



PACIFIC CITIZEN



2023 JACL
NATIONAL
SCHOLARSHIP
ISSUE

» PAGE 5

» JACL's NCI Interns on Their Summertime Work Experience **PAGE 4**

JACL ANNOUNCES 2023 NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM RECIPIENTS



By David and Carol Kawamoto

In 2023, JACL National awarded 15 scholarships totaling \$67,500 in the following categories: Freshman, Undergraduate, Graduate, Law, Creative & Performing Arts and Student Aid. The JACL would normally award about 22 additional scholarships totaling an additional \$30,000. However, earnings from the scholarship endowment fund during the last year weren't sufficient for the organization to make the additional awards.

In 2023, a committee from the JACL's Eastern District evaluated the Freshman applications chaired by Linda Adams of the Washington, D.C., chapter. The committee members and their respective chapters are Julie Abo (Washington, D.C.), Matthew Asada (Washington, D.C.), Janice Faden (Washington, D.C.), Stefanie Pierce (Seabrook) and

John Tobe (Washington, D.C.).

For the Undergraduate, Graduate, Law, Creative & Performing Arts and Student Aid categories, a committee from the Intermountain District, chaired by Karl Endo of the Pocatello-Blackfoot chapter, reviewed the applications for 2023. The committee members and their respective chapters are Katie Hirai (Boise Valley), Maki Jackson (Boise Valley), Hena John (Ontario), Tom Koto (Salt Lake City), Howard Matsumura (Snake River), Dale Cawley (Idaho Falls), Lora King (Idaho Falls), Jason Kunisaki (Salt Lake City) and Geoff Russell (Wasatch Front North).

Please join us in thanking these volunteers for their excellent work on behalf of the JACL's National Scholarship Program.

We would also like to express the JACL's gratitude and appreciation for the fine work of our staff

members, Education/Communications Coordinator Matthew Weisbly, Regional Director Patty Wada and Membership Database Administrator Tomiko Ismael.

And, we thank the JACL chapters for their excellent job of screening and forwarding Freshman scholarship applications for the national competition. However, please be reminded that the other JACL National scholarships are submitted directly to the organization by the applicants.

Chapters, please inform your members and acquaintances of these other scholarships available to JACL members. The updated information brochure and applications for the 2024 program will be posted on the JACL's website (jacl.org) next month. The 2023 information is still available on the website to provide background and requirements of the program.

This year's application included the essay question: "How do you think the JACL should continue to honor its diverse legacy that is strongly connected to the Japanese American internment experience while continuing to expand its reach to emerging Japanese American communities (i.e., individuals who may not have JA incarceration history, post-WWII immigrants, mixed-Japanese members, adoptees, those with a strong connection to Japan, etc.)?" An excerpt from each scholarship recipient's response is found in this publication.

Congratulations to all of this year's scholarship recipients. Their significant accomplishments are very deserving of recognition and reward! And, we thank them for all that they do. Their actions and accomplishments reflect well of themselves, their families and our entire community! ■

HOW TO REACH US

Email: pc@pacificcitizen.org
Online: www.pacificcitizen.org
Tel: (213) 620-1767
Mail: 123 Ellison S. Onizuka St., Suite 206
Los Angeles, CA 90012

STAFF

Executive Editor Allison Haramoto
Business Manager Susan Yokoyama
Senior Editor George Johnston
Digital & Social Media
Production Artist Marie Samonte
Circulation Eva Ting

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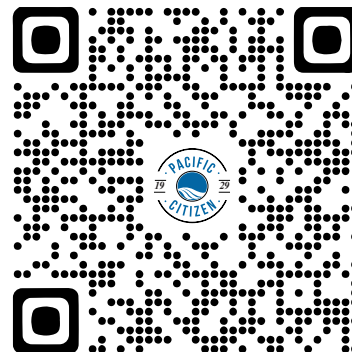
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The *P.C.*'s mission is to 'educate on the past Japanese American experience and preserve, promote and help the current and future AAPI communities.'

* 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





FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WINNING THE BATTLE, BUT LOSING THE WAR

By David Inoue, JACL Executive Director

It's the time of year we recognize the achievements of our annual national scholarship winners. This year was as competitive as ever, and many qualified students were shut out. This also coincides with the release of the *U.S. News & World Report* annual rankings of the top universities and colleges.

Over the years, there has been little change in the top 25 schools. It has created a small group of select universities that are desirable simply based on reputation, regardless of actual need or interests of the student.

Let's be realistic. The quality of teaching is rarely better at these top universities, and might even be worse, where a professor is valued more for their research work than their teaching skills. And as I have said time and time again, as a chemistry major in my own studies, things like the periodic table of elements are the same regardless of which school you study at.

The drive to gain acceptance at one of these top schools, which offer perhaps a couple hundred thousand admissions out of millions that are available across all universities, colleges and community colleges across the country, is what has led to a disproportionate desire to gain

whatever perceived advantage possible. The result of this delusion that everyone belongs at one of the top 25 schools is what has led to the dismantling of affirmative action at the higher education level.

Unfortunately, this will have further repercussions beyond those top 25 programs. The reality is that more minority students attend a much more diverse representation of the nation's institutions of higher education. These colleges, which also sought to serve a diverse student population, will now be limited in their ability to select a diverse student body.

Where we have yet to see this potentially further play out is in the workforce. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) programs are under attack across the country, even as Asian American, African American, Latin American and Native American representation at senior management levels and in the boardrooms lag our presence in the overall workforce.

Corporate leaders continue to highlight their commitment to DEI efforts, even in the wake of the Supreme Court decision, and limited public pressure

to scale back programs. In the creative space, already we have seen major media producers scale back their DEI programming, often the department that employs the highest percentage of minority employees.

In a bit of sad irony, one prominent Asian American organization that advocated for the elimination of affirmative action in higher education has now shifted its focus to disparities in the workforce and the lack of Asian American senior managers and executives. If only it had realized that it is through affirmative action practices that corporate diversity has reached the levels it has today.

This is the problem we have in our Asian American communities. We cannot only be supportive of programs like affirmative action when it benefits our prospects as it does in the workplace, but then try to abolish it because of the false perception that it is detrimental to our opportunities in higher education.

The foolishness of those who sought to eliminate affirmative action at elite colleges to perhaps improve a select few peoples' opportunities

to get into just a few slots has now jeopardized the chances of millions more at the majority of other schools and could soon spread to impeding opportunity in the workplace.

There is always a certain degree of arrogance in ignorance. When one doesn't really understand something fully, it creates a false sense of authority. We have seen this throughout the Covid pandemic as the average person on the street suddenly knew more about how to prevent Covid than their physician or the public health department.

In seemingly achieving a victory in abolishing affirmative action at the higher education level, these warriors may have cut off opportunity for millions of students at the thousands of other not so highly selective schools and, more importantly, their own prospects upon graduation and throughout their future in the workplace. They truly won the battle, but in doing so, forfeited the war.

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



LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE

ADVANCE PLANNING FOR AGING

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

Just how long has it been since you've "lost your mind"? The possibility of developing dementia is perhaps the most important challenge that older adults will face. Yet, advance planning for aging is very hard for most older adults to address. We intuitively know why: It's hard and unpleasant to think about future aging problems — especially when it comes to loss of independence.

Experts estimate that about 30 percent of people aged 85 or older have dementia, with the risk of dementia increasing rapidly as people reach age 90 or older. Although encouraging recent research suggests that the risk of dementia at a given older age is going down, this is still

going to be a common problem for the foreseeable future.

Older adults have an expectation that their adult children would help them out but had not discussed this in-depth with their kids, nor have they completed the advance planning documents that would be needed for their children to step in and assist. What's more, adult children often avoid the discussion because the last time they brought it up, mom (or dad) got upset.

In fact, it's quite common for older adults to become very anxious and/or defensive about their abilities. Some become quite paranoid about others trying to control them. This is a problem because not only does the older person become distressed when a family tries to talk about the future, but in dementia, "thinking"

and "reasoning" also usually gets worse when a person is anxious or stressed.

So, once mild dementia has developed, conversations about the future and delegating authority to others become much more difficult than they would have been before. (And these conversations are not easy even with older adults who have good cognition.) Yet, for the well-being of older adults, these difficult and uncomfortable conversations are required.

That's because it has profound repercussions for financial safety, impact on family caregivers, safety at home and, of course, the ability for the affected person to make decisions. Planning ahead can enable an aging parent's adult children or other trusted individual to assist with medical, financial and legal matters, should the aging parent lose mental capacities.

