

THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JACL

Jan. 21-Feb. 3, 2022



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

CELEBRATING 93 YEARS

20  
22

» **INSIDE**

JACL NATIONAL  
BOARD GREETINGS

YEAR  
OF THE  
TIGER

# JACL WELCOMES NEW NORMAN Y. MINETA FELLOW

Former national staffer Bridget Keaveney transitions to new role within the organization.

By JACL National



JACL is pleased to announce the transition of Bridget Keaveney from membership coordinator to the new Norman Y. Mineta Fellow. Keaveney will move from the organization's San Francisco headquarters office to its Washington, D.C., office in February 2022.

Keaveney has served as the JACL membership coordinator for the past nine months. Before arriving at JACL, she worked in archiving and democratizing Japanese American history from her time at the Japanese American Museum of Oregon.

She graduated Summa Cum Laude

from Portland State University in 2019. Her professional experience also includes a content creation background as a co-publisher and illustrator for the children's book "Dreams of Little Miss Aeva," as well as a social media background at a global disabilities advocacy group Traipsin' Global on Wheels.

"I couldn't be more excited to start this next chapter in my career!" said Keaveney of her new appointment. "The word 'grateful' certainly comes to mind; I couldn't have made it this far without the loving support of my family and friends. I look forward to supporting my colleagues in Washington, D.C., and advocating at a national level.

"As someone who strives to be an effective change agent, I wish to

uplift, empower and protect the civil rights of all those who are marginalized," Keaveney continued. "It is of great importance to me that I do all that I can to best support and serve the AANHPI community, as the issues that face the community are deeply personal to me. I am proud to represent the JACL but even prouder to be Shin-Nisei!"

The Norman Y. Mineta Fellowship was established in 2007 in honor of the American politician who served as U.S. Secretary of Transportation and Secretary of Commerce and helped found the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus. For more information on the fellowship, please visit [www.jacl.org/internships-and-fellowships](http://www.jacl.org/internships-and-fellowships).

JACL's staff, volunteers and members are so thankful for Keaveney's leadership in our membership program and delighted that she will stay at JACL! ■

## JACL ANNOUNCES THE 2022 LEGACY FUND GRANTS PROGRAM



The JACL Legacy Fund Grants Awards Committee is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for 2022 Legacy Fund grants. LFG Co-Chairs Roberta Barton and Toshi Abe encourage JACL chapters and JACL District Councils to apply by the May 1 deadline. This year, the maximum grant award is \$6,000.

Legacy Fund grants are awarded for projects and activities that support the mission of JACL and the National JACL Strategic Plan. Instructions and application forms can be

downloaded from the national JACL's website (<https://jacl.org/legacy-fund-grants/>), and submissions for grants must be received by May 1.

The JACL Legacy Fund Program was created by the JACL National Council at the 1990 JACL National Convention in San Diego. Much of the original funds were donated by JACL members who gave portions of their redress awards to further the legacy of the JACL. Each year, a portion of the earnings from the Legacy Fund Endowment is earmarked for



JACL Legacy Fund Grant winners at the 2020 National Convention in Salt Lake City

the program.

For questions or additional information, please contact the co-chairs, Roberta Barton ([rbarton4106@comcast.net](mailto:rbarton4106@comcast.net)) or Toshi Abe ([tabe@jacl.org](mailto:tabe@jacl.org)).

Completed applications are due by May 1. Grant award recipients will be announced at the JACL National Convention in Las Vegas in August. ■

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# PACIFICCITIZEN 2022 SPRING CAMPAIGN

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

*\* Your donations will help build and preserve a cohesive library of the Pacific Citizen to educate future generations.\**

*'I'm glad to see the Pacific Citizen growing and evolving with its website, and especially LOVE the much easier-to-navigate digital archives. It's a treasure trove for JAs to learn about our community's history, and for scholars and journalists looking to connect the past with the present. Thanks for the improvements, P.C.!'*

— Gil Asakawa

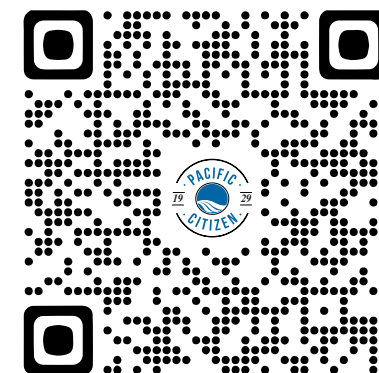


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## A MOTHER'S TAKE

### LIFE, LOVE AND UNCLE MARTY

By Marsha Aizumi

As I was writing my article for January's *Pacific Citizen* about new beginnings, a devastating and heartbreaking ending happened to me. My brother, who I adore, unexpectedly collapsed and died on Jan. 10, 2022. His health had been declining, but he wanted to live, and I thought that he had more years to be with us . . . with me. I feel a grief that I have never felt before.

I have experienced the loss of my parents, relatives and friends, which has touched me deeply, but losing my brother, who I loved and who wanted to live so much, has taken me to a different level of grief.

I cry when I walk by a box of ingredients he put in my kitchen to decorate cookies for New Year's Day. I tear up when I warm a bowl of food and put around the bowl a cloth holder that my brother made so I will not burn my hands. I look around and see a plaque he gave me to remember our parents. And I read loving emails, texts and Facebook posts that honor "Uncle Marty," and I am suddenly reduced to sobbing.

In Brene Brown's recently released book "Atlas of the Heart," she talks about feelings that we experience. Sadness, despair and grief are in her chapter "Places We Go When We're Hurting." I am hurting, I am feeling great loss and I am mourning the emptiness that my brother's death has brought to my life.

I don't want people to feel bad for me. I don't want people to try to cheer me up; that makes me sadder. I just want people to hold space for my grief. And what I have appreciated the most is people sharing stories of how my brother touched their lives and just sitting quietly while I cry.

One person sent me an email sharing how my brother gave her a rock that said "strength." They met at a PFLAG support group, and she was struggling with her family. Marty told her when she needed strength to hold this rock and know there are people rooting for her. Her life is better today, and she still has this rock. Marty, you gave her the gift of strength and knowing others care about her.

I know another family that calls my

brother Uncle Marty. He used to go pick up fresh blue fin tuna from them when the husband would go fishing. Marty would drive over 30 miles to pick up the fish and would take that tuna to a widow from Japan. Marty, you have such a giving heart, and that heart will be so missed by so many.

My brother used to bring me articles that he or others found about my LGBTQ+ advocacy. He would tell me, "I am so proud of you, Sis." I would tell him how much he was part of this work I am doing, since he handled paperwork for me, so I could focus on supporting LGBTQ+ individuals and families. He would smile humbly and say, "I'm not doing anything big, Sis. All I want is to support you to make the world safer for Aiden and the LGBTQ+ community." He was that kind of uncle. He was that kind of human being.

Two weeks before Marty died, he baked 48 sugar cookies for me because he thought it would be fun on New Year's Day for my family to decorate those cookies. He felt weak. I didn't want him to do it, but he insisted. Giving brought him joy.

Today, some of those cookies are in my freezer, and I don't want to eat them because my brother made them with his love. I cry when I remember the last time I saw him, but I am also filled with deep gratitude that I had a brother who brought so much love into my life.

It is not just the things he did for me that showed me his love, but all

that he was. He made me laugh when I was stressed. He made me feel like there is hope in this world . . . that people will do the right thing, not for money or fame or glory, but because it is part of being a good person.

He gave me the kind of strength that feels like a warm blanket that hugs you and makes you feel safe. I felt like no matter what, he would be there to catch me if I stumbled or pull me up if I fell. And when we would leave each other, we did not always hug because of the pandemic, but he would say, "I love you Sis." And I would respond that I loved him, too.

These memories are what will keep me moving forward in between the moments of grief that I am experiencing. I understand more deeply when people tell me they are devastated and heartbroken. I want to be there for them in a way I couldn't before because I did not understand the depth of loss that I am feeling now.

I will tell people I love more often "I love you" not in a fleeting manner, but stopping to really open my heart, so it reaches into theirs. It has

already started with my remaining brother the night Marty died. It has happened with my children, my husband and dear friends.

And so for those reading this article, if you have an Uncle Marty, don't just tell him you love him, but tell him the ways he has brought joy, happiness and learning into your life. If it feels awkward, send him a card, a text or email. Tell him while he is alive. . . .

For me, I will move forward taking Uncle Marty with me every day. I will work to be the kind of person he continues to be proud of. I will use him as a role model of humility and humanity. And when I wake up each day, I will appreciate the extra day I have been given and will thank Uncle Marty for reminding me how precious life truly is. . . .

*Marsha Aizumi is an advocate for the LGBTQ+ community and author of the book "Two Spirits, One Heart: A Mother, Her Transgender Son and Their Journey to Love and Acceptance."*

Mary, Aiden, Marsha and Uncle Marty at Okaeri 2018



My brother was so in love with his grandson. His greatest joy.



## LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE

### DOES YOUR POWER OF ATTORNEY NEED TO BE UPDATED?

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

One of the simplest, least expensive and smart estate planning documents is for an older adult to complete a general durable power of attorney (POA) document. A power of attorney is a written document where an individual authorizes one or more people to act on the individual's behalf regarding property and financial matters.

Imagine being hospitalized and incapacitated after contracting Covid-19 or being in a coma after suffering a head injury in a car crash. Who will pay your bills and/or manage your financial affairs? A power of attorney allows your loved ones to take care of your finances without having to deal with court proceedings.

A durable POA allows an "attorney-in-fact," i.e., the agent of your choosing, to take action once you (i.e., the principal) becomes "inca-

pacitated." The best part is that you get to choose who will act for you. It could be a spouse, an adult child, or trusted friend.

If you do not have a POA and become too ill to manage your financial affairs, it may be necessary for a loved one to petition a court to appoint a conservator (or guardian, depending upon your state law) of your property.

If a court proceeding is needed, you may not have the ability to choose the person who will act for you. Even if you have a spouse and/or adult children, the court could appoint someone you don't even know, i.e., a stranger, to control your assets. If that bothers you (and it should), it is much easier, much safer and much cheaper to have an agent in place through a POA.

Do not assume that being married means you do not need a POA. If you become incapacitated and are no

longer competent because of a stroke or an accident, your spouse cannot access bank accounts in your name alone, sign contracts and other legal documents on your behalf without a POA.

Powers of attorney are common for seniors but should be considered for all adults over 18. Parents with children over 18 may not realize that they can no longer act on their child's behalf without these documents. A POA allows the parents to continue to help make important decisions for their young adult child in the event of incapacity.

Keep in mind that a POA is a legal document. It must be signed when you are legally competent to do so. If you have bank accounts and/or own a home, you need a power of attorney.

You say, "But Judd, I don't want to lose control of my assets while I am healthy." No problem. A POA is safe. A POA may take effect immediately, or only upon the determination that you are unable to act for yourself due to mental or physical disability, i.e., your incapacity. The latter is called a "springing" power of attorney. Furthermore, a POA may be amended or revoked at any time.

You say, "But Judd, I signed a POA years ago." If your POA is five years old or older, it might not work when you need it the most.

Although your POA might be valid under your state law, many banks are taking the position that federal law, i.e., the USA Patriot Act passed shortly after Sept. 11, 2001, takes precedent over state law, i.e., it is pre-empted.

For banks, investors, financial advisers, intermediaries, broker/dealers, commodity merchants and the like, the practical result of the Patriot Act's Title III provision effectively translates to unprecedented levels of due diligence on any corresponding accounts that exist in money-laundering jurisdictions throughout the world. For this reason, many banks are taking a "better-safe-than-sorry" approach to gathering as much information as possible.

My understanding is that at least one national bank, pursuant to the Patriot Act and other federal legislation and regulations, takes the position that it has the discretion (and perhaps the duty) to verify the identity of the person with whom it is being asked to do business, as part of the federal program to deter money laundering, that its action or inaction on a POA is an exercise of that discretion or fulfillment of that duty.

Financial and other institutions often impose their own requirements with respect to their willingness to recognize and act on a durable power

of attorney. To be safe, take your POA to the bank, brokerage firm or other financial institution with which your agent under the POA is likely to have dealings. Ask them to review it and make sure it would be honored. The institution may require that any durable power of attorney be executed on its own form.

In conclusion, why not make it your 2022 New Year's resolution — execute (or re-execute) a valid POA. After all, nobody wants to be subject to a public proceeding called a Guardianship or Conservatorship.

So, executing your POA to avoid the high cost and delay of a court proceeding is extremely important. For your peace of mind, along with a will and living trust, a financial and health care POA needs to be part of everyone's estate planning documents.

*Judd Matsunaga is the founding attorney of Elder Law Services of California, a law firm that specializes in Medi-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 constitute legal or tax advice and should not be treated as such.*



# LET'S KEEP THE MOMENTUM GOING

By Jeffrey Moy,  
JACL National President

**H**appy New Year! After a challenging 2021, it feels like 2022 arrived rather abruptly, but I'm excited about the opportunities ahead. It's incredible how quickly the last few years have gone by, and as I enter the last several months of my term, I'm hopeful that we can keep up the positive momentum we've generated despite what a challenging time it's been.

Last year saw continued adaptation and success. Virtual programming continued, and as we approached the end of the year, we even saw some in-person events taking place at the national, district and chapter level.

While the Omicron variant has presented challenges as we start 2022, I'm hopeful that this year will see a return to more in-person activities, which I know all of us are looking forward to. Rest assured that we will continue to consider the health of our

members first and are continuing to learn public health best practices as we plan for any national programming, particularly around convention this August in Las Vegas.

Despite these challenges, I wanted to share some of the exciting growth for our organization internally that you may not have learned about or may not have been highlighted through our external communications and programming.

First, the Centennial Education Fund was launched to a great reception, and we are excited to announce that we have already met the \$1 million mark. A big thanks to all of you who have contributed to this effort, which is critical to strengthening our educational efforts, a central pillar of the JACL. Our goal is \$3 million in three years, so let's keep the momentum going and ensure our organization has the resources we need to continue to be a leader in this area.

Second, thanks to careful budgeting

and revenue growth, 2021 saw us increase salaries for all staff, something that was long overdue, well-deserved and keeps us more competitive with other nonprofit organizations. We also added new staff positions in development and education roles, which have resulted in immediate positive results, strengthening our partnerships with community partners and funders. In 2022, we expect to continue to build up our staff capacity in operations and programs, additions that will undoubtedly have positive impacts on our organization as a whole.

When I ran for president, I promised to lead a board that would do things differently, one that understood the urgency of the moment for our organization and the country as a whole. A board that understood that in order for JACL to continue to be an organizing force in the future, we needed to become a more flexible and stronger organization now. A board that was not afraid to acknowledge

the challenges a 93-year-old organization faces, while continuing to honor our incredible legacy as well.

I believed that if we really seized this moment, JACL would head into our 100th anniversary healthier than ever, and thanks to the tireless efforts of our staff, board and all of you, that is exactly the trajectory we're on.

I'm so thankful for the continued work of this community in finding new ways to move us forward. The unprecedented challenges we've faced the last couple of years have required all of us to get out of our comfort zones, and we have all responded, knowing that it was critical to staying connected and supporting each other however we can. As we approach the elections for a

new board, I look forward to hearing from candidates about how they hope to shape JACL. If you are interested in stepping up, I encourage you to reach out to board members and learn more about their roles. Thanks again for everything you do for JACL and best of luck in the new year! ■



## FOR A GREATER AMERICA

By David Inoue,  
JACL Executive Director

**W**e continue to look toward the future and the possibilities for what we can accomplish as an organization and a nation. The Japanese American creed is often derided for its outdated way of thinking, that it is overly deferential to our nation, despite the obvious injustices it had inflicted upon our community. As recently as the 2019 National Convention, there were once again efforts to remove the creed from our organization's constitution and bylaws.

I think we can all agree that there are elements of the creed that are anachronistic when read in the context of what we under-

stand today as history and the current situation in our country. Today, we recognize that opportunity does not exist equally for everyone, that not everyone has had equal, or even any, opportunity to build a home, earn a fair livelihood and the other freedoms enlisted in the creed and considered fundamental to our American citizenship.

The America that exists today looks very different from the one where Mike Masaoka wrote the creed. Our country has continued to evolve, and the context in which we recite and apply the creed must also evolve.

The creed is a vital part of our history as Japanese Americans. It was an attempt to demonstrate our community's enduring loyalty to our nation's ideals, even nearly a year later after it was written, when we did not have full access to our rights as citizens.

This column may sound more like a sermon, and I am going to reinforce that with reference to my own personal faith as a Presbyterian. In the Presbyterian church, we are governed by three primary documents: the Bible, Book of Confessions and the Book of Order.

As a Christian faith, the Bible is obvious. The Book of Order serves as our Bylaws, in-

structing us on how to operate the church and act as an organization. The Book of Confessions is a collection of historical statements of the church on what Christian faith ought to look like.

This is something that has changed over time, but we recognize truth existed within the historical context of the earliest statements from 1700 years ago, as we have changed our understanding of our faith and the church with two added confessions in the past century after no new confessions since the 1600s. While the Bible remains constant in its writing, our Confessions and the Book of Order possess a fluidity in how we interpret the Bible's message to us.

Which brings us back to the Japanese American creed — how can it speak to us in this modern day? I have gone to the closing phrase of the creed multiple times in speeches, and this column here in the *Pacific Citizen* "in the hope that I might become a better American in a greater America." As we look at all that faces our country, and what lies ahead for the coming year, I can think of no better way to frame what we as an organization and as individuals must do.

As the Japanese American Citizens League, we have a special bond to our place as mostly citizens of this country to want to make it better for all who live here. Wanting a "greater" America acknowledges

the imperfection and the need to be better. How can we go about that?

Fundamental to our identity as citizens is the right to vote, and the efforts to abridge that right are out of control. One of the oddities of our Federal system of government is that voting laws can be different in every state and territory.

