vietnam War; he was predeceased by his siblings, Haru, George, Jack and Jim; and infant son, Patrick; he is survived by his wife, Kaye; daughter, Sally (Joe), deceased; siblings, Lea Neff, Jits.

Masatani, Ben, 90, San Jose, CA, Dec. 29; he is survived by his wife, Kaye; daughter, Sally (Joe), deceased; siblings, Lea Neff, Jits.

Joko, Doris, 82, Monterey Park, CA, Dec. 3; she was predeceased by her husband, Todd, and son, Jack; she is survived by her children, Michael (Yossele), Joko, Susan (Gregg), Masada and Alex (Nicole) Joko; siblings, May Nagafuchi and Kazuki (Hirok) Nakano; gc: 6.

Kamigawachi, Thomas, 93, Fresno, CA, Jan. 5; during WWII, he was incarcerated at the Granada WRA Center (Camp Amache) in CO, the Tule Lake WRA Center in CA and the Crystal City Internment Center in TX; he was predeceased by his wife, Mo; he is survived by his daughters, June (partner Mansri) and Elaine (Phillip); gc: 3.

TRIBUTE

HARRY ICHIUJI

March 7, 1930-Oct. 20, 2018. Harry ichiuji, 88, a longtime resident of Lee Gables, Calif., passed away in his home with his children by his side. Harry was born and raised in Pacific Grove, Calif. He was the youngest in his family of brothers Mickey, Joseph, Jimmie and Paul and sister, Kazumae Oishi. He was predeceased by his wife of 57 years, Hiko Hamasaki, and survived by his three children, Craig (Mira Hachiuri), Judy (Gary Monjo) and Anne (Todd Humphrey), and his grandchildren, Brett, Sean, Erin, Grant, Halle and Katherine. A memorial in celebration of his life will be held on Feb. 16, 2019, 11 a.m. at the Santa Clara Valley Japanese Christian Church.

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Neal Ouye
Al Satake
Ron Tanaka
Vance Oishi
Tara Umemoto
Beth Uno – Immed. past pres
Gordon Yamamoto
Evan Yoshimoto
**OBITUARIES**

**Miyuki Yasui**

“Miki,” 92, died Dec. 14, 2018, of pneumonia. Born in Pasadena, Calif., on Sept. 18, 1926, she lived in the Los Angeles area until her incarnation at Heart Mountain, Wyo. Miki left to work at Seabrook Farms in New Jersey in 1944, graduated from Drexel Institute of Technology in Philadelphia and married Homer Yasui in 1950.

Miki and Homer eventually settled in Portland, Ore. Miki was a dedicated member of the Japanese American community and was active in Portland JACL affairs for several decades. She was a founding member of the Israel Appreciation Committee of Portland and Oregon Nikkei Endowment.

A loving mother and grandmother, Miki leaves behind her husband, Homer; children, Barbara, Meredith and John (“Kip”); her sister, Fayko; grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and many friends and relatives. She was preceded in death by her parents, Kenden and Yuki Yasui.

Memorial donations may be made to Oregon Nikkei Endowment, Portland JACL or Ikoi No Kai.

**Goro Asaki**

Goro “George” Asaki died peacefully in his sleep of natural causes on Oct. 31, 2018, in Ellicott City, Md. Born on Dec. 25, 1923, in Hanford, Calif., he was one of 13 children of Japanese immigrant parents, Masuji and Mine Asaki.

He was predeceased by his parents and by siblings Shiro “Tom” Asaki, Teruko “May” Ishimoto, Tokuo, Nobuko, Furiko “Fum” Inada and Shuhei. He is survived by his siblings, Aiko Imagawa, Kyoko “Koko” Wittenburg, Yoshiko “Yori” Seltzer, Isamu “Sam” Asaki, Yutaka “Jack” Skip” Asaki and Srd “Stephen” Asaki.

He and his family were relocated to a Japanese internment camp in Jerome, Ariz., after the outbreak of WWII. He later enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1944 and sharpened his existing Japanese language skills at the Military Intelligence Language School at Ft. Snelling, Minn. Although he was qualified as an officer, he was restricted to the rank of Technician 3rd Grade because of his Japanese ancestry. As an interpreter, he was assigned to a unit of the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) and was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, among other awards.

