



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

**2016 JACL NATIONAL**

# SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

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‘Stamp Our Story’ Campaign Seeks  
Additional Congressional Support.



# THE 2016 NATIONAL JACL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The JACL Scholarship Program has had another fantastic year! In this special issue of the *Pacific Citizen*, the JACL is delighted to award \$74,000 to 28 deserving applicants in their respective categories. With so many well-qualified students, the future of JACL is bright!

This year, the student applicants were asked to choose a social or political event, nationally or internationally, from the past 12 months and detail how the JACL should have responded and why. As you read their responses on the following pages, I hope you are as inspired and proud of these aspiring community leaders as I am.

On behalf of the National JACL, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to JACL Regional

Director Patty Wada, who as program manager of the Scholarship Program ensures the successful implementation of this program, which has a direct and positively impactful effect on many of our most hopeful young leaders.

I'd also like to thank the two National JACL Scholarship Committees. These committees work diligently to review freshman and undergraduate, graduate, law, arts and financial need applications and include San Diego JACL and the Central California District Council, respectively. Those dedicated individuals serving as selection committee members reviewing the freshman applications and as a part of the San Diego JACL include Carol Kawamoto (chair), David Kawamoto, Susie Iguchi, Bran-

don Ishikata and Sidney Shiroma. Those who served on the undergraduate, graduate, law, arts and financial need selection committee include Roberta Barton (chair) of the Fresno chapter, Ralph Kumano of the Sanger chapter and Larry Ishimoto of the Tulare County chapter.

On behalf of the entire National JACL, we thank these committed individuals on a job well done and are particularly grateful to the

San Diego JACL for serving in this capacity over the past three years. We are very appreciative of the difficult and diligent work and great care that goes into reviewing all of the applications that are a part of this program and the ongoing JACL tradition of acknowledging our young leaders and scholars with scholarship support for their higher education.

I am thrilled that the JACL Scholarship Program continues to be so successful. We will soon begin the 2017 application process to recognize the next group of outstanding student leaders. As we wrap up the 2016 scholarship season, please join me in congratulating all of our award recipients.

*Sincerely,*

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



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>> All JACL members and P.C. Nonmember Subscribers that requested a digital PDF of the latest P.C. will receive an EMAIL from the P.C. containing a direct link to the latest issue.

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## A MOTHER'S TAKE

### WELCOME HOME — OKAERI 2016

By Marsha Aizumi

On Oct. 14 and 15, Okaeri 2016: A Nikkei LGBTQ Gathering returns to the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles. In the two years since the first Okaeri welcomed home so many to our community, I have seen a growing visibility of Asian Pacific Islander LGBTQ support across the nation. Here are just a few of the events that I am aware of:

- In 2016, Sacramento created gatherings for LGBTQ individuals and their families. Sacramento JACL, Florin JACL, Cal State Sacramento and PFLAG Sacramento were involved in the Asian Pacific Islander Queer Sacramento daylong gathering.
- Also in 2016, San Jose created Tadaima, which means "I'm home" in Japanese. Taking place at San Jose State University, Aiden and I were thrilled to be part of an opening plenary. Komo Gauvreau, a lead organizer for the event, not only attended Okaeri 2014 but was also one of the volunteers who spent the whole day with us.
- Chicago has started a monthly gathering of support and community. They have screened a movie, had a barbeque and created a safe space for API LGBTQ families



Okaeri 2016's planning committee includes (front row, from left) Alex H. Fukui, Traci Ishigo, Marsha Aizumi, Stephanie Nitahara and (back row, from left) Ray Fernandez, Nate Song, Carrie Morita, Dana Furuyama, Marian Sunabe, Eric Arimoto, Deanna Kitamura and Stan Yogi. Not pictured are Traci Kato-Kiriyama, Janet Uradomo, Sean Miura, Harold Kameya and Phil Shigekuni.

to meet, share and get support. Co-founder of this group JJ Ueunten attended Okaeri 2014 with their mom and both will be attending Okaeri 2016 as well.

- Seattle JACL organized FAMILY: An API LGBTQ Gathering in 2015. Attracting over 100 individuals as far away as Ohio, they are now in the planning stages of doing FAMILY 2.0 in 2017. Leading this work is Sarah Baker, who attended Okaeri

2014 and will return to our 2016 event.

- The Korean American community is now planning a national Korean American LGBTQ gathering in 2017 or 2018. Starting this month, they have created smaller local events to build capacity and movement toward the national event.

The partnerships that we have created with the JACL in many cities has been instrumental in growing this movement as you

can see. The stories that have come out of these events have fueled so many of us to continue to do this work, because we know what a difference that family and community can make to those who are struggling, feeling ashamed and losing hope.

At Okaeri 2016, we will begin on Friday night with a networking period, so people can meet new and old friends. On Saturday, we will open up with a keynote from Congressman Mike Honda, his daughter, Michelle, and his granddaughter, Malisa. There will be workshops or plenaries on family acceptance, faith, movement building, mental health, being transgender, intersections of Nikkei and LGBTQ, as well as other topics. An "unconference time" will allow individuals of like interests to meet together. A party will end a day of learning for those who have any energy left. You may see me briefly if I am still standing.

Please see the event website ([www.okaeri-losangeles.org](http://www.okaeri-losangeles.org)) for more details. Registration is now open, and no one will be turned away for lack of funds to register. We sold out in 2014, so anyone interested in attending should register soon.

I believe Okaeri 2016 will be another gathering of transformation, growth and welcoming those in the Nikkei LGBTQ community to a place of acceptance, healing and love. I will be there . . . I hope you will be there too . . .

*Marsha Aizumi is an advocate in the LGBTQ Community, on the PFLAG National Board and the author of the book "Two Spirits, One Heart: A Mother, Her Transgender Son and Their Journey to Love and Acceptance."*



## A YONSEI TRANSPLANTED

### THE HUMANITIES ARE WORTH STUDYING IN COLLEGE

By Matthew Ormseth

At times, it seems like a college degree costs more and is worth less than ever before. A degree from a private school will set you back a quarter of a million dollars; one from a public school runs less than that, but still in the range of \$100,000. And with more and more people graduating from college, a diploma is no longer any guarantee of a job.

It's little wonder so many of us in school are questioning why we're here. If college doesn't offer a surefire path to meaningful employment — or any employment, for that matter — why go?

When I first came to Cornell, I was showered with the usual humanities clichés ("We don't teach you what to think; we teach you *how* to think," etc.). As an English major, I've had my share of professors who've defended the humanities from condescension both real and imagined, faculty who sensed that their relevancy and their legitimacy were being eroded by the greater emphasis being placed on STEM.

And now, on the fourth and last lap of

my college education, I've had to reflect on what I've learned in my time here, and why I learned it.

I don't have the technical skills that my computer science or mechanical engineering classmates have. I don't have a clear-cut career path waiting for me, unlike my peers in Cornell's hotel school, who — by virtue of going to such a vocational-specific school — know exactly the industry they plan on entering and have ins with industry honchos.

A humanities degree doesn't offer you technical skills; it doesn't guarantee a job in a specific industry, or any industry for that matter. So, what's it worth? Why study language, literature, history and philosophy?

I don't have the answer — at least, not yet. But I can offer one reason why the humanities are worth studying in college: They allow you to look at things three-dimensionally, from not one vantage point but many, and they can help you comprehend the complexity of our world in all its competing ideologies, principles and moral codes.

I took a philosophy course as a freshman that exposed me to a whole spectrum of

thought spanning from the medieval ages to today. It made me realize that no two persons' intentions or motivations are ever identical; each of us operates in accordance with a unique set of values or morals that we consult in times of confusion. For some people, it might be a moral code rooted in their religion; for others, it might be one rooted in personal experience. It was a bit staggering, realizing that for every person on the globe there was an individual, tailored set of principles, beliefs, tenets — billions and billions of them.

I think the danger in studying the humanities for too long — or anything for too long — is that you'll begin to believe that your voice matters more than someone else's. That because you've spent more time reading, thinking and discussing, you deserve more of a say in things than a less-learned, less well-read person. It's something I see in my professors all the time, and something I'm beginning to see in my classmates, too.

Part of studying the humanities for me is realizing how small of a role you play in the scheme of things — no matter how advanced

or nuanced or logically-sound your personal moral or ethical or religious code is, that code only gets to decide what you, and you alone, think and do. You don't get to make other people's decisions for them. No matter how clever or informed or well read you are, you only get one vote in how the world behaves. That's been a difficult lesson for me to learn, but one that I'm working on. And I think that if I didn't study the humanities, I never could've accepted that.

I've heard too many of my STEM classmates ridicule "dumb" people — the government with its onerous regulations, taxpayers unwilling to fund new projects like Hyperloop, Luddite-like taxi drivers and truckers protesting autonomous vehicles — for holding back what they see as a wave of technology that will obliterate the world's existing problems. It's arrogance, and it's a failure to look at things from any perspective apart from their own.

They want to design self-driving trucks, but they don't want to, or are simply incapable of looking at things from the truckers' perspective, who will lose one of the last sources of a middle-class wage for people without college degrees. They want California to invest in the lightning-quick Hyperloop train, but they don't want to consider the project from the perspective of towns like Palmdale, which finds itself right in the middle of a proposed rail corridor but without a stop of its own. Palmdale residents stand to gain nothing but a train whizzing by

>> See COLLEGE on page 16



# SAN JOSE JACL AWARDS \$20,300 IN SCHOLARSHIPS



This year's scholarship recipients were (from left) Megan Yabumoto, Kristen Masada, Leila Nakasone, Christopher Takeuchi, Kylie Kuwada, Alison Shikada and Jemma Jio.

Seven high school seniors received \$20,300 in scholarships administered by the San Jose JACL during a luncheon held at the Issei Memorial Building on May 7. Following are the 2016 recipients: Jemma Jio of Prospect High School received the \$2,500 Phil Matsumura Community Scholarship and the \$500 Ada Y. Uyeda Memorial Scholarship. Her parents are Gary Jio and JoAnn Okabe Kudo.

Kylie Kuwada of Christopher High School received the \$1,000 Masuo B. Nakamura Memorial Scholarship. Her parents are Eric and Marah Kuwada.

Kristen Masada from Leland High School received the \$10,000 Oyama Family Foundation Scholarship (distribution is \$2,500 for 4 years). Her parents are Marvin and Debra Masada.

Leila Nakasone from Mt. Pleasant High School

received the \$500 Lanette Yoneko Hayakawa Memorial Scholarship.

Alison Shikada of Presentation High School received the \$3,000 Kenji Sakauye Memorial Scholarship. Her parents are Ed and Ruth Shikada.

Christopher Takeuchi of Pioneer High School received the \$300 San Jose JACL Chapter Award. His parents are Roy and Michelle Takeuchi.

And Megan Yabumoto from Sobrato High School received the \$2,500 George Masunaga Endowment Scholarship. Her parents are Craig and Dory Yabumoto.

Members of this year's selection committee were Gary Jio, Dr. Mitsu Kumagai, JoAnn Okabe Kubo and Joyce Oyama. Sharon Uyeda served as chair of the committee. ■

## JANM BEGINS WORK ON NPS- FUNDED GRANTS

LOS ANGELES — Utilizing a total of more than \$115,000 from two National Park Service Japanese American Confinement Sites grants for 2016, the Japanese American National Museum has begun conservation work on the Allen Hendershott Eaton Collection of art and artifacts and will soon begin digitization of the Gihachi and Tsugio Yamashita Collection for an interactive website that chronicles one family's journeys during World War II.

JANM acquired the Eaton Collection in 2015, following the cancellation of a public auction that would have disrespected the memory and hardships of the Japanese Americans who created the artifacts while incarcerated during WWII. The Japanese American community joined together to speak out against the auction; JANM's acquisition assured the preservation of the collection in perpetuity.

Conservation work has already been completed on two oil paintings and one painted wood sign in the Eaton Collection. Work has begun on 25 paper artifacts — mostly watercolors — prioritized based on their current condition. The \$41,485 from the JACS grant will help fund conservation of an additional 12 paper artifacts when the first 25 are completed. Money was also put toward evaluation of more than 100 three-dimensional objects to determine their conservation needs.

"Meet the Yamashitas: An Interactive Website" will make available to the public letters, telegrams, photographs, diaries, scrapbooks and camp crafts from the museum's Yamashita Collection. Gihachi Yamashita was arrested by the FBI on Dec. 8, 1941 — the day after Pearl Harbor was bombed by Japanese Naval Forces. He was held in a series of jails and internment camps, separated from his wife, Tsugio, and their two young daughters, Lillian and Angela, who, soon after Gihachi's arrest, were sent to the Japanese American concentration camp in Rohwer, Ark. It wasn't until 1944 that the family was reunited at Rohwer. After the end of WWII, the family went first to Salt Lake City then returned to Los Angeles to restart their lives.

The JACS grant of more than \$74,000 will support digitization of the Yamashita Collection, including seven 16mm home movies; help pay for translation of the Japanese language portions of the collection, including Gihachi's diaries and scrapbook; and partially fund the development of a microsite that will allow the public to explore and study the Yamashita Collection and the family's war-time experiences.

NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis first announced the 2016 grant recipients at a reception for the All Camps Consortium hosted by the Embassy of Japan in Washington, D.C., on May 12.

