

**SPECIAL  
ISSUE!**



**PACIFIC  
CITIZEN**

**2013**

**NATIONAL**

**SCHOLARSHIP**

**WINNERS**



Meet This  
Year's Recipients  
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'Linsanity,' the Jeremy Lin  
Documentary **Page 8**



# 2013 National JACL Scholarship Winners



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This year's National JACL Scholarship Program has come to a close. In this special issue, the JACL is pleased to award a total of \$64,000 to the 26 most deserving applicants in their respective categories. With so many well-qualified students, the future of the JACL and its upcoming young leaders looks great!

This year, the student applicants were asked to address issues of generational differences and give their thoughts on how to educate the older generations to understand the viewpoints of the younger generation.

As you read their responses on the following pages, I believe you will find their answers quite refreshing, somewhat enlightening and maybe some surprising.

On behalf of the National JACL, I would like to give my sincere thanks to Patty Wada, whose dedicated work as the Scholarship Program Manager keeps everything

ethically sound and fair and the program running smoothly, with more than a hundred applicants and two committees to coordinate in-between, as well as fielding questions from and researching correct answers for all of these individuals (including me!). I'd also like to single out David Kawamoto, past national president, who managed the JACL Scholarship Program for more than a decade and continues to provide continuous mentorship to JACL's effort to financially support our youth.

This year was again challenging given the number of well-qualified applicants. As always, our goal is to reward as many of our scholars and future leaders as possible. I also want to thank the Eastern District Council and Salt Lake City Chapter for serving as the 2013 national selection committees. This was Eastern District's first year as a selection committee, and I'd like to personally

thank Co-Chairs Michelle Amano of the Washington, D.C., Chapter and Ken Oye of the New England Chapter, along with their committee members Kaz Uyehara and Scott Nakamura of the Philadelphia Chapter and Roger Ozaki of the Southeast Chapter for the great job they did. This was Salt Lake City Chapter's third year as a selection committee, and my thanks go to Chair Paul Fisk, along with committee members Hena John-Fisk, Jeanette Misaka, Keith Cormier, Jen Ungvichian, Emilio Manuel Camu and Irene Ota. After three years of great work with the scholarship program, Salt Lake City is passing the baton to the San Diego Chapter, who will start next year to continue the great JACL tradition of acknowledging our young leaders and scholars with scholarship support for their higher education efforts.

I'm very pleased that the JACL scholarship program continues to be so successful. We will soon begin the 2014 application process to recognize the next group of outstanding student leaders. As we wrap up the 2013 scholarships, please join me in congratulating all of our award recipients.

*Chip Larouche*  
 National VP  
 Planning & Development

**Special Scholarship Section Begins on Page 4**



*Congratulations ...*

*... to all the scholarship recipients AND applicants. Your accomplishments are considerable and admirable. Your successful efforts reflect well on you, your families and your communities. Best wishes in all your future endeavors.*

*David & Carol Kawamoto*



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# Scholarship Winners Represent the Very Best of Our Future

By Paul Fisk

*'I have been impressed with the thoughtfulness of the students' essays and have learned a great deal through being committee chair.'*

— Paul Fisk

For the past three years, it has been my pleasure to serve as the chair of the freshman/first-year student portion of the National JACL Scholarship Program. As a past National JACL scholarship recipient myself, I know how much winning a JACL scholarship meant to me, and I have tried my best to ensure that our committee selected the most deserving and -qualified applicants.

In addition to our committee's review process, I have personally read through and double-checked every single scholarship application these past three years.

Through reading these applications, I have been immensely impressed with the knowledge, dedication and abilities of these young JACL members, and it is fantastic to read how these youth members are contributing to their communities.

With our youth possessing such qualities, I know the JACL will be in very good hands in the future.

I have been deeply impressed with the thoughtfulness of the students' essays and have learned a great deal through being committee chair. I hope you find the excerpts from the winning essays this year to be thought provoking and inspiring!

It is great to see the outstanding universities that our scholarship recipients will be attending, and it is amazing to see the thank-you messages, cards or notes from winners when they are first notified of their award or even hearing from them a year later. As there have been many wonderful applicants, it has been a difficult task ranking them, but I am confident we have been as careful and thoughtful as possible in this process.

My message to applicants who did not receive scholarships this year: Please apply again! There were a large number of applications that were very strong. But guided by financial resources, we could only give out so many scholarships. Stick with it!

We noticed that many applicants who did not receive JACL scholarships this year had just recently become involved in the JACL. With another year of JACL participation, your odds of being selected for a JACL scholarship in the future will only become greater. There are many undergraduate and/or field-/topic-specific scholarships. Success is filled with difficulties and struggles. I personally have been rejected for a scholarship, only to receive it the next year, so stay focused and positive!

I would like to thank everyone who served

on the National JACL Freshman Scholarship Committee over the past three years: PJ Nakamura, Jeanette Misaka, Hena John-Fisk, Cassandra Van Buren, Keith Cormier, Jen Ungvichian, Emilio Manuel Camu, Irene Ota and Yo Azuma. Their valuable insight, effort and recommendations were vital to the success of this program. I am honored to have worked with all of them. I would also like to thank Patty Wada, Jason Chang and Chip Larouche of the National JACL for extending their support, answering our questions and providing guidance to our committee.

To those serving on the next National JACL Freshman Scholarship Committee, I hope you enjoy and learn from the experience as much as we did. It is a great deal of work, but it's well worth the time getting a close-up look at these young JACLers and our future.

*Paul Fisk received his bachelor's degree from the University of Central Florida and a master's degree from the University of Utah. He received a National JACL Scholarship in 2010. Along with the Salt Lake JACL Chapter, he has served as the scholarship committee chairperson of the freshman portion of the National JACL Scholarship Program for the past three years.*

## EDUCATION MATTERS



How can we get more teachers interested in teaching about the Japanese American experience during World War II? This is a question that the Twin Cities Chapter of the JACL has been struggling to answer for most of the past two decades.

The TC JACL formed an education committee in 1995, when the chapter co-sponsored the Smithsonian Institution Traveling photo exhibit "Whispered Silences: Japanese American Detention Camps, 50 Years Later" at the main branch of the Minneapolis Public Library, funded in part by the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund.

To fulfill numerous requests from school and community groups for information about the Japanese American World War II experience, the committee saw the need to create a volunteer Speakers Bureau consisting of Nisei with first-hand knowledge of the war years, as well as Nisei veterans who served with the 100th/442nd RCT and Military Intelligence Service. At that time, the committee began to gather resources related to the Japanese American experience in WWII. To this day, it maintains an extensive and growing collection of books, DVDs, curriculum guides and photo aides that are available for loan to students and/or teachers at no cost.

One important mission of the Education Committee is to educate teachers. For the

past several years, the committee has participated in the Minnesota Council for Social Studies' annual conference by presenting teacher workshops and staffing a display booth.

In 2003, Sally Sudo, education committee chair, spoke at a public hearing to advocate for the inclusion of the Japanese American incarceration experience in the State of Minnesota's Academic Standards in Social Studies because the topic had not been included in the initial draft. The incarceration experience is now a required topic in middle and high school. Since the MIS Language School was relocated to Minnesota at Camp Savage, and later to Fort Snelling, the MIS is included under the standards for Minnesota History in the sixth grade.

This fall, the TC JACL Education Committee will reach a larger audience by presenting a workshop on the MIS titled "Minnesota's Yankee Samurai: America's Secret Weapon in WWII" at the Education Minnesota Professional Conference on Oct. 17 in St. Paul. An estimated 10,000 educators from around the state are expected to attend this annual professional development opportunity that is also open to the public at no charge.

During the one-hour session, MIS veterans will share their experiences, and the revised and updated MIS Curriculum Guide for

Teachers will be unveiled. Committee members, which include Janet Maeda Carlson, Sylvia Farrells, Lillian Grothe, Cheryl Hirata-Dulas, Lucy Kirihara, Gloria Kumagai, Carolyn Nayematsu and Mathew Walters, will also staff an informational booth in the exhibit hall. The project is made possible through funding from the JACL Legacy Fund.

At the conference, the TC JACL Education Committee will introduce, for the first time, the "Power of Truth Teacher Award."

"This award, developed by our chapter's education committee, is our way of honoring educators who go beyond the required Minnesota curriculum standards to inspire youth to protect American democracy, to promote tolerance of our diverse American citizenry and to prevent the next generation from repeating injustices of the past," explained Sudo.

A colleague, parent or student may nominate any educator in grades K-12, not limited to a classroom teacher. Self-nominations are accepted. Nominations include a 100- to 200-word description of how the educator fulfills the award's qualifications.

The deadline is June 15, 2014, and the awardee will receive a monetary prize and recognition at the TC JACL annual fall banquet.

*For more information, contact Sally Sudo at [ssudo@comcast.net](mailto:ssudo@comcast.net).*



NATIONAL

SCHOLARSHIP

WINNERS

2013

ESSAY TOPIC

This year's JACL scholarship recipients were asked to respond to the following statement:

'There are vast differences of opinion between the younger and older generations of the Nikkei community. As a member of the younger generation, please elaborate on some of those differences and how you would educate our elders on the viewpoints of your generation.'