However, the federal government should and does have an interest in establishing minimum thresholds for rights for all citizens regardless of where they might happen to live. We need the Senate, and unless we can convince 10 Republican senators that voting is a fundamental American right in need of protection, we need two Democratic senators to recognize that voting rights should not be abridged, or we will be further from that Greater America to which we aspire.

The filibuster is not something enshrined in our nation's constitution. It is a part of the Senate's rules that it establishes as a body. The filibuster has become an impediment to the Senate actually accomplishing any work because there is no interest from the minority party in cooperating with the majority party when they think they can simply wait until the next election.

For some, a dysfunctional government is actually their objective. Unfortunately, the result is that we have a government that has no future, grants no liberties or opportunities and remains mired in reinforcing its institutions and ideals at the expense of its ideals.

There is much more that we seek to accomplish this year, but which we also need a functioning government to do so. We are on the cusp of passing the Japanese American Confinement Education Act, which would reauthorize the JACS program and establish a new source of funds to promote education program development on the Japanese American experience.

We continue to advocate for long-overdue reparations. Nearly 35 years after Japanese American redress passed, Japanese Latin Americans and African Americans remain uncompensated for the injustices our government has inflicted upon their communities. And we work to protect our history but ensure our future as we seek justice in the misguided location of the Lava Ridge wind farm at the front doorstep of the Minidoka National Historic Site.

There is a lot we will be working on in the coming year. As we work together, may we do it in the context of our vital role as Americans working for a greater America. We can work individually to do what we can to improve ourselves, our citizenry, but in doing so, will improve our nation and realize the progress that we make toward our ideals and away from the mistakes we have made in the past.

*David Inoue is executive director of the JACL. He is based in the organization's Washington, D.C., office.*





## JACL REMAINS HIGHLY FOCUSED ON OUR GOALS FOR 2022



By Matthew Farrells,  
JACL National  
Secretary/  
Treasurer

**H**appy New Year! I wish you all a safe and healthy start to 2022. Last year continued to be a challenging operating environment for obvious reasons.

The lingering effects of the pandemic proved to be an obstacle to our normal way of doing business.

To the surprise of many, the financial markets continued to be positive, and as a result, increased our endowment balances. Staffing has also been a challenge, particularly to fill a finance director role. As Secretary/Treasurer, it is my duty to understand how these factors impact the organization and work with my fellow board members and staff to ensure we are prudently managing the organization's finances during these challenging times.

I am happy to report that as we close the books for 2021, strong revenue and expenses, which were in-line to budget, have led to a budget surplus. Despite a virtual convention, fundraising revenue from sponsors was healthy. Additionally, the Centennial Education Fund Campaign has been a large success, and we anticipate it will continue to be into the future. Membership revenue and annual giving and fundraising were also bright spots for revenue generation, exceeding our expectations as far as amount of dollars raised.

When looking closer at expenses, the obvious items of meetings/conferences and board activity were also largely under our budgeted amounts for the year and helped offset some of the cost overages related to hiring a temporary business manager and other occupancy-related costs.

The organization's value is largely driven from its human capital, our staff, and is defined as a fixed expense for the organization. I am pleased our staff was able to seamlessly work from home to support the important programs and administrative duties of the organization.

When summarizing 2021 from a financial perspective, despite our obvious challenges, we were highly focused on our goal of preserving the financial stability of the organization and worked diligently to monitor and assess our operating environment and safely navigate through this past year.

As we look ahead to 2022, I am cautiously optimistic for a successful year and a return to our normal way of life with an in-person National Convention and programs. This will present further opportunities to connect with sponsors, meet with existing and new members and better support our legacy planning initiatives. As Secretary/Treasurer, one of my primary goals is to ensure we end the year neutral relative to our budget or in a surplus position.

Lastly, as I reflect on 2021 and look forward into 2022, I cannot be more grateful for the board and staff who support me in my role. My fellow National Board members and the staff who serve on the Finance Committee are integral to our success. So, thank you!

I'm proud of what we have collectively accomplished in 2021 and am looking forward to a renewed and successful 2022! ■

## Key Growth Is Planned for JACL's Program Activities and Initiatives

By David Lin,  
JACL National VP Planning and Development

**W**elcome to the New Year's issue of the *Pacific Citizen*, and I wish you and your family a happy, healthy and prosperous 2022.

It has been a tremendous honor and privilege for me to serve as the VP for Planning and Development since October 2021. I am grateful for the amazing work by the talented and dedicated staff, and I am grateful to all of the JACL members for your commitment and support of the organization!

In the following report, I would like to share with you our 2021 accomplishments in three major program areas and activities and initiatives that we have planned for each of them in 2022.

### Scholarship Program

I am sure that you have read the recent announcement of the 2022 National Scholarship and Awards Program. The JACL annually offers approximately 30 scholarship awards for students who are incoming college freshmen, undergraduates and graduates, as well as those specializing in law and the creative/performing arts. There are also financial aid scholarships for those demonstrating a need for financial assistance.

As of the 2021 scholarship cycle, which was recently completed, the National JACL Scholarship Program is completely online, and the program information can be accessed on the JACL website ([www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org)) by clicking the "Youth" tab on the menu bar.

The PNW District has been in charge of the Freshman Scholarship Committee and will continue that role for one more year (2022) of reviewing and scoring the applications; meanwhile, the MDC District has successfully completed its three-year run of leading the Upperclassmen Scholarship Committee in 2021 and

is passing that responsibility on to the IDC District in 2022.

My sincere thanks to the Scholarship Program Committee Co-Chairs, Sharon Uyeda and Bill Tashima, members of the committee, everyone who served on the Freshman and Upperclassmen Committees, David Kawamoto for serving as the program mentor and Patty Wada and Program Manager Matt Weisbly for their excellent staff support.

### Legacy Fund Grants Program

Under the leadership of Co-Chairs Roberta Barton (CCDC) and Toshi Abe (EDC), the Legacy Fund Grants Committee has been working hard to finalize 2022 application materials and the funding cap for each grant. In summary, the deadline for program application is May 1, 2022, and the maximum grant award is \$6,000.

For the 2021 program year, Co-chairs Roberta and Toshi led the Legacy Fund Grants Committee in its selection of six grant recipients — Eden Township, Mile High, New Mexico, Portland, Seattle and Sonoma County chapters. The recipients and their respective projects were introduced at the 2021 National Convention.

I want to thank Roberta and Toshi for their leadership, members of the committee for their contributions and Patty Wada for her outstanding staff support.

### Education Fundraising Campaign

As all of you have undoubtedly read and heard about the JACL Centennial Education Fund that we launched at the National Convention this past July, the thinking behind this education fundraising campaign is that we should absolutely leverage JACL's unique position in telling the story about the tragedy of the Japanese American incarceration during World War II and share these important



lessons widely, especially in today's challenging environment.

We are extremely grateful that Sec. Norman Y. Mineta has agreed to chair the Honorary Committee for this three-year, \$3 million campaign. And we are equally grateful to all of you for your generous donations.

With that, I am delighted to report that we have received approximately \$700,000 in donations and pledges since the campaign launch in July, which is an excellent start. Of course, we still have a way to go to reach our goal of \$3 million by 2024. However, with all of your support and commitment, I am confident that we will get there.

I want to thank Phillip Ozaki on the staff for his leadership, hard work and marketing savvy to get this campaign off the ground, as well as everyone else on the staff for their contributions to make this campaign a reality. This has been a true team effort, and I am extremely proud to be a part of this team.

In closing, I thank all of you for your continued dedication and commitment to the JACL, since it is members like you who provide the solid foundation for this organization to accomplish JACL's mission of advancing the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all those who are victimized by injustice and bigotry.

Once again, please accept my gratitude for this opportunity to serve the JACL and my best wishes for the New Year! ■

## 'THE THING THAT MAKES THE JACL GREAT IS THE PEOPLE'

By Sarah Baker,  
VP for Public Affairs

**I** can hardly believe it's 2022! As we collectively continue to experience the traumas of 2020, and by extension



2021, I hope that everyone is taking some much-needed time for themselves — whatever that may look like for you!

Despite things "returning to normal," I think we can all agree that the world we are existing in today is drastically different than we had ever thought it would be. As for me? Well . . . I'm trying to take things more slowly. Reading more, checking my sense of urgency, saying "no" to things.

All easier said than done, but it's been nice being intentional about taking space not only where I need to, but also where I want to.

Regarding my work with the JACL, it's pretty wild to me that this year will be closing out my second term as VP for Public Affairs. Where has the time gone?! I am, as

ever, eternally grateful for the continued hard work of our staff, board and members.

Even though we haven't been able to do as much in-person programming, I am so impressed by everyone's resiliency. And can we stop and take a moment to acknowledge how exhausting it is being resilient? It feels like we are constantly pushing against the tide. But the work doesn't seem as overwhelming with all of you by my side. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for all that you do.

Looking ahead to the remainder of my term, I'm hoping to be able to devote more of my time to the JACL in the upcoming months. I'll be graduating from my MPA program in mid-March (woo-hoo!!), and I am really looking forward to tackling some of the projects I have been wanting to address. ➔



» Things like advocacy resources in the Chapter President's Handbook and additional policies that will assist with board governance.

