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JACL Chicago Chapter

# JACL *en*

## In this Issue:

- page 1 Farewell to Bill Yoshino
- page 3 Inaugural 2017 Recap:  
Celebrating Community
- page 4 Meet Our New  
Board Members!
- page 5 Reflections on the AACC 34th  
Annual Gala
- page 6 2017 JACL/OCA  
Leadership Summit
- page 7 Thank You to Our Donors  
and Advertisers
- page 8 Calendar of Events

**JACL National Convention  
July 6–9, Washington, DC**

[www.jacl.org/2017convention](http://www.jacl.org/2017convention)

**JACL Scholarship  
Luncheon  
Sunday, May 21st  
RSVP Today!**

*See page 2*

**2017 JACL Golf  
Tournament  
Thursday, July 13th**

*See page 5*

## Farewell to Bill Yoshino

By Christine Munteanu, JACL Chicago Member

**B**ill Yoshino, long-time Midwest Regional Director and most recently the interim Executive Director of JACL, has retired from the organization at the end of March. Bill has long been a reliable and important fixture in the JACL Midwest Office, having begun his tenure as JACL Midwest Regional Director in October of 1978. JACL Chicago would like to acknowledge Bill's many valuable contributions to JACL, as well as to the broader Japanese American and Asian American community, and thank him for his nearly 40 years of service to the organization.

In the 1980s and 1990s, Bill was absolutely instrumental in JACL's push for gaining redress for the Japanese American community. He organized grassroots letter-writing and lobbying campaigns throughout the Midwest chapters: first, to pass the legislation to establish the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, and then to pass Civil Liberties Act of 1988. When the commission held one of its hearings in Chicago, Bill worked to identify and prepare witnesses to testify. In the 1990s, Bill led JACL in assisting individuals in applying for and receiving their apology letters and restitution checks. He has named the successful Redress Campaign as one of his most fulfilling experiences with the organization.

In describing Bill's contributions to the Redress campaign, John Tateishi, former National Director of JACL, captures Bill's modesty and humility, as well as his principled dedication to the mission of JACL:

*"I've always felt [you] never received credit for [your] part in [the redress campaign]: for the many long days and nights and weeks and months we pondered the course of the campaign together and gave our hearts and souls to ensuring we would*

*Continued on page 2*



Photo: Robert Brown

BILL YOSHINO RETIRED FROM THE JACL MARCH 31ST, AFTER NEARLY 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE ORGANIZATION. HIS LEADERSHIP AND DEDICATION WILL BE GREATLY MISSED.

# JACL

Japanese American Citizens League

CHICAGO CHAPTER

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

## Article submission deadline for our next issue is 6/16/17.

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

### For More Information

For information about the JACL Chicago Chapter, call 773.728.7171, or visit [www.jaclchicago.org](http://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: [info@jaclchicago.org](mailto:info@jaclchicago.org)

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If you would like to receive a copy of this newsletter electronically, and receive JACL news and updates via email, please email [info@jaclchicago.org](mailto:info@jaclchicago.org) and let us know you'd like to be added to our electronic mailing list!

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Bill Yoshino continued

*make the American public understand the importance of what we sought. You were always the silent partner in everything I did as the JACL's redress leader, and I'll be forever grateful to you for all your brilliance and effort, and so too for your many moments of wise counsel in the past seven years we've worked together."*

Bill is also a respected leader in JACL's efforts to combat anti-Asian sentiment through strengthened hate crime legislation and anti-defamation initiatives. Locally, he's represented the Asian American community on the Illinois Asian American Advisory Council to the Governor, the Chicago Asian American Advisory Committee, the Chicago Commission on Human Relations, and the Illinois Commission on Discrimination and Hate Crimes.

Bill is the go-to person with JACL for statements and responses to hate incidents, and under his leadership the Midwest Office has produced numerous educational materials and programs that have impacted students, educators, and community members throughout the country.

Bill also supported and expanded JACL's youth and leadership programs. For an organization so steeped in history and tradition, Bill's willingness to truly trust and invest in JACL's young people is really quite revolutionary. It is a testament to Bill's leadership, mentorship, and guidance that JACL Chicago has such a strong cohort of young people to carry on JACL's mission and legacy.