Freshman Winners



Kristi M. Fukunaga

Portland JACL
Paul & Katherine Ohtaki Memorial Scholarship
Willamette University

'A stereotype that has been placed upon the younger generation is that we do not respect our older generations and are more rebellious. This stereotype builds up walls between the generations. Unite People's (the youth group of the Portland JACL) dedication to understand the Japanese American incarceration and remind ourselves of this civil rights injustice shows that there are kids who do care about the past and who do want to commemorate our ancestors for the sacrifices they had to endure. . . . Multigenerational families living under one household rarely exist these days, and these kind of generational relationships are lost. I believe we should promote more opportunities for the interaction of these two generations so that many of the stereotypes

of the younger generation can fade away. . . . We should open our lives and allow each individual to express who [he or she is] and what makes [him or her], enabling us to build relationships among any individual without the control of stereotypes. It is our duty to not only keep our minds open but also help open others' as well.'

Marisa L. Kataoka

Washington, D.C., JACL
Kenji Kasai Memorial Scholarship
Vanderbilt University

'Ever since its founding in 1929, the Japanese American Citizens League has been a home to Americans who have strived to honor their Japanese ancestry while loving their country and home, the United States of America. . . . As new generations of JACL members enter the organization and as the United States goes through both demographic and cultural changes, opinions will change. . . . We often take for granted that Asian Americans have held seats in the Cabinet and the Senate, but I believe that this perception of the world has led my generation to be more outspoken with regards to Asian American civil rights; we believe that it is the duty of the JACL, an influential organization in both the political and public scene, to be as vocal as possible when injustices are dealt to any minority population in the United States. One such minority population is the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community. As a young member of the JACL who loves being connected to her Japanese ancestry, I felt immensely proud when the JACL came out in support of marriage equality.'



Mali M. McGuire

Berkeley JACL
Mas & Majiu Uyesugi Memorial Scholarship
Loyola Marymount University



'Their strength, courage and foresight for a better life by moving to America for the sake of family amazes me. I am forever grateful. . . . The Issei worked together, developed a great sense of community and helped each other establish their new lives in America. Starting life with such uncertainty can make one very desirous of stability in life. Maybe this is one reason why generations before me are reluctant to experience change. As a result, most were more comfortable and acceptable marrying another Japanese, and it was frowned upon marrying someone non-Japanese. Today, many Sansei have married individuals of non-Japanese ancestry. For example, my mom is Japanese American, my dad is Irish American and I am Chinese. As you might have guessed, I am adopted. I may look Chinese, I may have an Irish last name and I embrace the Japanese culture, but there is more to it. I would like to show earlier generations that differences in culture do not matter — all cultures are valuable. Today, we accept a variety of people, those of different ethnicities and cultural makeups. And we value what one makes of those differences, instead of the differences themselves.'



**CONGRATULATIONS**

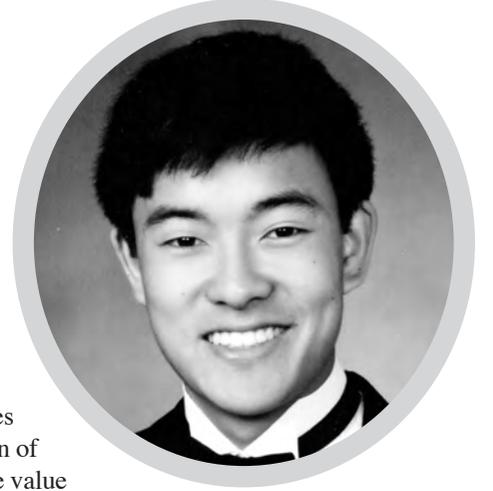
**Marisa  
Kataoka**

**We are so proud of  
you!**

**JACL-DC Chapter**

**Kota Mizutani**  
Sonoma County JACL  
*Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship*  
Brown University

“The elder generations stay very connected to only Japanese American culture and history but largely do not seem open to the multiethnic direction of the Nikkei community. Meanwhile, much of the younger generation seems to be disconnected from the invaluable history and heritage of their Japanese American ancestors. . . . If our generation can learn our elder’s stories of facing discrimination and unjust incarceration, we will become more empowered with the knowledge to prevent further injustices from happening again. At the same time, we, the diverse population of Japanese American youth, must educate the older generation on the value of multiethnic collaboration regarding civil rights. . . . We can learn from Vietnamese immigrants during the Vietnam War, the racism faced by Filipino workers in the 20th century and the hate crimes against Muslims following 9/11. By doing this, we will demonstrate to the older generations that multiethnic Japanese Americans and other Asian American communities are also part of the struggle of living as minorities in the United States. We can become stronger in our identity and bolster our ability to provide the best community for both future Nikkeis and all people of the United States.”



**Elise Mori**  
Mt. Olympus JACL  
*Kyutaro & Yasuo Abiko Memorial Scholarship*  
University of Utah

“ . . . we are taught and are shown by example to marry a Japanese spouse. The idea of an interracial marriage is quite obscure to the older generation; however, in today’s time, that is something that is . . . common. If we could just show the elderly how beneficial it could be for the community . . . the culture could be expanded to more outlets through these mixed-race children. It could also expand the overall community, as people who are in an interracial marriage would feel more comfortable bringing their families to Japanese events, rather than staying away for the fear of being judged and critiqued. Even though they say the world today is becoming too politically correct, I disagree. The world today is becoming too uncensored to the pains of everyday life. We are all quick to judge and say things we may not mean. So, yes, we as the youth could change the way our elderly see the world . . . but they, too, could teach us some good lessons. There is room for both sides to grow and develop, and we should consider ourselves lucky that we have such an excellent group to learn from. In closing, I hope that they feel the same.”

**Eric Phung**  
Berkeley JACL  
*Shigeki ‘Shake’ Ushio Memorial Scholarship*  
Yale University

“I am personally not a member of the Nikkei community. However, as a second-generation Asian American, I can relate to the issue of generational differences. It has always been difficult to maintain my native culture and heritage while simultaneously attempting to fit in and be a part of American culture. It has been even harder to have a clear understanding of what exactly my identity is as a member of both the Asian and American cultures. This generational difference has resulted in many rifts between my parents and me. . . . My parents and the cultural struggles that they embody have also been extremely difficult for me to accept and understand. My parents sacrificed everything they had by immigrating to America in order to provide better lives and opportunities for their children. I have been raised in a poor family and had even resented my parents for it. However, in the past few years, I’ve gained a lot of understanding of my family, my culture and my identity through involvement and participation in several afterschool youth programs. I would educate the older generation by leading workshops for them and bridge the generational gap by facilitating discussions between those of the younger and the older generation.”



**Congratulations  
to  
Kristi  
Fukunaga  
&  
Laura  
Suzuki  
Portland JACL’s  
National  
Scholarship  
Winners!**



Kristi Fukunaga



Laura Suzuki

**Congratulations!**

*Berkeley Chapter  
2013 National JACL scholarship recipients*



**Eric Phung**  
Shigeki “Shake” Ushio Memorial Scholarship



**Mali McGuire**  
Mas and Majiu Uyesugi Memorial Scholarship



### Alex Kenichi Sakata

Stockton JACL

*Hanayagi Rokumie Memorial Cultural Scholarship  
California State University, Fresno (Fresno State)*

‘Despite the atrocities of the internment during World War II, this generation truly has ‘*gaman*,’ and most have remained unfeigned by their experiences of that war. Perhaps because of this, it seems as though they view the younger JA generation as ungrateful, flippant and insouciant. For the vast majority of my JA generation, this is not the truth. We relish in the freedom and acceptance we have been afforded by the hard work and resilience of the older Nikkei. . . . We need to *talk* and communicate with each other [and] *appreciate* the stolid patriotism of the older JA generation. Our perspective on civil rights is formed in the classroom. Executive Order 9066 is not taught simultaneously with the interpretation of the Constitution and bylaws but as a paragraph or two during the entire lesson on World War II. . . . We must *synchronize* our efforts to educate American children about the truth, not expunge it from history as if it never happened. The JACL is not a sojourn movement but a means through which the old and young can synchronize to always ensure Americans see the quintessential truth of the past and never make that mistake again.’

### David Y. Satoda Jr.

San Diego JACL

*Sam & Florice Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship  
University of California, Berkeley*

‘*Shikata ga nai*.’ ‘It cannot be helped.’ For the Nikkei interned during World War II, this mantra served as an anchor in a sea of chaos. However, today, this view can serve as an anchor to the progress that our generation is capable of making. The older generations don’t voice what they have experienced and faced. The younger generations are left to piece together the story for themselves. . . . While one generation is outspoken and prepared to voice its opinions with tenacity and confidence, the other generation remains quiet about the trials it has faced. It is important to bridge the gap between the young and the old, the facts and the fiction, because there is a vacuum between what our elders know and what we have learned. As the Arab American community faces extreme prejudice and racism, our generation should be the most outspoken in defending this community. History must be used as a lesson, or history is bound to repeat itself. We cannot expect to bottle up the trials we faced and expect for our world to improve.’



<p><b>The San Diego JACL Chapter would like to...</b></p>	<p><b>Congratulate DAVID Y. SATODA, JR. the recipient of the Sam &amp; Florice Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship</b></p>
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### Laura M. Suzuki

Portland JACL  
*Patricia & Gail Ishimoto Memorial Scholarship  
University of Michigan*

‘My views on social equality began with a piece of tonkatsu. We were eating dinner. My Obaachan (grandma) was the cook. As growing kids, my brother

and I were sensitive when it came to food: We cared that we were each given a fair amount. My grandmother suddenly said, ‘Here Hiro-chan (my brother), you can have one of my tonkatsu.’ I waited my turn, but as I peered at her food expectantly, my grandma looked at me, surprised, and laughed, ‘Not for you!’ This incident made me realize how gender roles were part of my grandmother’s life. Men are known to be the ones that carry on the family name and, therefore, are revered immensely. This is just one of the many differences between the younger and older generations. We used to live in a world where women did not get a say in things, and men were seen as gods because they were the sole breadwinners. . . . Many women in history have fought for their rights to be treated equally. I believe that it’s most important to be aware of the existence of the differences in everyone’s way of thinking and make sure that everyone is open to seeing things in multiple perspectives.’

