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A publication of the
JACL Chicago Chapter

JACL *en*

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Confronting Defamation

By Bill Yoshino

In January 2013, Yoshiko Urayama, the editor of the Chicago Shippo, told me about an exhibit on World War II at the Chicago History Museum. The exhibit contained a blaring headline from the Chicago Tribune, “Atom Bombs Doom Japs.” The use of racial or ethnic slurs is unsettling in any context, even if it’s part of a headline from another era.

I contacted the museum’s curator and explained that even though the racial slur was in a headline from decades ago, we were concerned because people who view the display, especially the young, may believe its use is acceptable, and that education about intolerance is a continuing challenge for each new generation. The museum acted quickly to alter its interpretation to indicate the J-word is a racial slur.

This was the first in a number of incidents JACL responded to during 2013. In January, we contacted executives at Google regarding an app called Make Me Asian, which purported to be a fun way to appear to be Asian. It used overlays such as a “coolie” hat and “Fu Manchu” mustache that could be placed on photos. Needless to say, it was a convenient way to mock Asian Americans, and Google removed it.

There were other incidents in 2013 where we responded to the use of racial slurs at KLFY television in Louisiana and KNPR, Nevada Public Radio, and even alleged hate crimes at Columbia University in New York and at Southern Methodist University in Texas. An Asian American man was menaced in Kissimmee, Florida, by a knife-wielding individual who uttered racial remarks.

The point of all of this is that racism, defamation, and the use of racial stereotypes continue to occur, and even proliferate with the ease of internet access. There is a need to respond whenever incidents occur. Unlike the N-word, the use of the J-word and other Asian slurs remain because people think they can get away with it, or because they just don’t know better. Ignorance may be bliss, but not when it has the power to cause harm.

In its book, *Hate Hurts: How Children Learn and Unlearn Prejudice*, the Anti-Defamation League guides parents to “name the behavior when you see it: What you did was name-

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Securing and maintaining the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry.

The JACLER is published by the JACL Chicago Chapter for its members, supporters and friends. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

For More Information

For information about the JACL Chicago Chapter, call 773.728.7171, or visit www.jaclchicago.org

Contact Us

JACL Chicago Chapter
5415 North Clark Street
Chicago, Illinois 60640-1294

Phone: 773.728.7171

Fax: 773.728.7231

Email: chicago@jacl.org

Web: www.jaclchicago.org

Go Green!

If you would like to receive a copy of this newsletter electronically, and receive JACL news and updates via email, please email chicago@jacl.org and let us know you'd like to be added to our electronic mailing list!

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Go to www.jaclchicago.org for details on how to place your ad today.

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Confronting Defamation continued

calling." Then, "declare it unacceptable: we don't call people names." This is a good lesson for all because certain expectations are non-negotiable.

The watchword for the JACL is first to challenge the use of slurs, and then to educate so this shallow behavior can be turned into a more nuanced understanding about the harm inherent in their use. But, to make a difference, it takes more than a single organization to respond. Please add your voice whenever you hear or see acts of racial defamation. 🗣️

JACL Chicago Chapter Annual Meeting

By Marisa Fujinaka

On November 6, the JACL Chicago Chapter hosted its 2013 Annual Meeting at the Chicago office in Andersonville. A packed room and an abundance of great food made for a satisfying and productive Annual Meeting. Board members reviewed the chapter's annual report and discussed new projects and events for the coming year.

Chapter President Megan Nakano was proud to announce that the chapter ended 2013 in very good shape, fiscally poised for growth in 2014. With a generous donation from Chiye Tomihiro and wise investment by the Finance Committee, the chapter is now in a position to further pursue its mission to secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and prejudice.



Photos: Robert Brown

CHAPTER PRESIDENT, MEGAN NAKANO, GAVE A POSITIVE OVERVIEW OF THE CHAPTER'S FISCAL POSITION AND MANY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST YEAR.



JUDY TANAKA GAVE A REPORT ON THE JACL CHICAGO CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

Here are some highlights from 2013:

- The Kansha Project had seven participants who traveled to Manzanar concentration camp in California and created videos and written reflections about their experience. Kansha will continue into its third year in 2014.
- Over 300 hundred JACLers traveled to the Nation's capital to attend the 44th JACL National Convention. The convention theme was "Justice for All" commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) is a national civil rights and education organization founded in 1929 and with chapters across the country. Since its beginning, the JACL has taken an active role in dismantling discriminatory barriers for all Asian Pacific Americans.