The Chicago Chapter has truly benefited from Bill's presence in our office, and we will miss your knowledge and wisdom. We are grateful for Bill's steadfast leadership in challenging times for the organization, and for all of his years of hard work. Bill's passion and commitment to JACL and to our community has helped make the world a better and more just place. 🙏

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**SAVE-THE-DATE**

**JACL Chicago Kansha Culmination**

**Saturday, June 24**

**Watch for details coming soon!**

## Inaugural 2017 Recap: Celebrating Community

By Rebecca Ozaki, Youth Co-Chair

The Japanese American Citizens League Chicago Chapter hosted its annual Inaugural event on March 18, 2017 at Amron Hall in Lincolnwood. The theme of the event was “Celebrating Community” and over 100 community members gathered to eat, mingle, dance, and come together to recognize long time advocate, Bill Yoshino for his years of dedication to the Asian American and Japanese American community.

Chapter President, Bryan Hara, began the program by welcoming guests, sharing the importance of celebrating community while also highlighting our commitment as a chapter to continue to work towards equity for all in this time of uncertainty. JACL National Interim Executive Director and Chicago native, Stephanie Nitahara, swore in eighteen members to the JACL Chicago Board of Directors. New JACL Chicago board members include Lisa Sakai and Brian Ozaki.

Mari Yamagiwa, Marisa Fujinaka, and Christine Munteanu, each current and former staff of JACL, shared their special thanks to Bill Yoshino for the advancement he has made for the community and for uplifting youth in the Chicago Japanese American community. Bill Yoshino has served as the JACL Midwest Director, Executive Director, worked tirelessly on Japanese American Redress, and has been an advocate for the Asian American and Japanese American community for over 38 years. Bill thanked the community along with his wife, Carol Yoshino, while sharing his story and hope for the future. Bill’s last day at JACL was March 31.

The evening ended with line dancing from our very own, Brandon Ishikata and drawing of the Cubs vs. Brewers raffle tickets generously donated by Next Generation Nikkei member, Jeff Tademoto. Winners were Judy Tanaka and Larry Schectman. Special thanks to the Consulate General Naoki Ito, and the Deputy Council General Keiko Yanai of Japan for attending the event. Additional thanks to Amron Hall, Windy City Jams, Kamehachi, Mary Doi, and dedicated JACL Chicago volunteers for helping to make the night a success. 🍷

\*\*\*JACL Chicago will host an appreciation event and official retirement party for Bill Yoshino in Chicago at a later date. Stayed tuned for details.



2017 JACL CHICAGO BOARD OF DIRECTORS. FRONT ROW (L TO R): ROBERT MITA, BRYAN HARA, LISA SAKAI, LISA SLOAN, TONKO DOI, BRIAN OZAKI, PHYLLIS TAMADA-BROWN, GARY WONG. BACK ROW (L TO R): REBECCA OZAKI, LANE MITA, JEANNIE HARRELL, TOM YATABE, MEGAN NAKANO, JUDY TANAKA, TAD TANAKA, PHILIP WONG (GENERAL COUNSEL). NOT PICTURED: GLENN INOUE, MICHAEL OSHITA, AND PAT YUZAWA-RUBIN.

Photo: Robert Brown



LEFT: RECENT RETIREE, BILL YOSHINO, CUTS HIS RETIREMENT CAKE AT INAUGURAL. BELOW: BRANDON ISHIKATA LEADS THE LINE DANCERS.



Photos: Amy Chow

**JACL National Convention**  
July 6 – 9

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## Meet Our New Board Members!

### Lisa Sakai

Born in the Year of the Boar (you do the math), Lisa Sakai is a 3rd generation Japanese American (Sansei). She is President and CEO of TransAgra International Inc., a privately-held, multinational agribusiness company. Her company's mission is dedicated to developing products that will help feed the world with minimal negative impact. Prior to joining TransAgra she worked at both Citibank (asset-based financing for middle markets) and Bank of America (commercial lending for large corporate accounts). She has a B.A. from Lake Forest College and a MBA from DePaul University. She has lived in Chicago since 1981 has been active in the Japanese American community. Lisa joined the Board of JACL Chicago in 2016 and is also a member of the U.S. Japan Council. Prior to its merger into the National JACL Credit Union, she was on the Board of the Chicago JACL Credit Union. She also served on the Board of the Japanese American Service Committee for over 10 years and was its President from 1999-2002. She has served on the National JACL Scholarship committee, the Asian Lunar New Year Committee and the JACL National Convention Committee as well as the Asian Advisory Council for the IL State Comptroller and the City of Chicago's Council on Human Relations. Lisa subscribes to the Starfish Theory and believes individuals and communities can effect positive change in the world.