The JANM grant proposals were selected through a competitive process. For 2016, grants totaling \$2.8 million were awarded to 15 projects in five states. Since its establishment in 2006, the JACS grant program has awarded more than \$21 million. A total of \$38 million was authorized for the life of the program, whose mission is to teach future generations about the injustices of the WWII confinement of Japanese Americans and inspire commitment to equal justice under the law. ■

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

After reading a number of Letters to the Editor in recent issues of the *Pacific Citizen*, I am a little dismayed. I am probably a very recent addition to your ranks but have had a great deal of interest in issues that face the American of Japanese Ancestry (AJA) community. Specifically, what caught my attention was Jonathan Kaji's letter in Vol. 163, No. 3 and the letters in Vol. 163, No. 4. As a member, I am hoping that our national leadership considers my perspective as a virtual outsider looking in.

First and foremost, I feel it would be a great benefit for our leadership to consult with their members in terms of what they want out of the organization.

This observation is primarily prompted by the issue over paper distribution of the *Pacific Citizen*. You must understand that a majority of the membership of JACL are older, and I would daresay legacy members of the Nisei generation.

Most chapters that I have met are primarily funded by their dues and membership. It is almost understandable that the budget is starting to show shortfalls because the memberships backing our finances are slowly dwindling as they pass.

To the first point, it is also important to ask our members what would help encourage them to recommend our organization to their children or grandchildren?

I think in many ways we need to challenge ourselves to be a voice and not an echo. I feel that many of the issues that the JACL champions are not issues that are important to our members.

I know it is a divisive and current issue, but that comes down to the recent hub-bub about honoring Black Lives Matters.

I know in Washington and among those seeking relevance in the civil rights community it is a hot topic, but realistically for your rank-and-file members, particularly the older generation, is that the hill you choose to die upon?

Personally, as a child growing up in the '90s and having a strong ethnic background with a memory of the last riot, regarding this issue, I am more likely to identify with the rights of Takao Hirata or Ed Song Lee.

If you don't know who they are, then we just discovered one of the problems. They are you and me. They are the forgotten Asian Americans trying to live the American dream in their own way.

Hirata worked as a printer; Lee was a college student working as a security guard. Hirata was dragged from his car and beaten; Lee was shot dead defending a business during the 1992 L.A. riot.

The real issue is whether what the JACL represents and defends resonates with our members and the Asian Community at large to encourage people to participate and join in.

Are we a voice for the AJA community? Or are we just part of the chorus?

My hope is that JACL can adapt to the future. My own vision for the AJA community is to nurture future leaders who will take the helm of politics and business and pave the way for future generations.

If we truly are at an existential crisis, we need to come back full circle. Organizations like ours should always be more about the people than the money, and I believe that if we return to the grassroots from which it was born, we will adapt.

If our existence is solely to parrot other people's issues, then why should we be surprised that our community is not willing to stick its neck out.

I feel that JACL mission's should not only focus on the legacy of our past but also on cultivating a future for our children and their children. It is to champion the rights and issues of our Asian American community and not to shy away from opinions that are unpopular.

We are leaders after all. If the nail that sticks up gets pounded down? Leaders take the initiative and stand back up.

Thank you for taking the time to read my opinion.

Sincerely,

Ryan Yasukawa,  
Salinas, Calif.



## 2016 JACL NATIONAL

## SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

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

**'Choose a social or political event, nationally or internationally, from the past 12 months and detail how the JACL should have responded and why.'**

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** All student responses reflect those that were submitted to the P.C. by the respective Scholarship Committees.

## FRESHMAN



**TATSUYA DANIEL**  
JACL Chapter: Chicago  
Recipient of the Patricia & Gail  
Ishimoto Memorial Scholarship  
Massachusetts Institute of  
Technology

#### Notables

Tatsuya Daniel was a percussionist in his high school band all four years, becoming drumline captain his senior year, in addition to being selected for the McHenry County Honors Band. Daniel was also on his school's track-and-field and cross-country teams. Among his other activities, he also trained in aikido for four years, and as a member of his school's math team, he was an individual medalist at regionals in algebra and geometry. As a member of First Robotics, he advanced to the world championships in St. Louis, Mo., last year.

#### Personal Statement

"August 2015 marked the 70th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, of the deliberate and successful actions by the United States to end World War II. The anniversary was a great way to reflect on the current U.S.-Japan relationship and how far it has come. I think the JACL did a nice job with its participation in a symposium in November 2015 at Northwestern University because it got Japanese Americans thinking about their role in this relationship. However, the JACL should have taken it a step further to involve a wider demographic

of young Americans by including Americans of European descent.

"In addition to involving European Americans, the JACL should have also looked for ways to involve Chinese Americans at such a symposium because future U.S.-Japan relations are going to depend largely on both countries' relations with China. By starting discussions among these groups of young Americans, they can become more motivated to take charge of a relatively significant global issue. Specifically, it would have been good for JACL to address efforts to broaden and deepen trade and investment among Pacific countries, as well as to talk about the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which brought 11 Asia-Pacific countries together and accounts for about 40 percent of global GDP.

"Additionally, the JACL should strive to get Japanese Americans to be more aware of social injustices and how society can combat its many different forms. I think it was important for the JACL to send a delegation to Selma, Ala., for the 50th anniversary of 'Bloody Sunday' in order to realize the connection between the hardships faced by other Americans and the hardships faced by Japanese Americans."



**RIKI EIJIMA**  
JACL Chapter: San Francisco  
Recipient of the Kyutaro & Yasuo  
Abiko Memorial Scholarship  
Occidental College

#### Notables

Riki Eijima spent the summer of 2014 as an intern at the University of Denver doing archaeological fieldwork on the Amache Internment Camp. She wrote about her experience in an article published in the March 4, 2016, edition of the *Pacific Citizen*. Eijima played on her high school basketball team for four years and served as team captain from 2013-14, receiving the Coach's Award that year. In 2013, Eijima was selected as a Takahashi Youth Ambassador Fellow and traveled on a goodwill exchange to provide aid to earthquake/tsunami-affected areas in Japan.

#### Personal Statement

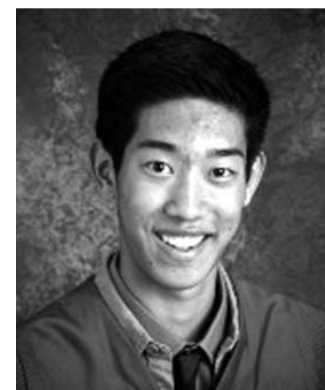
"This year's Oscars received a good deal of scrutiny for the lack of African-American nominations for the second year running. Last year, the Twitter tag #OscarsSoWhite exploded in social media, and the conversation about the lack of diversity in Hollywood continues to cause controversy. However, it is not only the African-American community that has gone without notice from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences — Asian American, Latino/Hispanic and Native American artists and writers have also gone unrecognized. A significant omission occurred when the critically acclaimed 'The Joy Luck Club' was passed over in 1993.

"As in other professions, we need players in significant roles in the arts including the cinema, both in front of and behind the cameras. Having representation that reflects society is important in order to have authenticity because walls of exclusion and glass ceilings in the professional world ultimately affect how we see ourselves and how others see us. Moreover, youth feel empowered when they see role models like Jeremy Lin or Sandra Oh and think, 'He/she looks like me,' and 'I can do that, too.'

"Is it too much to ask that ethnic groups have a seat at the table? The JACL has done excellent work in making known that they stand in solidarity with other minority

groups and the LGBT community against injustice. We must also address our own grievances. Boycotting awards show is not enough to effect change. Perhaps more effective would be working with the movie business to make diversity a tangible goal.

"The industry should be providing scholarships and mentorships to encourage participation by ethnic minorities. Along with recruitment, significant efforts at minority and promotion in executive management must be goals. Movie companies make millions of dollars off the viewing public. They can realize a better bottom line by making more films relevant to nonwhites, who comprise at least 35 percent of this country's population. Taking advantage of their buying power makes good business sense."



**KYLE ENG**  
JACL Chapter: Mt. Olympus  
Recipient of the Deni & June  
Uejima Memorial Scholarship  
University of California, Berkeley

#### Notables

Over the years, Kyle Eng has served as a volunteer for numerous events sponsored by his local JACL chapter. His engagement in the Nikkei community include Tai-ko drumming, bon dancing, karate, volunteering at the Nikkei Senior Center and serving as president of the Salt Lake City Buddhist Temple YBA. Identified as an outstanding student leader, Eng was selected

to participate in several leadership conferences including the UH-SAA/UIAAA Student Leadership Conference and the National Student Leadership Conference held in Washington, D.C. In addition, he was a three-year varsity letter in baseball, serving two years as captain, and a four-year varsity letter in basketball, also serving two years as captain.

#### Personal Statement

"On Feb. 19, 1942, President Roosevelt enacted Executive Order 9066 — the internment of Japanese American citizens as a security provision — following the surprise Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor. Over 70 years later, I had the opportunity to walk on the same desert sands of Topaz that once served as the prison grounds for these Japanese Americans. Standing with the sun glaring down upon me, I imagined the rows of barracks enclosed by barbed-wire fencing that filled the miles of empty desert, and finally I fully understood the wrath of minority persecution Asian Americans suffered based solely on their appearance and lineage. With little support or advocacy from outside groups, the interned Japanese people — unable to advocate for themselves — were helpless in fighting the persecution.

"Over half a century later, history seems to be repeating itself with a sharp rise in hate crimes against Muslims while prominent public figures call for anti-Muslim policy proposals. While I realize we cannot change history, we can learn from the past and never repeat the same mistakes we, as a society, once made.

"As the anti-Muslim hate groups call for nationwide protests against Muslim mosques, the JACL should take a stand against hate and act as the support system — absent from Japanese Americans during WWII — for minority Muslim groups. Muslim Americans should not be stigmatized or grouped together with extremist groups simply because of religious affiliation; it is unfair and immoral. >>



➤ “With an opportunity to take a stand and mitigate the racial persecution similar to that which Japanese Americans have suffered through, the JACL should challenge these stereotypes and hate speeches in an attempt to prevent future generations from experiencing institutional racism. As a community, we must show that bigotry and cultural ignorance will not be tolerated, and powerful organizations like the JACL will be the ones leading the charge to create substantive change in American culture.”



#### JULIE FUKUNAGA

**JACL Chapter: Lodi**  
**Recipient of the Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship**  
**Stanford University**

##### Notables

Among the many leadership roles Julie Fukunaga has undertaken, she is the founder of the first NorCal Science & Technology Festival, which was made possible through \$10,000 in raised funds. The mission of the event was to make science, technology, engineering, arts and math accessible to everyone, especially underrepresented minorities and low-income students. Fukunaga also plays multiple musical instruments, including the saxophone, piano, organ and, most impressively, the oboe, having been selected as principal oboist in the 2014 San Joaquin County Honor Band. Her numerous science and engineering awards include the Yale Science and Engineering Association Award, first place at the Sacramento Regional Science and Engineering Fair, first place in the San Joaquin County Science and Engineering Fair five years running and a gold medal at the International Genius Olympiad held at SUNY Oswego in New York.

##### Personal Statement

“A young boy arrives at MacArthur High School early in the morning after hours of tinkering with his newest invention: a pencil box clock. In a nation constantly pushing for STEM-centric (science, technology, engineering and math) education, one would expect 14-year-old Ahmed Mohamed to be acknowledged for his hard work, creativity and dedica-

tion by his peers and educators. Instead, he was accused of bringing a bomb contraption to school by school staff. Once local law enforcement was on the scene, he was questioned by police for an hour, handcuffed and taken into custody and denied the right to see his parents. Though no charges were upheld, Mohamed was suspended from his high school for causing a ‘bomb hoax.’

“The support nationwide for Mohamed was overwhelming. A picture of Mohamed wearing a NASA shirt and handcuffs went viral, making the photograph and the hashtag #IStandWithAhmed trend on multiple social media sites, with close to one million mentions in 24 hours on Twitter alone. Mohamed took the opportunity to vocalize his situation on his own account (which amassed 37,000 followers in one day), and caught the attention of notables such as Barack Obama, Mark Zuckerberg and NASA and Google officials. A traumatizing, unfortunate and unjust situation quickly turned into a positive one as people around the world joined Ahmed in his fight against racial profiling. What such an event shows is how powerful an organization of people can be when fighting for a common cause: the safety and protection of its citizens.

“The JACL is concerned with upholding racial equality and eliminating stereotypes for cultural minorities in the United States. Showing support and raising awareness about how racial profiling won’t deter ambitious, intelligent teenagers would’ve made an impactful political statement. By reaching out and telling this young boy that he is not alone in the prejudices he has faced, the JACL can continue promoting racial equality and fairness for our nation and our nation’s youth.”



#### TAYLOR GOTO

**JACL Chapter: Sacramento**  
**Recipient of the Shigeru ‘Shake’ Ushio Memorial Scholarship**  
**University of California, San Diego**

##### Notables

This past year, Taylor Goto has been an active member of the Sacramento chapter board. For

Goto’s outstanding community involvement, she was awarded a \$2,500 scholarship by the Institute for Civic Leadership to attend a two-week training program at the Global Leadership Academy in Canada. She is also the founder of a Garden Club, which promotes healthy eating habits. The produce the club grows is donated to homeless shelters. In addition, Goto was a starter on her high school varsity tennis team for all four years.