Home safety can be an issue if an older adult with dementia wanders or leaves the stove on. Many older adults are also vulnerable to falls, which can especially be problematic for older adults who live alone and

may be unable to get up or get help after a fall, especially if an injury is involved. You need to plan for it.

According to board-certified Dr. Leslie Kernisan, MD MPH, whether you are planning ahead for medical, financial or legal issues (often inter-related), there are three Key Steps for All Advance Planning for Aging (www.betterhealthwhileaging.net):

- Anticipating common aging-related life challenges, either because they are very likely to happen (e.g., eventual advanced dementia in someone recently diagnosed with mild dementia) or are common and significant (e.g., a serious fall while at home alone).
- Planning ahead in order to minimize the stress, financial problems, family strife and health harms that people often experience when these challenges come along and no planning ahead has been done. All planning should involve conversation with family members and others likely to be involved in a person's age-related life challenges.
- Completing necessary legal documents and documenting one's plans, preferences and values.

Legal documentation is required for certain things, such as enabling a family member or other trusted individual to act on one's behalf if one becomes incapacitated by illness or injury. Additional documentation of preferences and values isn't legally required but can provide valuable guidance to surrogate decision-makers, clinicians, family members and others who might be later involved in an older person's care.

As an Elder Law attorney, I can address the third step listed above: Completing necessary legal documents. I'm going to briefly cover the Big 3 necessary legal documents: (1) Living Trust, (2) Durable Power of Attorney for Assets (DPOA) and (3) Health Care Power of Attorney. Every adult should execute all three.

Revocable Living Trusts: Living Trusts are an estate planning tool to avoid probate court upon death. Probate is a waste of time and a waste of money. The law allows you to avoid probate by putting your assets into a revocable living trust.

» See AGING on page 10



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We're grateful to have some of the most engaged and committed members around! Because of your loyal support, we have more premium membership upgrades and generous additional gifts than ever. We're also appreciative for those who renew year after year (some for 50 years or more!) and for our increase in new members. Your dedication is essential to our ongoing mission for social justice, education, and community! Thank you! - JACL Membership Department



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A MOTHER'S TAKE

AIZUMI FAMILY OUTINGS

By Marsha Aizumi

This month, we had our third Family Outing Day. This tradition, which we started this year, was to find meaningful ways to be together. Of course, I love the random and casual time when the kids drop by individually or together as well, but I thought intentionally finding times to be together and learn more about each other would be wonderful.

These family outings were inspired by Linda Aratani, whose family meets once a week for dinner. A weekly dinner didn't fit the schedule of our family, however, so our quarterly Family Outing Days were born as a result. You never know when you share some of the things that are meaningful to you if it will resonate with others.

For the FIRST Aizumi Family Outing, we spent the day at Top Golf

because Aiden, Stefen and Cat like the sport, and it would be fun for Mary to join in since she had never picked up a club previously. Our next Family Outing was to the Japanese American National Museum, where we stamped in the Ireicho book our family members who were interned during World War II. It was a day to talk about the Gila River and Manzanar camps where our parents and grandparent were imprisoned.

This month, our Family Outing was to visit the USS Iowa, a battleship docked in San Pedro. Tad, my husband, was in the Navy and assigned to a different ship, the USS Canberra, which is called a heavy cruiser, but my husband said it was like a small battleship. Tad became our tour guide as we walked and climbed to the different levels of this huge vessel. Along the way, Papa pointed out places on the ship where memorable things happened to him.

He made them funny, even though they were actually very painful!!

Tad used to rush up the ladders to his shift through the hatches, which were usually left open; but that day they were closed, so he hit his head on the hatch door twice, which made us laugh. I am sure he saw stars, but he made it sound funny!! Or counting the regular three gun shots before stepping out on the ship deck, only this day the ship fired its guns four times. Without headphones to muffle the deafening sound, he retreated back inside the ship to recover as his ears were ringing from the blast.

These were all stories we heard around the dinner table at one time or another, but now we were actually seeing the settings of these stories . . . the hatch, the large guns, the mess hall where he didn't like the canned pear or fruit cocktail pie or the sleeping quarters, where you could not even turn around in your bed because the space was too tight.

At my age, it was a challenge to climb up and down these ship stairs with narrow steps. But there was always one of my sons waiting at the top to pull me up. And climbing down backwards, my husband was always watchful having his hand on my back. Those moments did not go unnoticed by me as I felt the love of

my family to protect me. Even the smallest moments can be filled with sweet memories.

I loved watching Stefen walk with his father, intently listening as Tad pointed out what everything was on the ship. I loved watching Aiden, Mary and Stefen's partner, Cat, taking pictures to capture moments and hearing Aiden at the end of the outing saying, "Today was cool!!" And I loved Papa talking about how the smells and the memories came flooding back as he strolled the deck. This was a part of his life that he was sharing with his sons and their partners. It was history being passed on.

We are already looking forward to our next Family Outing Day. Aiden's wife, Mary, will get to share something that she would like to

do. I can't wait to see what she will choose. She loves nature, Disney, and recently, she and Aiden went ax throwing for their date night. If she chooses ax throwing, which makes me a bit nervous, I will smile and do my best to learn to throw the ax.

I want to always keep my heart and mind open. The older I get, the more precious these family times are to me. They also remind me that no matter my age, adventure and new learnings still await me . . . as long as I welcome them in.

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."



The Aizumi family in front of 16-inch battleship guns during their Family Outing Day onboard the USS Iowa

PHOTO: COURTESY OF MARSHA AIZUMI

JACL'S NCI INTERNS ON THEIR WORK EXPERIENCES

By Christa Cheng and Brandon Takahashi

This summer, JACL hosted two interns as part of Kizuna's Nikkei Community Internship program, Christa Cheng and Brandon Takahashi. Cheng is a four-year political science major at the University of California, San Diego, who is aiming to apply to law school following graduation. Takahashi is a second-year student at Northwestern University, where he is studying environmental sciences and is considering a career in the renewable energy field. The NCI program places college students with various Japanese American community organizations and gives interns the opportunity to network, build professional skills and directly impact their communities with the intention of empowering the next generation of leaders.

Christa Cheng

Interning with the JACL national team this summer was an unforgettable experience that taught me invaluable lessons about the expansiveness and strength of the Nikkei community nationwide. I'm incredibly



Christa Cheng and her grandfather, Yukio Kawaratani, at July's JACL National Convention

PHOTO: KRIS IKEJIRI

grateful for the opportunities I had to directly experience the inner workings of a nonprofit, connect with civil rights leaders and professionals from around the country and develop a greater understanding of the rich heritage we share as Japanese Americans.

As the JACL National Convention intern, I assisted national staff with preparations, as well as with running the event itself. In the weeks leading up to convention, I created the theme for the photo contest, mapped attractions and restaurants in Little Tokyo for convention attendees and put together a memorial video honoring notable JACL members who had passed away in the past two years.

I also had the opportunity to explore JACL partner organizations that corresponded to my personal and career interests through attending their virtual meetings, such as the National Council of Asian Pacific

Americans' Immigration Committee and Tsuru for Solidarity.

Meeting civil rights leaders from around the nation virtually and connecting with individuals who shared similar passions for immigrant human rights and international affairs was an eye-opening experience that I would not have had otherwise.

The National Convention itself was by far the most memorable part of the internship. Running the registration table allowed me to meet many attendees, as well as get to know the rest of the national staff, who I had previously worked with primarily virtually.

Convention was filled with opportunities to meet people from many different backgrounds and fields of expertise. While I went into convention knowing almost no one outside of the staff team, I found that attendees and presenters alike were incredibly friendly and approachable.

I'm especially grateful to people

like Ken Inouye, who went out of his way to introduce Brandon and I to many professionals and friends on the first night of convention at the Welcome Reception. Throughout convention, I was able to meet with numerous attorneys, politicians and professionals involved in international affairs who provided insight into career paths I am currently interested in pursuing. It was also valuable sitting in on a portion of the National Council session and directly observing the meeting proceedings and passage of resolutions.

One of the most meaningful parts of convention for me was attending the Tule Lake workshop. My grandfather, Yukio Kawaratani, was incarcerated at the Tule Lake camp as a child, and it was powerful hearing him and the rest of the panel speak about their experiences and the hardship they endured both during and after incarceration.

Given the historically tenuous relationship between the JACL and Tule Lake survivors, it was inspiring to see reconciliation in action, hearing my grandfather share his story and speaking to the other panelists after the workshop.