While these types of items might not seem big or flashy, I think

that this work is critical to the continued preservation of our organization.

Here's to the JACL lasting another 90-plus years! But my biggest wish for this year is that we can host convention in person because truly

the thing that I have missed the most is seeing everyone.

I miss those late-night discussions with different chapters and districts about resolutions. I miss the hugs, the huge smiles, the rousing debates on the floor during National Council

sessions. Heck, I even miss the early morning convention breakfasts. Now those are words I never thought I'd utter!

The thing that makes the JACL great is the people. You all have contributed to an amazing experience

for me personally, and I can't wait until we get to be together again.

Until then, stay safe, take care of yourselves and your loved ones, and don't forget to take breaks when you need them so that we don't all burn out! ■

## MEMBERS ARE ESSENTIAL IN DRIVING JACL'S MISSION FORWARD

**By Saki Mori,**  
*JACL National VP of 1000 Club,  
Membership and Services*

As I reflect on JACL during this Covid-19 pandemic, I am grateful for the JACL community. Personally, being a member of JACL has been one of the pillars that has helped me to get through the day-to-day of this pandemic and make sense of what we are experiencing.

Even though the three-hour time zone between the East Coast and the West Coast can be tough at times when I host the National Membership Committee Meetings or attend National Board meetings, connecting with you all online has been a blessing and has helped me to look forward and beyond this pandemic.

I am lucky to have the opportunity and ability to be a part of JACL with you where I can learn and share with you. Whether if it's learning

something new about JACL and our organizational history through Floyd Mori, Ken Inouye, Dale Ikeda and Chip Larouche to discussing how to continue to move our organization forward with the National Staff and Board to observing the energy and passion of the National Youth/Student Council, I am always in awe of how I get to work with you all.

Although 2021 seemed to be a repeat of 2020, and despite the continued uncertainty, JACL continued to adapt the operations of our organization and chapters and remained steadfast to our mission and community.

Although the way we work together is different than before, we met the challenge by putting our programs, meetings and National Convention online; making improvements to strengthen our direct mail campaigns; utilizing innovations offered through our Salsalabs database to keep our membership data up to date; and



staying informed through our chapter newsletters and the *Pacific Citizen*. These accomplishments were made through a learning experience for all of us and helped recommit ourselves to JACL's value and purpose.

The common thread that weaved through our accomplishments is how we utilized communications to stay connected, innovate and adapt.

As we move forward with our lessons learned and look to 2022, the membership program envisions to continue the strides made with communications by offering resources to use the various communication tools and platforms available; telling the stories of our members, leaders and chapters; continue to elevate the JACL mission to meet the future.

It's critical to use this year to prepare and develop ideas and resources in order to meet our priorities, put ideas into action and respond more effectively to the needs of our chapters, communities and country.

In order to remain steadfast in and drive JACL's mission forward, we need the support of all members. If you are interested in getting more involved in your chapter, across chapters or our national programs and efforts, do not hesitate to reach out to your chapter leaders, or you may reach out to me at [smori@jacl.org](mailto:smori@jacl.org). Also, if you are involved in overseeing

membership in your chapter, please make sure to join the monthly National Membership Committee meetings on the second Monday of each month at 6 p.m. PT/9 p.m. ET on Zoom/conference call.

Also, last but not least, I welcome all of our new members to JACL. We had a record number of new members in 2021! This is a significant achievement during this time but signals the importance of JACL, our members and our work. I look forward to connecting with our new members, and please stay tuned for a special online meeting for new members. I thank the members of the National Membership Committee for suggesting additional resources and ways for our new members to get to know JACL and meet each other.

To reiterate the beginning of my message, I thank you all for your membership, contributions and support. I wish you all continued health and wellness, and I hope to see you soon and perhaps meet with you in-person at National Convention 2022. ■

**By Phillip Ozaki,**  
*JACL National Program  
Director — Membership and  
Fund Development*

Since working at JACL, I've heard our organization discuss our membership program's challenges without also highlighting its rich accomplishments. I wanted to take a moment to reframe our membership program and thank each and every one of you for being a critical part of it.

Yes, it's true that JACL membership declines year on year, but it's also true that membership revenue has grown for the last three years. Unfortunately, our 2021 membership growth rate was -1.5 percent because of our aging membership. However, we raised well over \$550,000 in membership last year, far exceeding our goal.

We accomplished this because of members like you! Rather than focus

on declining membership, let's start by saying that we have some of the most loyal members in the country. The average nonprofit has a renewal rate of 45 percent. JACL members renew at 81 percent!

Our members also go above and beyond to increase their giving to JACL. For example, we started 2021 with 27 Millennium Club members and ended with 42. We have a surge of premium and life members. We also had 719 new members join — that's a new record! This is because our movement for justice is strong. It's also because our online presence grew, and premium members can now pay through automatic monthly credit card payment rather than the lump sum.

We thank Bridget Keaveney for her leadership as the Membership Coordinator. As a Shin-Nikkei artist and activist, she brought new life to our program through the Otoshidama Gift Membership campaign. Chan-

neling her knowledge of the Japanese New Year's tradition of Otoshidama, she launched a new campaign where over 90 new members joined.

Bridget also gave our members a chance to share their JACL stories. I remember the first one that came in, Ryan Sudo from the Twin Cities, who participated in September's in-person JACL/OCA Leadership Summit and is inspired to continue his grandparents' legacy by leading his chapter.

We heard from members like Dr. John Fuji, who gifted his children life memberships. He said, "Membership support of JACL thus helps assure my children's civil rights will be protected today and in the future. . . . With the recent rise in Asian hate crime, the need is just as apparent now as in the past."

If you would still like to share your story or gift a membership, write or call us at [mbr@jacl.org](mailto:mbr@jacl.org), (415) 921-JACL (5225) or mail a

letter and photo to our headquarters (JACL Membership Department, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115). We congratulate Bridget, who will transition to our Norman Y. Mineta Fellow. We are also excited to announce that we have hired Ashley (Ima) Bucher as our new membership manager. She will start on Valentine's Day.

Lastly, at our 2021 Convention in July, we launched the Centennial Education Fund. Your investments in the fund allowed us to hire a new education staff specialist, innovate the first-ever virtual teaching training workshop and plan more programs and hiring for this year.

There's been a paradigm shift in our membership program because of loyal, engaged and caring members like you.

Thank you for your contributions to JACL! We look forward to continuing our mission with you in 2022 and beyond! ■



## The Membership Program Paradigm Shift

## 'JACL and the *Pacific Citizen* Can Be Our Guiding Light as We Continue to Educate This Nation'

**By Rob Buscher,**  
*P.C. Editorial Board Chair*

Greetings JACL members and *Pacific Citizen* subscribers, and I hope the new year finds you all safe and healthy.

To say that the last couple of years have been difficult would be a terrible understatement, yet knowing you have navigated the trials and tribulations of this pandemic as we all have, I will not belabor the point.

Instead, I will point to the dignified

manner in which our community continues to persevere through these troubled times, as ever we have before. Twenty twenty-one was a year of tremendous change that began with the Jan. 6 Capitol Insurrection and March 16 Atlanta

Spa Shootings. Anti-Asian violence continues to plague our communities, but we have also seen Pan Asian American organizing at a scale that is previously unheard of.

As Japanese Americans, we are no stranger to anti-Asian hate, and with the possible exception of Chinese Americans during the Chinese Exclusion Era, our community has faced more —>





» intense hatred than any other Asian ethnic group in our nation's history.

Yet, as the Covid-related violence continues to mount, it is Chinese, Korean and Southeast Asian Americans who are facing the brunt of these attacks. As I write this, the East Coast is reeling in the aftermath of the heinous murder of Michelle Alyssa Go, a Chinese American who was shoved in front of a New York subway train earlier this week.

Although Ms. Go was not Japanese American, this attack could just as easily have occurred against a member of our own community. As we have seen so many times before, like in the killing of Vincent Chin, people looking to commit racially motivated acts of violence do not differentiate between our ethnicities.

This is the time to stand in solidarity with our other Asian American brothers and sisters, and while their issues may differ greatly from our own in that many are but two or three generations into their American experience, I cannot help but wonder if we could have done more to stem the tide of anti-Asian violence sooner by building a truly Pan Asian American movement.

With all the challenges that our multigenerational Japanese American families have endured — would a deeper knowledge of these past struggles have helped newer generations of Asian immigrants navigate their own issues with more success?

We multigenerational descendants also have a lot to learn from our newer immigrant communities, many

of whom have been able to maintain much closer ties to the homeland than previous generations.

This enables our contemporary AAPI movements to engage in transnational discourse around particular topics that brings the wisdom of our ancestral cultures back into our conversations.

If ever there was a moment to join together and build a truly inclusive movement among our peoples, this is it. Only together will we be able to overcome the many challenges our communities face, and as Japanese Americans, our history is perhaps the strongest asset we bring to this coalition.