##### Personal Statement

“The Syrian refugee crisis has the potential to be all too similar to one of America’s darkest times: Japanese internment. Even though the Syrian Civil War, and consequent refugee crisis, has been going on since 2011, recently the refugees have been in the spotlight. Syrian refugees are fleeing their homeland at an alarming rate. Over 40 percent of Syria’s population is displaced, with over 4 million refugees in Syria’s neighboring countries alone. Syria’s neighbors cannot handle the flow of refugees. Currently, the United States has only taken in 2,000 or fewer refugees. In September 2015, President Obama implemented a plan for the U.S. to take in a minimum of 10,000 Syrian refugees in the upcoming fiscal year. This plan has caused a national outcry.

“Obama’s opposition on the right is wary of incoming refugees, seeing them as a potential threat to national security. [It is] calling for measures to be taken against the Syrian refugees when they enter America. Ideas have been suggested like keeping refugees in camps to monitor them, or for them to wear special indicators. The pushback against Syrian refugees mirrors a similar problem that occurred against Japanese Americans in the wake of WWII. Japanese Americans experienced racism and discrimination stemming from widespread fear in this country, leading to the internment of over 127,000 innocent Japanese Americans.

“Even though the American government has publicly apologized and compensated the Japanese Americans who were forced into internment camps, there’s no hard evidence proving the internment of a group of people can’t happen again. The U.S. 1944 Supreme Court case *Korematsu v. United States* supporting Japanese internment wasn’t ever overturned. JACL needs to get involved in the politics, advocating for the rights of Syrian refugees. Former Tule Lake Internment Camp survivor Ms. Fujikura, now 88, says, “To judge someone by ethnicity or their religion was wrong then, and it’s wrong today, too.” The JACL can speak for the voiceless refugees who need ethi-

cal backing and the support of Japanese Americans who understand the dark side of American politics.”



#### JEMMA JIO

**JACL Chapter: San Jose**  
**Recipient of the Paul & Katherine Ohtaki Memorial Scholarship**  
**California State University, San Diego**

##### Notables

Jemma Jio was a standout varsity athlete in basketball, volleyball and tennis. In 2015, she received the Coach’s Award in tennis, and during her senior year was the captain of the women’s basketball team. Jio is a member of the Youth Leadership Council at the Wesley United Methodist Church, volunteering in numerous events and causes including a mission trip to Japan in 2014 to do earthquake and tsu-

nami disaster relief work. In addition, Jio has been a volunteer at her local JACL chapter scholarship luncheon for 13 years.

##### Personal Statement

“One month after the November 2015 ISIS Paris bombings, there was a terrorist attack in San Bernardino, Calif. Fourteen people were killed and 22 injured in a mass shooting by Syed Farook and Tashfeen Malik, an extremist couple of the Jihadi movement. The couple died in a police shootout, but the FBI was able to confiscate Syed’s cellphone. Since it was an iPhone, the FBI ordered that Apple create a ‘backdoor’ into the IOS operating system to access the extremist’s contacts, searches, history, etc., and try to decipher the couple’s actions before the attack to possibly prevent future attacks.

“This case could set a precedence. FBI access to this phone now also means easy access to any phone in the future, essentially shattering the freedom and right to privacy that the government is supposed to protect. The government having access to the contacts on Syed’s phone could provide leads to other terrorists but places suspicion and scrutiny on many innocent people; which is similar to the way Japanese Americans were treated so many decades ago. ➤

## Congratulations!

### Jemma

We are so proud of  
your accomplishments,

Mom, Dad, Tutu and your  
O’hana



## Thank you!

Many thanks to the San Jose JACL Chapter for your support, and to the National Scholarship Committee, for the honor of your scholarship award.

Jemma B. Jio, San Jose Chapter



JAPANESE  
AMERICAN  
CITIZENS  
LEAGUE

SAN JOSE  
**JACL**

congratulates

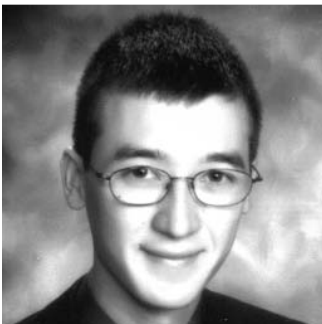
**JEMMA JIO**

recipient of the  
Paul & Katherine Ohtaki Memorial Scholarship



“Unfortunately, the line that the government is about to cross is similar to the line it crossed after the attack on Pearl Harbor during World War II with Executive Order 9066 authorizing the relocation of Japanese Americans.

“During this hysteria, again the government seems to be throwing the American people’s civil liberties out the window. Abiding to the FBI demand by Apple would create a repeat of infringement on civil liberties, rights that organizations like the JACL work very hard to protect. I believe that the JACL can help prevent the ‘internment of technology’ through educational opportunities, press conferences and panel discussions. What policies will the government institute to guarantee that all phones are safeguarded? How will we know that our right to privacy will be maintained? What actions can be taken now so that in four years, Americans will not have to feel alienated in their own country?”



**SIMON LANGOWSKI**  
JACL Chapter: Hoosier  
Recipient of the Mr. & Mrs.  
Takashi Moriuchi Memorial  
Scholarship  
Purdue University

#### Notables

Simon Langowski has won numerous awards in math and science, including first place in both the Indiana State Competition in Algebra 2 in 2013 and the Rose Hulman Math Contest in 2015 with a perfect score. He is also an accomplished percussionist, having been a two-time gold medalist on the marimba at the Indiana State School Music Association Contest. Langowski also plays the bells for the annual JACL Hoosier chapter Christmas party.

#### Personal Statement

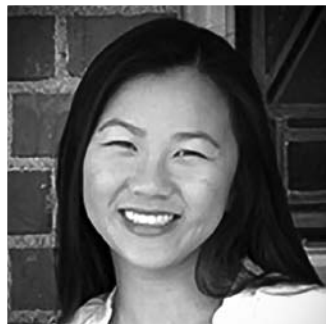
“I live in Indiana, a state that was known for cornfields, sports and friendliness, but, as of this past spring, is now known for the infamous Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA). Despite its appealing name, which it shares with several Religious Freedom Restoration Acts throughout the United States (most notably the Federal one in 1993 that JACL supports for protecting Native American rights), this bill was not

designed so altruistically. Many observers noted that the Indiana RFRA seemed to be designed to allow discrimination against lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgenders and other nontraditional orientations by using religious grounds as justification to deny service to these groups.

“This, of course, prompted a response to repeal or amend the bill to prevent such a possibility. Public criticism is a necessary first step. Perhaps I was just overwhelmed by all the other voices of denunciation of the bill; boycotts by companies such as Subaru and Angie’s List; the theoretical loss of GenCon (a favorite convention I had visited just last year); and all the news stories in the media, but I felt that I did not clearly hear JACL’s voice on the issue. JACL should have issued a statement explaining how they support religious freedom, but not to the point where religion can be used for discrimination.

“JACL has already shown support for protecting different sexual orientations. Emergency Resolution 2, passed this summer, formalized JACL’s support for transgender persons. Thomas Jefferson once said, ‘The price of freedom is eternal vigilance’; watching for laws that allow discrimination is part of our vigilance. The anti-discrimination amendment that was added to RFRA to protect LGBT individuals shows how public pressure and vigilance can be effective.

“I wasn’t old enough to vote yet (my first election will be this year!), but contrary to the idealism, one vote wouldn’t have mattered. Nor one email or letter. Rather, it is only when we come together as a group in protest (or endorsement) that we can truly make a difference. The mass protest of many people, corporations, individuals refusing to travel to certain cities was effective in making a difference. It is for this purpose that JACL exists: to be the group that makes the difference.”



**KATELYN NAKAMURA**  
JACL Chapter: French Camp  
Recipient of the CWO 4 Mitsugi  
Murakami Kasai (Ret) Memorial  
Scholarship  
University of California,  
Los Angeles

#### Notables

Katelyn Nakamura has been actively involved in her local JACL chapter since 2010. Among her accomplishments, Nakamura has assumed numerous leadership roles in her community, including serving as a Youth Deacon at the Calvary Presbyterian Church, and during the 2015-16 school year, was elected as the sole student trustee on the Lincoln Unified School District Board, representing 9,000 students. Nakamura was also a four-year member of her school’s varsity tennis team, serving as captain for a year.

#### Personal Statement

“My parents joined JACL after hearing about this organization at church from their friends. Through JACL, I have learned that it is important to stand up for yourself but, more importantly, to stand up for others. Today, JACL strives to make a difference not only for Japanese Americans but also for other groups who are being discriminated against or who aren’t experiencing full civil rights. JACL has inspired me to start a women’s empowerment club at my high school called W.A.V.E.S. (Worth, Achievement, Volunteering, Empowerment and Success). One project I spearheaded was the district-wide free viewing of the documentary film ‘The Empowerment Project.’ This film showcased ordinary women doing extraordinary things, and the message is meant to challenge young women to pursue their dreams and pose the question: ‘What would you do if you weren’t afraid to fail?’

“I hope JACL can do something about the current problems regarding terrorism. With the recent uproar of terrorist attacks and threats, terrorist groups such as ISIS and Al-Qaeda are causing worldwide panic, and everyone is afraid. It is ignorant of everyone to assume that all Middle Easterners are Islamic, and it is even more foolish to associate all tan people with Muslim extremist groups. Even the politicians talk about closing off our country’s borders to all Middle Easterners, doing background checks and keeping FBI tabs on Muslims and, worst of all, putting them into concentration camps. Many Muslims like Malala Yousafzai and her father are working hard, speaking up against such misconceptions. Some people do not know the difference between races and religions and still try to make assumptions! My Indian friends at school (who practice Hinduism) get asked if they’re Muslim or if they belong to ISIS . . . this is abominable!

“History is soon to repeat itself, and I can see JACL being an advocate against bigotry and

prejudice. The JACL knows better than to classify people solely by race or religion because Japanese Americans went through the exact same hardships. We should work to help the innocent Muslims and spread the message of anti-discrimination.”



**RACHEL ODA**  
JACL Chapter: South Bay  
Recipient of the Sam & Florice  
Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship  
Pomona College

#### Notables

Rachel Oda has been a tireless volunteer for a variety of groups that help disadvantaged, special-needs and homeless youths. Among her awards is the Frederick B. Douglas and Susan B. Anthony Award for outstanding commitment to social justice. Oda is also a soloist on her varsity dance team and was a finalist in the L.A. County Mock Trial Championship.

#### Personal Statement

“Roanoke Mayor David Bowers’ horribly wrong statement about Japanese internment camps caused extreme uproar across the media and the Japanese American community. His blatantly ignorant comment attempted to justify FDR’s imprisonment of Japanese ‘foreign nations’ for posing ‘a threat of harm’ and characterizing Japanese Americans as ‘our enemies.’

“Not only did this event expose the ongoing bigotry toward Japanese Americans, but it also provided an opportunity to spread the truth behind internment on a universal, media platform and protect our legacy. In my opinion, the JACL should have immediately responded to Bowers by releasing a statement to rectify his wrongful overgeneralization. The statement could have highlighted which parts of his statement were wrong (such as his oblivious assumption that the Japanese American detainees were not American citizens). Moreover, the statement could have explained the truth about our history and set the right foot forward for the Japanese American community.

“When the event surfaced across the media, I immediately leaped at the articles and read through

various newspapers to analyze how they were responding. I was extremely proud to find that various prominent figures in the Japanese American community had posted personal statements against Bowers and explained what really happened. However, all of their statements were published on colloquial social media sites such as Twitter or Facebook. I think the articles would have been much more impactful if they had also quoted an established organization, like the JACL. Responding to Bowers’ statement would have further solidified the powerful news articles that championed our rights and asserted the truth behind our history while also giving the JACL a global audience.

“Although moments like these are frustrating and stir up harsh feelings, when looked at from an opportunistic perspective, they allow us to educate others and right the wrongs. This is our duty as Japanese American activists — a duty I am proud to uphold.”



**BROOKE SHIMASAKI**  
JACL Chapter: Stockton  
Recipient of the Henry & Chiyo  
Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship  
University of California,  
Los Angeles

#### Notables

Brooke Shimasaki has been extremely active as a leader and tireless volunteer in her school, community, church and local JACL chapter. She has served on the board of the Stockton JACL chapter for the past three years. Not only does she do volunteer work at the Stockton Buddhist church, but she also was a volunteer for two years during the Greek festival at Saint Basil Greek Orthodox Church. In addition, Shimasaki was also a four-year varsity athlete on her high school golf (captain for two years) and track and field teams.

#### Personal Statement

“During wartime, racial prejudice toward ‘treasonous’ minorities is not uncommon; history proves to have repeated itself time and time again, from Japanese internment during World War II to Red Scare racism during the Cold War. And today, even after the United



States has taken bold steps toward equality and tolerance, many Americans revert back to prejudice ways, targeting Muslims living in the United States. Outbreaks of violence in the Middle East on account of ISIS, along with Islamic terrorist attacks—both domestically and internationally—foster fear among many Americans, prompting citizens to support the closure of U.S. borders to Islamic refugees.