My internship with the JACL has left me not only with a greater understanding of avenues for connection and meaningful dialogues within the Nikkei community, but also a desire to see this community grow. In the coming years, I hope to see the JACL leverage its nationwide acces-

sibility to promote ways to engage with Japanese American culture and like-minded individuals, particularly for youth and areas without large Japanese American populations.

I've learned so much from my time with the JACL, and I'm looking forward to continuing the relationships I've forged during the internship, sharing what I've learned with others and furthering my involvement in the Nikkei community as part of the San Diego JACL chapter.

Brandon Takahashi

During my time at the JACL, I had the opportunity to meet so many changemakers within the Japanese American community who have fought and continue to fight for civil rights across the country. Being able to listen to the experiences of these inspiring individuals, in addition to the lessons and guidance provided by JACL staff throughout my internship, helped me better understand my role in the Japanese American and Asian American communities going forward.

This summer, I served as JACL's intern in the membership department with Phillip Ozaki, director of development and membership, who served as my supervisor. My main assignment during my internship was to work on a youth marketing project to help JACL understand how to better recruit the next

» See YOUTH on page 12

2023 JACL NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

ESSAY TOPIC: This year's scholarship recipients were asked to respond to the following question:

'How do you think the JACL should continue to honor its diverse legacy that is strongly connected to the Japanese American internment experience while continuing to expand its reach to emerging Japanese American communities (i.e., individuals who may not have JA incarceration history, post-World War II immigrants, mixed-Japanese members, adoptees, those with a strong connection to Japan, etc.)?'

» **EDITOR'S NOTE:** All student responses reflect those that were submitted to the Pacific Citizen by the respective JACL Scholarship Committees.

FRESHMEN



LEO JANERT
JACL CHAPTER: NEW MEXICO
RECIPIENT OF THE HENRY & CHIYO
KUWAHARA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Notables
Leo Janert has performed Meibukan Goju-Ryu kata multiple times at the annual JACL Aki-Matsuri in Albuquerque, N.M. He has also been a prominent member of the Japanese Playgroup, a separate community that participated in regional JACL events through children's dances. Among his other interests, Janert is a dedicated teacher, and he currently is an instructor of a weekly Japanese GENKI 1 course. Among his other accomplishments, Janert was a National Merit Finalist in high school. As a high-achieving student, he has already earned 30 college credit hours from Central New Mexico Community College and the University of New Mexico. He has a keen interest and talent for chemistry and scientific inquiry. In addition, Janert was selected for a prestigious paid internship at the University of New Mexico. He will be attending Purdue, where he will be studying mechanical engineering.

Personal Statement

"The JACL community is the oldest Asian American civil rights organization, which has a diversity of those who have experienced the hardships of the Japanese American internment camps and those who joined due to their interests in Japanese culture. Due to time and the growth of the post-war

Japanese American community, fewer people are tied to the hardships that many faced during that time.

"To memorialize those who faced these hardships and ensure that such a past does not repeat itself, it is important for those who never experienced these hardships to be educated about history, especially the history of their community.

"The JACL should honor their past fights and victories for the rights of Asian Americans, and the current and new members can only do so after being informed of how terrible it was to be an unwelcome immigrant from that time period. It is important to understand this past to better appreciate the JACL's purpose and continue to make necessary changes to protect our rights.

"The JACL should help each local chapter to carry out WWII Japanese American memorial services, which allow us to formally appreciate our unsung heroes. If these events are broadcasted, more of the global populace would have access to these services to watch and learn what it was like to be a Japanese American during WWII and how difficult it was to make political steps after the war to acquire our rights, regardless of our race.

"By spreading the word and awareness of our past, we are able to better strengthen our purpose and goals with a stronger community linked toward the same cause."



KAI VU
JACL CHAPTER: PUYALLUP VALLEY
RECIPIENT OF THE HENRY & CHIYO
KUWAHARA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, SEATTLE

Notables

Kai Vu became involved with his JACL chapter in Puyallup starting in early elementary school. He has volunteered for numerous events such as the Puyallup Valley Fair, the 75th Remembrance of Executive Order 9066, Obon festivals, set up a Japanese American exhibit for the Greater Kent Historical Society and Kent Museum and participated in Tsuru for Solidarity.

Vu will be attending the University of Washington (Seattle) as a public health major with a concentration in biostatistics and computational epidemiology. He is currently a research intern in the biostatistics division at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center and will be extending his involvement in cancer research throughout the autumn quarter.

He is also working at UW Medicine as an outpatient phlebotomist and is hoping to apply to medical school in two years to fulfill his dream of becoming a physician and providing care to underserved populations. Vu has received two other JACL scholarships from the Seattle and Puyallup chapters.

Personal Statement

"My experiences with the JACL have contributed to my leadership skills and furthered my passions and interests in social justice and advocacy. I plan to continue my involvement throughout college.

"As a Gosei, I have faced the generational effects of the incarceration of my great-grandparents, Kazuko and George Yamada, during WWII. After their release follow-

ing three years of imprisonment, they were stripped of their dignity, and like many other Japanese Americans, were forced to forsake their cultural identities and assimilate into American culture to avoid discrimination and mistreatment.

"Though my grandma has bestowed core values of social justice, empowerment and awareness on me by teaching me about my heritage and the tragic effects of Japanese American incarceration from a young age, not everyone is granted the same opportunity. The need for proper education surrounding Japanese American history only increases as it has become evident that the new generation is much more open to learning about the experiences, customs and culture of those like Kazuko and George.

"To honor the diverse legacy of JACL and continue the organization's outreach is to recognize the mistreatment of Japanese Americans and the Americanization of Japanese culture. We must continue teaching everyone, regardless of their ties to the Japanese American concentration camps, about the

social injustice surrounding this tragic event and how it has detrimentally affected families and their communities. Educating youth on the Japanese American imprisonment experience will inspire more future leaders of my generation."



MAX VU
JACL CHAPTER: PUYALLUP VALLEY
RECIPIENT OF THE CWO-4 MITSUGI
MURAKAMI KASAI MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIP
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, SEATTLE

Notables

Max Vu has become



NMJACL Congratulates
Leo Janert
for receiving the 2023
Henry and Chiyo Kuwahara
Memorial Scholarship
GOOD LUCK AT PURDUE

Congratulations to our
2023 JACL National
Scholarship Recipients!

We are proud of all the work you have done and are excited that all three of our chapter scholarship recipients also received national scholarships. You are truly outstanding scholars and community members.

From the Puyallup Valley
JACL Chapter



Kai Vu
Henry & Chiyo
Kuwahara
Memorial
Scholarship



Max Vu
CWO4 Mitsugi
Murakami Kasai
(Ret) Memorial
Scholarship



Jet Yotsuuye
Henry & Chiyo
Kuwahara
Memorial
Scholarship

an invaluable asset of the Puyallup Valley JACL since he first joined in 2018. He has demonstrated his leadership skills, problem-solving skills and empathy in a variety of ways. He has also dedicated time to interact with many fellow members to learn about their lives before, during and after experiencing the WWII wartime incarceration of people of Japanese descent. Vu has developed a deep understanding of the challenges they have faced and provides them with support. He also remains committed to making a difference in the lives of others.

Vu intends to major in linguistics at the University of Washington (Seattle), while having a strong foundation in computer science. He is hoping to use his time at the university to learn more about artificial intelligence and machine learning. Vu is also interested in phonology and second-language acquisition, and he hopes to get involved in undergraduate research in these areas of study.

Personal Statement

“Growing up, I rarely indulged in this side of my identity for reasons beyond that of the typical American minority because being only one-quarter Japanese meant I’m entitled to only one-quarter of my culture. America cannot be prepared for its rapidly evolving racial complexity when the existence of multiculturalism continues to be condemned to this day.

“Let this example denote the current state of race in America. One that subjects children whose families were incarcerated to ‘Are you even Japanese if you can’t speak it?’ and ‘I love sushi!’ — sushi being synonymous with Hello Kitty, anime, ramen or anything else mainstream. But, bring up anything of significance to the Japanese American experience — like the incarceration camps — and you’ll be met with blank stares.

“My younger self had no concept of JACL as an organization, but rather a community I could turn to embrace my culture. I soon became an activist in my classroom during high school, using every opportunity given to me in my Teacher Academy class to educate peers on Japanese and Asian American

history with topics ranging from WWII to the model minority myth.

“I believe that JACL’s mission statement will continue to grow as long as there are racial barriers to confront. Just as JACL was once an organization dedicated to protecting the rights of Japanese Americans, then the rights of Asian American and Pacific Islanders and currently all minority communities affected by injustice, I believe the future of JACL is to help unite people of color in the ongoing fight for equality in America.”