In this time of darkness, the work of both JACL and the *Pacific Citizen* can be our guiding light as we continue to educate this nation about the history

and legacy of our Japanese American experience and advocate for the civil and human rights of our collective peoples.

With the newly revamped *P.C.* digital archives ([www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org)), it is easier than ever before to access the entire back catalogue of our publication. This tremendous resource offers insight into the hearts and minds of our previous generations as they navigated the many challenges of their day.

While it is not productive to compare these historic issues on a one-for-one basis with that of today, they can certainly provide us with a knowledge of what has and has not worked in previous movements as we strategize our own tactics moving forward.

As we endeavor to navigate these

difficult times, the *P.C.* will continue to inform and engage our readers as the only nationwide Japanese American newspaper. JACL members and *P.C.* subscribers have the opportunity — and responsibility — to use this paper to advance the discourse of our community in our own times.

For future generations, the *P.C.* stands as a testament to all that we currently endure. Yet, our record can only be completed with your contributions.

We invite you all to continue sharing your story ideas and donations to our Spring Campaign ([www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org)) as you have these past two years so that we can continue this important work for our country and its people at present and in the future. ■

## CCDC REMAINS FOCUSED ON MENTORING YOUNGER MEMBERS

By Dale Ikeda,  
CCDC  
District  
Governor



New Year's greetings from Central California! As we start the New Year, we are looking forward to our Day of Remembrance observance on Feb. 12, 2022, at the Fresno County Historical Museum, which is located on the grounds of the Big Fresno Fair.

Our keynote speaker is the Hon. James Ardaiz, administrative presiding justice of the Fifth District Court of Appeal, retired. He will speak about his new book "Tears of Honor," which tells the inspirational American story of the Nisei veterans of World War II who fought for freedom abroad and to restore the honor of their families who were denied freedom at home.

Justice Ardaiz will also be presented with CCDC's highest honor, the Distinguished American Award for the Spirit of Education.

CCDC also has an exhibit at the Fresno County Historical Museum on the contributions of Japanese Americans to the San Joaquin Valley. CCDC's Fresno Assembly Center Memorial, an interpretive plaza with a fountain, pedestal wall with the names of internees in bronze and storyboards, is across the way in front of the Commerce Building.

CCDC's focus is to recruit younger members to join JACL and encourage and mentor them to become active at the chapter, district and national levels.

My goal as a board member this year is to develop a JACL Legacy Fund management policy through the work of the Legacy Fund Review Committee, which I chair. The committee was created by the National Board to review the origins and evolution of the Legacy Fund and provide recommendations to the National Board and National Council on the management and use of the fund to ensure JACL will continue in its mission into the future.

In the first half of the 1990s, JACL raised over \$4 million, mainly from donations of recipients of redress payments made possible by the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. JACL was instrumental in the lobbying effort. The Legacy Fund balance now exceeds \$10 million, the original fundraising goal.

This is a good time to understand the history of the Legacy Fund and assess how best to use the fund for JACL's current and future needs. Stay tuned for more on this important source of support for JACL, a legacy from our Nisei predecessors. ■

## 'I COMMEND OUR MEMBERS FOR RISING TO THE CHALLENGE'

By Carol Kawase,  
NCWNP District  
Governor

Like so many in my community, I've been performing many roles that have been an ongoing challenge and source of worry as a result of what seems to be an ever-evolving pandemic. Supporter, mentor, coworker, nurturer,

volunteer, leader — just to name a few contributory efforts to uplift the spirit of family and community. Most recently, like countless other caregivers, I've become super attentive to my parents' well-being and health concerns.

Winter and the pandemic have made me an ardent home video viewer. My father was an amateur home movie fanatic since I can remember. To pursue this passion, the luxury purchase of a Kodak Super 8mm movie camera became the first of four or five cameras that he had procured during his lifetime and the bane of our family's existence. Home life, ranch life, birthdays, holidays, vacations, playtime, parades — you name it, he would film it.

Imagine the frustration of a 6-year-old having to retake the act of surprise, seeing packages under the Christmas tree, no less than three times, just because dad had a new angle for filming the scene each time!

I'm sure many of our JA community members were also slightly annoyed over the years to discover that he was filming either while they were eating, walking in front of the camera lens or speaking in front of an audience during many of our community events, workshops, holiday parties, service awards, installations, teriyaki bazaar, mochi tsuki, bon odori and group trips. I hope that our community can forgive him.

Watching his old videos together, now converted to DVDs, I'm grateful that he was so persistent in documenting the "Spirit of Our Community." It allows us to relive vicariously through these ageless moments in time and remember the accomplishments and

volunteerism of the elder members of our church and JACL community. Many have passed away, but they have left an indelible mark in our community's history.

While watching yet another video, one of my parents with a group of community members on a bus trip to Arizona, I had an epiphany. Seeing all of them posing at the rim of the Grand Canyon, the spirit of our community seemed epitomized as deep, wide and eternal as the canyon.

Through the ages, our community has always stuck together to uplift, support, engage and resolve to make our lives better no matter the frustration, fear, disappointment or unknown.

They have referenced that resilience from experiencing a century witnessing countless wars, the Great Depression of the 1930s, incarceration, genocide, social equality movements, racial injustice, climate change and two pandemics.

The NCWNP District JACL chapters have been stalwart leaders in moving our community forward during the pandemic. I must acknowledge and commend our members for rising to the challenge, finding ways to connect, engage and effectively assist each other despite the isolation and technical challenges for some.

I will always be grateful because the many great ideas that came to fruition allowed for the sharing of successes and informational exchange. The district as a whole benefited greatly from the creativity and resolve of our chapters' leadership and its members.

I really crave the opportunity right now to travel to a remote location and tune out the pandemic noise and rest my computer-screen weary eyes for a while. But until the pandemic is better controlled, I'll just depend on the spirit of my community to carry me through the coming new year.

May 2022 bestow good health, peace, prosperity and happiness to family, friends and colleagues. ■



## 'WE ARE RESILIENT'

By Lisa Olsen,  
IDC District Governor

As I think about this past year and its unique challenges in the Intermountain District Council, one word comes to mind: perseverance. We have persevered through a pandemic, racial divisions, political issues and more. We continue to persevere through new variants of Covid, continued social distancing, unrest and the loss of loved ones.

These challenges remind me of the spirit of *shikata ga nai*. We cannot change many of these challenges, so we are enduring. But as a district and as JACL, we are doing so much more than enduring: We are working for positive change. We are adapting and learning new ways to do old things. We are resilient.

I see this perseverance as the chapters in IDC plan virtual events to address the needs of chapter members and connect with friends. The Boise Valley, Mile High and Utah chapters held virtual Day of Remembrance events as well as vigils, Nihon Matsuri and training.

The Pocatello-Blackfoot and Idaho Falls chapters



» assisted with the programming for the Go for Broke Stamp release that occurred last summer. Valuable programming is now accessible to many who would not have been able to attend events in person. Our members have learned new skills to be a part of this programming in order to stay connected to national and chapter events. We are resilient.

IDC chapters have also worked to safely gather and serve chapter members. Snake River Valley chapter has consistently assembled and delivered multiple bento boxes to members. This amazing undertaking provides delicious meals to members at their homes.

Salt Lake City, Wasatch Front North and Mount Olympus were able to safely gather outside for the tri-chapter picnic this past summer. Joey-Tanino Springsteen was also able to hold our first IDC Youth Civic Dinner, where individuals discussed issues in an open forum.

IDC is currently working to preserve the Minidoka National Historic Site. The proposed Lava Ridge Wind Project with immense turbines will impact the sanctity of Minidoka. Alternative energy is needed, but the preservation of the Japanese story during WWII should not be the cost of this wind turbine project. This focus will require the perseverance of local JACL chapters and JACL National as they work with other interested organizations over the next few years to let our voices be heard.

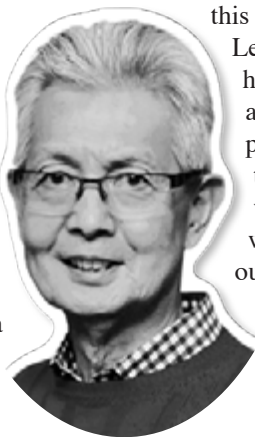
My goals for IDC in 2022 are to continue this resilience and perseverance that has sustained our organization through the past.

I hope that the time will come when we can safely gather together again because members are the heart of JACL. I am so thankful for the many wonderful individuals who serve on the National Board, IDC Board and local chapters. They inspire me in so many ways and renew my dedication to JACL. ■

## 'Our Organization Is a Collective Effort'

By Michael Asano,  
EDC District Governor

**A**kemashite omedetou gozaimasu. The EDC would like to wish everyone, especially our friends and supporters, a happy and blessed New Year. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to all our friends and supporters who have accompanied us on the JACL journey during this past year.



There is no question that the past few years were marked with health challenges due to Covid-19 and full of examples of political/social unrest. The year 2021 was no exception. For years, we have lived in a divided nation and in a society where our democratic values have been challenged. We hope and pray that 2022 will be a year of peace and prosperity for everyone.

