

NY/SC Looks to Maintain the Voice of JACL as well as Empower Youth Now

Happy New Year from the National Youth/Student Council!

We have appreciated the opportunity to serve and represent the young people in JACL in 2015, and we are looking forward to a productive year.

In the past year, our youth board has gathered to perform public service and organize community events, connecting with other young people and young Nikkei on issues that affect us all. We had the opportunity to accompany friends and colleagues to Selma, Ala.; witness George Takei's Broadway musical "Allegiance"; and meet AAPI professionals, such as MSNBC anchor Richard Lui at NBC in New York.

A year highlight was taking the floor of the JACL National Convention, where we stood in solidarity with black Americans engaging with the U.S.'s legacy of slavery through supporting the legislation HR 40.

This is a critical time for young Japanese Americans as we negotiate our identities, social locations as current — not just "future" — leaders of society. As we explore what directions to move in this year, we hope to faithfully maintain the critical and exceptional voice of the JACL and remember our committed loyalties to all maligned groups.

We are inspired by the recent action of solidarity with Muslims experiencing racial prejudice taken by Asian American communities and hope to explore these issues and their lasting effects.

Wishing all a great year. Please reach out to us. We love connecting with chapters and hearing your thoughts.

Thank you for your commitment to the JACL.

— ***National Youth Student Council***

You can reach the NY/SC Youth Chair at nicolegaddie@gmail.com and Youth Representative at kenji.kuramitsu@gmail.com