“By drawing parallels between the attitudes toward Japanese Americans during World War II and the attitudes toward Muslims today, it can be implied that war hysteria and hatred may cloud the judgement of Americans. Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, citizens feared that Japanese Americans would betray their home country of the United States. Amongst this time of panic and distress, the government mandated Executive Order 9066, forcing its own Japanese American citizens out of their homes and businesses and into relocation camps, treating these Americans like they were prisoners of war simply due to their ethnicity. United States citizens must learn from past mistakes and make different, more positive choices when faced with having to make decisions concerning Islamic refugees.

“Despite the opinion of many, the JACL should support Islamic immigrants seeking refuge in the United States and should also actively work to end racist sentiment. Many members of the JACL, especially in my California chapter, have experienced repercussions of Executive Order 9066 from either firsthand experience or through stories told by parents and grandparents. Members have seen or even experienced the negative outcome of decisions made out of fear. Therefore, the JACL should have a strong sense of empathy toward Islamic refugees and Islamic Americans who are similarly being persecuted due to their ethnicity.”



**CAITLIN TAKEDA**  
JACL Chapter: Ventura County  
Recipient of the Paul & Katherine Ohtaki Memorial Scholarship  
Brown University

#### Notables

Caitlin Takeda has studied Buyo (Japanese traditional dance) since 2002 and performed in numerous events such as Nisei Week, obon dances and Cherry Blossom festivals. She also has a black belt in judo, medaling in multiple tournaments. Among her other accomplishments, Takeda has served as a volunteer at the Free Clinic of Simi Valley since 2010, where she now supervises and trains other volunteers, and she has won numerous science awards, including first place at the UCLA Brain Research Institute Awards in the area of Neuroscience, second place at the California State Science Fair in Cognitive Science and first place in the Ventura County Science Fair in Human Behavioral Science.

#### Personal Statement

“On Dec. 2, 2015, a mass shooting in San Bernardino, Calif., erupted a few miles from where my father grew up. A radicalized Muslim couple committed a heinous act of terrorism, killing 14 and seriously injuring 22 people. This was a horrible event and understandably shocked many Americans. In the aftermath, there was a surge in attacks and hate crimes perpetrated against innocent Americans who happened to have a physical resemblance to the stereotypical image of a terrorist. Once again, a minority group was being targeted, profiled, marginalized, monitored and stripped of its constitutional rights. Once again, there are politicians and leaders who are making speeches full of hate and racism. It feels like 1942 again, but this time, it is Muslim Americans and not Japanese Americans who are under attack by their neighbors.

“One week ago, the Japanese American community held a ‘Day of Remembrance,’ as they do every year, on the anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066. But this year, there was an urgency and immediacy in the speeches. As I sat there in the Japanese American National Museum with four generations of Japanese Americans and fellow concerned citizens including Muslim Americans, I was not alone in having the uncomfortable feeling that history was repeating itself. But the message I heard from this gathering was unified and clear — ‘never again!’

“Never again will we allow fellow citizens to be unfairly targeted and discriminated against. Never again will we allow an innocent person to feel humiliated, dehumanized and betrayed as my grandmother told me she felt when she was sent to Heart Mountain. Never again will we allow the vast majority of Americans to remain silent and ignorant of the injustice and racism occurring in their own

neighborhoods. And never again will we allow our leaders to shirk their duty to protect all of our citizens. Our collective voice carries the weight of our shared community history. As we have done so since 1929, I am certain we will speak out at every opportunity in support of any person or group of people who are being oppressed.”



**JOY YUZURIHA**  
JACL Chapter: Portland  
Recipient of the Hanayagi Rokumie Memorial Cultural Scholarship  
Stanford University

#### Notables

Joy Yuzuriha is a multitasking musician who is accomplished on a variety of instruments, including the clarinet, saxophone, flute and piano. Her musical experiences range from classical to jazz to Broadway musicals. She has won numerous awards for playing the clarinet and was selected to be in the first clarinet section in the 2015 All-Northwest Honor Band. Yuzuriha has also studied classical Japanese dance (Buyo) since the age of four. She was also co-captain of her high school varsity bowling team.

#### Personal Statement

“My whole life, I have been reminded of my being a Yonsei, a fourth-generation Japanese American, and the sufferings and successes that preceded my current life in the United States. My Japanese Buddhist background has taught me to remember those who

passed before me, the interconnectedness of all life and the deep sense of gratitude to all things that make my life possible. It has also nurtured a mildness of nature that sees constant protests as counterproductive to positive outcomes.

“Only we ourselves can produce our own happiness and sense of contentment. It cannot come from the outside. When I see the hard work of the Issei, Nisei and Sansei generations that resulted in my life, I feel a profound sense of pride that most of the Japanese Americans made it without demanding, demonstrating or [showing] widespread civil disobedience, even without widespread political power. My baachan said that after the war, ‘At first they weren’t hiring Japanese. And then, I guess once people started to hire Japanese, then the Japanese people got the reputation of being conscientious, hardworking, very efficient, and so after a few years, they wanted to hire Japanese because we had a good track record and so, I mean, things kept getting better as time went on.’

“I feel that the support for the Muslim American community can take a different turn. Instead of demanding equality, Americans need to get to know the community and respect them as individuals. The JACL should [encourage] the community, Muslims and other ethnic groups to get out and meet people outside their community, so others can get to know them and create true understanding and friendships. You cannot win over people through criticism and vilifying

people’s fears, and you cannot heal without understanding. The more the community opens up and does good for all, the fear and hate will be overcome.”

## UNDERGRADUATE



**BREANA INOSHITA**  
JACL Chapter: Florin  
Recipient of the Alice Yuriko Endo Memorial Scholarship  
University of California, Davis

#### Notables

Breana Inoshita is majoring in Asian American Studies with a minor in community and regional development. JACL has been a part of Inoshita’s life “for as long as I can remember.” After volunteering at JACL events in high school, Inoshita decided that she wanted to be even more involved, so she joined the Florin JACL as the Grassroots Community Building, Participation and Leadership



*Congratulates*

Paul & Katherine Ohtaki  
National Scholarship recipient:

**Caitlin Takeda**



## CONGRATULATIONS Caitlin Emi Takeda

recipient of the  
**Paul & Katherine Ohtaki Scholarship**  
(National JACL)  
**Dr. Tom Taketa Memorial Scholarship**  
(Ventura County Chapter, JACL)

**WE COULD NOT BE MORE PROUD OF YOU  
AND WE ARE SO EXCITED FOR YOUR FUTURE**



BROWN

**Brown University**  
(Program in Liberal Medical Education, Class of 2020)  
**Brown Warren Alpert Medical School**  
(Class of 2024)



BROWN  
Alpert Medical School

**Mom, Dad, Colin and the entire Takeda & Arita Family**



Intern. In this role, she secured funding for the Manzanar Ambassador Scholarship, a sustainable scholarship and leadership development program that provides a scholarship for youth to attend the Manzanar Pilgrimage that is contingent upon a commitment to serve on the planning committee the following year. Inoshita also continues to serve her chapter in leadership positions as a board member and on several chapter committees. Inoshita has also been selected to participate in the Kakehashi program and looks forward to taking the trip with the delegation in March.

#### Personal Statement

"The JACL's efforts to form alliances with the black community in this era of the #BlackLivesMatter movement is a new frontier, and we will not get everything right the first time. However, it is important that we continue to listen to and be responsive to the needs of the black community.

"Our efforts as allies to the community need to reflect what the community is fighting for. A significant first step would be to simply submit a letter of solidarity with the #BlackLivesMatter movement. Additionally, the JACL must be direct and aggressive in our recognition of the issues because being broad and vague minimizes the struggles facing the black

community.

"It is defiantly an uncomfortable conversation to have and a difficult issue to address, but I have faith that the JACL will continue with their dedicated efforts as allies and as advocates of human rights and social justice."



**DAVIS KATAKURA**  
JACL Chapter: SELANOCO  
Recipient of the Saburo Kido  
Memorial Scholarship  
U.S. Naval Academy  
Notables

Davis Katakura is majoring in quantitative economics and has an impressive 4.0 GPA. He was ranked first in his graduating class at Marina High School and was a member of the California Scholarship Federation and president of the National Honors Society, in addition to being selected as an Advanced Placement Scholar with Distinction by the College Board.

He received the Golden Shield academic award multiple times, including being one of only two junior students awarded a gold medal in science. Katakura received scholarships from the Navy, Army and Air Force ROTC. In 2015, he was nominated by Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) for congressional appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy and has earned honors on the Superintendents List at the academy. He is currently enrolled in an Advanced Placement Japanese Level 4 conversational course taught by a Japanese Naval Commander from the Japanese National Defense Academy. Katakura plans on minoring in Japanese language, participating in a semester abroad at either the Japanese National Defense Academy or Keio University and possibly attending a summer language program in Japan. In his future career with the U.S. Navy, Katakura hopes to serve in Japan.

#### Personal Statement

"The conviction of NYPD police officer Peter Liang, an Asian American, has left the nation divided over his recent conviction based on an accidental fatal shooting. Currently convicted of second-degree manslaughter, facing 15 years in prison and dismissed from the police department, some members of the community are concerned that Peter Liang is used as a 'scapegoat' in order to adver-

tise the legitimacy of the justice system in checking police officers.

"The argument is that if Peter Liang had been white, his case would be either overlooked or dismissed. Therefore, Chinese Americans are also victims of discrimination, along with other minorities.

"The JACL could respond by advocating for racial justice for Peter Liang and also for equality in the unemployment of law enforcement officers. Asian Americans should not be victims of discrimination for aspiring to be public servants. Instead, employers should foster a healthy diversity comprised of talented individuals within government and law enforcement positions."



**BRYCE A. MAWHINNEY**  
JACL Chapter: Mile High  
Recipient of the Shigeru Nakahira  
Memorial Scholarship  
University of Colorado at Boulder  
Notables

Bryce Mawhinney is studying marketing, accounting and economics in college. He describes his involvement in Mile High JACL as a most rewarding experience because he learned something different with each event. He gained hands-on exposure to traditional Japanese cuisine at the Fall Festival, learned the value of teamwork with the Young Buddhist Assn. at Mochitsuki and discovered that specialized jobs result in maximum potential product output at Kohaku Uta Gassen. Through his volunteering activities, Mawhinney was selected as the recipient of the Mile High JACL M. Tagawa Memorial Scholarship. He was also named to the Dean's List at both the University of Colorado and Eckerd College and received numerous academic awards as an Advanced Placement Scholar.

#### Personal Statement

"Only so often does an event happen that stops the world in its tracks. Many times, it's often for the wrong reasons. However, this summer there was a monumental positive event that has changed history forever. It was a decision that concluded a passionate debate.

"On June 26, 2015, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled

that it was unconstitutional to ban same-sex marriages. This was a civil rights breakthrough and had been a long time coming for many people. JACL should have responded positively toward this decision and wholeheartedly supported it.

"The Japanese American Citizens League is based on ensuring civil rights for Japanese Americans, however it softly expands to the civil rights of all people. Many Japanese Americans were positively affected by this decision by the Supreme Court, so the JACL should support these citizens and the decision as well."



**GARRETT T. SANO**  
JACL Chapter: Fresno  
Recipient of the Henry & Chiyo  
Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship  
California State University, Fresno  
Notables

Garrett Sano will continue his studies majoring in prenursing. He volunteers for many JACL community events and for the Fresno Buddhist Church. Sano was recognized as an athlete scholar at Buchanan High School and coached in the Junior Asian Basketball Assn. Among his many accomplishments, Sano was an honors student at Fresno City College, where he received the Fresno City Community College Don and Carol Munshower Pay It Forward Scholarship.

#### Personal Statement

"During World War II, anti-Japanese sentiments were very high in the United States. This is very similar to Muslim Americans today, where many people are suspicious of their Muslim neighbors. I believe that JACL should try and defend innocent Muslim Americans from as much political and social backlash as possible. We should especially be wary of proposals and laws that would infringe on the rights of Muslim Americans.

"It is a shame that the religion of Islam is associated with terrorists and extremists that cause so much pain and destruction. However, if Japanese Americans, who faced a similar past, do not stand up with Muslim Americans, then who will?"



*Bryce Arai,*

*Congratulations to you!*

*We are so proud of you and what you've accomplished.*

*With Love,*

*Mom, Dad, Connor, Paige and Setsuko*



Florin JACL proudly salutes  
**BREANA INOSHITA,**  
recipient of the  
**Alice Yuriko Endo Memorial  
Scholarship.**





**YUMIKA TAKESHITA**  
**JACL Chapter: New York**  
**Recipient of the Dr. Thomas T. Yatabe Memorial Scholarship**  
**University of Chicago**

#### Notables

Yumika Takeshita is majoring in history with a minor in French. Much of her academic studies has been dedicated to the history of Japanese Americans who relocated to Chicago after incarceration. Most recently, she wrote a research paper on recreational activities engaged in by Japanese American resettlers and the ways in which such endeavors in leisure, sport and art helped form the civic identity of Issei and Nisei. Takeshita is excited to participate this year in the Kansha Project, which will allow her to talk firsthand to internees and connect with other youth who identify as Japanese American. As an urban history major who has lived in New York, Tokyo, Chicago, Boston and Paris, she has always been incredibly interested in cities and the problems that they face. Most recently, she completed a field research project on a refugee organization in Paris and learned directly about the issues facing West African and Syrian refugees in Paris, such as lack of housing and social networks. Takeshita hopes to build upon her experiences to pursue a career in urban affairs and make cities better places for marginalized people to live in. She is described by one of her mentors as a “stellar scholar, a thoughtful citizen and a fighter for equal rights and opportunities.”