## JACL Eastern District Council Congratulates all the National Scholarship Winners

Special Best Wishes to  
Adam Kuranishi (Southeast JACL)  
Kenji Fujitani (New York)  
Marisa Kataoka (Washington DC)  
and  
Allison C. Yamamoto,  
Takashi & Yuri Moriuchi Scholarship  
Recipient

New England, New York, Philadelphia, Seabrook, Southeast, Washington, D.C.

**Kayla Watanabe**  
 Mt. Olympus JACL  
 Paul & Katherine Ohtaki  
 Memorial Scholarship  
 Utah State University



‘We are more alike than both generations realize. Though we may dress from different genres, speak in different mannerisms and come from different times, we essentially strive for the same goals of success. Not only do we wish to create meaningful lives, but we are also hopeful that the obstacles and hardships we have undergone will create a strong foundation for the future of generations to come. I do believe, however, that the elders of our community can come to understand the viewpoints of our generation. [We must all cooperate] with an open mind despite the challenging obstacles that may lie in our way. . . . Through community involvement and participation within JACL, my personal experience with previous generations can be stated as nothing less than a blessing. Everything I have learned and gained while growing up in the Nikkei community has been a large contributor to how I view and define myself today — a Japanese-Puerto Rican American, soon-to-be-college student who likes to read books and eat natto and kimchi. I am beyond grateful for the Japanese culture my elders have instilled in me to where I live it and am it.’

**Allison C. Yamamoto**  
 Sacramento JACL  
 Mr. & Mrs. Takashi Moriuchi  
 Scholarship  
 Columbia University



‘Through a constant stream of updates, modern technology has updated our methods of communicating, obtaining information and thinking to a quick, pulsating rhythm. Although many commend such updates as progress, many neglect technology’s disconnecting quality. The heightening wall between the two generations imposes a threat to cultural understanding. As a student, I noticed the growing divide occurring not only between the younger and elder generations but also within the ‘younger generation’ as well. The divide between high school and elementary students was so apparent in my community that I initiated a Teen Volunteer Tutoring Program at my local library. . . . I have witnessed the meaningful relationships teens are able to establish with younger students through weekly, individualized tutoring sessions. Such positive relationships reflect the potential, mutual respect youth can establish with their elders. The key to tearing the digital divide is developing a deeper understanding of each other. Like the tutors and their pupils, such an understanding is attained when we take the time to listen and share our knowledge. Each generation has stories and wisdom worth hearing, so it is time we start listening.’

**Undergraduate Winners**

**Allison Minami**  
 Salinas Valley JACL  
 Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship  
 Northwestern University



‘The younger generation and older generation ideologies were shaped by the different social, cultural and political influences of their designated generation. One difference revolves around technology. To the younger generations, learning technology comes naturally. However, to the older generation, technology extends far beyond their comfort zone. Another difference revolves around the opinion of women. Many of them played the typical ‘household wife’ and remained subservient to men. However, since then, there has been a vast shift in opinion in the role of women. Now, women are respected . . . and should be seen as equals to men. Lastly, another difference revolves around work mentality. The older generations have a rigid ‘work, work, work’ mentality versus the younger generations, with their ‘work hard, play hard’ mentality. There has been a shift in work ethics. It is important to educate the older generations by showing them the benefits of this new idea — mainly, health benefits. While this generational gap exists, it is important that solutions are created to try and break through this generational divide.’

*Allison Minami has been a member of the Salinas Valley Chapter for four years. She is majoring in communications and business administration. A previous recipient of the Salinas Valley JACL Chapter Scholarship Award in 2011, Minami has been active in various chapter activities, including the Oral History Project, the Salinas Flower Growers Community Project, Senior Bingo, Day of Remembrance and the Hawaiian Plate Lunch Fundraiser. While volunteering for all of these activities, Minami maintained a strong academic record.*

**Lindsey Sugimoto**  
 South Bay JACL  
 Shigeru Nakahira Memorial Scholarship  
 University of Southern California



‘The previous generations have been involved in, arguably, the greatest societal changes experienced in the United States. But, despite such democratic and liberal alterations, the older generation still embodies rigid beliefs when it comes to sexual preference or women’s equality that need to be addressed and resolved. I am a strong believer that people do not choose their sexual preference, so why must society continue to prevent homosexuals from experiencing the same freedom and liberty that heterosexuals experience. The idea of LGBT is new to the older generation, yet it is important that they relinquish such traditional views that continue to suppress the rights of LGBT and handicap society. Another distinction between generations is the view on women’s equality. I have never let my gender affect my life and certainly have never seen my gender as anything less than the many possibilities that being a woman entails. Though I know these perspectives are a result of culture and tradition, times are changing. The older generations have already improved the United States in ways I cannot begin to imagine, yet they still hold several unfavorable opinions that should be addressed in order for society to keep improving.’

*Lindsey Sugimoto has been a member of the PSWDC-South Bay Chapter since 2010. She is majoring in political science, with plans to become a prosecutor. Her involvement with JACL includes serving as a Nikkei Community Intern in the JACL PSW office. Sugimoto also has been a vocal and dedicated advocate for the APIA community. She has been widely recognized for her academic achievements, having received three scholarships from USC as well as honors from the California Scholarship Federation, National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society and USC Dean’s List.*

**See WINNERS >>  
 on page 10**

# 'LINSANITY' Film Scores Theatrical Distribution Deal, Set to Release Nationwide

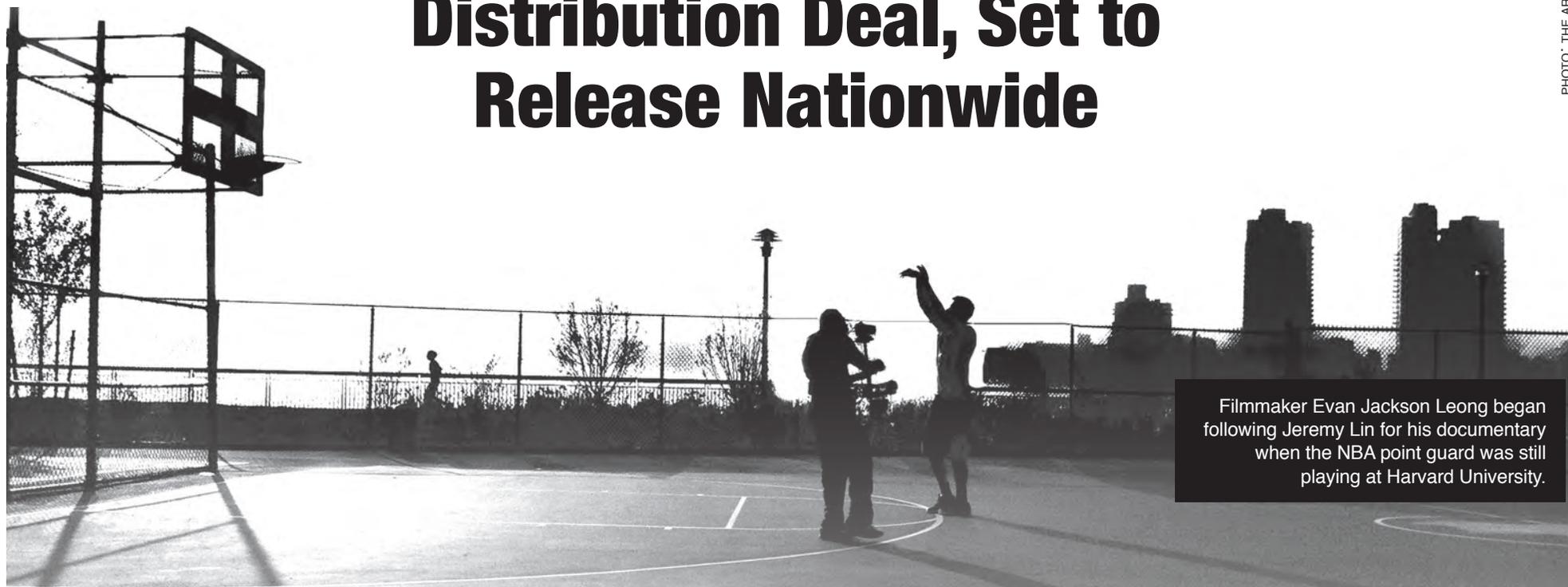


PHOTO: THE ARC ENTERTAINMENT

Filmmaker Evan Jackson Leong began following Jeremy Lin for his documentary when the NBA point guard was still playing at Harvard University.

By Nalea J. Ko,  
Reporter

When filmmaker Evan Jackson Leong first approached NBA point guard Jeremy Lin to star in his documentary, the term *Linsanity* had not even been invented.

Lin, then a student at Harvard, was drawing attention for his skills on the court at the Ivy League, when Leong broached the topic of being in a documentary.

With a small film crew — comprised of Leong, producers Christopher Chen, Brian Yang and Allen Lu — the film “Linsanity” began chronicling Lin’s journey to fulfill a childhood dream of being in the NBA. Leong and his crew were in tow for more than three years to document Lin’s ups and downs, playing for, and being waived, by the Golden State Warriors, the Houston Rockets and the New York Knicks.

It was a long journey for filmmaker Leong and NBA player Lin, who signed a three-year deal with the Houston Rockets in July 2012.

Leong also has tasted his share of failure and success. “Linsanity” premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January and won praise from audiences and media critics. Another career high point for Leong came recently when “Linsanity” landed a theatrical distribution deal.