REBECCA YONEMURA

JACL CHAPTER: SAN FERNANDO VALLEY
RECIPIENT OF THE HANAYAGI ROKUMIE
MEMORIAL CULTURAL SCHOLARSHIP
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,
SANTA BARBARA

Notables

Rebecca Yonemura has studied Nihon Buyo and performed at the Thousand Oaks High Performing Arts Center, Oxnard Obon Festival, Keiro Retirement Home, Cherry Blossom Festival and the Nisei Week Japanese Festival. She has also been both a participant and a staff member at the Kizuna Summer Camp, held at the JACL San Fernando location.

In addition, Yonemura has been involved with Girl Scouts, UNICEF and the Giving Spirit, where she has packed food and survival kits, made blankets for mothers in need and offered free tutoring.

Personal Statement

“At the time, I was around 8, and I had no idea what Topaz was or the horrors that occurred during the war. To me, the war had always been a distant idea that was

rarely brought up. But my aunt sat me down and began to tell her story. I felt shocked and angry at what my family went through and constantly questioned if or what could have been done.

“Getting to learn more about my culture helped me feel more connected to those generations before me. Amidst the struggles at the camps, my family still had each other, and they still had their spirit and culture. Despite being forced to give up every part of their life and being stripped of their dignity, the Japanese Americans still managed to keep their culture alive so future generations such as myself could still experience it.

“Keeping museums such as JANM or Go For Broke up and running helps spread awareness about the Japanese incarceration and culture. Having large social media platforms dedicated to these issues will help us share the stories of our family members. Initiating more camps or more cultural classes that could be held at JACL centers would help bring people of every generation together to celebrate our heritage. Every year in Little Tokyo, Nisei Week is held. I’ve performed in Nisei Week every year since I was 3, and getting to share my culture through dance has been one of the most rewarding experiences.

“While it’s not always easy to engage people in talks about unjust equality during World War II, it’s important to spread the message. Even things as small as publicizing or sharing survivors’ stories will help make people more aware of the atrocities and will help share the sorrowful yet inspiring stories of those deeply affected by the war. While the past cannot be changed, the memories of those before us can live on forever.”



JET YOTSUUYE

JACL CHAPTER: PUYALLUP VALLEY
RECIPIENT OF THE HENRY & CHIYO
KUWAHARA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
TUFTS UNIVERSITY

Notables

Jet Yotsuuye has participated in multiple JACL events throughout his time with the organization.

Within the last two years, he has contributed to Puyallup JACL’s Day of Remembrance ceremonies for Camp Harmony.

Yotsuuye is a dedicated member of the Tacoma Buddhist Temple. He has served as both the treasurer and president in the Young Buddhist Assn. He is also a devoted individual who deeply cares for the Japanese American community and aspires to continue to make a difference wherever he goes.

He will be attending Tufts University as a computer science major with a minor in biology. While there, he hopes to be able to participate in a variety of labs and research opportunities within the school of engineering at Tufts to maximize his learning experience.

Personal Statement

“People who can share their experience within the internment camps firsthand like my grandpa are becoming few and far between; their stories and, consequently, their experiences have been passed down to future generations.

“Stories not only about injustice and betrayal, but also about the strength, determination and resilience that flourished within these camps. Stories that recognize the valiant efforts showcased by Japanese Americans and ensure that something like this will never happen again. Stories not only of the interned Japanese Americans, but also of those who fought in the European theater for America with the 442nd Regiment/100th Battalion, as well as the Nisei who contributed to the victory in the Pacific, despite the prejudice and unequal treatment they and their families have received.

“It is our job, as the next generation, to make sure that these stories are never forgotten and continue to educate the young, inspiring them to never stop no matter how low, difficult and challenging our politics and societal norms may sink.

“With the recent uprising in hateful protests sprouting anger, fear and doubt about the country’s future, it is of the utmost importance for social groups like JACL to speak up against social injustices by informing the public about our past wrongdoings and garner hope toward a more integrated and accepting future.

“Being very fortunate and grateful to be able to speak with my grandpa who has experienced the camps firsthand, I hope to continue to fulfill JACL’s mission of social justice and do my part in helping spread his, along with so many others, story not only to my children, but also to a larger audience to ensure these personal narratives are never forgotten.”

UNDERGRADUATE



LANA KOBAYASHI

JACL CHAPTER: SAN FERNANDO VALLEY
RECIPIENT OF THE HENRY & CHIYO
KUWAHARA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,
LOS ANGELES

Notables

Lana Kobayashi, a member of the JACL San Fernando Valley chapter, has been awarded the Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship to attend the University of California, Los Angeles, with a major in public affairs and a minor in social data science. Raised as a Shin-Nisei, she feels strongly about including newer Japanese transplants into the umbrella of “Japanese American” and uses her bilingual skills to help bridge gaps and assist those in need. She has been involved with the JACL at many levels, including as a leader in her school, within student government and athletic clubs.

Personal Statement

“I grew up in the Shin-Nikkei community and know many individuals who have aligned interests and passions with JACL. They would make outstanding contributions to our organization, shedding a new perspective on debated issues. On an individual level, I went back to my old Japanese school to promote JACL membership so more Shin-Nikkei will be educated on the JA community — a community that they are also a part of. I succeeded in getting 10 new members to sign up on the spot. Slowly but surely, I am making a difference in our community.

“Promoting open-mindedness and providing active opportunities for newer, ‘nontraditional’ Japanese Americans to join JACL will expand our outreach. A greater outreach means more members educated on the significance and impact of Japanese American history; members who will put forth more effort to preserve historic JA towns.

“As (Abraham) Lincoln



*Congratulations,
Becca*
on receiving the
Hanayagi Rokumie Memorial
Cultural Scholarship!

*We love you!
Mom, Dad, Kayla & Lucy*

once said, 'United we stand, divided we fall.' We must open our arms to the emerging Japanese American population and embrace them. Together, we are stronger."



GRACE MATAYOSHI
JACL CHAPTER: FLORIN-SACRAMENTO VALLEY
RECIPIENT OF THE HENRY & CHIYO KUWAHARA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO

Notables

Grace Matayoshi is currently a student at California State University, Sacramento, where she is pursuing a double major in social work and Asian Studies with a concentration in Japanese. She excels in her studies and has been on the Dean's List every semester.

Personal Statement

"I do believe that, nationally, Japanese American youth need some mentoring, funding and avenues to pursue in terms of connecting Japanese Americans in a way that helps them research their roots without having to field politics because we want to find and appreciate a connection to one another over shared history and culture."



NICOLLETTE TANINO-SPRINGSTEEN
JACL CHAPTER: MILE HIGH
RECIPIENT OF THE DANIEL & IRENE IRITANI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
THE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

Notables

Nicollette Tanino-Springsteen is from Lakewood, Colo., and she is a fifth-generation (Gosei) Japanese American. She is currently attending the University of Denver, where

she is majoring in environmental science. For the last seven years, she has done volunteer work at her local Mile High chapter, helping with events such as the Day of Remembrance and Tsuru for Solidarity activities. In summer 2020, she helped revive the Mile High chapter newsletter by researching, writing and editing content. And in 2021, she became the representative for the National Youth/Student Council for the IDC.

Tanino-Springsteen is thankful for being part of JACL. What drew her to JACL many years ago was its devotion to honoring those affected by the internment of Japanese Americans during WWII. As a part of the organization, she was able to learn more about her family, who had been interned at Poston, Ariz. This has given her the opportunity to discover more about the culture and being Japanese American.

She is currently an intern at the Center for Sustainability Food Pantry.



EMILY YOSHI
JACL CHAPTER: SAN FRANCISCO
RECIPIENT OF THE HENRY & CHIYO KUWAHARA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

Notables

Emily Yoshi has a strong volunteer/advocacy stance and academic drive that has expanded into her college career. While maintaining a strong 3.5 GPA in high school, she was on the Principal's Honor Roll and earned Life Member status of the California Scholarship Federation. Now a student at the University of California, Davis, she earned a place on the Dean's Honor Roll for the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences for having a 4.0 GPA as a food sciences major.

Yoshi joined the First Looks Books Club in 2016, reading republished novels that potential book stores and local libraries could recommend to visiting readers. She also volunteers at the Davis Farmers Market and serves as a zero-waste volunteer with the USD Sustainability Office. In addition, she has been working with the USD Food Tech Club and Jap-

anese American Student Society, which often collaborates with the Sacramento JACL chapter.