It is sad to note that the past few years have witnessed a steep increase in political toxicity and charged and divisive rhetoric. We have seen serious challenges to long-cherished American values. We have seen civility cast aside and seen as a luxury or weakness instead of being seen as a prerequisite for a rational and productive dialogue. We hope that will change in 2022. EDC remains committed in paving the way to educating our members to become more proactive in our cause to protect our civil liberties.

It's the Year of the Tiger — and in Fengshui, this means it's a year made for bold action. The Tiger is known for its power, daring and ability to do everything on a grand scale. This is markedly different from 2021's year of the Ox, which was all about hard work and pragmatism.

Think about it: in 2021, the world had to plod through months of pandemic lockdowns and isolation. It wasn't glamorous or fun, but we plodded on because we knew it was necessary. But Tiger years are times of change. Tigers are also quick to take action, so be prepared in 2022 for situations to change quickly through decisive action.

As we approach the new year, we reflect upon our members that we represent. EDC recently supported the National JACL educational documentary film project, The League of Dreams, for the National Park Services – Japanese American Confinement Sites Program.

The current rise in anti-Asian hate and violence gives this very important project even more relevance and priority. We hope the National Park Service's Japanese American Confinement Sites Program will give the National JACL and this new film project, "Our League of Dreams," their highest consideration for acceptance. The film will provide a unique view of the Japanese American wartime experience that will educate audiences, our youth and our future generations especially in light of the 80th anniversary of Executive Order 9066.

JACL had to work hard to keep up with the many challenges that developed in 2021. As to the year 2022, with our collective commitment to social justice, we are

determined to move forward tirelessly serving our shared humanity.

Once again, we thank all our dedicated members, corporate sponsors and partners from the bottom of our hearts. We especially thank our National Board members, staff and advisory members that selflessly serve to advance our mission. Our organization is a collective effort, and we count on everyone to achieve our goals.

In closing, I would like to extend my sincere wishes that this year will be a rewarding one for all of you. We wish all of our friends and supporters a pleasant new year full of happiness, peace and prosperity. We hope that peace and justice will become a reality to all in 2022. We look forward to continuing our work with you this upcoming year and beyond. ■

## 'We Can Introduce More People to the Strength of the JACL Collective'



By Ryan Yoshikawa,  
PSW District Governor

**A**s we celebrate the start of the new year, we can reflect on how much we have overcome over these difficult times. This has pushed all of us to adapt to more online communication and collaboration. We have been able to continue to fight for the betterment of all people without standing side-by-side.

JACL underwent its first-ever online-only National Convention in 2020, compressing the full bulk of a national election, budget approval and resolution affirmation without anyone in the same room. Online workshops and programs were created by the National Youth/Student Council and the Young Professionals Caucus. We believe we have been able to cultivate a strong community and culture with people across the country.

The YPC has started to create a podcast to showcase various Asian American activists in various communities and locations across the country, called the "Speaking Nikkei

Podcast."

Our own YPC members have interviewed many people on current events and how they have been able to incorporate their work or volunteer time to important issues. All of the YPC members are looking forward to highlighting programs and issues our members, families and friends truly care about.

SELANOCO chapter was fortunate to foster more active members from outreaching to previous participants of the Kakehashi project and collegiate students and graduates. These new members are pushing for more engagement with young adults to

provide more informative programming. We were able to create a small online information guide discussing the 2021 Californian Gubernatorial recall election and speak with some University of California, Irvine, students about the importance of voting during these critical special elections.

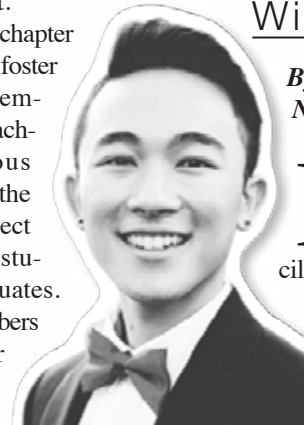
As a new governor, I am looking forward to being a part of the JACL National Board and working with all the JACL members across the country. This year, I would love to continue to help grow our membership from our new online programs.

We can continue to innovate how we present the JACL's mission to a broader audience and be much more visible to the public. With the prospect of having the 2022 National Convention in person, we can introduce more people to the strength of the JACL collective.

The YPC will continue to provide an open and communicative space for new and returning members. We want everyone to continue giving people a way to be involved and informed with our community and the social issues that affect each and every one of us. I would love to increase the number of fun events such as online game nights and discussions to enjoy each other's company despite living in different time zones.

The "Speaking Nikkei Podcast" will focus on expanding our audience and guest speakers. Our group focusing on the production and development of the podcast continues to grow and hopefully will give the YPC and JACL more exposure to a wider audience.

This year represents a great unknown as we hopefully overcome the pandemic and come back to seeing everyone in person. I am so happy to be a part of such a hard-working group that continues to push for policies and actions that improves and protects the rights of all people of the United States of America.



By Justin Kawaguchi,  
NY/SC Chair

## 'We Are Excited for What 2022 Will Hold'

**H**appy 2022! On behalf of the JACL National Youth/Student Council, we wish the readership of the *Pacific Citizen* health and happiness in the new year. As we enter into what seems to be another dark winter of lockdowns and pandemic resurgences, it can be challenging to maintain hopeful for the future.

Yet, we at the NY/SC have been reflecting on the wonderful opportunities and memories forged in 2021 and are optimistic for what is to come. In the past year, we welcomed three new NY/SCers to our council: Kayla Ikemiya (CCDC), Joey Tanino Springsteen (IDC) and Biansa Burke (NCWNP). In October, we attended our first in-person retreat in nearly two years! The last time we all gathered was in February 2020 in San Francisco, in the period right before we realized that the world would change drastically over the course of the following two years.

This time around, we met in the historical Little Tokyo neighborhood in Los Angeles. For several of our council, it was their first time visiting Los Angeles, ever! Thanks to the generous support of the Japanese American National Museum and the staff at JACL National, we engaged in a memorable weekend of community building, strategic planning and team bonding.

We also toured the Little Tokyo neighborhood with the Little Tokyo Historical Society, learned from inspirational guest speakers like Alan Nishio and Craig Ishii and hosted an in-person summit tour of JANM. In addition, we snapped tons of photos to remember the trip and got to enjoy each other's company over delicious meals. We have full coverage of the trip on our Instagram at @jaclnysc.

With the energy brought forth by our fall retreat, we are excited for what 2022 will hold, no matter the challenges thrown at our group. We've learned of the incredible strength and resiliency of the JACL community and have practiced flexibility in building meaningful experiences virtually.

Our youth reps are feeling empowered to continue engaging youth members across the nation and



» appreciate JACL chapter members' support. We are always looking to connect with new youth who may be interested in the JACL's mission and vision and urge members to reach out to district youth reps with potential new members.

On a personal note, I am both nervous and excited to enter into what will be my last calendar year on the NY/SC. Since joining the council in my freshman year in 2017, the JACL NY/SC has been a family to me throughout my undergraduate studies and even now as I complete my graduate degree program in the spring.

From serving as the Pacific Southwest District Youth Representative to now leading the council as National Youth Chair, it has been the honor of a lifetime to connect, learn and grow with the JACL community.

The end of my term does not mean the end of my journey with the JACL, and I look forward to a lifetime of service with the organization (YPC, here I come?). Thank you to all those who were a part of my JACL journey and who believed in me along the way. I hope I made you proud! On behalf of the NY/SC, please follow along our journey on our Instagram and Facebook, and we wish you all a Happy 2022! ■



By Sheera Tamura,  
NY/SC Youth  
Representative

## 'There Is Always a Way to Make a Difference in the World'

As we conclude another year of youth programming, I am left with an immense

feeling of gratitude. The acts of resilience and selflessness that were exhibited amongst all the youth representatives within the JACL's National Youth/Student Council has been extremely humbling and exhilarating to be a part of.

From facilitating a nationwide series of Civic Dinners to collectively traveling to the historical area of Los Angeles' Little Tokyo, I am deeply touched by the quality of care that each youth representative has shown for their individual communities.

I believe that it is a privilege to be able to represent the youth of this organization as we are responsible for sustaining the future generations of the

JACL. The friendships and relationships that have kindled throughout the past year has reminded me of how blessed I am to have met such kind leaders in a not-so-kind world.

These individuals inspire me to seek the good in communities and cherish the precious encounters that have been created along the way. Although the pandemic has beaten us down relentlessly, I am reminded that there is always a way to make a difference in the world.

In this new year, it is my hope that we as a council can remain intentional about our work so that we can continue to serve our communities from a place of authenticity and

humility. As the NY/SC's National Youth Representative, I intend on creating a space for individual and collective periods of self-reflection so that each youth representative can reflect upon their purpose for serving their respective districts.

I also aspire to strengthen the relationships between each youth representative and their district board, so that members can rest assured in knowing that there are efforts being made to support the youth members within the JACL.