The film will be released Oct. 4 in Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, San Diego, San Francisco and Washington, D.C. Residents of Seattle, Boston, Honolulu and Philadelphia can also catch a bit of “Linsanity” fever when the film shows in theaters on Oct. 11.

The *Pacific Citizen* caught up with Leong, who just returned from biking through New York, to talk about the making of “Linsanity.”

**Did you have to talk Jeremy Lin into doing this film?**

To understand Jeremy, you got to know that he’s a private person. He wanted to play basketball. It wasn’t to get cameras on him.

**How did you get access to Jeremy? Did someone with the film crew know the Lin family?**

Yes, so Christopher Chen knew the family.

That’s how we built that relationship first.

**When did you realize that you had a hit film? Was it at Sundance or after you finished the final cut?**

Sundance is kind of the validation, right? Because you don’t know how anyone is going to react to the film. Up until that moment, only about eight people had seen the film and they had all been living it and working on it for the last year. Eight people can’t tell you if it’s good or not.

**What did Jeremy say about the final cut?**

Jeremy liked it. He kind of saw different cuts along the process. But he also was a big part of it because he hates being in front of the camera, and I put him through a lot of time in front of the camera to get this. He liked the project. He’s very happy with it.

**Is Jeremy always the nice, humble guy we see in the film? Or does he have an obnoxious side?**

Not, obnoxious. Just funny. He’s really funny. It’s hard to capture some of the jokes on film.

**Did you grow up playing basketball as well?**

Yeah, I grew up playing ball, too. That’s one of the biggest things I related to: I grew up playing basketball. So, I connected easily to his experience.

**Now the film will be released in select theaters nationwide. You’ve got to be excited about that distribution deal.**

We’re going to be in the theaters Oct. 4. That’s really exciting. I tried to be a filmmaker for a long, long time. This is my first big break. Hopefully, I did a good job.

**Have you generated any money from this yet?**

No, not at all. I’m not generating any kind of money. There’s potential. But it depends on how we do at the boxoffice.

**But this could be a great jumping-off point for you, right?**

I just want to keep working as a filmmaker. That’s the most important thing for me. I love

the work. Money comes and goes. If I wanted to make money, I should have been a banker or doctor. I just want to keep working. This definitely validates my ability, my craft. It’s definitely opened a lot more doors for a lot more work.

**Are people knocking on your door now with new projects?**

Definitely I have a lot more opportunities. I have that Sundance notch on my belt, and that’s a pretty big thing. So, it definitely feels pretty good.

**What projects are you working on now?**

Right now I’m working on another documentary on Michelle Phan. She’s like the most subscribed-to female on YouTube. She’s a beauty guru. It’s a really great story. Another underdog story, coming from rags to riches.

**What sort of struggles did you face in your pursuit to be a filmmaker? Can you tell me about that?**

Everyone says you have to pay your dues. I think that’s definitely part of doing this. I think it’s almost a test: Is this really what you want to do? Because you really have to love it that much where you don’t want to do anything else. You love it so much — you’ll just find a way to do it.

**There’s a parallel underdog story you share with Jeremy. Did you initially see that parallel?**

No, not necessarily. But I think we’re both in industries that are hard enough regardless of what race you are. But, I think we can connect on the same level that we love what we do. We have a sense of passion for what we do. And we’re lucky enough to be able to do that in our jobs.

**What type of budget were you working with for ‘Linsanity’?**

It was a small budget, and we had day jobs, and we kept our day jobs. We basically shot this film on our weekends and vacation days. We never got paid.

**It seems that you put a lot of the film budget into buying those NBA clips.**

Well, that came later. Definitely a lot of that costs a lot of money. Fortunately, the NBA was really, really friendly with us. They knew this was a great story even before Jeremy blew up with Linsanity.

**I read that you didn’t experience racism until you moved from the Bay Area to L.A. to go to UCLA. Is that right?**

Well, I didn’t really experience racism. I just didn’t realize I was a minority. I didn’t really understand what a minority was. Growing up, in every school I went to, there were more Asians than everyone else in middle school, high school, elementary. And I think that definitely translates into my work and the confidence in identity.

**Did you always know you’d be a filmmaker?**

No, I thought I was going to be a doctor up until I wanted to be a filmmaker. That was until my third year in college. I was pre-med. I was all the way to MCAT and everything. Once I started editing a film project in college, I really grew a liking to it. Then, I met (director) Justin Lin (no relation to Jeremy Lin), and it kind of took off from there.

**Did your family push you to go into medical school?**

They didn’t push it on to me at all. My dad is a doctor, but he knows how hard it is to become a doctor. You have to love it.

**At the end of the film, Jeremy talks about how we grow and learn the most from failure. Was there a point in your life where you had that experience?**

I think you have to fail, right? You actually learn the most from those moments. I think that’s one of the most enduring qualities about Jeremy, and he admits that. You never see any NBA player, sports player talking about failure. Michael Jordan talked about failure in middle school. But that’s the last time he ever talked about failure. It’s just not in the MO. I think failure, as negative as it feels — it’s actually quite positive because it just makes you better on all levels.

**For more information about “Linsanity,” visit [www.linsanitythemovie.com](http://www.linsanitythemovie.com).**

# Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission Seeks WWII Labor Camp Stories



PHOTOS: RUSSELL LEE/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



Photographer Russell Lee visited Oregon's Nyssa labor camp (above) in July 1942 to capture the everyday life of Nikkei.

Laborers at the Farm Security Administration labor camp in Twin Falls, Idaho (left), stop their work to pose for a photo by Lee in 1942.

By Nalea J. Ko, Reporter

A new traveling exhibit that documents Japanese Americans who experienced World War II agricultural labor camps will be unveiled next year, but organizers with the Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission are still seeking additional firsthand accounts for the exhibit's oral history video.

The exhibit, entitled "Russell Lee in the Pacific Northwest:

Documenting Japanese American Agricultural Labor Camps," debuts next year on Sept. 12 at the Four Rivers Cultural Center in Oregon. From there, the exhibit will travel throughout the West Coast.

Fifty-five photographs of the four Oregon and Idaho labor camps, which were shot by Department of Agriculture photographer Russell Lee in the summer of 1942, will be part of the exhibit. The Farm Security Administration and the War

Relocation Authority operated the camps during World War II and used Nikkei to farm crops such as sugar beets. Japanese Americans were recruited from Minidoka, Manzanar and Tule Lake.

"This project examines lesser-known labor camps and will provide visual evidence of the Japanese Americans who lived and worked in these camps through the exhibition of historic photography," said Morgen Young, a JAACL Snake

River chapter member who is also the project director and historian.

The oral history video portion of the exhibit includes stories from those who lived in the camps and their descendants. Young says more than 12 interviews from those who lived at the Nyssa camp in Oregon have been recorded. He is now looking to find Japanese Americans with memories of labor camps in Idaho, Montana and Utah.

The Oregon Cultural Heritage

Commission received a \$92,386 grant from the National Park Service, which enabled organizers to record more oral histories for the exhibit. Funds were also received from the Idaho Humanities Council and the Malheur County Cultural Trust.

*If you, or your family, lived in one of these labor camps, contact Morgen Young at (503) 333-4914 or email [morgen.young@gmail.com](mailto:morgen.young@gmail.com). For more information about the project, visit [www.ochcom.org/Lee.html](http://www.ochcom.org/Lee.html).*

## JCCCNC Announces Japanese American Cultural Heritage Photo Contest

By Nalea J. Ko, Reporter

What does Japanese American culture mean to you? The Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California is asking contestants to examine that question for its photo contest "Through the Eye of the Beholder."

This year's Japanese American cultural heritage photo contest is open to people of all ages and backgrounds.

Contest organizers are looking for contestants to skillfully and creatively capture photos of different items, people, places, artifacts, celebrations or images that signify Japanese

American culture.

"Preserving and defining our Japanese American cultural heritage is more important than ever before. With the passing of generations, the growing diversity of our community and the varied experiences of culture — which depend on things such as geography, ethnicity, education, practices and traditions — our viewpoints and definitions of Japanese American cultural heritage are ever expanding," said Lori Matoba, JCCCNC deputy director. "As the community looks to preserve our San Francisco Japantown, the question often comes up, 'What is "culture" and how can we preserve it?' We want others to know that it is not just about

physical sites, like the Peace Pagoda, but culture is something that lives inside of us."

Photo entries can be in color, sepia or black and white. The photo must be an original work by the entrant.

First place wins \$1,000, second place \$750 and third place \$500. Each month, one contestant will also win the "Photo of the Month" award and receive \$100. Individuals who win the Photo of the Month award are also eligible for the first-place prize.

The contest is open through Nov. 1. The winning photographs will be exhibited on Nov. 23 from Noon-2 p.m. at JCCCNC.

To enter the contest, submit a photo, the application form and a description of 200-500 words



PHOTO: DAVID YU

San Francisco Japantown's Peace Pagoda

to [photocontest@jccnc.org](mailto:photocontest@jccnc.org) or mail your submission to JCCCNC, attention: Photo Contest, 1840 Sutter St.,

Suite 201, San Francisco, CA 94115. For more information about the contest, visit [www.jccnc.org](http://www.jccnc.org).