#### Personal Statement

“This event (Chris Rock’s joke at the 2016 Academy Awards) gives JACL a chance to break the reputation of Asian American political silence and push for more inclusion of Asian/Asian American representation in the Oscars and the arts as a whole.

“It is not enough to just condemn and criticize; Asian Americans now must speak up on their own to enact any change. While Asian Americans are barely represented in the media, when they are, they usually take on racist stereotypes, such as the emasculated Asian male in unrequited love with a

white female or Miss Dragon Lady.

“The Asian American community is so incredibly diverse and comprised of so much more than just a few stereotypes. Thus, appropriate actions that JACL could have taken are as follows: Work with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences to nominate Asian American actors, actresses and artists to its governing board; partner with Asian American interest arts organizations and coalitions to provide fellowships and professional opportunities to artists of Asian American descent; advocate for a more intersectional representation of Asian Americans in mainstream media, such as movies, TV shows and theater.”



**KAYLENE YAMADA**  
**JACL Chapter: Wasatch Front North**  
**Recipient of the Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship**  
**University of Utah**

#### Notables

Kaylene Yamada has been a student in the University of Utah Honors College since 2012 and is currently working on her honors thesis to earn an honors biology Bachelor of Science degree. She has been a member of the Young Buddhists Assn. since 2006 and has been very active in her local JACL chapter, including serving as a youth delegate to the National JACL Conventions in Chicago and Washington, D.C.

#### Personal Statement

“I believe that a diverse community is about different personalities, thoughts and beliefs coming together in a safe environment, like a university, where students can express themselves and learn as

much as they can. Since a diverse community is important to students and parents, it must be taken into account during the admissions process. Almost by definition, in every admissions process the selection committee is looking for a certain type of student that will be a positive asset to its institution. That means trying to find great students to create the diverse, inclusive community that I mentioned above, and it has to be a component of admissions.

“What differs from school to school is how to go about creating this community. I believe that affirmative action can become a great tool to help admissions committees make equal opportunity for all minority groups. If used in the correct manner, affirmative action will also avoid negative action against anyone because there will be merit to all students who are admitted.

“Affirmative action can also help avoid discrimination that can be unknowingly built into many admissions processes. By understanding college admissions and considering many student views, I think that affirmative action is an amazing step toward a diverse community with inclusion. I believe forming this type of community is a huge part of what the JACL stands for and strives to create for the future.”

## GRADUATE



**KRISTI M. AGARI**  
**JACL Chapter: Stockton**  
**Recipient of the Dr. George Goro & Nettie Muramoto Memorial Scholarship**

### University of Las Vegas School of Dental Medicine

#### Notables

Kristi Agari has taken on leadership roles in JACL since high school. For the Stockton JACL, she led a project to help award high school diplomas to detainees whose education was interrupted by incarceration. During her freshman year at the University of the Pacific, she contributed to the building and introduction of the Elizabeth Humbargar Tolerance Garden at the San Joaquin Delta College, created by the Stockton JACL. For her community service with the JACL, Agari received the California Scholarship Federation Seymour Award, Elks Lodge Most Valuable Student Award, JACL Baba Family Award and JACL Matsumoto Family Award. Her academic achievements are just as impressive. Agari has maintained a near-perfect GPA and was ranked second in the second-year dental school class. Her hard work and dedication on a biomedical research project has resulted in significant scientific findings, which she presented at the international meeting of the American Association for Dental Research, the most prestigious conference for dental and oral health research.

#### Personal Statement

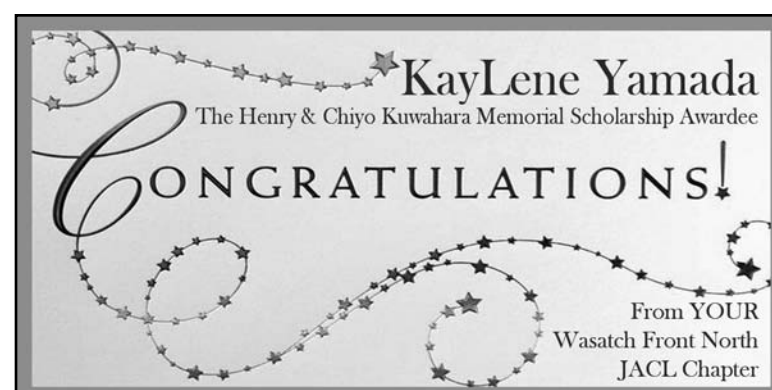
“In my opinion, JACL’s response to the bigoted vitriol in this election cycle has been a standard series of sugarcoated statements, press releases, public announcements and photo opportunities. I do not feel or see the outrage that is necessary to combat these types of hateful attitudes. Other than Gil Asakawa’s beautifully written article in the *Pacific Citizen*, I see no acrimony. JACL’s response feels too politically correct. Sometimes in life, one must draw a line in the sand, pick a side and forget about political correctness. The last time, the finger was pointed at Japanese Americans. Just because that finger is not pointed at us this time does not make it any less offensive, illegal or wrong. The fact that the finger is pointed at the Muslim/Arab community does not mean that this is not JACL’s fight. JACL should be outraged. We know exactly where this may lead. We have no excuse.”



**MATTHEW IRITANI**  
**JACL Chapter: Mile High**  
**Recipient of the Kenji Kajiwara Memorial Scholarship**  
**University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine**

#### Notables

Matthew Iritani is known among friends and faculty for his bright smile and positive attitude. For a community service project in college, his friends wanted to count his individual smile as “two happy people.” He is smiling so much that a few professors have started calling him “Smiley.” Iritani has a lot to smile about thanks to his outstanding academic and community service achievements. He was awarded the Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society Second Year Honoree for the highest-ranking dental student in the second-year dental class. As a Boettcher Foundation Scholar, he was one of only 40 seniors to win Colorado’s oldest and most prestigious merit-based scholarship based upon superior academic ability, leadership and involvement, service to community and school and outstanding character. He was also awarded the Mile High JACL Youth Pacesetter Award, which recognized his contributions to the Asian American community for “quietly doing one’s job with high standards of morality, integrity, excellence and continuing the traits of Asian American heritage.” Iritani possesses a passionate desire to contribute and is thankful for how his upbringing has made him the man he is today. He feels a combined gratitude and responsibility for all that he has been given and looks forward to following in his father’s footsteps as an orthodontist. ➤➤







### Personal Statement

“Our successes are never solely based on our individual efforts. I have been more fortunate than most growing up with a strong support system of family and friends, and I realize that many do not have these same opportunities. I am glad affirmative action tries to help correct some of those imbalances. It is uncertain what the future political environment of the United States will hold, but it is important for the JACL to continue to take a stand against civil rights abuses. Japanese Americans are frequently cast as the model minority, often erroneously separating us from other ethnic groups. Although we might not face the same discrimination that existed during World War II, many other minorities now do, and for the JACL to ignore their plight goes against our values. Principles matter a lot to me, and this I believe: Life is not a zero-sum proposition. It is not a competition with the guy seated to my right. When presented the opportunity, we need to help, whether that be future generations of Japanese Americans or other minorities standing where we once stood.”



**TRACI K. ISHIGO**  
**JACL Chapter: San Fernando Valley**  
**Recipient of the Rev. H. John & Asako Yamashita Memorial Scholarship**  
**University of Southern California**

### Notables

Traci Ishigo has worked for the Pacific Southwest District JACL as

its program coordinator since 2013. In that position, she has developed outstanding programs and demonstrated true compassion as a mentor to scores of blossoming campus and community organizers. The Nikkei LGBTQ Initiative has engaged more than 300 multigenerational Japanese Americans to build community and JACL chapter partnerships, develop curriculum and implement ongoing culturally relevant programs on gender, sexuality and LGBTQ issues. Local Leaders empowers young Asian Pacific Islander adults with leadership, grassroots community-building skills and mindful practices that encourage involvement in their local JACL chapters. Bridging Communities is a multiethnic program to create awareness and dialogue, as well as inspire solidarity activism with Japanese American, Muslim American and Sikh American youth. Camp Musubi engages fifth- to eighth-graders by sparking interest in Japanese American culture, history and community. Ishigo is also a County Fellow in the Women's Foundation of California Women's Policy Initiative, undergoing rigorous policy advocacy training. For the past three years, she has also been connecting parallels between Japanese Americans leaving concentration camps and the challenging reentry process of mass incarceration today. Ishigo hopes to support the development of an Asian Pacific Islander community-based reentry program that holistically honors every individual's humanity, dignity and chance for transformation.

### Personal Statement

“Our Japanese American community is at a critical turning point where the direct survivors and children of Executive Order 9066 are passing away and the current generation of young people may be the last to know their stories first-hand. Now, more than ever, the JACL should take advantage of its national platform to produce an educational and advocacy campaign with community organizing

directives for our JACL chapters. In a similar spirit as the redress and reparation campaign in the 1980s, I hope to see the National office lead chapter members to understand the importance of their involvement.”



**BRANDON ISHIKATA**  
**JACL Chapter: San Diego**  
**Recipient of the Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship**  
**Loyola University Chicago**

### Notables

Brandon Ishikata is pursuing a career in education, having earned a Bachelor of Arts in liberal studies and a teaching credential at California State University, San Diego. His résumé reflects a strong commitment to the JACL, his school and his community. Ishikata graduated Cum Laude with a 4.0 GPA from SDSU and was recognized by the mayor of San Diego as an Outstanding Asian Pacific Islander Student. He held numerous leadership positions throughout college and was the recipient of many prestigious scholarship awards for his academic excellence, including the SDSU Dean's List, National Go for Broke Foundation 2015 Student Essay Finalist, Minoru Yasui Memorial Scholarship, NASPA Undergraduate Rising Star Award and Associated Students President's Cabinet Award, among many other honors. This year, Ishikata was selected as a Manzanar Ambassador to the Florin JACL Manzanar Pilgrimage and served on the planning committee to develop youth activities for the trip. He was also selected as a representative to the Kakehashi program in 2014 and

has volunteered for San Diego JACL events such as the showing of the “Never Forget” documentary film and the Otsukimi Moon Viewing.

### Personal Statement

“When reflecting on the identities in my life, I am most proud of being a gay Japanese American male. Being a member of the JACL has not only helped me connect to my Japanese American heritage but also be proud of my gay identity. I feel blessed to be a member of the oldest Asian Pacific American civil rights organization where I am solely judged on the content of my character and not my sexual orientation. As I continue to develop my leadership skills within the organization, I strive to uphold the JACL vision of ‘[promoting] a world that honors diversity by respecting values of fairness, equality and social justice.’ I hope to wave the USA, Japan and LGBT flags with pride as we continue to create a more peaceful and inclusive world.”



**KARI N. KOKKA**  
**JACL Chapter: Berkeley**  
**Recipient of the Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship**  
**Harvard Graduate School of Education**

### Notables

Kari Kokka is a fifth-year doctoral candidate who in addition to her studies and a nearly full-time job still finds time to contribute to her community and the JACL. She has been involved with the Berkeley JACL since 1995 when her grandmother sponsored her first membership because she wanted her to be educated about her own heritage and history, and also because she knew her granddaughter would receive the *Pacific Citizen* on a regular basis. Kokka remained active in the JACL during her 11 years as a high school teacher in New York City, where she served as the Civil Rights and Scholarship Chair for the New York City JACL. Kokka became a teacher in urban schools as a social justice endeavor because of the inequities she witnessed as a student and her family's incarceration history. In 2007, she co-founded the Creating Balance in an Unjust World Conference, a math and social justice conference.

Behind these efforts lies a deep commitment to equity for students and school communities in the “margins.” Kokka's credibility and power come from her identity as a teacher. Her dissertation investigates social justice math in two classrooms, one in a Title I school and another in a private school, to learn more about student experiences to inform the field of education how to best support students of diverse backgrounds in their math education. She plans on becoming a math professor to work toward social justice education to prepare university students to become successful and supportive math teachers.

### Personal Statement

“The JACL has demonstrated its commitment to education through its teacher workshops and development of powerful curricular resources. As a civil rights organization, the JACL has a voice that can be used to fight for the educational rights of all students, especially those who are not receiving the funds and resources they deserve to receive a quality, rigorous education. I am applying for this JACL scholarship because I believe that my work around educational equity tightly aligns to the JACL's vision to ‘promote a world that honors diversity by respecting values of fairness, equality and social justice.’”