I believe that 2022 will be a year of transformation, and I am extremely eager for the sensational year we have ahead. ■



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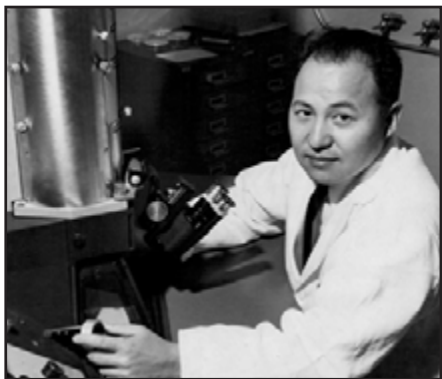




# MEMORIAM

TRIBUTE

## JOSEPH SETO



Joseph Tobey Seto, Ph.D., passed away peacefully in his sleep Feb. 23, 2021, in Los Angeles. He was 96. Born in Tacoma, Wash., Joe's microbiology and virology career spanned 55 years as professor at Cal State Univ. Los Angeles and researcher at the University of Giessen, Germany. He enjoyed his students,

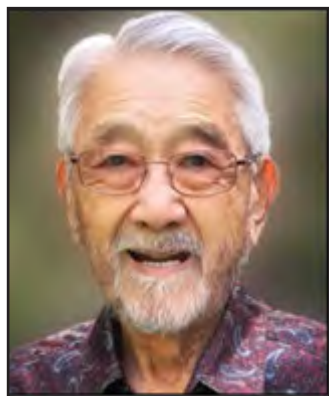
research, golf, fishing, travel and ice cream.

He is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Grace Seto; daughter, Susan (Mark); grandchildren Emily and Alex; son, Steven Seto; and sister, Grace (Richard) Okita, of Honolulu; and many nieces, nephews and relatives.

In lieu of flowers, the family would like to honor Joe with donations to the Joseph T. Seto Microbiology Scholarship at [campaign.calstatela.edu/give](http://campaign.calstatela.edu/give).

TRIBUTE

## HARRY HARUMI HIGAKI



Harry Higaki, 101, of Hillsborough, Calif., passed away peacefully in his home Dec. 16, 2021, with his children by his side. Born in San Francisco on Aug. 29, 1920, Harry was the eldest son of the late Nobuo Higaki and Motoko Kubouchi, and he graduated from Sequoia High School in Redwood City (1938) and attended Heald Business College in San Francisco.

In 1942, following Executive Order 9066, Harry was forced to lease the family business and relocate his family to Kimberly, Idaho, where he

was drafted to the Military Intelligence Service and sent to Fort Snelling, Minn., for language training. In 1947, he was honorably discharged as a U.S. Army sergeant after serving in the Counter Intelligence Corps in Kobe, Japan, where he met and married the love of his life, the late Sachiko Iwai Higaki, on Oct. 7, 1949. Harry and Sachiko were married for 67 years.

In the postwar years, Harry incorporated and expanded the family nursery into Bay City Flower Co., which distributed flowers nationwide. To the end, he remained grateful for the company's long-time employees, customers and vendors. In 1994, he was named Flower Marketer of the Year by the Produce Marketing Association. He was also named Farmer of the Year (1990, 1998) by the San Mateo County Farm Bureau and Half Moon Bay Coastside Chamber of Commerce.

In 2011, Harry received the Nisei Soldiers of World War II Congressional Gold Medal in belated recognition of his service to the United States. He was a man of steadfast faith and a founding member of Peninsula Free Methodist Church (now Peninsula Hope Church).

Harry was a devoted, loving father and a friend to many. He is survived by his children and their spouses, Harrison Higaki (Heidi), Sharon Okamoto (John) and Audrey Sakai (Perry), seven grandchildren and their spouses, and 10 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his siblings, Naomi Higaki, Aiko Joo, and Emiko Hamai. Harry was predeceased by his beloved wife, Sachiko, his daughter Lois Toyo Higaki, his parents, and his brothers, Juichi and Shigeru.

Private services. Donations in honor of his memory may be made to Peninsula Hope Church, Redwood City or the Japanese American Citizens League.

## WARREN MINAMI DIES AT 83



Dr. Warren Nori Minami of Potomac, Md., died Jan. 9 at Suburban Hospital in Bethesda, Md., according to next of kin. He was 83.

According to his family, Minami's death was a result of Covid-19.

"Warren was one of those people who brought the community together," said JACL Executive Director David Inoue. "His home was always open and available to host any type of gathering, especially through his leadership with

the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation.

"He always wanted what was good for the Japanese American community and was supportive of bringing in new leadership, knowing when he needed to assert himself, but also when to raise up someone else."

Minami was born in San Francisco in 1938. As a child, his family and he were incarcerated at the Gila River War Relocation Authority Center in Arizona during World War II.

After being released from the camp in 1943, the Minami family moved to Detroit and then settled in Washington, D.C., in 1945. Minami later graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in Washington, D.C., and after moving to California, he graduated from San Jose State College. He served as an officer in the Air Force from 1962-65.

Minami also earned his Ph.D. in business administration from American University and was a retired senior executive with the International Monetary Fund.

As a young man, he won numerous awards competing in judo, in which he held a third-degree black belt. He was a member of San Jose State's storied judo team and competed for a spot on the U.S. Olympic judo team when the sport was introduced in 1964. He took first place in the 165-pound division of the Air Force Worldwide Judo Championship in 1965.

Minami's Asian American community involvement included serving on the board of governors of the Japanese American National Museum and as the chair of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation. He also was appointed to the Maryland Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs under Gov. Robert Ehrlich.

"Warren was instrumental in helping to build the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism During World War II on the National Mall," said John Tobe, chair of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation. "Thanks to Warren's vision and leadership, visitors of the memorial will learn about the Nisei's sacrifices and patriotism for years to come."

Minami was also a longtime member of a number of other community organizations, including the JACL and the Japanese American Veterans Assn.

Among his hobbies, Minami enjoyed playing cards and was an avid golfer, eventually serving as president of the board of the Bretton Woods Recreation Center. "If you ever wanted to go golfing, he was always the person to get a tee time," Inoue said.

Minami is survived by his wife,

TRIBUTE

## OLIVER NISHIMURA



Oliver Nishimura (Hayward, Calif.) passed away in June 2021. He was born in 1922 in San Lorenzo, Calif., graduated from Hayward High School and attended business college. In 1942, he evacuated with his family to Idaho, then Colorado, and volunteered to serve in the U.S. Army in 1943. He was in Co. K of the 442nd RCT and was injured during the battle to rescue the Texas Lost Battalion. After the war, he married Michiko in 1947. He worked at the San Lorenzo Nursery Co. and retired as manager of their San Jose floral supply store. He was an active member of the San Lorenzo Japanese Christian Church since its inception in 1929 for which his grandparents, Kumaichiro and Masuno Shinoda donated the building and land.

He is survived by his wife, Michiko; daughters Valerie (Bruce Satow), Stephanie and Erin; in-laws Irene Nishimura, Nori Komorita, Yo Hazama, Taro and Mary Ishimoto, Susan and Morris Nakamura and other extended family. He was predeceased by his siblings, Luther, Samuel, Edith Sato and Roy.

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# TRIBUTES

## TRIBUTE

### EIJI EDWARD KUBOKAWA

Eiji or Ed Kubokawa, as most people knew him, passed away peacefully in Bellevue, Wash., on Dec. 21, 2021, at the age of 96. Eiji was born in San Francisco, attended Lowell High School, graduated from UC Berkeley, and worked for many years at Modern Foods and Kasho in San Francisco as a commodities buyer. At the end of his career, he set up the produce packing operation for Campbell Foods in Fresno, Calif. An Army veteran of World War II, he was incarcerated at the Topaz, Utah, concentration camp, before the Quakers helped him, and attended college in Ypsilanti, Mich., for two years. Ed served as co-president of his local JACL chapter, and with his wife, Ellen, attended the Seattle National Convention to support their district governor, Mollie Fujioka, candidate for JACL national president. Ed is survived by his blended family; Jo Anne, Joyce, Jon, Jay, Bruce and Dale.

## TRIBUTE

### RON MANO



The world lost a wonderful person on Dec. 6, 2021. Ronald Makoto Mano passed away at St. Marks Hospital in Salt Lake City, surrounded by loving family members, after suffering a heart attack. He was 79. Ron was born on Aug. 28, 1942, at the Dee Hospital in Ogden, Utah, around five months after his family arrived in Utah. They had done the voluntary evacuation from Los Angeles after the start of World War II.

Ron was a loving son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, uncle, friend and teacher. He married Cheryl Sei Shimizu (daughter of Takashi Bill and Gene Shimizu) on March 22, 1969, in the Los Angeles Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Cheryl passed away on Feb. 10, 2021, after an almost four-year battle with pancreatic cancer. They are the parents of Tiffany Hilton (John), Patrice Mano, Tisha Woolf (Neil), Karisa Sepp (Chris), Rhett Mano (Amy), Darin Mano (Kevin) and Taryn Khong (Christon). They have 18 grandchildren.