Photo courtesy of Lisa Sakai

### Brian Ozaki

Brian K. Ozaki, equipment engineer with Verizon Wireless, is an active member of the Japanese American community in the Chicagoland area where he resides with his two children and wife. As a child of parents who were incarcerated in camps during WWII, Brian is committed to furthering the knowledge of what happened in the past as a means to prevent similar atrocities from happening in the future. His work across the Japanese American and Muslim communities has been a passion he's pursued for a number of years. Brian's decision to formally serve the JACL board came from being moved by his attendance at multiple events such as the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony, the Kansha Too program, the Minidoka pilgrimage as well as the JACL/OCA 2016 Summit. These experiences coupled with the socio-political climate continue to motivate Brian and his family to get involved and give back.



Photo courtesy of Brian Ozaki

**Chicago Japan Festival**  
**June 3 – 4**  
**Forest View Educational Center**  
 2121 South Goebbert Road, Arlington Heights, IL  
[www.japanfest-chicago.org](http://www.japanfest-chicago.org)

### Join or Donate to the JACL Today!

The JACL 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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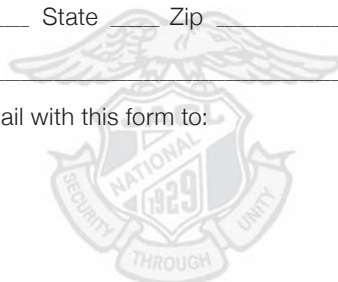
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In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

## Reflections on the AACC 34th Annual Gala

By Lisa Doi, Kansha Alumni Leadership Board Member

The Asian American Coalition of Chicago brings together over 16 Asian American communities to celebrate Lunar New Year. This event, one of the rare moments that so many of Chicago's Asian American communities come together, is a reminder of both the similarities and differences between these Asian American communities and the ways that we can move forward together. I went into the event thinking a lot about the significance of Lunar New Year; the event was held over a month after Lunar New Year by the Pakistani community, a community that doesn't generally celebrate Lunar New Year. What does it mean for a broad coalition of Asian American groups to celebrate the traditions of a few members as a moment for community building? Instead of seeing this as a moment of disunion, it showed me the potential of our collective power.

One of the events hosts shared that as in Chicago we are one of the only cities lucky enough to have Asian American representation at the city level, county level, state level, and nationally. We also have our own community leaders, like this year's Exemplary Community Service Awardee, Rick Morimoto. But last year, when Rick brought Norman Mineta and JANM to Northwestern, we had a conversation about losing political giants like Mr. Mineta, Spark Matsunaga, and Daniel Inouye. This may be a moment when, for our own sake, we need to align with other Asian American communities. But it is also a moment when we should recognize the power that we have as allies to ever new communities of Asian Americans. 🌱

RIGHT: RICHARD AND JOYCE MORIMOTO AT THE AACC LUNAR NEW YEAR BANQUET. DR. RICHARD MORIMOTO WAS THE RECIPIENT OF THE 2017 JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD. BELOW: NEXT GEN NIKKEI ATTENDEES (L TO R), LANE MITA, JENN BROWN, REBECCA OZAKI, ANNA TAKADA, LISA DOI, GREGORY KIMURA



Photo: Ron Yoshino



Photo courtesy of Rebecca Ozaki

# 2017 JAACL Chicago Golf Tournament

Thursday, July 13, 2017

Glenview Park Golf Club • 800 Shermer Road, Glenview, IL • 9:00 am • Cost: \$90/golfer Lunch will be served after golf. Please RSVP to the JAACL office by July 7th.

### 2017 Golf Tournament Registration Form

Please enclose entry fee(s) for all golfers (\$90/person) listed on the registration form. We will inform you of your starting time. **Registration deadline is July 7th.**

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AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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## 2017 JACL/OCA Leadership Summit

By Amy Chow, Kansha Alumni Leadership Board Member

From April 15th to 18th I was able to attend the JACL OCA leadership summit. On the plane over to Washington, D.C. I didn't really know what to fully expect. I imagined there will be a lot of lectures showing young adults how to be successful in the professional world. However that was true to an extent, my perceptions quickly changed. This four day trip in D.C. consisted of workshops of lectures ranging from "The Civil Rights History of Asian American and Pacific Islanders" to "How To Advocate For Your Community." The ages of the participants ranged anywhere from 21 to 64.

On Sunday, Professor Nash, who teaches at the University of Maryland, asked us to share where our families were during different periods of time. He engaged us in conversations of our family histories and how they were affected by the civil rights work of leaders before us. Later on that same day, Kahm Moua broke down the basics of lobbying in ways that helped us understand the importance of why we need to be fighting for our communities and its impact it has on people. And after much hard work of preparing with my assigned group, at the end of the trip we were able to visit a senator's office and lobby for issues that we were passionate about.