**KENJI KURAMITSU**  
**JACL Chapter: Chicago**  
**Recipient of the Magoichi & Shizuko Kato Memorial Scholarship**  
**McCormick Theological Seminary**

### Notables

Kenji Kuramitsu is a second-year graduate student working toward earning a Master of Divinity. He is an intelligent, creative and gifted student, already demonstrating significant leadership abilities through school activities that include Seminarists for Justice, Asian American Cultural Center, director of enriching programs for the Illini Union Board and co-founder of the Multiracial Student Union. His JACL service began after his participation in the Chicago chapter's Kansha Project. Following that transformative experience, Kuramitsu joined the



## Brandon Ishikata

has been a tireless advocate for the inclusion of LGBT individuals into all aspects of American life and has rightly earned the recognition and awards that he has received, including the Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Scholarship. His extended family, including his numerous cousins, have been wholeheartedly supportive of his endeavors.

**We are proud of Brandon's accomplishments!**

Glen and Robin Ishikata, Parents  
 Grayce Kitagaki, Grandmother



» JACL National Youth Student Council and later was appointed as the Midwest District Council representative. In that role, he represented the District at the 50th anniversary of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s march from Birmingham to Selma, Ala., participated in the OCA-JACL Leadership Summit and served on the Program for Action Committee for the National Convention. This year, he joined the National JACL Board as the NY/SC representative and attended the Kakehashi trip in the winter. As a writer, liturgist and preacher, he hopes to tell the stories of Japanese Americans in unique and liberative ways. In particular, he hopes to help create an authentically Japanese American liberation theology, one which will assist in remembering past traumas, articulating pain and shame and experiencing communal healing from the forces that continue to dehumanize us.

#### Personal Statement

"In Selma this past March, I met Japanese American activist Todd Endo, who walked alongside Martin King during the now-famous trek to Birmingham for voting rights in 1965. I learned from him the intimate history of Japanese American and black activism and solidarity, and his influence, as well as the theological teachings of black liberation theology, have oriented me and my activism not only inwards within my own spheres but also outwards toward the African-American community. As Japanese American community organizer Scot Nakagawa has written, 'Anti-blackness is the fulcrum of white supremacy' — our struggles with racism as Nikkei are intimately connected with the ongoing oppression of black people in our country, and we must show up for one another."



ISAAC KAZUO  
UYEHARA

**JACL Chapter: Philadelphia**  
**Recipient of the Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship**  
**Princeton University**

#### Notables

Isaac Uyehara is a lifetime JACL member in the Philadelphia chapter, served on the chapter board and represented the Eastern District Council on the National Youth Student Council. At the National level, he represented his district on the National Education Committee, served on the Legacy Fund Committee and served on the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, in addition to being a delegate to several National Conventions. He also participated in the OCA-JACL Leadership Summit and the first Kakehashi program. In his service to JACL, Uyehara challenges all members to think more about our hopes for the organization and how we can better advocate for our communities. Even with his busy schedule as a doctoral candidate, Uyehara finds ways to continue participating with the JACL and is always happy to provide feedback and mentor fellow members. He has been an educator since graduating from college, serving as a high school teacher, an academic instructor for undergraduates at Princeton University and volunteer teacher of undergraduate science courses inside New Jersey prisons. He hopes to continue working as an educator after obtaining his Ph.D.

#### Personal Statement

"By standing in solidarity with other communities of color, Asian Americans can add to a growing movement that is working to bring people together rather than divide them. However, this is best accomplished on the ground, and no amount of press releases and congressional efforts can take the place of engaging individual members and the public. By implementing more goal-oriented and active campaigns that include personal interaction with other members and allied communities, we also create a reason for new members to join. We must ask ourselves if our current organizational structure is capable of capturing youth passionate about civil rights and if not, if it is possible for a membership organization like JACL to remain relevant. I am advocating for the JACL to respond to future social and political events with a pragmatic dedication to our mission and vision. For us to be a force for civil rights, we must help create a politically informed and united Asian American community that takes actions to resolve issues in our own communities and stands in unity with other communities. Given that Japanese Americans are the only Asian American ethnic population to be decreasing in the United States, we must ally ourselves with other communities if we want to have an important voice in the national civil rights arena."



AMANDA WAKE  
**JACL Chapter: New York City**  
**Recipient of the Minoru Yasui Memorial Scholarship**  
**New York University**

#### Notables

Amanda Wake is a strong leader whose sharp analysis and deep relationships catalyze individual transformation and collective action for justice. These abilities are reflected in her passion for youth leadership development, which has driven her professional career and community service. Wake led a national youth initiative, working with youth leaders and allied organizations across the country to amplify the expertise and leadership of young people of color. In this work, she translated the skills she developed working with Asian youth in Oakland, Calif., to providing facilitation leadership across race, geography and community. Whether engaging young queer and trans black organizers from Georgia or Latina community leaders who are young parents in rural California, Wake created the opportunity for young leaders and organizations to align their strengths to advance the changes they identified. Her justice work is not limited to her professional career. Wake has volunteered for a diverse range of community programs and organizations, including Tsukimi Kai Cuba, OreMi Mentoring, Asian Health Services Youth and Lao Family Outreach.

#### Personal Statement

"I have learned that the most important thing about being an ally is first, showing up to have the backs of the people most affected. Secondly, it is bringing our folks along with you. We must own the fact that there is anti-black racism within our own community. The JACL could do anti-black racism workshops for members, mobile people to rallies and protests. We can honor the bonds that we share with the black community and acknowledge the shoulders that we stand on."

## LAW



GENTA IWASAKI  
**JACL Chapter: St. Louis**  
**Recipient of the Thomas T. Hayashi Memorial Law Scholarship**  
**Washington University in St. Louis**

#### Notables

Genta Iwasaki earned a Master of Science in gerontology from the University of Missouri — St. Louis, a Bachelor of Arts in urban studies from Hunter College and a Bachelor of Arts in law from Waseda University in Tokyo, Japan. As an "advanced standing" student at Washington University, Iwasaki will complete his Juris Doctorate degree in two years rather than the standard three. He is studying to be a lawyer with a concentration in Japanese American corporate transactions at a large law firm, where he can help to connect Japanese businesses with their American counterparts using his bilingual skills. At Waseda University in Japan, Iwasaki was the co-chair of the "Feel Japan" international student group, which connected native Japanese with foreign-exchange students to explore Japanese culture together. He has also served on the St. Louis JACL board since 2014, participated as a representative to the OCA-JACL Leadership Summit, served on the Resolutions Committee for this year's JACL National Convention and serves as the Voter Registration Chair for his chapter's Coulter Foundation grant project. He also has an interest in politics and hopes to make his way into local or state politics after retirement from his law career.

#### Personal Statement

"It is imperative that we continue to criticize a presidential candidate for spreading fear and making false accusations, but I personally believe it is just as important and symbolic to gather our resources around a single candidate who could not only prevent any hateful candidates from winning the election but also dedicate his/her public life to spreading peace and commonality amongst all citizens. Community organizations such

as ours should not shy away from political activism but instead embrace it, especially in an election year like right now to mobilize our membership toward a better America, where our children and their children can see that history is not going to repeat itself."



LINDSEY SUGIMOTO  
**JACL Chapter: West Los Angeles**  
**Recipient of the Grace Andow Memorial Law Scholarship**  
**University of California Berkeley School of Law**

#### Notables

Lindsey Sugimoto is very active in her community and school. Her activities include serving as a community ambassador for the West Los Angeles JACL and Venice Japanese Community Center and as an intern with the Pacific Southwest JACL. As an ambassador, she interacted with the elderly, World War II veterans, business owners, community leaders and foreign dignitaries, taking the time to personally engage them with a smile and a sincere interest in their conversations. This past year, Sugimoto represented the Japanese American community in Southern California through her inclusion in the 2014 Nisei Week Court. She has held several leadership positions in college organizations and was on the Alumni Affairs Committee in the Undergraduate Student Government, a member of the Epsilon Zeta Chapter of Delta Gamma Fraternity and Sorority, external vp and member of the Nikkei Student Union and vp and founder of the Model United Nations. Sugimoto has earned impressive academic honors, including distinction as a Renaissance Scholar (two distinct majors with a GPA of 3.7 or above in each major), Magma Cum Laude, Order of Omega (top 5 percent of Greek Life) and Beta Gamma Sigma Honors Society (top 10 percent of Business).

#### Personal Statement

"We are constantly being torn between proving our Americanism to our peers and ourselves while welcoming the customs, traditions and characteristics from Japan.

**See LAW on page 16 »**



# STAMP CAMPAIGN GETS BOOST AND SEEKS CONGRESS' HELP FROM CAMP DISTRICTS

The 11-year 'Stamp Our Story' campaign continues to grow.

Many JACL members may have watched and even supported the stamp campaign since it began in 2005. Ventura County JACL's Aiko O. King joined with her Nisei friends Fusa Takahashi of Granite Bay, Calif., and Chiz Ohira of Gardena, Calif., to start "Stamp Our Story." Takahashi and Ohira are both widows of Nisei veterans, and all three are former incarcerated. Their efforts began as a way to remember the Nisei soldiers of World War II. The U.S. Postal Service denied their past petitions.

This time is different.

The USPS has been steadfast in restricting stamps that would directly honor military units. But since last fall, the organizers' focus has shifted to a stamp proposal that would tell the story of the Nisei WWII soldiers through the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in Washington, D.C. The memorial is a National Park Service site that tells the soldiers' story within the context of the incarceration of Japanese Americans during the war.

Postmaster General Megan Brennan and her advisory committee officially placed this 2015 proposal "under consideration," which is the last step prior to release. Past campaign proposals were not elevated to this category. But this last step can take many years, and often such proposals never see the light of day.

Campaigners are urging supporters to continue to be the "squeaky wheel" and not allow Brennan to forget this effort. Activists are asking members of Congress and state governors to send a letter of support to Brennan, urging her to issue the stamp next year, as 2017 marks the 75th commemoration of Executive Order 9066 and the start of the incarceration of Nikkei citizens during the war.

So far this year, 42 representatives from both parties have responded and voiced their support: 35 Democrats and 7 Repub-

licans. The governors of Hawaii and California have joined as well.

Over the summer, the campaign received a boost from six GOP members of Congress. The Alaska congressional delegation of Sen. Dan Sullivan and Sen. Lisa Murkowski, as well as Rep. Don Young, sent letters of support. Three politicians from Southern California also joined them: Rep. Ed Royce (Fullerton), Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (Huntington Beach) and Rep. Ken Calvert (Corona).

"I am writing to strongly encourage you to support the issuance of a United States commemorative postage stamp to provide timely and deserved recognition for the Nisei veterans," wrote Sullivan in his June 30 letter. "It will soon be three-quarters of a century since the Nisei first served our nation. Commemorating their efforts with a stamp would be a fitting tribute to their courage, loyalty and undying patriotism to the United States. This stamp would also serve as a constant reminder of the importance of civil liberties and the depth of character that led these individuals to offer themselves on behalf of their country in tumultuous times."

Hawaii's Democratic Gov. David Ige voiced his support on July 29. His late father, Tokio "Bobby" Ige, was awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star as a Nisei soldier in the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team "A" Company.

"Much has been written to document the heroics of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the 100th Infantry Battalion, the most-decorated outfit in the history of American military," wrote Ige. "The regiment and battalion were comprised primarily of AJA (Americans of Japanese Ancestry), many whose families were confined in internment camps in the U.S. while they were engaging in combat in various European WWII warfronts. . . . We humbly request your consideration of this historic commemorative stamp on behalf of the State of Hawai'i and the families of these American heroes."

**>> See STAMP on page 16**

# LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE



## ESTATE PLANNING FAQs

By Staci Yamashita-Iida, Esq.

For the past 20 years, my boss, Judd Matsunaga, has held free Elder Law seminars every summer during Nisei Week. Over the past couple of years, I've had the opportunity to join him by speaking to the attendees about Estate Planning and Medi-Cal planning. Through the seminars, I've come to learn that people tend to ask the same three questions when it comes to their estate plan. I'd like to share those questions in this article and, to the best of my abilities, offer an answer.

### FAQ #1: What's the difference between a will and a trust?

We've all seen movies and TV shows that depict potential beneficiaries huddled in an attorney's office, anxiously awaiting the reading of a deceased family member's "Last Will and Testament." Upon learning that Great Aunt Agnes bequeathed her mansion and millions to her cat, the wails of the greedy family members can be heard echoing the city streets.

This scenario may make entertaining television, but it generally doesn't occur in reality. A will and a trust are similar in that they both stipulate whom your assets will be distributed to upon your passing. But a key difference is that a living trust avoids probate. Property left through a will passes through probate, meaning the court oversees the will's administration to ensure that the assets are properly distributed.

Avoiding probate becomes increasingly important if you own real property (e.g., a home or rental property) as it is extremely time consuming and expensive; all in all, a real headache.

One thing I've noticed is that my Japanese and Japanese American clients are very modest. They always say to me, "I don't have anything! Just a home and a little bit of savings." You may think the same about your own estate. But even if you don't think you have much, the truth is that assets are assets. Bottom line — if you own a home and/or some savings and you want to make sure your children inherit it all in

the easiest way possible, you should consider a living trust, not a will.

### FAQ #2: How often do I need to update my trust?

Think of your living trust as a car. After your initial purchase, you may need to take it in to the shop every once in a while to see if any maintenance is required. In order to see if your trust needs a tune-up, consider the following:

First, have there been any changes to your family dynamic? If so, you may need to amend your trust. If you have grandchildren now, you may want to include them as beneficiaries. If your sister has passed away, you may need to remove her as a trustee and add someone else in her place. If your son has gotten divorced, you may want to double check that his ex-wife has no right to your assets.