The Chicago Chapter of JACL administers a scholarship program to help qualified students pursue their educational goals. The program awards several scholarships each year which are funded by generous donations from community sponsors. The scholarships provide financial assistance to promising students who have demonstrated academic excellence and school/community service with a special emphasis on JACL involvement and service within the Japanese American community.

SCHOLARSHIP CATEGORIES

Scholarships are available to graduating high school seniors entering as freshman to a school of higher learning; continuing undergraduate students and graduate students.

Entering freshman should complete the FRESHMAN application. All other applicants should complete the GENERAL application form.

The Chicago JACL reserves the right not to make awards in every category depending upon the type and qualifications of the applicant pool.

ELIGIBILITY

Scholarship applicants must meet all of the following eligibility requirements.

1. Applicant must be a JACL member at either an Individual or Student/Youth Level. (Parent membership will not meet this requirement.) If the applicant is not a member, he/she must join JACL at the time of application – for information, call the JACL office at (773) 728-7171.
2. Applicant must be a full-time student at a college, university, trade school, business school, or other institution of higher learning within the United States in the fall of 2014. Students deferring enrollment will not qualify for the 2014 scholarship program.
3. Applicant must be a resident of the State of Illinois for at least one year prior to graduation or graduate from an accredited Illinois high school.
4. Applicant may apply under only one scholarship category (Freshman or General) during the same year.
5. Recipients of JACL Chicago scholarship awards are limited to a total of **two** awards.
6. **Scholarship recipients must attend the annual scholarship luncheon to receive their awards** – requests for exceptions to attendance must be submitted in writing in advance and approved by the Scholarship Committee.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

1. Only one application (Freshman or General) need be submitted to qualify for all awards listed in that same category.
2. The following is a condensed list of supporting documents required to complete a Chicago JACL Scholarship Application: JACL Application*, JACL involvement, Personal Statement, Two Letters of Recommendation, Official school transcript(s), SAT and/or ACT test score verification, Extracurricular activities, Work experience and Community involvement.

CRITERIA

Demonstration of academic excellence, as a measure of commitment to education, is an important but by no means the sole determinant for the scholarship awards. All application components listed above will factor into the scholarship committee's evaluation. Extracurricular activities indicate a well-rounded individual but recognition will also be given to students whose part-time jobs may limit their ability to participate in activities. Criteria may be weighed differently depending upon the nature of the scholarship. *Special attention and weight will be given to an applicant's involvement with JACL and the JA community and in the type of activities (i.e., ensuring the civil rights of Asian Americans and others through education) that concern JACL.*

Decision of the Scholarship Committee is final.

KEY DATES

December 2013 – applications will be available for download from the Chicago JACL web site <http://www.jaclchicago.org> or by calling the Chicago JACL office at 773/728-7171.

March 1, 2014 – applications must be received or postmarked by this date for scholarship consideration. **Applications must be complete for award consideration.**

April 2014 – scholarship applicants will be notified of the results of the Scholarship Committee's evaluation.

May 18, 2014 – Annual scholarship luncheon – recipients must be present to receive awards unless an exception is approved by the Scholarship Committee.

Applications and supporting materials should be submitted to:

**JACL Chicago Scholarship Committee
5415 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60640-1294**

* Note: The JACL also has a National Scholarship Program in addition to the Chicago scholarship program. Each program has its own application. The Chicago application is available at www.jaclchicago.org and the national program application is available at www.jacl.org. Students may apply for both local and national scholarships in the same year.

Join Us!

Saturday, February 22, 2014



AACC2014



**Asian American Coalition of Chicago
31st Annual Lunar New Year Celebration**

“Beyond the Bamboo Ceiling”

Hyatt Regency O’Hare

Hosted by the Japanese American Community

5pm Reception | 7pm Banquet

Our theme for the 2014 AACC Lunar New Year Celebration focuses on that point “Beyond the Bamboo Ceiling” at which Asian Americans achieve representation in the highest offices of our American institutions. We aspire to representation in numbers that are at least proportional to our percentage of the population and eventually to our level of academic achievement.

Please visit www.aacchicago.org for more information on sponsorships, exhibit booths and advertising opportunities.

AACC Host Office: JACL Chicago Chapter
5415 N. Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60640
773.728.7171 | info@aacchicago.org

- The Day of Remembrance was held at the Chicago History Museum and featured Priscilla Wagers, author of *Imprisoned in Paradise: Japanese Internee Road Workers at the WWII Kooskia Internment Camp*.
- The tour of the Congressional Gold Medal was featured in a local exhibition of "American Heroes: Japanese American WWII Nisei Soldiers and the Congressional Gold Medal" at the Chicago History Museum.
- After many years of diligent tending for the Chicago Chapter's Building, Tad Tanaka is passing the toolbox of Building Committee Chair on to Glenn Inouye. Thank you Tad and welcome Glenn!