In fact, Yoshi's involvement with the Sacramento JACL has led to her participation with the first Northern California/Western Nevada Pacific District Youth Board, where she focuses on and encourages more civic learning and aims to form strong connections in communities and strengthen advocacy efforts for the youth. She has also initiated a monthly newsletter and serves as editor. Her purpose is to address civil rights and social justice issues both in and outside of the NCWNP district.

As a third-generation Japanese/Vietnamese, she has struggled with a dual identity and has attempted to learn more about her Japanese and Vietnamese heritage, bringing both perspectives to the JACL.

Personal Statement

She sees the value in bringing communities together in advocacy and civil rights — not limiting to AAPI communities — and working with other cultural social justice organizations, "Comparing and contrasting the work that has been done, and stand in solidarity with them. We need diversity in our programs — our members and our ideas truly encompass the Japanese American experience today, and we must all work together

to change or keep being left in the past."



SAYA ZELEZNIK
JACL CHAPTER: SALT LAKE CITY
RECIPIENT OF THE SHIGERU NAKAHIRA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

Notables

Saya Zeleznik is currently a

student at the University of Utah majoring in biology with a minor in classical violin. She intends to work toward her PhD in biology and do genetic counseling as a way to pursue research and maintain connections with people in need.

At the university, she is the past director of service for the Asian American Student Assn., and she also founded and is the president of the Japanese American Students Assn. In addition, she is a violinist for the University of Utah Chamber Music and the University Philharmonia. Last year, Zeleznik organized a book club with AASA, JASA and the MUSE Project and was selected by MUSE to moderate a Q & A session with actor-activist George Takei during his visit to the campus to discuss his novel "They Called Us the Enemy."

Personal Statement

"I took an interest in trying to find meaning within my

Congratulations Grace on the Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship

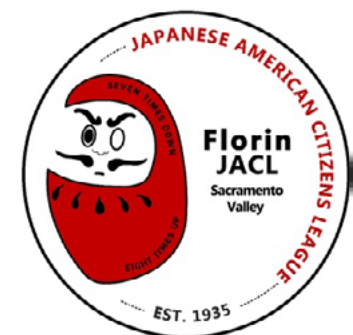
- Thank you JACL for the opportunities, encouragement, and support of the next generation.

~Matayoshi Family



Grace Matayoshi
Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship

Congratulations to our 2023 JACL National Scholarship Awardee!



San Fernando Valley JACL Proudly Congratulates Our 2023 Scholarship Recipients



Troy Kadonaga
2023 JACL Freshman Scholarship
Daniel Nagasawa Scholar Athlete Award



Lana Kobayashi
2023 JACL National Scholarship
Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship



Rebecca Yonemura
2023 JACL National Scholarship
Hanayagi Rokumie Memorial Cultural Scholarship

➤ mixed identity. I grew up feeling ‘white’ but being treated like an ‘other’ because of my mixed heritage. Many of my friends from mixed backgrounds have faced the same struggle and talk about having to eventually ‘pick a side’ when it comes to the duality of their heritage.

“When I arrived at the University of Utah, I felt free to explore the Japanese side of my heritage. I joined the Asian American Student Assn., and I even declared a minor in Japanese, met a diverse array of people, even other half-Japanese students through the organization.

“Finding others like me who could empathize with my experience growing up in Utah validated my existence. I didn’t have to be American, and I didn’t have to be Japanese. I was inspired to provide this kind of tailor-made community to other Japanese American students at the university by creating the Japanese American Student Assn.

“Taking responsibility for my community helped heal the part of me obligated to choose one-half of my identity. I worked to create a sense of pride in the mixed community and strengthen the connections between students. Transfer, exchange, mixed heritage, mixed culture and even adoptee students could find community and belonging through JASA.

“My knowledge of the Japanese American wartime experience, and acceptance of my own experience, started and ended with public education. Spreading awareness through literature and lesson plans in the public school system helps include students from all backgrounds in the collective Japanese American experience.

“By spreading awareness from a young age, we can create a strong diverse community of Japanese Americans and allies that can carry momentum to the national level. JACL has the unique ability to provide opportunities for people to find their community and validate experiences through outreach and increased awareness.

“Through my organization and my own personal actions, I strive for these same goals and work to connect the Japanese American

community in what ways I can. I hope to continue this positive cycle of healing, learning and finding community.”

GRADUATE



RYAN CHIOU
JACL CHAPTER: CHICAGO
RECIPIENT OF THE HENRY & CHIYO KUWAHARA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
ALBANY MEDICAL COLLEGE

Notables

Ryan Chiou completed his undergraduate education at Washington University in St. Louis, where he was active in volleyball, hip-hop and the Dance Marathon. After graduation, he matriculated at Albany Medical College, where he is pursuing his M.D. with an emphasis on clinical oncology.

At Albany Medical College, Chiou is active in working with youth as a snowboard instructor for children with disabilities, hosting hip-hop dance workshops at a local homeless shelter and creating opportunities for children and teenagers to enjoy a safe space for recreation. Somehow, he also finds time to pursue his studies in medicine as well.

Personal Statement

Chiou’s interest in pediatric oncology arose from watching his younger brother suffer from, and eventually die, from acute lymphoblastic leukemia. As he so eloquently stated in his application: “In the 15 years that followed (the death of his brother), my passion and relentless determination to become a pediatric oncologist, specializing in

neuroblastoma, continued to grow. Craving knowledge about medicine, I eagerly read articles about neuroblastoma, long before I even knew what half the words meant, and I intently shadowed physicians in high school.

“Research taught me to be both patient and persistent in my work, especially when dealing with something as complex as cancer. Although I found research fascinating and loved building my knowledge on cancer, I yearned for the patient care aspect of treatment that I found more meaningful and rewarding.”



PHILLIP COX
JACL CHAPTER: NEW ENGLAND
RECIPIENT OF THE HENRY & CHIYO KUWAHARA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Notables

Phillip Cox is a member of the New England JACL, where he connected with Changing Tides, a Japanese American mental health organization that utilizes an open forum to discuss mental health issues. This work then expanded from his local chapter to the entire East Coast.

Cox also helped start the Moderna Asian and Pacific Islander Employee Resource Group to bring awareness and outreach to different cultures within the workplace. He also worked on a team at Moderna, where he assisted in developing the Covid-19 vaccine.

Personal Statement

“In the nation, there are so many unique stories, experiences and cultures that truly shape who the Japanese American people are. I’ve seen it first-hand through my experiences living on both the West and East Coast. Despite all the differences, community among Japanese Americans is a constant. We welcome others despite differences, support each other through challenging times and celebrate culture vehemently.

“While my motivations and passion for health care remain strong, my interests in supporting STEM education and my Japanese American community are not lost. An MBA will also give me the toolset and experiences needed to contribute and advise nonprofits, better understand international diplomacy and relationships and finally enact change on a national level.”



MATTHEW FARRELLS
JACL CHAPTER: TWIN CITIES
RECIPIENT OF THE HENRY & CHIYO KUWAHARA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, CARLSON SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

Notables

Matthew Farrells has been a member of JACL since 2007 and served the JACL in a myriad of ways throughout that time. He is a long-standing member of the JACL and currently belongs to the Twin Cities chapter. Through

his experience with JACL, he has served as a local chapter board member, Midwest District youth chair, National youth chair, National secretary/treasurer (twice), National vp of planning and development and Kakehashi Program supervisor/chaperone; he currently serves on the Investment Policy Committee.

Professionally, he has successfully obtained his Chartered Financial Analyst, a number of securities licenses and has a goal to become a certified financial planner.

Personal Statement


“The JACL should continue to honor its diverse legacy, which is strongly connected to the JA incarceration experience, while continuing to expand its reach to emerging JA communities in several ways. The organization largely conducts human and civil rights advocacy work that not only protects members within the JA community, but all those who face social injustice.

“To ensure the organization continues to prosper and grow, it should focus on outreach to emerging JA communities and focus on these three areas:

“The first area includes conducting community building activities at the local, regional and national levels. Key examples of these activities include chapter cultural and social activities, district events and promoting the Kakehashi Program. The second area includes education and training with the goal of converting members from being passive participants of the community to being more active in social justice work. The third area includes leveraging the JACL’s legacy of the incarceration experience to conduct civil rights advocacy activities locally and nationally. These three areas of focus help fill the JACL’s pipeline of actively engaged JA members, regardless of their individual family history related to incarceration during WWII.



Congratulations
Phillip
on receiving the
Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara
Memorial Scholarship



Love,
Cox Family

We're so proud of you!