WINNERS >> Continued from page 7

**Kelly Uchima**

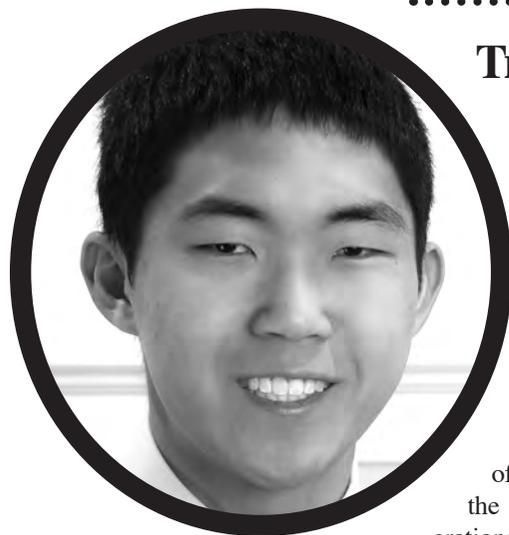
Chicago JACL

*Saburo Kido Memorial Scholarship*

*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

“When I was a child, my understanding of the Asian American experience was miniscule, but things changed quickly as I reached an age of maturity. I took the initiative to dive into different school organizations based on different ethnicities and cultures as well as other associations like the JACL. Because I am both Japanese and Chinese and the fact that I grew up in Chinatown speaking mostly Chinese with my mother and Chinese grandmother, I felt it was my obligation to learn more about my Japanese side. My *bachan* had been [interned] during World War II from ages 14-17 and became shy and quiet long after. She grew tolerant of the lack of civil rights she and her family endured, but I believe it is my duty to honor her and bring justice to her name by pushing for equality and justice denied for those like her. As an Asian American, I am dedicated to and determined to build our presence in our communities, in our nation and within government. I aim to enact policies that will minimize acts of hate crimes and violence; encourage inclusion no matter one’s color, language or place of origin; and encourage Asian Americans to stand up for their deserved rights and presence. My true initiative is to inspire others to want and act on the changes and civil rights that APAs need in order to honor my grandmother, generations before her and generations to come.”

*Kelly Uchima is studying agricultural economics. She has been an active member of the Chicago JACL Chapter. As a high school student, she spoke at a Day of Remembrance event and participated in the inauguration of the Kansha Project in Chicago. While at the University of Illinois, Uchima has brought in speakers on Asian American topics from the Chicago area. Her references took note of her sustained commitment to spreading knowledge and building interest in Asian American issues.*



**Trenton**

**Yamashita**

Wasatch Front

North JACL

*Alice Yuriko*

*Endo Memorial*

*Scholarship*

*University of*

*Utah*

“I believe there are a lot of differences between the younger and older generations. One of these may be that the older generation believes

the younger generations are losing their roots to Japan and to traditions. I feel the younger generations are somewhat losing this, but I believe we are still living it because of the way our parents raised us and how they were raised. Another difference is the understanding of new technological changes and the opinion of whether they are good or bad. I would help them see and learn how to utilize the new technology. I think another difference is the way the younger generations are raised. I think the older generation believes the younger generation doesn’t have the same work habit and hardworking mentality that they grew up with. I believe the younger generation still has these traits, but instead of learning it on farms, they learn it from sports, school and their families. I think the younger generation can educate the elders that they do have these skills and are developing new skills. I believe there is a lot of difference in views and opinions between the older and younger generations, but I feel that they are very alike and are helping each other to become better people in order to create leaders in the Japanese American community and community as a whole.”

*Trenton Yamashita is studying accounting and finance. He is a member of the Wasatch Front North Chapter, and over the past few years, he has worked on chapter fundraisers and served as a chapter youth delegate to two JACL national conventions.*

**Kristen Yang**

Chicago JACL

*Railroad & Mineworkers*

*Memorial Scholarship*

*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

“When we have family over for meals, my parents are always sure to whisper to us, ‘Go ask your grandparents if they would like something to drink.’ As a child, I would simply shrug it off if my grandma or grandpa politely refused. I found it strange that I would see my mom giving one of them a cup of water or hot tea just a few minutes later. I learned their refusal was not refusal at all. It was *enryo*.

A Japanese normality, *enryo* is not prevalent in American culture. As a fourth generation, I have seen *enryo* in action over and over again, but rarely amongst my peers. Those of us in the younger generation have grown up as fully acculturated Americans. We have been conditioned by our schools, our peers and the media to be ‘loud and proud’ about who we are and what we can do. We have learned to speak out, not only about ourselves and how great we are but also about what we care about. We are supposed to make waves, support causes and challenge authority. This exemplifies one of the starkest contrasts between the younger and older generations and proves to be one of the hardest to adjust to. This cultural display of modesty and self-denial can be mistaken for passivity, weakness or even pretension. Thus, there is a lot we can learn from the older generation and, in turn, a lot we can share with them. Like the Chicago JACL’s Kansha Project, I would like to see local JACL chapters organize groups of students to do projects that would bring together members from different generations. It is important to bring us into the planning of events and would help give (us) ownership in the process and an incentive to participate.”

*Kristen Yang is studying accounting. She has been active in many chapter activities, from participating in the Kansha Project to attending Memorial Day services at Montrose Cemetery. Yang is also active within other communities, volunteering at a soup kitchen and working with a project to rebuild Detroit. Yang notes that her grandfather served as a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team but was reluctant to speak of his experiences. As an emerging leader in the community, she takes great pride in her Japanese American heritage.*



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**Allison Minami**

2013 Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara  
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Salinas Valley JACL

# Graduate Winners

## Jean-Paul deGuzman

San Fernando Valley JACL  
 Minoru Yasui Memorial Scholarship  
 University of California, Los Angeles

‘Situating the respective experiences of different generations within the larger trajectory of the Asian American freedom struggle reveals a clear dissonance between the political consciousnesses of the Nisei, Sansei, Yonsei and Gosei. Critical flashpoints in American history have shaped how these distinct generations interpret the worlds around them, to be sure. Yet, through advances in digital media and innovative programs such as Katarou Histories, dialogue across the generations [is] both possible and necessary. Japanese Americans have made great strides, notably on the stage of electoral politics and, for all intents and purposes, have integrated into the fabric of American society. However, these successes have laid the ground for many of today’s Nikkei youth to become divorced from the history of oppression and resistance that have characterized the Japanese American saga. What investments can today’s Yonsei and Gosei place into engaging in dialogue with the community’s elders? Furthermore, as our elders venture into their golden years, what can they learn from the millennial generation? Katarou Histories is a dynamic program . . . and rather than simply archiving stories from the past, it encourages an exchange of ideas between participants ranging from 15-year-old high school students to spritely octogenarians. Guided workshops introduce participants to the arts, culture, local history and historical research, where they work through concepts such as community and identity. In doing so, the fabricated walls that divide the generations begin to crumble as participants begin to understand how issues of race and ethnicity shaped their lives in different and, at times, strikingly similar ways across time and space.’

*Jean-Paul deGuzman is pursuing a doctorate in Asian American history. He has integrated scholarship with practice, linking his background in Asian American history with service on the board of the San Fernando Valley JACL. He also has designed and facilitated a series of workshops linking elders and youth, in addition to producing digital narratives based on these intergenerational dialogues, historical research and new media. DeGuzman has earned many honors, including a UCLA Distinguished Teaching Award, the Edwards Prize for study of the internment and a Wallis Annenberg Research Grant. He earned a B.A. from California State University, Northridge, graduating magna cum laude and a member of Phi Beta Kappa.*



## Kenji Fujitani

New York JACL  
 Chiyoko & Thomas Shimazaki  
 Memorial Scholarship  
 Mount Sinai School of Medicine



‘As young people struggle to find things to talk about and impress the older generation, I am sure the older generation is thinking the same thing — they don’t want to be boring bosses but rather fantastic mentors who teach and share invaluable experiences. However, to the older people, the younger generation is an enigma. They constantly play with their gadgets like the iPhone 4, where even friends next to each other are updating their Facebook status, rather than talking to each other, and agreeing to meet at some random location without a set plan because they can look up everything on their smartphones. In the past, people didn’t have those things. Friends had to plan by calling a landline phone, determine

conditions beforehand and make reservations hours in advance. These vastly divergent conditions have caused a mystical aura between the two groups and led to the degenerating relationship that has turned into a huge generation gap. The current problem lies with the fact that different generations don’t talk to each other anymore. If there are opportunities, we can understand one another. If the younger people volunteer and teach the elders about the ever-changing technology, we can all increase our communication with one another. We just need a chance, and as the communication starts, people will naturally understand each other.’

*Kenji Fujitani currently attends medical school. He is a summa cum laude graduate of the University of Washington, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Proficient in Japanese, Fujitani’s workshops in Japanese and English have provided cultural insights for the Japanese and American communities, as well as helped bridge generational differences. He continues to have a great interest in Japan and has traveled there as a volunteer to assist the victims of the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear meltdowns in Tohoku.*

## Adam Kuranishi

Southeast JACL  
 Magoichi & Shizuko  
 Kato Memorial  
 Scholarship  
 Teachers College at  
 Columbia University



‘Political activism motivated me to inquire about my ancestors’ struggles with compassion and appreciation. My elders rejected the Japanese culture, language and community because of their traumatic experiences of the internment and post-WWII racism. Abandonment and isolation were their coping mechanisms. I believe it is imperative for younger generations to examine the experiences of our ancestors and engage in patient and honest intergenerational dialogue and research. As youth, we are not immune to the trauma of our ancestors — many of us experienced the residual effects of abusive, alcoholic and troubled households. The lack of cultural preservation can also breed identity crises and internalized racism. I believe dialogue and social and political awareness within the Japanese American community can heal trauma. Acknowledging and working with our community’s trauma and experiences of violence and oppression, rather than leaving them unspoken or individualized, is essential to live collective, sustainable and prosperous lives. Through intergenerational dialogue and action, a stronger and healthier community is possible.’