Furthermore, this year, the JACL Chicago Chapter will host the Asian American Coalition (AACC) 31th Annual Lunar New Year Celebration. The theme for this year is, "Beyond the Bamboo Ceiling," that point at which Asian Americans can be found in the highest offices in American institutions. Please come celebrate with us on Saturday, February 22, 2014 at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare. (See page 4 for details.)

The JACL Chicago Chapter looks forward to another successful year and is grateful for the community support. Please keep a look out for programs and events happening in 2014! 🍵



Photo: Robert Brown

CHAPTER MEMBER KAY KAWAGUCHI LISTENS TO THE REPORTS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING.

2014 Day of Remembrance – Heart Mountain: Conscience, Loyalty, and the Constitution

In 1942, some 120,000 Japanese Americans, two-thirds of them U.S. citizens, were removed from their homes on the West Coast and sent to concentration camps during WWII.

In 1944, the U.S. Government charged 63 Nisei (first-generation Japanese Americans) imprisoned at the Heart

Mountain Relocation Center in Wyoming with draft evasion when they refused to report. These men were willing to fight for their country, but only after their rights as citizens were restored.

Join us as Keith Uchima produces and directs a staged reading of excerpts from their historic trial. This stage production

will tell the stories of Heart Mountain draft resisters through narration, reenactment of court proceedings, and historical photographs.

The annual Chicago Day of Remembrance is sponsored by the Chicago Japanese American Council, the Chicago Japanese American

Historical Society, the Japanese American Citizens League – Chicago Chapter, the Japanese American Service Committee, and the Japanese Mutual Aid Society of Chicago. The program is free and open to the public. For further information, please visit www.cjahs.org, or call 773.275.0097, ext. 222. 🍵



2014 Kansha Project applications are now available online at www.jaclchicago.org Apply today for this unique, all-expenses-paid program.

Kakehashi Project connects Japanese students to JACL Chicago

By Christine Munteanu

For two afternoons in early November, the JACL Chicago office hosted Japanese college and high school students from Kobe Gakuin University in Kobe city and Iwaki-city in Fukushima prefecture.

The visit was arranged as part of the Kakehashi Project, a program organized through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, the Japan-U.S. Educational Commission, the Japan Foundation, the Laurasian Institution, and the Japan International Cooperation Center. The Kakehashi Project's youth exchange program aims to "promote deeper mutual understanding among the people of Japan and the United States... and help young people develop wider perspectives to encourage active roles at the global level in the future."

The students made presentations in English on various topics about Japanese society and life, pop culture, food, traditions, and arts. Some students gave live kendo and karate demonstrations. Many of the students at Kobe Gakuin were studying disaster relief preparation, and spoke about the effects of the



JACL STAFF, BOARD, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS JOINED THE STUDENTS OF THE KAKEHASHI PROGRAM FOR AN AFTERNOON OF CULTURAL EXCHANGE.

Great Kobe Earthquake of 1995 and its influence on emergency response procedures in Japan, as well as the continued impacts of the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami. The high school students from Iwaki-city, one of the areas that was devastated in 2011, also spoke about how the disaster changed their lives. Iwaki-city was featured in the 2006 Japanese film "Hula Girls," and some of the students performed the hula dances helped revive the town.

The presentations were attended by JACL National staff members, JACL

Chicago board members, and community members. After the students presentations, there was time for brief question and answer sessions from both sides. Many of the Japanese students were curious about Japanese Americans' sense of connection to Japan, and the ways Japanese Americans have adapted Japanese culture to American society. Attendees on JACL's side asked students about their impressions of Chicago and the United States, and about their motivations for being a part of the Kakehashi Project.

After their brief stay at the JACL Chicago office, the Japanese students continued with their whirlwind itinerary, including visiting the Art Institute, trying deep-dish pizza, and heading off to their home stay placements. 🇺🇸



STUDENTS FROM KOBE GAKUIN UNIVERSITY GIVE A PRESENTATION ON JAPANESE POP CULTURE.