JACL Chicago congratulates
Ryan Chiou on receiving
the Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial
Scholarship and all of our
chapter scholarship recipients:

- Katie Hill (Tomihiko Scholarship)**
- Kimiko Darcy (Tomiyama Scholarship)**
- Keshav Ghandi (Iwaoka Scholarship)**
- Ella Ng (Iwaoka Scholarship)**
- Elijah Nishimura (Japanese Mutual Aid Society - Miyasaki Scholarship)**
- Anisa Bin-Walid (Yoshino Scholarship)**



“The first area of outreach to emerging JA community members is to focus on community building. Community building works to build a sense of community for like-minded people or those with similar interests.

“Local chapter social events and programs that outreach to community members, both those with family histories with incarceration experiences and those without, are important to create that sense of community at the local level. The districts can then focus their programming on activities that foster a regional sense of community for its chapter members.

“The Kakehashi Program is also another way to create a sense of community for JA students nationally. The Kakehashi Program caters toward JA students regardless of their family’s involvement in the incarceration experience. These programs draw in new JAs and introduce them to the important legacy of the JACL and the JA incarceration experience.

“The second area is to offer education and training opportunities to members. . . . It also involves more sophisticated civil rights advocacy education and training.

“These education and training opportunities should appeal to all members of the JA community while also highlighting the importance of the JACL, its legacy and the advocacy work it conducts.

“One could argue that this opportunity is one of the most important to bridge the connection between members’ journey from passive engagement through social/cultural involvement to the important advocacy work of the organization, which supports all communities and its members who face racial and social injustice.

“The third area moving toward engaging all JA community members is to focus on the civil rights advocacy work of JACL and involve and engage all members in these activities. The advocacy work of JACL supports all those who face racial and social injustice, including JAs, pan-Asians and other communities of color.

“This important work is the core of JACL’s purpose. One example of how advocacy work cuts across various groups within the JA community regardless of family legacies is during the Covid-19 pandemic, there was a surge of anti-Asian hate within the United States.

“The ability of the JACL to advocate on behalf of the members of the community and leverage the historical legacy and benefit to those regardless of their own family legacies, should foster further engagement by emerging JA community members. The strength

of the JACL largely hinges on its historical legacy but draws in others by the social justice work it conducts.

“In summary, by emphasizing these three areas, the JACL can reach out to all members of the JA community while preserving and leveraging the organization’s historical legacy of the WWII incarceration experience.”

CREATIVE ARTS



LENA NEWLIN
JACL CHAPTER: MILE HIGH
RECIPIENT OF THE HENRY AND CHIYO
KUWAHARA MEMORIAL CREATIVE ARTS
SCHOLARSHIP
UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

Notables

Lena Newlin will be attending the University of Wyoming to achieve a master’s degree in fine arts, creative writing, degree. She is currently a member of the Mile High JACL chapter and is driven toward preserving the legacy of her Japanese American ancestors.

Personal Statement

“JACL can honor the legacy of the past by continuing to excavate and explore the deep roots and contributions of Japanese Americans in this country. Whether they arrived before WWII or after WWII, whether they were incarcerated or not, Japanese Americans of the past have important stories that need to be preserved, that need to be retold. Through events like Day of Remembrance and partnerships with other JA organizations, JACL can help preserve JA heritage and history.

“JACL can advocate for and support social justice issues in the present by engaging with the diverse and evolving Japanese American communities including, but not limited to, people with and without incarceration history, new immigrants, adoptees, and mixed-race identities.

“Through events like the JACL convention, in-person and virtual programs and pilgrimages, Japanese Americans of diverse identities and

backgrounds can be reached and connected. Additionally, JACL can build solidarity across communities of historically marginalized people to gain social and political capital and create change in response to current social justice issues.

“JACL can plan and educate for the future by engaging with younger generations and inspiring them to be involved. Through the JACL youth programs, mentoring, scholarships and use of social media and other technology, our future leaders can help create a more equitable and just future as they carry on the legacy of honoring the past and as they engage in social justice activism in the present.

“As a hapa Yonsei, I feel very connected to this vision for JACL and am personally working within this framework. I am honoring the legacy of the past and my ancestors by going to graduate school and writing a book about my family history; I am working to understand the impact of intergenerational trauma and reconcile my identity and the anti-Asian hate of the present; and I am working to educate my quapa Gosei children about their heritage because they are our future.”

STUDENT AID



STEPHANIE ANDO
JACL CHAPTER: SILICON VALLEY
RECIPIENT OF THE DR. GEORGE GORO

AND NETTIE MURAMOTO MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIP
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Notables

Stephanie Ando, who is attending the University of Washington where she is working on her masters of library and information science, began her JACL involvement through contacts when at UC Santa Barbara. “The following summer, I joined the San Jose JACL chapter and met fellow young Japanese Americans looking to grow closer to our ancestry. I have since moved to San Francisco, Calif., and am excited to continue growing with the JACL as its headquarters is a quick Muni bus ride away.” She continues, “The power of being in a room filled with fellow Japanese Americans my age completely changed my perception of my identity and validated the isolation I have felt throughout my entire life. . . . As an act of gratitude toward my ancestors and Japanese American political activists that made my safe travel to Japan possible, I will continue bridging the gap between Japanese and Japanese Americans so our descendants will know a stronger community.”

Personal Statement

Ando’s comments about JACL’s legacy and reach into communities are well spoken. “The JACL’s strong ties to the Japanese American internment experience is important for the organization’s growth, but as generations pass, the accessibility to Japanese and Japanese American cultural education must expand. While events may spark interest in the JACL’s legacy, maintaining engagement from Japanese Americans is difficult, especially as the population grows in diversity.”

Speaking of our intergenerational and diverse mixed-Japanese future: “The JACL is building the bridge back to our ancestry through programs like the Kakehashi Project but should expand by connecting generations domestically. As diversity grows in cities across the United

States, more Japanese Americans are mixed-race. We are learning how to navigate our multiracial identities together, struggling with the same internal battle between how much of our Japanese heritage we are allowed to claim.

“Emerging Japanese American communities, such as mixed-Japanese members or adoptees, may feel as though they do not have the right to claim their Japanese American identity as traditions are lost through generations. Programming that teaches traditions that not every Japanese American family has access to such as tea ceremonies, Girl’s Day and other festivals and holidays, bridges a generational gap and creates a shared experience, which is central to the idea of culture.

“Younger, mixed-race or adoptee Japanese Americans may feel intimidated participating in events without learning the proper history, so educational events for those without strong ties to their Japanese heritage offers a strong sense of community through transgenerational knowledge.

“As an Asian American information professional, I plan to be an equitable resource and advocate for Asian American collections so every student is able to access archival records reflecting their identities and interests. . . . With this degree, I hope to work as an archivist to bring information directly to marginalized communities.”

PACIFIC CITIZEN

Special Issues Coming Soon

November - VETERANS Special
Celebrate or acknowledge the Armed Forces or the Veterans in your life by placing their name and photo in our newspaper and forever saved in our archives!
Prizes start at \$30 per 2"x1"

December - Holiday Special Issue
Deadline: HALLOWEEN

Great fundraiser opportunity for Chapters!!
Holiday issue packages have been sent to all JACL Chapters.
Please contact Susan if your Chapter has not received anything.

Contact Susan
(213) 620-1767 ext. 3
email: BusMgr@PacificCitizen.org

Congratulations from Silicon Valley JACL!

Stephanie Ando

2023 Recipient of the Dr. George Goro and Nettie Muramoto Memorial Student Aid Scholarship



Stephanie stamping the treicho at the 2023 JACL Convention



Stephanie in Japan

JAVA AWARDS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

The organization awards \$21,500 in support of continuing the legacy of World War II Nisei military service and encouraging future military and public service.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Japanese American Veterans Assn. announced recently 12 winners of its annual scholarship and awards program for 2023. Outstanding students from around the country applied for the scholarships, which continue the legacy of the Nisei service to country.

The \$3,000 Daniel K. Inouye Memorial Scholarship honoring the late U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye's iconic career of military and civilian public service was awarded to **Elaine Oyama** of San Antonio, Texas.



The granddaughter of George Oyama, 442nd RCT, Elaine Oyama is pursuing a master of science in clinical mental health counseling at the University of Texas, San Antonio. As evidence of her commitment to her personal goals, she has served as a peer mentor as well as a victim advocate at the Alamo Area Rape Crisis Center.