He earned a B.S. in electrical engineering from the University of Illinois, and became a certified Professional Engineer. He worked for Westinghouse in Baltimore for over 30 years until he retired.


Goro was an amateur ham radio operator (WSMPN), making contact with other “hams” in every foreign country except one, and was instrumental in forming a chapter of the Quarter Century Wireless Assn. He was a member of the Japanese American Citizens League and the Cub Scouts. Goro was a longtime member and one-time president of the Lake Shore Rotary Club. From the mid-1960s to late 1980s, he was active in public school education. After predeceased two school PTAs, he served as president of county and (MU) state boards of education. He was later appointed to the (MU) Governor’s Task Force on AIDS in 1987 regarding fairness and safety of students at school during an early, scary period of the epidemic. Although he was 94, his mind was sharp to the end. His last act of service was to donate his body to the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences for education and research. Goro was well-liked and took his family on educational outings and vacations. He picniccd with his extended family, and for relaxation, he liked to go fishing, though sometimes without a hook.

Memorial donations may be sent to the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of San Francisco, 1840 Sutter St., SF, CA 94115; or a charity of choice.

**Betty Kurihara Ozawa**

Betty Kurihara, born May 2, 1931, in Tulare, Calif., to Kumaji and Tomi Kurihara of Kumamoto, Japan, Betty Kurihara grew up on a farm in the company of eight siblings. In 1942, she was one of 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry who were forcibly relocated to Poston II, an internment camp in Arizona. Betty remained in camp for three years. After returning to the West Coast, she graduated from Orosi High School in 1949. Finishing at the top of her class. Betty went on to the University of California at Berkeley and graduated from the UCSF School of Nursing in 1954.

On Nov. 6, 1960, Betty married the love of her life, Koji Ozawa of San Francisco. They shared 56 years of a blessed marriage and had three children: Carol, Donna, and Bryan.

As an RN, Betty worked at UCSF Hospital, then at the California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco for 20 years, serving on the specialty IV Team and Cardiology floor. She was a compassionate and thoughtful provider and an ardent advocate of patients and families. Among her many artistic interests, Betty enjoyed playing the ukulele, performing with the UC Berkeley Chorus, the SF Bach Choir and the SF Municipal Choir under the direction of Dr. Hans Leske. She cherished her friends and was enrolled by conversation and learning from others. Of profound importance to her were her sisters Marie and Velma, with whom she shared a sacred friendship. Betty's joy was her family, especially her 11 grandchildren who gave her purpose and much delight with their activities and accomplishments. She was a devoted daughter-in-law to Joe Tawo and Ayako Ozawa for many years.

Betty had a phenomenal memory and astute wit, a generous and loving spirit, and an exceptional optimism and cheer that brightened the days of those around her. She died unexpectedly of complications of pneumonia on Oct. 21, 2018, and deeply missed.

Survivors include her husband, Koji; sister, Marie; daughter, Carol, with son-in-law, Robert Burns; and grandchildren, Brendan, Caitlin, Alana, Aislinn, Anathan, Brian, Caera and Cewa Ozawa Burns; daughter, Donna; son, Bryan, with daughter-in-law, Car­la Mau; and grandchildren, David and Tommy Ozawa; sisters-in-law, Sumiko Sugihara and Ruth Kurihara; and many nieces and nephews.

Predeceased siblings include Nellie (and Henry) Funabayashi, Sam, Don (and Alice), John, Walter and Velma.

A private burial was held Dec. 23, 2018, at the Japanese Cemetery in Colma, Calif. The Rev. Nobuaki Hanaoka officiated at the Celebration of Life, which took place Dec. 29 at the Sequoias, San Francisco. Memorial donations may be sent to the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of San Francisco, 1840 Sutter St., SF, CA 94115; the National Japanese American Historical Society, 1844 Post St., SF, CA 94115; or a charity of choice.

**Herbert Okamoto**

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