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DBA Wellness Source

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*(in memory of Florence Ishibashi
and in honor of Karen Ishibashi)*

Michael Harada
(in memory of Yosh Harada)

James Loomis
(in memory of Chiye Tomihiro)

Tomihiro Family
(in memory of Chiye Tomihiro)

Ayako Yamada

Kansha Project

Clay Cerny

Roy and Alice Esaki

Kazuko and Mitsuo Fujishima

Mary Fukami

Grace Igasaki

Marion Ishii

Ruby Izui

Neil and Karen Kanemoto

Jo Ann King
(in memory of Toshi D. Mayeda)

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(in memory of Mary Nakagawa)

Allen Shimada and
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(in memory of Tomi Shimojima)

Michael Takada and
Susan Oliver

Hisako Takami

Glenn and Erlinda Yamamoto
*(in memory of Harry and
Midori Yamamoto)*

Bill and Carol Yoshino
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Scholarship

Marian and Nancy Nakagawa

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The JACLeR is a community organization that ensures the protection of your rights. Help us continue to be a strong voice for you and your family by supporting us with your membership or a donation.

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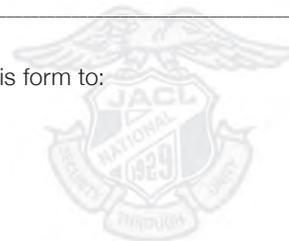
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Chicago, IL 60640



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JACL

Japanese American Citizens League

CHICAGO CHAPTER

5415 North Clark Street
Chicago, Illinois 60640-1294
p: 773.728.7171
f: 773.728.7231
e: chicago@jacl.org
w: jaclchicago.org



The Japanese American Citizens League is a non-profit human and civil rights organization dedicated to preserving the civil liberties of Japanese Americans and of all Americans.

We welcome your participation.

Go Green! Receive the JACLER newsletter (in full color), news and updates via email. See page 2

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, February 12	JACL Chicago Board Meeting 7 PM, JACL Chicago Office, 5415 N. Clark Street
Sunday, February 16	Day of Remembrance 2 – 4 PM, Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark Street
Saturday, February 22	AACC Lunar New Year Dinner 5 PM, Hyatt Regency O'Hare
Saturday, March 1	JACL Chicago Scholarship Application Deadline
Thursday, March 13	HONORING OUR LEGACY JACL Chicago Inaugural and Kansha Project Fundraiser 6 – 9 PM, Prairie Moon Restaurant, 1502 Sherman Road, Evanston
Monday, March 31	Kansha Project Application Deadline

Honoring our Legacy

A Kansha Project Event and Chapter Inaugural



The Kansha Project helps ensure that our history and legacy is never forgotten. This is a life-changing experience, designed for college-age students in the Japanese American community.

The Chapter will also install the JACL Chicago Chapter 2014 Board of Directors:

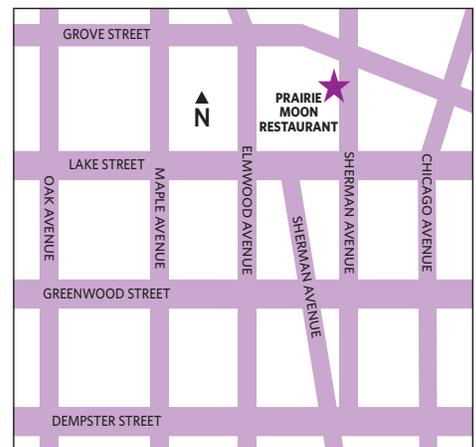
Bryan Hara	Michael Oshita	Judith Tanaka
Glenn Inouye	Lisa Sloan	Tad Tanaka
Brandon Mita	Robert Takagi	Thomas Yatabe
Megan Nakano	Phyllis Tamada-Brown	Pat Yuzawa-Rubin

Please join us and show your support for JACL Chicago's newest premier program:

Thursday, March 13th, 6 - 9 pm
Hors d'oeuvres, Beer, Wine, Soft Drinks & Program
Prairie Moon Restaurant
1502 Sherman Road, Evanston

Tickets: \$100 adults, \$50 students
All proceeds from this event will benefit the Kansha Project.

Prairie Moon Restaurant
1502 Sherman Road
Evanston, Illinois
*Street parking or parking lot
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JACL CHICAGO CHAPTER
Japanese American Citizens League
See What We're Doing Today.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

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Telephone _____

Email _____

Please RSVP by March 5, 2014.

Mail checks to:
JACL Chicago
5415 North Clark Street
Chicago, Illinois 60640

or contact us at
773.728.7171 or chicago@jacl.org
to make your reservation.

Tickets are \$100 each
\$50 Students (with school ID)

Enclosed, please find \$ _____ for _____ tickets, _____ student tickets, and/or my \$ _____ donation.