The \$3,000 Ishio Founder's Scholarship, named for JAVA's



founder, the late Col. Phil Ishio, his wife, Constance, and their son, Douglas Ishio, is awarded to a student who has completed two or more years of college/university. The Ishio Founder's Scholarship was awarded to **Justin Abe** of Honolulu, Hawaii, the great-grandnephew of Seichi Tsugawa, 442nd RCT. Currently, Abe is attending medical school at the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawaii.

The Kiyoko Tsuboi Taubkin Legacy Scholarship, a \$2,000 award in honor of a longtime patron of JAVA, is awarded to a student who has completed at least one year in college/university. This year's scholarship was awarded to **ToriAnn Abe** of Honolulu,



Hawaii. She is the granddaughter of Frank Tokio Inouye, 100th Battalion, Company C. Abe is pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in communications at the University of Southern California and hopes to work in occupational therapy.

The following JAVA Memorial Scholarships were awarded to graduating high school seniors, each in the amounts of \$1,500:

- **Cody Gima** received a JAVA Memorial Scholarship in honor of Dr. Americo Bugliani and his liberator, Paul Sakamoto, 442nd RCT. Gima is the grandnephew of Shinye Gima, 308th Intelligence

Service Dept./MIS. He is from Kula, Hawaii, and will attend the University of Portland, Ore., where he will be studying computer science.

- **Emi Goto** received a JAVA Memorial Scholarship in honor of Sgt. Ben Kuroki, a gunner in the U.S. Army Air Corps, 505th Bombardment Group. Goto is the daughter of JAVA member Capt. (Dr.) Mark Goto, MC, USN (Ret). From Gulf Breeze, Fla., Goto will attend the University of Texas at Permian Basin (Odessa), where she will study business.

- **Jameson Johnston** received a JAVA Memorial Scholarship in honor of Ranger Grant Jiro Hirabayashi, MIS. Johnston is the son of JAVA member George Johnston. From Culver City, Calif., he will attend Santa Monica College in California and plans to study environmental science.

- **Brian Kamemoto** received a JAVA Memorial Scholarship in honor of U.S. Army Col. Jimmie Kanaya, a three-war veteran of WWII, Korea and Vietnam. Brian is the grandson of Harry Ishibashi, 442nd RCT, and is from Seattle, Wash. He will attend California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, and plans to study business administration.

- **Brayden Lawrence** received a JAVA Memorial Scholarship in honor of Victor Matsui, MIS, and his wife, Teru Matsui. Brayden is the great-grandson of Tadashi Frank Mouri Inouye, 442nd. From McKinney, Texas, he will attend the California Institute of the Arts in Santa Clarita and pursue a bachelor of fine arts in theatre.

- **Mischa Mikami** received a JAVA Memorial Scholarship in honor of past JAVA President and Korean War veteran Robert Nakamoto. Mikami is the granddaughter of

Joe Mikami, 442nd RCT, and is from Sacramento, Calif. She will attend the University of California, Berkeley, and plans to study data science.

- **Carlos Shimabukuro** received the Tak Furumoto Scholarship, sponsored by JAVA member and Vietnam veteran Tak Furumoto. Shimabukuro is the son of JAVA member LCDR Carlos A. Shimabukuro, USNR, and is from Stafford, Va. He will attend the College of William and Mary and plans to study business.

- **Kyle Yamazaki** received a JAVA Memorial Scholarship in honor of Maj. Orville Shirey, 442nd RCT, and his wife, Maud Shirey. Yamazaki is the great-grandson of Dave Kawagoye, 442nd RCT. From Torrance, Calif., he will attend Chapman University in Orange, Calif., where he plans to study business and finance.

- **Ian Yogi** received the Izuno Family Scholarship in honor of JAVA member and Korean War veteran Dr. Takumi Izuno, who served in the U.S. Army 511th MIS. The grandnephew of Matsuichi Yogi, 442nd RCT, he is from Mililani, Hawaii, and will attend the University of Portland in the fall. Yogi plans to study biology and eventually attend medical school.

JAVA thanks its Scholarship Committee led by Chair Chris DeRosa and members Dawn Eilenberger, JD, and former deputy director of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence; Maj. Kay Izumihara, USAR; Capt. (Dr.) Cynthia Macri, MC, USN (Ret); Kaison Tanabe, Friend of JAVA; and LTC Robert Vokac, USA (Ret).

To learn more about JAVA scholarships, please visit <https://java-us.org/JAVA-Memorial-Scholarship-Program>.

AGING » continued from page 3

Stop procrastinating. There's no disadvantage to you because you can appoint yourself the trustee of your own trust and remain in full control. If you already have a trust, it wouldn't be a bad idea to have it reviewed every few years.

Durable Power of Attorney for Assets (DPOA): If you develop Alzheimer's and lose the thinking abilities needed to soundly make decisions related to the management of one's affair, YOU choose who will be your attorney. Without one, families must resort to seeking guardianship in court. This is an expensive and difficult process.

Health Care Power of Attorney: The HCPOA specifies the surrogate decision-maker for health care and often designates a back-up surrogate as well. This surrogate decision-maker is usually a family member, a close friend or sometimes a professional fiduciary. The HCPOA is often included as part of an advance directive document (sometimes called a living will) that may include additional information regarding preferences for care at the end of life.

In conclusion, advance planning for aging can help if there is a sudden illness or other unexpected quick decline in mental abilities. Planning ahead will help to minimize the stress, financial problems, family strife and health harms that people often experience when these challenges come along and no planning ahead has been done. All planning should involve conversation with family members and others likely to be involved in a person's age-related life challenges.

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.

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In MEMORIAM

Minoru Tonai Dies at 94

Nisei was a longtime leader in L.A.'s Japanese American community.

By P.C. Staff

Minoru Tonai of Woodland Hills, Calif., died on Sept. 4. He was 94.

An active member of Los Angeles' Japanese American community, Tonai was involved in such organizations as the Japanese American National Museum as a board member, the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center as its president, the Japanese American Korean War Veterans as its president and treasurer, the UCLA Foundation, UCLA's Business Economic Council, the Amache Historical Society and Terminal Islanders.

In a news release, the Manzanar Committee mourned Tonai's death.

"I've known Min since 1991, when I met him at UCLA when I was the coordinator of UCLA's year of events commemorating the '50th Anniversary of Japanese American Internment,'" said Gann Matsuda of the Manzanar Committee. "Min was a key player in helping organize our opening ceremony in Royce Hall, especially in identifying and locating many of the approximately 200 former UCLA students who were forced to leave the university before completing their studies because of the forced removal."

A son of Issei immigrants Toyone and Gengoro Tonai, Min Tonai was born in San Pedro, Calif., and with older siblings Ichiro, Mizuyo and Rumi, and younger brother Yutaka, grew up on Los Angeles County's Terminal Island. He was profiled in the Nov. 6, 2020, issue of the *Pacific Citizen*.

After Japan's military attacked the U.S. Navy at Pearl Harbor in the territory of



Min Tonai

PHOTO: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON

Hawaii on Dec. 7, 1941, the Tonai family would be uprooted and incarcerated — along with thousands of other U.S. citizens of Japanese ancestry and legal permanent resident Japanese nationals ineligible at the time to become naturalized U.S. citizens — first at an assembly center, then at one of the 10 concentration camps operated by the federal government's War Relocation Authority. In the case of the Tonais, it was Amache WRA Center in Colorado.

According to Min Tonai's recollection that appeared in the *P.C.*, his father was arrested on the evening of Dec. 7, 1941.

"At 8:30 that evening, the doorbell rings, and there's two guys in black suits. They said they wanted to talk with Gengoro — my father," Tonai said. "I said, 'Just a moment please.' "I knock on his bedroom door, and I said, 'There's two hakujin that want to talk to you.'

"My father comes out of his room wearing his three-piece suit, put on his overcoat, put on his hat and went out the door with them.

"They told me, 'We just want to talk with him at the Los Angeles County Jail for one hour.

But we never saw him until 1944." Until he was reunited with his family in Colorado, the Tonai patriarch had been shuttled to several different federal incarceration sites: Terminal Island Penitentiary, Ft. Missoula, Mont., Livingston, La., and Santa Fe, N.M.

After WWII and returning to Los Angeles, Tonai graduated from high school and enrolled at the University of California, Los Angeles. His eventual marriage to Mary Mitsuko Endo was delayed by America's entry into the Korean War. Tonai was drafted into the Army and was stationed for a time in Japan, where he was able to visit relatives. But it was only a matter of time until he was sent to Korea, where he served as a combat medic.

After his stint in the Army, Tonai returned to Los Angeles, completed his business administration degree at UCLA in 1955, got married in 1956 and started a family. Min and Mary Tonai were married for 60 years, and they raised three children. One of the challenges he remembered was finding a job after graduating.