*Adam Kuranishi currently attends graduate school in education. He is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Chicago, where he majored in political science. He has received numerous scholastic honors. In 2012-13, Kuranishi worked for Congressman Mike Honda (CA-17) as a Mike M. Masaoka Congressional Fellow. He has a passion for civil and human rights and has volunteered for many events, primarily in Chicago and Atlanta.*



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 Sonoma County JACL Memorial Scholarship ----- Ryan Ishizu  
 Faye Uyeda Memorial Medical Scholarship -----Katie Cunningham

Sonoma County Chapter  
 Japanese American Citizens League

**EDEN TOWNSHIP JACL**

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 &  
**Teon Lee**



**Christine Aujean Lee**

**San Fernando Valley JACL  
Kenji Kajiwara Memorial  
Scholarship  
University of Illinois at Urbana-  
Champaign**

‘It is important to bridge generation gaps to promote a greater sense of community among Asian Americans. Community nonprofits like JACL can help connect elders and younger people around civil rights issues, which may show more similarities than differences among the generations. In younger generations, the world has changed with technology and globalization. This greater access creates a desire to explore the world through college and in subsequent experiences. Many young people often try a

number of professions before knowing which career they would like to pursue. Many do not connect to the world through service or civil organizations. Instead, they connect to others by interests, sometimes exclusively on the Internet. To appeal to the younger generations, it is important for elders to understand the importance of marketing. Unfortunately, with Twitter and Facebook, many young people read only the first line of text to decide if they are interested in a story or event. It is also critical to organize venues to connect various generations. There needs to be more events that can encourage real conversations. An example could be a class that teaches the elders how to use technology, which would mutually benefit elders in learning more skills and also provide a way for younger people to directly interact with their elders. Organizations like the JACL are an excellent way to engage various generations, which can be used to bridge these gaps that may appear superficial after elders and younger people have open communication.’

*Christine Aujean Lee is pursuing a master’s degree in urban planning. She has sought to cut across generational divides through her service as communications chair on the board of the San Fernando Valley JACL. Her work has been premised on the assumption that youth engagement requires a strong social network presence and that geographic locales may matter less than interests. Accordingly, she has applied her skills in communications and graphic design to reshape the chapter’s website, flyers and logo, and is continuing with her work even after moving to the University of Illinois. She has earned many honors, including the Benjamin Cayetano Public Policy and Politics Prize and Angie Kwon Scholarship from the UCLA Asian American Studies Center.*

**Christine Munteanu**

**Chicago JACL  
Rev. H. John Yamashita  
Memorial Scholarship  
University of Illinois at  
Chicago**

‘It is clear that America has continued its progress toward becoming a more just society; however, it is dangerous for us to assume that social justice is a guaranteed outcome without exerting any effort to achieve it. The younger generation’s increasing temporal removal from historical injustices can create a psychological rift between the younger and older generations, particularly within the Japanese

American community. As younger Japanese Americans become distanced from our own community’s history, we are distanced, too, from the struggle to defeat discrimination. Each generation has its part to play in working to bend the trajectory of our moral universe toward justice. As part of the younger generation, I believe it is my obligation to relate the legacy of our elders’ fight against bigotry with the oppression faced by marginalized communities of today. The hateful, prejudiced rhetoric that was directed at the Issei and Nisei can still be heard, but the target of this animosity has changed. The racist and xenophobic tone of the debate on immigration reform mirrors the explicit anti-Asian laws restricting immigration and naturalization; arguments against marriage equality are eerily similar to arguments against miscegenation; the backlash against Muslim and Arab Americans after 9/11 is hauntingly reminiscent of the furor against Japanese Americans after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The younger and older generations of the Japanese American community can unite in building a shared understanding of our community’s legacy, which must include a deep recognition of our past struggles, along with a consciousness of their present-day relevance.’

*Christine Munteanu is pursuing a master’s degree in education, with a focus on youth development and social justice. She is a member of the Chicago JACL and serves on the JACL staff, with responsibilities at the chapter, district and national levels. Munteanu also helps run the Kansha Project, connecting Japanese American college students to the history of incarceration through trips to Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo and Manzanar. She also helps manage Project: Community! a leadership development and cultural awareness program for Japanese American students.*



**Suzuho Shimasaki**

**Mile High JACL  
Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship  
University of Colorado at Denver**

‘I recognize that the younger generations of the Nikkei community differ from our elders in many ways. Many Nisei continue to be reluctant to share their experiences during the war. While many Sansei accepted this of their parents, a growing number of Yonsei and Gosei are eager to learn of their heritage. There are also many Shin-Issei, as well as biracial or multiracial Yonsei and Gosei who vary in their identities and levels of interest in understanding and preserving our heritage and the legacy of the Japanese American community. Youth and young adults often have different preferences from the elders around means of communication, meeting structures, fundraising strategies and social activities. I strongly believe that there is not a JACL for younger generations and a

JACL for older generations.

There is *the* JACL, an organization founded on values of fairness, equality and social justice.

Our elders may believe that the discrimination that people experience today pales in comparison to the struggle that many of them encountered. Our youth may believe that the traditional approaches to membership recruitment and advocacy that are still carried out by the JACL are no longer effective. Differences among members are inevitable in any organization. However, rather than viewing them as obstacles, I will continue to see these differences as opportunities for us to capitalize upon to strengthen our efforts and multiply our impact.’

*Suzuho Shimasaki is pursuing a doctorate in public health. As president of the Mile High Chapter, Suzuho has fostered the pursuit of social justice across lines of immigrant status and age. She received her B.A. from the University of California, Davis, in sociology and her M.S. in public health from the University of California, Los Angeles. She has been awarded many honors, including a Hoffman Health Disparities Fellowship, the Kaiser Permanente and Ruth Roemer Fellowship and the University of California Davis Community Service Award.*

**NATIONAL JACL SCHOLARSHIPS**

For more information on the 2014 JACL scholarship application process, contact JACL headquarters: 1765 Sutter St. San Francisco, CA 94115 or call (415) 921-5225

**Congratulations Tiffany Ikeda, a future lawyer!**

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**love,  
Mom & Dad**



# Law

**Tiffany Ikeda**  
 Chicago JACL  
*Grace Andow Memorial*  
*Scholarship*  
 University of Iowa  
 College of Law



‘The primary issue facing the Yonsei and Gosei generations is that we, in fact, have no unifying issue. While the Issei and Nisei had a strong sense of community and cultural heritage, the Sansei incorporated themselves so completely into the American melting pot that Japanese identity weakened for the Yonsei, and we lack a strong personal identification as Japanese as a whole. Part of this weakening of collective identity is the loss of Japanese language and the fact that more than half of the Yonsei and Gosei are of mixed ancestry. With the Japanese identity weak among the younger generations and the success of the Japanese American community as a whole, the JACL faces the distinct challenge of redefining [its] civil rights role. Because the younger generations of Japanese Americans don’t have a unifying issue, we support civil rights issues for the larger American public, such as marriage equality, health care reform and immigration reform. The best way for the older generations to understand the viewpoints of the younger generations is by working together and engaging in dialogue toward a common goal.’

*Tiffany Ikeda is a longtime JACL member with strong family involvement at chapter and district levels. She has served as the Clovis JACL Japanese American youth president and as NCWNP youth representative to the JACL National Youth/Student Council, as well as participated in the JACL/OCA Leadership Conference. Ikeda is now studying law, with a commitment to public service and social justice.*

# Performing Arts

**Nina Coomes**  
 Chicago JACL  
*Aiko Susanna Tashiro*  
*Hiratsuka Memorial*  
*Scholarship*  
 University of Chicago



Nina Coomes receives the Performing Arts Award for her original poem and performance “Old Man, Yamamoto,” based on a true incident at the Topaz Internment Camp. Coomes’ interpretation and delivery of this heart-wrenching event elaborated on the thoughts and feelings of the main character in the poem. Her use of language showed sophistication, and her delivery and pacing were thought-provoking, thus achieving the most impact on the audience. “By using the past in a modern art form (slam poetry), I was able to bridge a generational gap in ideology and, in turn, contribute toward the education of my own generation.”

*Nina Coomes is currently enrolled at the University of Chicago, where she is majoring in human development. She also works as a teaching artist for the Young Chicago Authors and as a school services intern at the Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago.*

**Casey Bonath**  
 Mile High JACL  
*Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial*  
*Scholarship*  
 Milwaukee Institute of  
 Art and Design



Casey Bonath receives the Creative Arts Award for his art portfolio submission showcasing his original and evocative point of view. Bonath’s portfolio showed growth and transformation, experimentation and risk-taking, as well as discovery through investigation. His personal voice is clear, and he highlights creative and critical thinking throughout his work. “By sharing my perspective through my art with others in the community, we share our histories and present views and the ideals that come with them, helping us grow and move forward together into the future.”