Second, does your trust include A-B Trust provisions? If you're married and you created your trust 10-plus years ago, chances are you have an outdated provision that can leave you with a loss of control over your assets, extensive record keeping, additional filing of tax returns and other burdensome tasks. This "A-B Trust" provision was historically used to reduce estate taxes, but dramatic changes in the law altered the way it is currently drafted. One thing to note is that this update must be done while both spouses are alive; once one spouse passes away, the provision is cemented into the trust.

Third, have there been any major changes in the law? Each year, Congress passes new laws, and the IRS issues new regulations. Trust provisions are routinely redrafted in order to keep up with the times. A good rule of thumb is to meet with your attorney every five to 10 years to see if your trust needs updating.

### FAQ #3: Do I still need a trust if I add my child(ren) on title to my home?

Many people attempt to avoid probate by adding their child or children's names on title to the family home. However, there are several drawbacks to doing so.

**>> See FAQs on page 16**

## AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL 2016 TOUR SCHEDULE

Korea Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida)	Oct 4-17
Seoul, Nami Island, Sokcho, Daegu, Gyeongju, Busan, Cheju Island, Gwangju, Daejeon, Suwon, KBS Drama Center, DMZ Tour.	
New England Autumn Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida)	Oct 11-18
Boston, Woodstock, Stowe-Vermont, North Conway-New Hampshire, Boothbay Harbor, Kennebunkport-Maine.	
Kyushu-Shikoku Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida)	Oct 27-Nov 9
Fukuoka, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Ibusuki, Kagoshima, Miyazaki, Beppu, Matsuyama, Kochi, Takamatsu, Shodo Island, Tokushima, Osaka.	
New Orleans Get-Away Tour (Carol Hida)	Dec 12-16
One hotel, City Tour, New Orleans Cooking School-Dinner, Cajun Swamp Tour.	

For more information and reservations, please contact:

### AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL

312 E. 1st Street, Suite 330 \* Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Tel: (213)625-2232 \* Email: americanholiday@att.net  
Ernest or Carol Hida or Elaine Ishida (Tel: 714-269-4534)

(CST #200326-10)



A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

## NCWNP

**Art Then & Now — A Thread That Connects Us**  
**Emeryville, CA**  
**Oct. 7 Opening Reception, 5-7 p.m.; Oct. 8-9, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.**  
**J-SEI Building, 2nd Floor Atrium**  
**1285 66th St.**

This exhibit and benefit sale will offer unique paintings, art wear, jewelry, artisan papers and antiques by internationally known Japanese American artists from the past and today. Works by artists including Ruth Asawa, Chiura Obata, Arthur Okamura, Vicky Mihara Avery, Ellen Bepp and Keiki Fujita will be featured. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History in conjunction with the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066. The event is sponsored by the JACL Berkeley chapter.  
**Info: Email [keikicolour@gmail.com](mailto:keikicolour@gmail.com).**

**'Talk Story and Treasures: Nikkei Artifacts Tell Tales We Must Not Forget'**  
**Berkeley, CA**  
**Oct. 8; Noon-1 p.m. and 2-4 p.m. (open viewings), Program 1-2 p.m.**  
**Berkeley Methodist Church**  
**1710 Carleton St.**  
**Price: Free**

JACL Berkeley and NSU present "Talk Story and Treasures," sponsored by Berkeley JACL and JC Berkeley Nikkei Student Union with support from Friends of Topaz, J-Sei and Berkeley Methodist United. Community members are invited to spend an afternoon viewing historical artifacts, crafts, documents, photographs and family treasures lent by community members for the afternoon. The program will also feature speakers who will share their stories associated with the artifacts. RSVP by Sept. 20, as attendance is expected to reach capacity.  
**Info: Email [berkeleyjACL@gmail.com](mailto:berkeleyjACL@gmail.com).**

## PSW

**'Only the Oaks Remain: The Story of Tuna Canyon Detention Center' Premiere**  
**Pacoima, CA**  
**Oct. 2; 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.**  
**San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center**  
**12953 Branford St.**  
**Price: Donations Kindly Accepted**  
 The SFVJACC is hosting the premiere of "Only the Oaks Remain," which tells the true stories of the Japanese, German, Italian im-

migrants and Japanese-Peruvian and others that were targeted as dangerous enemy aliens and imprisoned in the Tuna Canyon Detention Station during World War II. This project was funded, in part, by a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service and Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program.

**Info: Visit [www.tunacanyon.org](http://www.tunacanyon.org) or email [remembertunacanyon@gmail.com](mailto:remembertunacanyon@gmail.com).**

**Bridging Communities Benefit Dance**  
**Pacoima, CA**  
**Oct. 22; 7-11:30 p.m.**  
**San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center**  
**12953 Branford St.**  
**Price: \$35 Presale; \$50 at the Door**

The Bridging Communities Benefit Dance, presented by JACL-PSWD, invites you to a benefit evening to support various programs. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the event will feature a live band and dancing. Appetizers and munchies will also be offered, along with a no-host bar. Door prizes and opportunity drawings will be held throughout the evening. Come out and enjoy the evening with music performed by Kokoro.

**Info: Contact Nancy Takayama at (213) 626-4471, ext. 101, or email [ntakayama@jacldpsw.org](mailto:ntakayama@jacldpsw.org).**

**2016 Japanese Food Festival**  
**Universal City, CA**  
**Nov. 13; 11 am.-4 pm.**  
**Hilton Los Angeles/Universal City**  
**555 Universal Hollywood Dr.**  
**Price: Adults \$55 and child \$28 presale by Nov. 10; Adults \$70 and child \$35 after Nov. 11**  
 Come and taste Japanese cuisine at its finest. Sample sushi, authentic Japanese ramen, sake and more! The event will also feature the premiere screening of "Tsukiji Wonderland," the story about Japan's famous fish market and the inspiration behind the documentary "Jiro Dreams of Sushi." Door prizes and drawings will also be held.  
**Contact: Visit <https://JapaneseFoodCultureUSA.org>.**

## MDC

**Denver Taiko 40th Anniversary Concert**  
**Denver, CO**  
**Oct. 8, 7 p.m. and Oct. 9, 2 p.m.**  
**Newman Center for Performing Arts**  
**2344 E. Iliff Ave.**  
**Price: \$25 General Admission; \$18 Student/Senior**  
 Denver Taiko is a community-

based, nonprofit organization committed to honoring and sharing Japanese drumming through performance and providing an engaging creative outlet for those interested in the art of Taiko. Come and join the group's 40th anniversary tribute.  
**Info: Visit <http://www.denvertaiko.org>.**

**History of Kimono**  
**Denver, CO**  
**Oct. 19, Noon-1 p.m.**  
**Japan America Society of Colorado**  
**1373 Grant St.**  
**Price: Free**

Japan America Society of Colorado member Hiroko Johnson will host this lecture about the History of Kimono. Originally an imported fashion from China and made popular by courtesans, kimono have evolved to become the iconic dress of Japan. Follow the development of design, uses, style and techniques with Johnson, professor emeritus and lecturer in Japanese art history at California State University, San Diego.  
**Info: Visit <http://www.jascolorado.org>.**

## PNW

**Vision and Vigilance: Minoru Yasui**  
**Portland, OR**  
**Oct. 9; 10 a.m.-Noon**  
**Portland Center Stage**  
**128 N.W. 11th Ave.**  
**Price: Free**  
 Experience the story of Minoru Yasui, who purposely violated the military curfew imposed under Executive Order 9066 to test its constitutionality. The event will feature a play reading of "Citizen Min," film excerpt of "Never Give Up," a photo exhibit and community discussion. The event is presented by the Minoru Yasui Tribute Project, Oregon Humanities and the Oregon Nikkei Endowment.  
**Info: To RSVP, call (503) 445-3700.**

**Portland Taiko's 'Sound in Motion'**  
**Portland, OR**  
**Oct. 16; 3-5 p.m.**  
**Cabell Center Theater**  
**8825 S.W. Barnes Road**  
**Price: \$22-\$26**  
 "Sound in Motion," Portland Taiko's fall concert, will feature Portland Taiko and Los Angeles' award-winning TaikoProject in an energetic evening of contemporary taiko works. TaikoProject is making its Portland debut.  
**Info: Visit [info@portlandtaiko.org](mailto:info@portlandtaiko.org).**

**Centennial Celebration: Minoru Yasui**  
**Hood River, OR**  
**Oct. 18, 7-9 p.m.; Oct. 19, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.**  
**Columbia Center for the Arts**

**and the Hood River Library**  
**Oct. 18: 215 Cascade Ave.**  
**Oct. 19: Hood River Library, 502 State St.**

In conjunction with the 100th celebration of the birth of Min Yasui, these events will feature readings from the play "Citizen Min" — "Vision and Vigilance" as well as follow-up discussions. The following day features an exhibit on Minoru Yasui courtesy of the Oregon Nikkei Endowment, the unveiling of the Legacy Stone and reception (birthday party!) and a film screening premiere of Part 1: "Never Give Up! Minoru Yasui and the Fight for Justice."  
**Info: Visit <https://www.columbiaarts.org/>.**

## EDC

**Ramen Contest and Japanese Fall Festival**  
**New York, NY**  
**Oct. 15-16**  
**Astor Center**  
**399 Lafayette St.**  
**Price: Free**

An indoor eating ramen contest will serve up some of New York's most popular Japanese ramen shop dishes. The weekend event will also host a Japanese fall festival along Broadway Street between 92 and 94 Streets as well. Come and enjoy Japanese heritage and culture at the fair with about 60 vendors and stores.  
**Info: Visit [www.japanblockfair.com](http://www.japanblockfair.com) or email [todo@japanblockfair.com](mailto:todo@japanblockfair.com).**

**Asia Society at 60: Past, Present and Future**  
**New York, NY**  
**Oct. 26; 6-8 p.m.**  
**Asia Society**  
**725 Park Ave.**  
**Price: Members \$12; Students/Seniors \$15; Nonmembers \$20**  
 Join Asia Society as it reflects on the 60th anniversary of its founding by John D. Rockefeller III. Established to promote a greater understanding and knowledge of Asia in the U.S., it has evolved over the decades to reach beyond an American audience, responding to the global shift toward Asia. A special screening of the short film "Asia Society at 60," narrated by Asia Society Trustee Emeritus Tom Brokaw, will also be shown.  
**Info: Visit [www.asiasociety.org](http://www.asiasociety.org).**

**Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival**  
**Philadelphia, PA**  
**Nov. 10-20**  
 Various locations in Philadelphia  
 The Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival is back this year paying tribute to rising stars in Asian American filmmaking. This celebration is the only one of its kind in the Philadelphia area and is now the largest AAPI film festival on the East Coast. It attracts actors, filmmakers and audiences from the area and all

around the world. Come support the films in this year's lineup.  
**Info: Visit [www.phillyasianfilmfest.org](http://www.phillyasianfilmfest.org).**

## IDC

**Minidoka: Artist as Witness**  
**Opening Reception**  
**Boise, ID**  
**Oct. 7; 5:30-8 p.m.**  
**Boise Art Museum**  
**670 E. Julia Davis Dr.**  
**Price: \$10 nonmembers/Free for BAM members**  
 Teresa Tamura (photographer) will be present at the reception.  
**Info: To RSVP, email [rsvp@boiseartmuseum.org](mailto:rsvp@boiseartmuseum.org).**

**Minidoka: Artist as Witness Exhibit**  
**Boise, ID**  
**Oct. 8-Jan. 15, 2017**  
**Boise Art Museum**  
**670 E. Julia Davis Dr.**  
**Price: Varies**  
 Sponsored by Boise Valley and Snake River JACL chapters, this exhibit features poignant works by Takuichi Fujii, Wendy Maruyama (Tag Project), Kenjiro Nomura, Roger Shimomura (painter) and Teresa Tamura (photographer), who have all created art based on personal or family experiences related to Minidoka.  
**Info: Email [britney@boiseartmuseum.org](mailto:britney@boiseartmuseum.org) or call (208) 345-8330, ext. 26.**

**Wendy Maruyama, Artist Lecture**  
**Boise, ID**  
**Nov. 9; 6 p.m.**  
**Boise State University Special Events Center**  
**1800 University Dr.**  
**Price: \$15/\$10 BAM members & BSU ID holders**  
 A public lecture by an internationally known contemporary Japanese American artist and creator of the "Tag Project." Hear about Wendy Maruyama's artwork related to the Minidoka War Relocation Center in Idaho and the ways art can be used to document events and express personal experiences.  
**Info: To purchase tickets, visit [www.boiseartmuseum.org/special-events](http://www.boiseartmuseum.org/special-events) or call Rebecca at (208) 345-8330, ext. 15.** ■

## ADVERTISE HERE

Events in the calendar section are listed based on space availability. Place a 'Spotlight' ad with photos of your event for maximum exposure.  
**FOR MORE INFO:**  
**[pc@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:pc@pacificcitizen.org)**  
**(213) 620-1767**



# IN MEMORIAM



**Fujimoto, Edward 'Fuzzy,' 84,** South Pasadena, CA, Aug. 16; he was a Korean War veteran; he is survived by his wife, Irene; sons, Brian and Kevin (Flo); sisters, Kimiko (George), Yoshiko; and many nieces and nephews as well as relatives here and in Japan; gc: 2.