Tonai told the *Pacific Citizen* that despite earning grades of B+ or better in his major, his job interviews were stymied by the racial attitudes of the time. "I was more than qualified. But the companies would say, 'Don't call us, we'll call you.' That was a kiss off. I knew that." He recalled how one company that liked his grades, extracurricular activities and personality — but the rep told him, "We can't hire Orientals."

Delayed but undeterred, Tonai told the *Pacific Citizen*

that he took a bookkeeping job, which led to a job as a cost accountant, which would then pave the way to earning titles like VP of finance. At Symbolics Inc., he would serve as its chief financial officer.

Accolades would follow in the years to come. In 1999, Tonai was Nisei Week Japanese Festival's grand marshal; in 2008, he received Nisei Week's Nikkei Pioneer Award; in 1998, he received the UCLA Asian American Studies Center's Lifetime Achievement Award; and in 2005, he received the JACCC's Chairman's Award.

The Japanese government awarded him its Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette honor in 2015 for promoting the status

of Nikkei community in the U.S. and aiding in the mutual understanding between the nations.

Tonai was predeceased by his wife, Mary, in 2017, and his siblings. He is survived by his daughters, Susan Tonai Drews and Teresa Tonai, and son, John Tonai, as well as sisters-in-law, Yae Nagai, Elinor Sakado and Carole Endo; brother-in-law, George Endo; and many nieces, nephews and their families.

A celebration of life for Min Tonai is scheduled for 2 p.m. on Oct. 14 at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, in Little Tokyo in downtown Los Angeles. ■

Scientist Sam Araki Dies at 92

Former president of Lockheed Missiles & Space

Sam Araki of Saratoga, Calif., died Aug. 22. He was 92.

Born Minoru Araki to Misano and Sakai Araki, his family and he were incarcerated at the Poston WRA Center in Arizona in WWII.

Sam Araki had served as the executive vp of Lockheed Corp. Missiles & Space Systems Group from 1988-95 and as president of Lockheed-Martin Missiles and Space from 1995 until his retirement in 1997. He spent 38 years at the company.

Trained as a mechanical engineer at Stanford University, where he also earned a master's degree, Araki was responsible for the development of the Corona satellite system, which was used for surveillance and reconnaissance during the Cold War. He

served as the system engineer for the Agena spacecraft's upper stage for the Corona launch vehicle. Corona is considered "the single most important source of intelligence on Soviet strategic forces."

Araki was a fellow of the American Astronautical Society, a member of the National Academy of Engineering, a recipient of the Von Braun Award for Excellence in Space Program Management and a National Academy of Engineering Draper Prize winner. He was an Asian American Engineer of the Year. The National Reconnaissance Office named him a Pioneer of National Reconnaissance.

Post-Lockheed, Araki started ST-Infonox Inc. and helped found Ecopia Farms.

— P.C. Staff Report

TRIBUTE

ALICE NINOMIYA



Alice Yoshiko Ninomiya, 91, born April 3, 1932, in Richmond, Calif., to Tamaki Ninomiya and Hayane Kanagawa, eldest of six children, died peacefully on May 23, 2023. Interned at Amache, Colo., during WWII, she returned to Richmond where she graduated from Richmond Union High School and then received a degree in history from UC Berkeley and her teaching credential from San Francisco State. Alice taught kindergarten and third grade at

Dover School in San Pablo until her retirement in 1985. A lifelong student, Alice enjoyed reading, cooking, traveling, YMCA workouts and studying art and music at the Richmond Adult School and Contra Costa College. She was active with the Berkeley Methodist United Church (BMUC), Contra Costa JACL and West Contra Costa Retired Educators (WCCRE).

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sept. 30 at 11 a.m. at BMUC. To attend on Zoom, send a request to bmuchurch@gmail.com. Memorial gifts can be made to Berkeley Methodist United Church, 1710 Carleton St., Berkeley, CA 94703 or WCCRE Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 703, El Cerrito, CA 94530.

PLACE A TRIBUTE

'In Memoriam' is a free listing that appears on a limited, space-available basis. Tributes honor your loved ones with text and photos and appear in a timely manner at the rate of \$20/ column inch.

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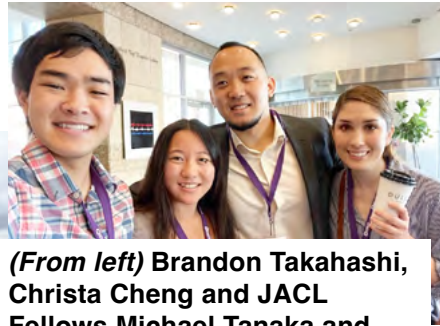
YOUTH » continued from page 4

generation of leaders in the Japanese American community.

With the help of Phillip, Membership Coordinator Ashley Bucher and Education and Communications Coordinator Matthew Weisbly, I conducted an online youth marketing survey for JACL youth members and JACL-affiliated youth.

After collecting over 100 responses from JACL youth, I analyzed the survey data and reinforced the data with testimonies from post-survey focus groups hosted on Zoom. I found these focus groups to be the most interesting part of the project, as not only did I receive more detailed feedback on how to increase youth membership, but I also was able to create personal connections with my attendees over our shared identities.

At the end of my internship, I synthesized my findings into a presentation and shared my findings with the JACL national staff at their weekly meeting. Through this project, I was able to see the need for intergenerational cohesiveness within JACL, but by talking to so



(From left) Brandon Takahashi, Christa Cheng and JACL Fellows Michael Tanaka and Bridget Keaveney

PHOTO: KRIS IKEJIRI

many passionate youth within the Japanese American community, I also became more hopeful that this community will continue to thrive.

As someone involved with marketing in student organizations, this project also provided me with skills to carry with me as I continue my academic and professional careers, such as how to write an effective marketing email through the Salsa Engage software, how to facilitate a proper small group dialogue and how use Microsoft Excel to analyze data more effectively.

In addition to my work with the membership team, my co-intern, Christa Cheng, also met individually with many of the JACL national staff members to connect

with them and learn about their role in the organization. Early in our internships, we met virtually Michael Tanaka and Bridget Keaveney, JACL's national fellows, and we learned about the work they do to represent JACL in the nation's capital.

It was interesting to see how many organizations JACL works with on a national level, and as an environmental science student, I appreciated hearing about JACL's collaboration with environmental organizations in Washington, D.C.

Thanks to Michael and Bridget, I was able to connect with some of these groups such as the Climate Initiative, where I learned about the intersectional ties between sustainability and social justice in Asian and Asian American communities.

The most memorable experience I had while interning at JACL was attending and staffing the National Convention in Little Tokyo. Throughout the week, Christa and I were assigned to help set up events, work the registration table and guide attendees through Little Tokyo.

During the convention, we finally met many of the national staff mem-

bers in person and spent time forming close bonds with staff members during meetings and meals. We also spent a lot of time getting to know the youth attendees at the convention, and it was great to converse with peers with a shared passion for the Japanese American community and civil rights.

I greatly appreciated having experienced attendees, such as Pacific Southwest District Gov. Ryan Yoshikawa, to introduce us to so many members of the JACL community while also walking us through programming such as the National Council meeting.

In addition to helping facilitate the convention, Christa and I were lucky enough to attend a lot of the special programming throughout the convention. In particular, watching the production of "Question 27, Question 28," hosted by Tamlyn Tomita, as well as David Ono's "Defining Courage" were truly unforgettable performances. Each show covered a different perspective of the Japanese American incarcerated during World War II. Both productions captured the harsh reality and depressing sentiments surrounding the incarceration and its injustices, and watching both made me evermore grateful for the resilience of those in the Japanese American community who paved the way for

me to be here today.

The biggest lesson I learned from my internship in JACL was how much capacity our community has to make change when we are united. Every individual I met during my internship, regardless of age or profession, showed so much pride in their Japanese American heritage, and I think this overarching sense of cultural unity is what makes JACL so special.

While I have always been committed to exploring and working in the Little Tokyo community, my time in JACL has inspired me to use my voice as an Asian American as I continue with my academic and professional career.

I am planning to become a member of the JACL Chicago chapter, where I hope to learn more about Asian American social justice in the Midwest. I will be forever grateful to the JACL for providing me with this incredible opportunity this summer, and I cannot think of a better organization to have my first professional experience with.

Christa Cheng and Brandon Takahashi will continue their studies at the University of California, San Diego, and Northwestern University, respectively. JACL wishes them all the best in their studies and future careers.

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