*Casey Bonath has received acceptance letters to multiple art and design institutes, in addition to winning several scholarships. He plans to major in industrial design.*

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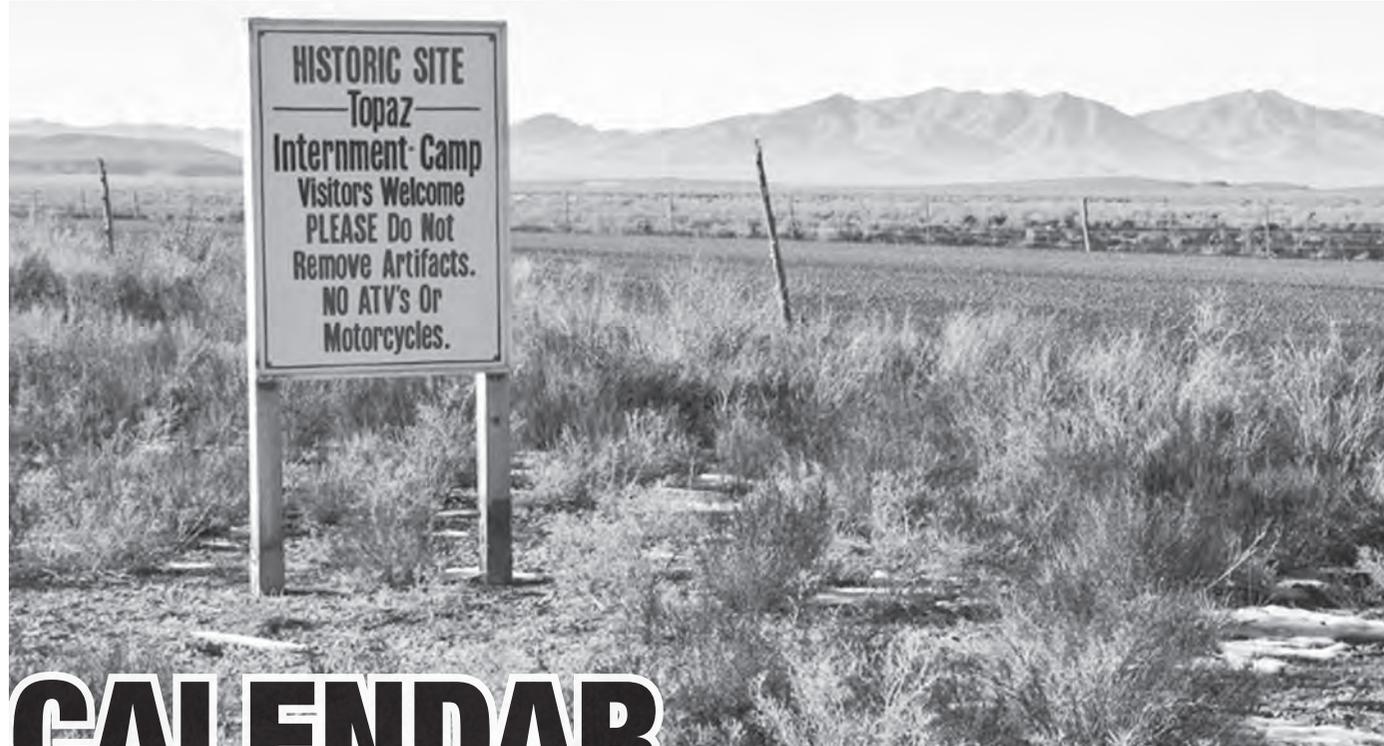
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## A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS



# CALENDAR

## Topaz Museum Fundraiser

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA**

**Nov. 16**

**San Francisco Buchanan YMCA  
1530 Buchanan St.**

To help the Topaz Museum open its doors in 2014, a fundraiser and remembrance event called "Respect and Legacy" will be held. Scheduled speakers include Kimi Kodani Hill, Delphine Hirasuna and Karen Tei Yamashita. Volunteers for the Topaz Museum are also needed. Details are still being worked out. The ticket price will include an obento lunch.

**Info: Contact Ken Yamashita at [kenyamashita@softcom.net](mailto:kenyamashita@softcom.net) or Ann Tamaki Dion at (510) 653-8308.**

## >>EDC

### The South Asian Youth Action's Annual Gala

**NEW YORK, NY**

**Sept. 27, 6:30 p.m.**

**Pier 60**

**Hudson River and 23rd Street**

**Cost: \$650/Individual ticket;**

**\$5,000/Mentor;**

**\$10,000/Teacher;**

**\$15,000/Principal;**

**\$25,000/Chancellor**

The South Asian Youth Action is celebrating 17 years with its annual gala event. Kevin Negandhi of ESPN's SportsCenter will emcee the event. SAYA provides programs for low-income South Asian youth in the city. **Info: Call (718) 651-3484 or email [gala@saya.org](mailto:gala@saya.org).**

### The 28th Annual Oak Street Fair

**BOSTON, MA**

**Sept. 21, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.**

**Josiah Quincy Elementary School**

**885 Washington St.**

The Boston Chinatown

Neighborhood Center's Oak Street Fair is a family-friendly event with games, activities, community resource and information, arts and crafts, entertainment, health screenings, food and a watermelon eating contest. Proceeds from the fair benefit the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center.

**Info: Contact Carmen Chan at (617) 635-5129, ext. 1053, or visit [www.bcnc.net](http://www.bcnc.net).**

### Brookline Booksmith Presents

**Amy Tan Book Talk**

**BROOKLINE, MA**

**Nov. 7, 7 p.m.**

**Temple Kehillath Israel**

**384 Harvard St.**

Author Amy Tan will talk about her new book "The Valley of Amazement." Tickets go on sale Sept. 30. Those interested in attending must purchase a copy of the book to obtain a ticket. Additional tickets may be purchased at \$5. **Info: Visit [www.brookline](http://www.brookline)**

**booksmith.com or call (617) 566-6660.**

### Avant-Garde Japanese Fashion Exhibit

**SALEM, MA**

**Nov. 16-Jan 26**

**Peabody Essex Museum**

**161 Essex St.**

This exhibit, co-organized by the Kyoto Costume Institute and the Barbican Art Gallery London, looks at how Japanese avant-garde fashion was redefined. The exhibit is co-organized by the Kyoto Costume Institute and Barbican Art Gallery London. The exhibition's sponsor is the Coby Foundation.

**Info: Visit [www.pem.org](http://www.pem.org) or call (866) 745-1876.**

## >>NCWNP

### Contra Costa JACL Hosts a Redress Talk

**EL CERRITO, CA**

**Oct. 20, 3-4:30 p.m.**

**East Bay Free Methodist Church**

**5395 Potrero Ave.**

The Contra Costa JACL chapter is commemorating the 25th anniversary of redress by hosting a lecture "Redress: Achieving the Impossible Dream" with former JACL National Director John Tateishi. RSVP by Oct. 12 with your name, email and phone number. Reserved seats will be released 15 minutes before the talk.

**Info: Email [ContraCostaJACL@live.com](mailto:ContraCostaJACL@live.com) or call (510) 730-2402.**

### Japan Center Malls

**Anime Festival**

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA**

**Sept. 29, Noon-4 p.m.**

### Japantown Peace Plaza

**1610 Geary Blvd.**

The public is invited to this free event that features singing, dancing, a cosplay contest and live drawing.

**Info: Visit [www.sfjapantown.org](http://www.sfjapantown.org).**

## >>PSW

### A Theatrical Production of 'Surfing DNA'

**WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA**

**Until Sept. 29**

**Working Stage Theatre**

**1516 N. Gardner St.**

**Cost: \$30/General admission**

Actress and filmmaker Jodi Long performs her one-woman play "Surfing Diva," a story about her journey to self-discovery and an exploration of the genetic, cultural and emotional forces that steered her through life. The production is directed by Frank Megna and presented by Opening Minds and Working Stage Theatre. The show runs Thursday-Saturday at 8 p.m. and 3 p.m. on Sunday. **Info: Call (323) 521-8600 or visit [www.workingstage.com](http://www.workingstage.com).**

### Community Fall Festival

**Bazaar and Fundraiser**

**SAN DIEGO, CA**

**Oct. 6, Noon-3:30 p.m.**

**Pioneer Ocean View**

**United Church of Christ**

**2550 Fairfield St.**

The Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ's annual Community Fall Festival features multicultural food, music and entertainment, a kid's zone, homemade crafts, hula

demonstrations, a farmer's market, door prizes and silent auction.

**Info: Call (619) 276-4881 or visit [www.pioneeroceanviewucc.com](http://www.pioneeroceanviewucc.com).**

## >>MDC

### Aki Matsuri Festival

**ALBUQUERQUE, NM**

**Sept. 29, 10 a.m.5 p.m.**

**National Hispanic Cultural Center**

**1701 Fourth St., SW**

**Cost: \$50/Raffle ticket**

The annual Aki Matsuri's theme is "Tako: The Way of Kite." Proceeds from the fundraiser benefit the Japanese Cultural Center. There is a \$5,000 raffle prize. **Info: Call Steve Togami at (505) 565-2185 or visit [www.nmjacl.org](http://www.nmjacl.org).**

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# In Memoriam

**Fujimori, Roy Sakaye, 90,**



South Bay, CA; Aug. 31; a Fresno-born Nisei; he is survived by his loving family; son, Brian (Karen) Fujimori; sister, Midori (Mike) Matsumura of NV; step-daughter, Kathleen (Jay) Chavez; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relative; 1 gc.

**Hayashida, Seichi, 94,** Caldwell,



ID; Sept. 7; his family was interned at Tule Lake and Minidoka Relocation Center; he was preceded in death by his wife, Chickie, mother, Kame, and father, Kenta, brothers, Satoru of Nampa and Shigeyuki of Japan; he is survived by his son, Dean, and his wife, Amy (Hirai) of Caldwell; sisters, Fumi Ogawa of Boise and Nori (Roy) Oyama of Caldwell; numerous nieces and nephews; 3 gc.

**Hiroto, Hoover Masumi, 85,**



Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 23; he is survived by his children; sons, John (Julie), Roy (Marlyn) and Paul (Monica) Hiroto; daughter, Kim Powers; brother, Thomas Hiroto; sister-in-law, Mary Hiroto; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 9 gc.

**Kaneko, Alan Takeshi, 66,** Cypress, CA; Aug. 22; he is

survived by his loving wife, June Kaneko; children, Cami (Jason) Chang and Craig (Erin) Kaneko; mother, Elizabeth Kaneko; brother, Brian (Patty) Kaneko; Alan is also survived by many other loving family members; 4 gc.