**Honda, Yoshiye, 91,** Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 12; she was interned at Gila River Relocation Center in Arizona during WWII; she was predeceased by her husband, Bob M. Honda; she is survived by her brother, Mike Yoshimoto; children, Susan (Kenji) Oiwake, Victor (Billie Ann) Honda, Janet (Takeshi) Koyama of Japan and Steven (Anne) Honda; gc: 8.



**Imai, Shizue, 88,** La Habra, CA, Sept. 15; she was born in Vancouver, B.C.; she is

survived by her daughters, Candice (Ken) Kanemaru and Wendy (Eddie) Ugalde; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 5; ggc: 4.

**Ishimoto, Asako, 97,** Honolulu, HI, Sept. 3; she is survived by her daughters, Karen and Charlene; gc: 2; ggc: 3.

**Kawabe, Glen, 71,** La Habra, CA, Sept. 9; he is survived by his wife, Dianne; daughter, Tricia (Norton) Ong; son, Kyle Kawabe; brother, Raymond Kawabe; sister, Shirley Nakata; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 1.

**Kuroda, Mary, 92,** Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 11; she was born in Seattle, WA; she is survived by her daughter, Bonnie (Paul) Nakasuji; son, Lee (Trish) Kuroda; gc: 5; ggc: 4.



**Kurose, George, 75,** Villa Park, CA, Sept. 15; he was born in Twin Falls, Idaho; he was predeceased by his sisters, Kasi Kurose and Grace Yonemura; sister-in-law, Gayle Kurose; brother-in-law, Norman Oda; he is survived by his wife, Nori; daughters,

Tracy (Thomas) Inatomi, Lesley (Sidney) Ho, Deana (Mark) Okohira; brothers, Frank, Tom (Geri); sister, Bette Kurose and Rose Oda; brother-in-law, Asa Yonemura; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4.

**Matsumoto, Claire Teruye, 91,** Honolulu, HI, Sept. 9; she is survived by her husband, Noboru; son, Mark; daughter, Gloria Higa; sister, Florence T. Sakae; gc: 3.

**Morita, Lillie Yaeko, 85,** San Jose, CA, Sept. 3; she is survived by her husband, Fred; children, Eric, Keith (Jennifer) and Karen (Shaw Walker); brothers, Roy (Esther) and Joe (Lynn) Murotsune; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews; gc: 4.

**Nitta, Kenneth Kaname 'Ampan,' 81;** Ewa Beach, HI, Sept. 6; he is survived by his wife, Rosita; brothers, George and Thomas; sisters, Ichiyo Koga and Alice Asato.



**Sakuma, Chizuko, 90,** Montebello, CA, Aug. 29; she is survived by her brother, Tadashi (Geri) Sakuma; sisters, Mitsu Higuchi and Ikuko Hozaki; she is also survived

by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Shinzato, Itoko, 98,** Monterey Park, CA, Sept. 21; she was born in Hawaii; she is survived by her son, Kazuo Shinzato; daughters, Setsuko Alyce (John) Cha, Keiko Omori, Gracy Kono; gc: 9; ggc: 6.

**Someda, Raymond Chiyuki, 93,** Honolulu, HI, Aug. 24; he was a U.S. Army veteran; he is survived by his son, Anson S.; daughter, Shirley A. Maeshiro; two brothers; four sisters; gc: 2; ggc: 3.

**Sumida, Shizuo 'Larry,' 91,** Pepeekeo, HI; he was a U.S. Army veteran; he is survived by his wife, Yoshino "Doris"; sons, Warren and Myles; daughter, Lori Kunihiro; sisters, Ritsuko Olson and Itsuko Nakagawa; gc: 9; ggc: 3.

**Sumitomo, Takayuki, 78,** Torrance, CA, Sept. 5; he is survived by his wife, Joyce Emiko; son, Troy (Trini Tran); daughter, Jodi Miyuki (Michael) Nishioka; he is also survived by many other family members and friends; gc: 3.

**Tanita, Bernadette T., 68,** North Hollywood, CA, Sept. 14; she was born in Hawaii and was predeceased by her husband, Phillip A. Tanita; father, James C. Owan; she is survived by her mother, Betty H. Owan; brothers, Curtis K., Alan S. (Cristeta C.) and Wayne J. Owan; nieces, Cara E and Erica C. Owan; nephews, Ryan C. Owan and Wayne J. Owan Jr.; grandniece, Chassity Rae Owan Peru.

**Tsuneishi, Sally Sayono, 90,** Torrance, CA, Sept. 10; she was born in Kohala, HI; she was interned at Jerome Relocation Camp in Arkansas and Gila Relocation Center in Arizona; she was predeceased by her husband, Rev. Arthur Makoto Tsuneishi; she is survived by her sons, Jonathan, Mark (DeeAnn) and Chris (Janice); daughters, Koko (Rod) Yee, Gail (Fred) Wagner, Lani (John) Fredrick, Carol

and Julie (Wyatt) Loo; brother, Ralph (Shirley); sisters, Marian, Pat, Esther (George); sister-in-law, Frances Tsuneishi; brothers-in-law, Noel, Yoshi (Fumi) Tsuneishi; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews; gc: 14.



**Tsushima, Mitsuo, 91,** Orangevale, CA, Aug. 29; he was predeceased by his wife, Shizue; brother, Jiro; sister, Irene; he spent 20 years in the U.S. Air Force following internment during WWII; he is survived by his siblings, Mary, Frank, Hiroshi, May, Tadashi and Isamu; son, Richard (Cheryl).



**Uchima, Ansho Masaru, 93,** Redondo Beach, CA, Sept. 3; he was a Korean War veteran and recipient of a Bronze Star; he was predeceased by his wife, Tadayo; he is survived by his son, Ray (Estela); and many other relatives; gc: 1; ggc: 1.

**Uno, Grace Shizuko, 90,** Honolulu, HI, Sept. 14; she is survived by her sons, Joseph P. and Thomas A.; daughter, Barbara U. Harada; gc: 5; ggc: 2.

## 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.

**Contact:**  
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President



## COLLEGE &gt;&gt; continued from page 3

at 220 mph every half hour.

We all have different roles in the functioning of the world, and some roles are more consequential than others. Some roles will have more of an impact on a greater number of lives. But at some level, you have to understand the percentages. You're one in 7.125 billion. Your voice counts, but it doesn't count more than anyone else's.

When I was a smart-aleck high schooler, I came up with the genius idea of weighting votes based on your IQ level. That way, I explained to my dad (who was horrified, by the way), your vote would

count more if you were smart, because it meant you could make better or at least better-informed decisions. I now see how arrogant and unintelligent that was, and I have the humanities to thank for that. One voice doesn't count more than any other. We're all one in a million — or maybe one in 7.125 billion.

*Matthew Ormseth is currently a student at Cornell University majoring in English. He seeks to give an honest portrayal of life as both a university student and member of the Millennial generation.*

## LAW &gt;&gt; continued from page 12

"Though there is no viable solution to this dichotomy, it would provide stability and ease to know that this is a shared but treasured facet of Japanese American identity. It would also bring awareness within the community of other minority groups that may be experiencing similar stigma from greater America, as the JACL continues to play a prominent role in fostering relationships between minority groups. For example, JACL

can continue to serve as a central facilitator in the conversation of the obstacles of Muslim Americans, American citizens misbranded by the stigma of terrorism based on physical features. I believe the JACL could remind our community and greater America that we as Americans are all homogeneous in the greatest sense — all citizens of the United States with distinguished remnants of our distinctive forefathers." ■

## STAMP &gt;&gt; continued from page 13

Listed below are the military affairs contacts for Congress members who represent camp districts. Also listed are the members of Congress that have already voiced their support. Check to see if your representative and senators have spoken out.

*For more details and to read the letters of support in their entirety, visit the campaign's website at [www.StampOurStory.org](http://www.StampOurStory.org).*

Arizona**Poston**

Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ-04)  
Contact: Trevor Pearson  
*Email: [Trevor.Pearson@mail.house.gov](mailto:Trevor.Pearson@mail.house.gov)*  
*Phone: (202) 225-2315*  
**Gila River**  
Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick (D-AZ-01)  
Contact: Ken Montoya  
*Email: [Ken.Montoya@mail.house.gov](mailto:Ken.Montoya@mail.house.gov)*  
*Phone: (202) 225-3361*

Arkansas**Jerome**

Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-AR-04).  
Contact: Courtland Sykes and Cody Burkham  
*Email: [Courtland.Sykes@mail.house.gov](mailto:Courtland.Sykes@mail.house.gov) and [James.Burkham@mail.house.gov](mailto:James.Burkham@mail.house.gov)*  
*Phone: (202) 225-3772*  
**Rohwer**  
Rep. Rick Crawford (R-AR-01)  
Contact: Abbi Burgess  
*Email: [Abbi.Burgess@mail.house.gov](mailto:Abbi.Burgess@mail.house.gov)*  
*Phone: (202) 225-4076*

California**Tule Lake**

Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-CA-01)  
Contact: John Pezzullo  
*Email: [John.Pezzullo@mail.house.gov](mailto:John.Pezzullo@mail.house.gov)*

*Phone: (202) 225-3076*

**Manzanar**

Rep. Paul Cook (R-CA-08) already sent his letter of support on May 17.

Colorado**Granada ("Amache")**

Rep. Ken Buck (R-CO-04)  
Contact: James Hampson  
*Email: [James.Hampson@mail.house.gov](mailto:James.Hampson@mail.house.gov)*  
*Phone: (202) 225-4676*

Idaho**Minidoka**

Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID-02)  
Contact: Billy Valderrama  
*Email: [Billy.Valderrama@mail.house.gov](mailto:Billy.Valderrama@mail.house.gov)*  
*Phone: (202) 225-5531*

Utah**Topaz**

Rep. Chris Stewart (R-UT-02)  
Contact: Gordon Larsen  
*Email: [Gordon.Larsen@mail.house.gov](mailto:Gordon.Larsen@mail.house.gov)*  
*Phone: (202) 225-9730*

Wyoming**Heart Mountain**

Rep. Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyoming-At Large)  
Contact: Will Carraco  
*Email: [Will.Carraco@mail.house.gov](mailto:Will.Carraco@mail.house.gov)*  
*Phone: (202) 225-2311*

As of Sept. 20, following is the list of 42 supporters for the stamp from Congress:

Alaska (3)

Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska-At Large);  
Sens. Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan

Arizona (1)

Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-Tuscon)

California (24)

Reps. Karen Bass (D-Los Angeles), Julia Brownley (D-Oak Park), Ken Calvert (R-Corona),

Judy Chu (D-Monterey Park), Paul Cook (R-Yucca Valley), Susan Davis (D-San Diego), Mark DeSaulnier (D-Concord), Anna Eshoo (D-Atherton), Sam Farr (D-Carmel), Mike Honda (D-San Jose), Barbara Lee (D-Oakland), Ted Lieu (D-Torrance), Zoe Lofgren (D-San Jose), Alan Lowenthal (D-Long Beach), Doris Matsui (D-Sacramento), Grace Napolitano (D-Norwalk), Scott Peters (D-La Jolla), Dana Rohrabacher (R-Huntington Beach), Ed Royce (R-Fullerton), Loretta Sanchez (D-Anaheim), Adam Schiff (D-Burbank), Jackie Speier (D-Hillsborough), Eric Swalwell (D-Dublin), Mark Takano (D-Riverside)

California Gov. Jerry Brown (D)

Hawaii (4)

Reps. Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hilo), Mark Takai (deceased) (D-Honolulu);  
Sens. Mazie Hirono and Brian Schatz

Hawaii Gov. David Ige (D)

Maryland (1)

Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-Kensington)

Nevada (1)

Rep. Dina Titus (D-Las Vegas)

New York (3)

Reps. Gregory Meeks (D-Queens), Charles Rangel (D-Manhattan), Nydia Velazquez (D-Brooklyn)

Oregon (1)

Sen. Ron Wyden

Washington (4)

Reps. Denny Heck (D-Olympia), Derek Kilmer (D-Tacoma), Jim McDermott (D-Seattle), Adam Smith (D-Bellevue) ■

## FAQS &gt;&gt; continued from page 13

Adding your children on title leaves you vulnerable to your children's creditors. Let's say you add your daughter, Erin, onto title so the property is left to her when you're gone. Thereafter, Erin rear-ends someone on the freeway, and the accident victim sues Erin for personal injuries. If the court renders a judgment against Erin, then the accident victim's attorney can go after the family home — even if you're still living in it.

In some circumstances, parents remove themselves from title completely and transfer full interest in the property to a child. That plan is also complicated, as it leaves you at risk of being kicked out of your own home. If you get into a fight with your son, and he decides to sell the home, then you're out of

a place to live.

If you want to make sure your home goes to your kids, a better solution would be to have them inherit it through your trust. This not only protects you, but it also has excellent tax benefits should your children choose to sell the home later on down the line.

*Staci Yamashita-Iida, Esq. is an Estate Planning attorney at Elder Law Services of California. She can be contacted at (310) 348-2995. The opinions expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Pacific Citizen or JACL. The information presented does not constitute legal advice and should not be treated as such.*

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