Ron's parents are Eisaku Mano and Michi Morio Mano. His siblings are Kenneth Mano (Carolyn), Irene Mori (Floyd), Sharon Haraguchi (Wally) and Richard Mano (Linda).

He served a mission to Japan for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and was a devoted member of the church throughout his lifetime. He graduated from Bountiful High School in Bountiful, Utah. He earned a bachelor's degree and an MBA from the University of Utah. He received a Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He was a college professor at the University of Utah, Weber State University and Westminster College. Although Ron had technically retired from teaching, he continued teaching courses and mentoring students up to the day he suffered his heart attack.

Ron worked hard throughout his entire life. He worked on the family farm and had a paper route as a teenager. He worked at a produce market while in college. He served in the U.S. Army and was extremely patriotic.

Ron is a long-time member of the JACL. He started working part-time at the National JACL Credit Union many years ago to help with their books. After his wife, Cheryl, passed away, and he retired from full-time teaching, he continued to work at the credit union. He said he wanted to work there until he died, which he did. Ron has supported JACL events. He had served as convention treasurer for a National JACL Convention held in Salt Lake City. His brother is president of the Mount Olympus JACL Chapter.

The last social event Ron attended was the Mount Olympus JACL Chapter Christmas Party which was held in Salt Lake City on Saturday, Dec. 4, 2021. He seemed well and was able to visit with friends and family. That night he suffered a heart attack. He had emergency surgery, but he passed away less than two days after entering the hospital.

Ron has been very supportive of his children and grandchildren. His son Darin recently won election to the Salt Lake City Council after having been appointed to the position earlier. Ron encouraged his children to learn about their heritage and took Darin as a teenager to Topaz. Darin was the architect for the Topaz Museum.

Ron Mano lived an exemplary life and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

### LUCILLE HONDA



Lucille Yoshie Honda (née Kawate), our beloved and devoted mother and grandmother, passed away Jan. 5, 2022, at age 96. She is now at home with our Lord Jesus Christ, living with him in paradise for eternity.

Lucille was born on Dec. 5, 1925, in Salt Lake City to Masaichi and Shinobu Kawate. She lived her early life in Emory, Utah, where her father was a section foreman for the Union Pacific Railroad, along with her older siblings Masae (Mary), Masao (Nelson) and Isami

(Sam).

After WWII, Lucille settled in Salt Lake City, Utah, where she met the love of her life, Kaoru (Bill) Honda, and they were married on April 17, 1954.

Lucille is survived by her three sons, David, Paul and Mark, and was predeceased by Bill, her husband of 57 years, and eldest son, Clifford. She is also survived by two daughters-in-law (Cynthia, Marie); five grandchildren (Natalie, Katelyn, David, William and Daniel); and two great-grandchildren (Otto, Theo); as well as many nieces, nephews and good friends.

Lucille was a longtime member of Bethany Congregational Church in Santa Barbara for over 60 years. She spent most of her working career as a paralegal working for the County of Santa Barbara's Water Agency and county counsel.

Lucille lived a very healthy and active lifestyle, performing daily exercises and diet routines, even until the end. She was a dedicated and loving wife, mother and grandmother, and will be remembered for her love, kindness, gentleness and generosity.

A family service will be held in the near future. Donations in Lucille's memory may be sent to Bethany Congregational Church, 556 N. Hope Ave., Santa Barbara, CA 93110.

### GEORGE IKEDA



George Kazuo Ikeda, 99, formerly of Emmaus, Pa., died Nov. 30, 2021 at Lehigh Valley Hospital. He was born in San Juan Bautista, Calif., the oldest of five sons born to farmer Genroku Ikeda and his wife, Tsuyuko. In 1942, George and his family were incarcerated in the Poston Internment Camp in Poston, Ariz.

In 1944 George moved to the Philadelphia area and began his career. He worked as a draftsman at York Corp. from 1945-57 and was

committed to supporting his family and helping his younger brothers attend college. He went on to attend Rutgers University through academic scholarships from Union Carbide and Western Electric and graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering in 1958. Following graduation, he joined Air Products and Chemicals in Trexlertown, Pa., and worked there until his retirement in 1986.

George was dedicated to his family and the Lehigh Valley community. He was active with Junior Achievement, YMCA as a coach and board member, board member of the Emmaus Shelter House and Allentown Art Museum, member of the Japanese American Citizens League and an active member and past president (Allentown West Chapter) of Rotary International. In his free time, he enjoyed photography, gardening, cooking, international travel and spending time with his family. In later life, he took great pride watching his grandchildren play a variety of sports and enjoyed his Yuengling Lager with lunch and sharing a bottle of wine with family and friends.

George is survived by his children Carolyn (Ed Linhart) of Alexandria, Va., Bruce (Anne) of Berwyn, Pa., Dr. Jane (Dr. Steve Gohsler) of Mendham, N.J., and Doug (Tanya) of Allentown, Pa.; grandchildren Brian (Casey), Michael (Kirstie) and Jamie Ikeda, and Eric, Dan and Becky Gohsler; great-grandchildren Hana and Grant Ikeda; his youngest brother, Ken; and his favorite, granddog, Baxter. He was predeceased by his wife Janet (Nov. 29, 2019) and three brothers.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Lehigh Valley Health Network, Office of Philanthropy (P.O. Box 1883, Allentown, PA 18105); Rotary International Foundation (One Rotary Center, 1560 Sherman Ave., Evanston, IL 60201); or the LutherCrest Benevolent Fund (800 Hausman Rd., Allentown, PA 18104).

### PLACE A TRIBUTE

'In Memoriam' is a free listing that appears on a limited, space-available basis.

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## REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

# AARP LAUNCHES DIGITAL PLATFORM TO HELP VETERANS AND MILITARY SPOUSES COMPETE IN TODAY'S JOB MARKET

The new platform offers free courses and resources to boost job search, overcome underemployment.

By Scott Tanaka

I am excited to continue our AARP column for the *Pacific Citizen*. It is an honor for me as a Yonsei who grew up in Los Angeles and now live in Maryland. My journey to AARP and interest in social work and gerontology was not a traditional path. Prior to joining AARP and getting my master's degree in social

work from USC, I was working in accounting and helping people with their taxes. It was quite the shift for me, but I couldn't be happier.

I was always close to my grandparents in Torrance, Calif., and this led me to want to pursue a career in geriatric social work and mental health. Following graduate school, I accepted a fellowship at AARP that led to my current role

in AARP's Policy, Research and International Affairs department. In my role, I serve as an adviser in the Office of the Chief Public Policy Officer.

A natural outcome is to be able to share AARP content, research findings and public policy positions on a variety of topic areas that impact people 50-plus. I am excited to continue the path that was established by Ron Mori, as he brought AARP research findings and helpful articles to help families over the years.

A great example of a helpful resource tool that was just launched is the AARP Veterans and Military Spouses Job Center, a new digital platform bringing together valuable information and resources to help veterans and military spouses compete in today's job market.

The job center includes a new Veterans Career Advantage Course to build on career planning and skills development to help navigate the job market. According to an AARP survey, more than half (56 percent) of employers say experience and the use of skills in previous positions are "very important" when evaluating applicant's skills.

"When you're a veteran or military spouse, it can be challenging to know where to start your job search and how to get employers to understand how your job skills, experience and

character transfer to a new position," said Troy Broussard, senior advisor for AARP Veterans and Military Families Initiative and U.S. Army Desert Storm veteran. "This free, one-stop resource will help veterans and military spouses learn how to effectively leverage their military skills and experience to give them an edge in today's competitive job market and avoid underemployment."

The AARP Veterans and Military Spouses Job Center features a range of free resources to help the 8.3 million veterans in the U.S. workforce:

- New Veterans Career Advantage Course focuses on career planning and skills development.
- The AARP Job Board features a "Veterans Wanted" filter so transitioning and former service members can quickly find employers that value their military experience.
- New AARP Veterans and Military Spouses Job Search Toolkit — a comprehensive guide to find and secure employment.
- New AARP Video: "Tips for Veterans to Ace a Civilian Job Interview."
- AARP Webinar: "Rethinking Work for Veterans, Military and Their Families" on hiring and career trends to help adapt to a quickly

changing job market.

According to the most recent U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs report, veteran unemployment fell to 3.2 percent in December 2021. While unemployment has decreased over the past year, underemployment continues to hold many veterans back.

Two-thirds of all veteran employees reported having a job unequal to the level of skills and qualifications that they had gained in the military, according to the 2018 Blue Star Families' annual Military Family Lifestyle Survey.

Other resources include AARP Resume Advisor, AARP Skills Builder for Work, Be Your Own Boss and Small Business Resource Center for the 50+. To learn more about the AARP Veterans and Military Spouses Job Center, visit [www.aarp.org/vetsjobcenter](http://www.aarp.org/vetsjobcenter).

For more information and other free resources on how AARP supports veterans and military families on caregiving, fighting fraud through Operation Protect Veterans and connecting with earned service benefits, visit [www.aarp.org/veterans](http://www.aarp.org/veterans).

*Scott Tanaka is a member of the JACL Washington, D.C., chapter and policy, research and international affairs adviser at AARP.*



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