**Kushi, Theresa Hatsue, 98,**



Los Angeles, CA; she is predeceased by her beloved husband, Archie Kiichiro Kushi, and daughter, Aileen Sachiko Kushi; survived by her beloved children, Arthur Kushi, Richard Kushi and wife Cynthia, and Marianne Kushi; and grandson Jonathan Kushi and wife Yvonne; she is also survived by her sister, Shizuko Hayashibara, and brother, Lloyd Yamamoto, and many nieces, a nephew and other relatives.

**Maeda, Dennis Chugo, 62,** Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 22; he is survived by his wife, Kari Ann Maeda; children, Matthew (Rita) and Kevin Maeda; sister, Amy (Bob) Maeda-Burch; brother-in-law, Ken (Janet) Poland; sisters-in-law, Karen (Bob) Edwards and Karla (Dick) Lynch; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Mayemura, Katsumi, 86,**



Los Angeles, CA; Sept. 7; predeceased by his son, Mark Masaru Mayemura; he is survived by his wife, Ryoko Mayemura; children, Arleen, Paul (Amy) and Brian (Hyejin) Mayemura; sister, Aiko (Eizo) Yasuda; sister-in-law, Satsuko (Yoshio) Koya; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives here and in Japan; 7 gc.

**Nakatani, Ayako, 96,** Torrance, CA; Sept. 3; she is survived by her sons, David (Lily) and Dennis Nakatani; sisters, Mitzi Okazaki and Fusako (James) Morita; sister-in-law, Eileen Takemoto; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 5 gc; 9 ggc.

**Ono, Kay Emiko, 71,** Los Angeles, CA; she is survived by her children, Paula Wada and Troy (Kandi) Ono; sisters, Leatrice Omiya of Honolulu, HI, and Janet (Rudy) Vioria of Honolulu, HI; brother, Kenneth Yoshida of Honolulu, HI; brothers-in-law, George (Merle) Ono, David Ono and Bill Higa; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 4 gc.

**Sakamoto, Haruko Janet, 89,**



Burbank, CA; Aug. 26; she is predeceased by her husband, Akira Joe Sakamoto; brothers, Mac, Nob and Tom Furushiro and sister, Margaret (Eke) Tanaka; she is survived by her loving family: sister, Lilly (George) Shibuya; in-laws, Emi, Mary Furushiro, Evelyn Motoyama and Clint Rogers; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Sako, Rekiso Ray, 97,**



Watsonville, CA; July 16; Ray was born in Watsonville on July 9, 1916, but left for Japan at 5; during WWII his family was evacuated from Chico to the Merced Assembly Center; he married Hisako Louise Norikane in 1943; Ray had been involved in the JACL Senior Center; he was preceded in death by one brother and three sisters; Ray and Louise created a JACL scholarship fund in 2013; Ray is

TRIBUTE

**MASARU HARVEY ODOI**



Masaru Harvey Odoi, 92, died on July 28, 2013. Born on July 12, 1921, to George Teiichi and Chikaye Odoi in Mukilteo, Wash. Interned at Minidoka and a member of the 442nd RCT, where he was a decorated veteran. He was active in community affairs, Mukilteo Historical Society, Nisei Veterans Committee and was Mukilteo's Pioneer of the Year in 2008. Predeceased by twin brother, Hiroshi, brother, Roy, and sisters, Sue and Miriam. He is survived by wife, Frances; son, Gary; son, Richard (Yukie); and granddaughter, Anna. Donations requested for the Japanese Presbyterian Church of Seattle and the Mukilteo Historical Society. Sign Masaru's online Guest Book at [www.Legacy.com](http://www.Legacy.com).

survived by his wife of 69 years, Hisako Louise Sako, his son, Paul (Sandra Varga) and numerous nieces and nephews.

**Takade, Manabu, 65,** Rancho Palos Verdes, CA; Aug. 23; born in Wakayama, Japan, to parents Sakuichi and Yasue Takade (both predeceased); he is survived by his wife, Linda Takade; children, Darrin, Mitchell and Scotty Takade; siblings, Etsuo Takade and Masako (James) Ido; brother-in-law, Paul Shintol; nieces, Jamie Ann and Krystina Ido and Tiffany Takade; also survived by other relatives both here and in Japan.

**Takamori, Hideyuki, 90,** Torrance, CA; Aug. 27; he is survived by his sons, Gilbert (Seandae) and Alvin (Debbie) Takamori; siblings, Hisako Tamiya, Roger (Florence) Takamori and Lily Takamori, all from HI; brother-in-law, Sadaichi (Hisae) Tanji from Japan; sisters-in-law, Katsuko Tanji from Japan and Mae Takamori from MD; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Tomooka, Keiko Sandy, 80,** Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 25; she is survived by her loving family:

husband, Suyeo; son, Eric (Joni Kinoshita) Tomooka; daughter, Dana (Phillip) Hartmann; sisters, Kazuye Kushi and Tomiko Shibata; also many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 2 gc. Private burial services were held by the family at Rose Hills Memorial Park in Whittier.

**Yamane, Yasue 'Sue,' 84,**



Monterey Park, CA; Aug. 27; predeceased by her husband, Edward M. Yamane; she is survived by her children, Michael (Katherine) Yamane and Lori (James) Kodama, both of California, and Patti (Edward) Shinoda of HI; siblings, Marilyn T. (Tets) Sakuda, Gavin (Dot) Yamauchi of HI and Carol Toyota; she is also survived by other relatives here and in Hawaii; 11 gc.

**PLACE A TRIBUTE**

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

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# Tokyo Wins Bid to Host 2020 Summer Olympics

By Associated Press

**BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA** — The International Olympic Committee went for a familiar, trusted host, selecting Tokyo for the 2020 Games and signaling that playing it safe was preferable to more risky picks like Sochi and Rio.

With Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe reassuring IOC members on the Fukushima nuclear crisis, Tokyo defeated Istanbul 60-36 on Sept. 7 in the final round of secret voting. Madrid was eliminated earlier after an initial tie with Istanbul.

Tokyo, which hosted the 1964 Olympics, billed itself as the “safe pair of hands” at a time of global political and economic turmoil — a message that clearly resonated with the IOC.

With Madrid’s bid dogged by questions over Spain’s economic crisis and Istanbul handicapped by political unrest and civil war in neighboring Syria, Tokyo offered the fewest risks.

“The certainty was a crucial factor — the certainty that they could deliver” IOC VP Craig Reedie of Britain said.

The choice of Tokyo bucked the IOC’s recent trend of taking chances on host cities — Sochi, Russia, for the 2014 Winter Games, Rio de Janeiro for the 2016 Olympics and Pyeongchang, South Korea, for the 2018 Winter Games.

Preparations for Sochi have been overshadowed by cost overruns, a record \$51 million budget, security worries and an international outcry over Russia’s anti-gay legislation. There are mounting concerns among the IOC over construction delays in Rio.

The IOC’s desire for a reliable, dependable host in 2020 was a crucial factor for Tokyo.

“For better or worse, we picked Sochi followed by Rio followed by Pyeongchang,” Canadian member Dick Pound said. “Maybe we need to say, ‘All right, whether it’s the most exciting city in the world or not, they will deliver.’”

Tokyo had been on the defensive in the final days of the campaign because of mounting concerns over the leak of radioactive water from the tsunami-crippled Fukushima nuclear plant.

In the final presentation, Abe gave the IOC assurances that the Fukushima leak was not a threat to Tokyo and took personal responsibility for keeping the Games safe.

“Let me assure you the situation is under control,” Abe said. “It has never done and will never do any damage to Tokyo.”

Abe gave further assurances when pressed on the issue by Norwegian IOC member Gerhard Heiberg.

“It poses no problem whatsoever,” Abe said in Japanese, adding that the contamination was limited to a small area and had been “completely blocked.”

“There are no health-related problems until now, nor will there be in the future,” he said. “I make the statement to you in the most

emphatic and unequivocal way.”

IOC members said Abe’s answers were critical and helped dispel any doubts.

“People wanted to hear it and needed to hear it,” Pound said. “And he delivered on that. I think that was a real knockout answer.”

Tokyo Electric Power Co., Fukushima’s operator, has acknowledged that tons of radioactive water has been seeping into the Pacific from the plant for more than two years after the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami led to meltdowns at three of its reactors. Recent leaks from tanks storing radioactive water used to cool the reactors have added to fears that the amount of contaminated water is getting out of hand.

Tokyo’s bid benefited from Japan’s large economy and link to Olympic sponsors. Asia offers a huge market for the IOC.

“There are a lot of commercial advantages for the IOC going to a country with the third-largest GDP,” Australian member John Coates said. “And then compare that to the economic uncertainty facing Spain and the political unrest that Istanbul experienced a few months ago and more particularly the unrest at the Middle East at the moment.

“The IOC, we’ve taken the safe bet.”

Tokyo delegates in the hall screamed with joy, jumped in the air, hugged and waved small flags after IOC President Jacques Rogge opened a sealed envelope and read the words: “The International Olympic Committee has the honor of announcing that the Games of the 32nd Olympiad in 2020 are awarded to the city of Tokyo.”



Japan’s Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (right) is congratulated by International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge upon hearing the news Sept. 7 that Japan will be the host of the 2020 Olympic Games.

Even though it was 5 a.m. in Japan, about 1,200 dignitaries and Olympic athletes who crowded into a convention hall in downtown Tokyo celebrated the news. Cheers of “Banzai!” filled the hall when the announcement was made.

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