The leadership summit was only a span of four days, but I was able encounter some amazing personalities along the way. We had one individual who worked for a non-profit in Boston that helped immigrant refugees with several different resources. Another person wrote the biography of the Japanese American baseball legend Kenichi Zenimura. We had a retired accountant, a filmographer, a paralegal, and college students. People who

I may not have encountered throughout my life but was able to meet this weekend.

I am continuing to find myself as a recently graduated college student, an artist, and a mixed race person. However, this weekend reminded me of two things. One, it's not a sprint, it's a marathon. Work takes time and dedication. What you're doing now doesn't necessarily reflect the rest of your future. And two, fighting for what you're passionate about and the communities that matter to you are essential. These people and issues are what pushes me to make great art and do what I love, and the leadership summit helped me realize that. 🙏



LEFT: JACL OCA LEADERSHIP SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS TAKING A SELFIE ON THE HILL.

BELOW: AMY CHOW AND REBECCA OZAKI'S TEAM PREPARE FOR THEIR MEETING WITH SENATOR SCHUMER TO ADVOCATE FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM.



Photos courtesy of Amy Chow

## 2017 Nikkei Community Memorial Day Service

The Japanese Mutual Aid Society of Chicago will hold its annual Memorial Day service in the Japanese section of Montrose Cemetery (5400 N. Pulaski Road, Chicago) on Monday, May 29, 2017, at 11:00 am. Buddhist, Christian, and other churches, as well as various Japanese community organizations and the Consulate General of Japan will be represented at the floral offering. The Mutual Aid Society requests that all cars be parked in the area across Bryn Mawr Avenue, to the north of the cemetery.

The Chicago Nisei Post #1183 will hold its special service at the Veterans Memorial in Montrose Cemetery at 10:30 am, just before the community service. After the observances at the cemetery, the Post will host a free luncheon at the Japanese American Service Committee.

For further information, please contact Karen Kanemoto (773/907-3002 or [jmaskanemoto@gmail.com](mailto:jmaskanemoto@gmail.com)).

## Thank You to Our Donors and Advertisers!

(Donors as of 4/21/17)

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Glenn Inouye  
Elaine Kaneshiro  
Lynn Maruyama  
Richard and Joyce Morimoto  
May Nakano  
Jackie Nitahara  
Brian Ozaki  
Jon Shimabukuro  
Lisa Sloan  
Carol Yoshino

### Kansha Project

Midori Bowen  
Lisa Doi  
Emily Harada  
Kenji Kuramitsu  
Lane Mita  
Sandra Morimoto  
Koji Negi-Tran

Jackie Nitahara  
Kristin Osakada  
Rebecca Ozaki  
Bruce Takagi  
Lauren Uchima  
Ryan Nishimoto  
Joseph Wat  
Colin Wong

### Scholarship Program

Dr. Steven M. Shikami

### General

Tsuyako Matsui  
Susan & Jay Kawakami and  
the Muramoto Family (In  
memory of our mother, Mary  
Muramoto)  
Alexander MacDonald and  
Natasha Saleski  
Julie Shimada (In memory of  
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Japanese American Citizens League

## CHICAGO CHAPTER

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f: 773.728.7231  
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*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

<b>Wednesday, May 10</b> 7pm – 9pm	<b>JACL Chicago Board Meeting</b> JACL Chicago Office, 5415 N. Clark Street, Chicago
<b>Sunday, May 21</b> 12pm	<b>JACL Chicago Scholarship Luncheon</b> Maggiano's Little Italy, 4999 Old Orchard Shopping Center, Skokie
<b>Monday, May 29</b> 11am	<b>2017 Nikkei Community Memorial Day Service</b> Montrose Cemetery, 5400 N. Pulaski Rd, Chicago
<b>Tuesday, May 30</b> 6:30pm	<b>Hidden Histories</b> Harris Hall 107, Northwestern University, Evanston
<b>June 3 – 4</b>	<b>Japan Festival</b> Forest View Educational Center, 2121 South Goebbert Rd, Arlington Heights
<b>Wednesday, June 14</b> 7pm – 9pm	<b>JACL Chicago Board Meeting</b> JACL Chicago Office, 5415 N. Clark Street, Chicago
<b>Saturday, June 24</b>	<b>Kansha Project Culmination</b> Watch for details coming soon!
<b>July 6 – 9</b>	<b>National JACL Convention</b> Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, DC, <a href="http://www.jacl.org/2017convention">www.jacl.org/2017convention</a>
<b>Thursday, July 13</b> 9am	<b>JACL Chicago Golf Outing</b> Glenview Park Golf Club, 800 Shermer Road, Glenview