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# JACL *en*

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## SAVE-THE-DATE

### 2018 JACL Chicago Scholarship Luncheon

*See page 3 for details*

## Day of Remembrance: Stop Repeating History

By Mari Yamagiwa, JACL Chicago Member

Each year, Chicago's Japanese American community comes together to remember President Franklin D. Roosevelt's signing of Executive Order 9066, which led to the incarceration of some 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II. This program serves as a reminder of the fragility of civil liberties in times of crisis and the importance of remaining vigilant in protecting the rights and freedoms of all.

This year's program, held at the Chicago History Museum, began with the reading of mayoral proclamation and the posting of the colors by the Chicago Nisei Post. Samir Ozaki, community member and student at Niles West High School, read the Civilian Exclusion Order (EO 9066).

The keynote address was given by Dale Minami, a civil rights attorney who is best known for heading the legal team that represented Fred Korematsu. Following the keynote address,



CIVIL RIGHTS ATTORNEY, AZAM NIZAMUDDIN; ATTORNEY AND KEYNOTE SPEAKER, DALE MINAMI; AND CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM PRESIDENT, GARY T. JOHNSON PARTICIPATE IN A PANEL DISCUSSION.

Photo: Robert Brown

*Continued on page 2*

# 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 4/13/17.**

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)

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Day of Remembrance continued

Chicago History Museum president, Gary T. Johnson, moderated a panel discussion with Dale Minami and Chicago civil rights attorney, Azam Nizamuddin. Closing out the program, Ho Etsu

Taiko performed an original piece composed by Emily Harada, titled *Poston*.

Thank you to all who attended this year's Day of Remembrance and to all who helped make this event a success. 🍀



TOP: POSTING AND RETIRING OF COLORS WAS PERFORMED BY CHICAGO NISEI POST No. 1183 COLOR GUARD. RIGHT: HO ETSU TAIKO PERFORM POSTON, COMPOSED BY EMILY HARADA.

Photos: Robert Brown



DOR 2018 COMMITTEE. TOP (L TO R): JUSTINE URBIKAS, LANE MITA, ANNA TAKADA, BRIAN OZAKI. MIDDLE (L TO R): ROBERT MITA (CO-CHAIR), RYAN YOKOTA, MICHAEL TAKADA, JEAN MISHIMA, LARY SCHECTMAN, KAREN KANEMOTO, MARI YAMAGIWA. SEATED (L TO R): LISA DOI, BRYAN HARA, DALE MINAMI (KEYNOTE SPEAKER), PAT YUZAWA-RUBIN, MEGAN NAKANO (CO-CHAIR). NOT PICTURED: JANE HIDAKA, REBECCA OZAKI, NIKKI SMITH.

To view a video of DOR 2018 go to:  
<http://cantv.org/watch-now/2018-annual-day-of-remembrance-stop-repeating-history/>



By Michael Oshita, Communications Co-Chair

## The Gregg and Robyn Oshita Foundation

It's been a long time since we last talked. Since the last Osh's corner, over a year ago, a lot has changed. I got engaged in Ecuador last April and then married my best friend in October. I watched my sister get married to my amazing brother-in-law and turned another year older. I also experienced a great loss that has forever changed my outlook on things (both personal and professional) that I'd like to share with you.

A lot of you readers knew my mom Robyn Oshita (nee Suzuki). I know I'm biased when I say this, but in my opinion, I had the best mom in the world. She was always there for me, always willing to listen and give advice, and of course was one of two people in the world who love me unconditionally no matter what I did. I use the term "was" when referring to her, because on October 23rd of last year, I lost my mom to a rare form of acute myeloid leukemia. To say my family was devastated would be an understatement. Our family lost our rock.

Since then, I took some time away to mourn. While making memorial arrangements, I wanted to do something to help others, to try and prevent someone from going through the pain my family experienced. After talking it over with my dad and sister, our family took all money we received from *koden*, and we started a foundation in my mom's honor: The Gregg and Robyn Oshita Foundation. Through our work, we hope to help families battling blood cancers. We also hope that by having this in her name, we will keep her name alive and it won't ever be forgotten.

I'd like to invite you, the readers to our first official event. On Saturday, March 24th, please join the Oshita family at the Japanese American Service Committee from 8:00 AM-12:15PM. In partnership with JASC, Heartland Blood Center, The Leukemia Lymphoma Society, and Be the Match, we will be hosting the inaugural Gregg and Robyn Oshita Foundation Blood Drive. We hope to raise money for the foundation, help donors find out their

hemoglobin levels, and also identify future platelet donors as well. For those of you that have had a relative battle a blood cancer, you know how important platelets are. We will also have a table registering people 18-44 for the National Bone Marrow Registry. A bone marrow transplant, for patients like my mom, was the only way to completely beat the disease.

While I know I can never bring her back, knowing that I will carry on her life's work of helping others (she was a nurse for over 40 years), my family through the foundation hopes to do some good and help save a least one person. If we can just save one person, then the foundation is a success.

I hope to see you all there on March 24th. If you would like to schedule an appointment to donate blood at the event, please call Heartland Blood Center at 1-800-786-4483.

In memory of my mom. #BeatCancer. 🍀



ROBYN OSHITA

Photo courtesy of Mike Oshita

## SAVE-THE-DATE 2018 JAACL Chicago Scholarship Luncheon

Sunday, May 20, 12pm

Maggiano's Little Italy  
4999 Old Orchard Shopping Center, Skokie

## SAVE-THE-DATE Kansha Project Culmination Saturday, June 23

More info coming soon!

Like Us on Facebook! [www.facebook.com/JAACLChicago](http://www.facebook.com/JAACLChicago)

## Youth Banner Making Workshop

By Amy Riye Chow, Kansha ALB Member

This year, for Day of Remembrance, a couple of us from the Kansha Alumni Leadership Board organized a protest banner making workshop that was geared towards youth ages around 11-18. The idea emerged from this year's *Then They Came For Us* exhibit at Alphawood Gallery. For their exhibition programming they brought in artist Aram Han Sifuentes, founder of the Protest Banner Lending Library (PBLL).

Aram is a fiber-based artist who received her MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She started the Protest Banner Lending Library back in 2017 after the election. She said, "Banners are a way for me to resist what is happening in the United States and in the world. It is a way to put my voice out there and not stay silent. I cannot be silent." Aram started to create protest banners in her apartment but because she was a non-citizen and new mother, it became difficult for her to be able to attend protests. So, she asked friends to take her protest banners with them to rallies. Since then, the PBLL has grown and there have been many workshops held for different organizations and events.

After hearing about Aram through Alphawood, we teamed up with her

and her PBLL team for Day of Remembrance. During our workshop, youth (and some adult) participants were able to contribute to the making of banners that would later be donated to the PBLL. Some of the tasks included tracing their hand on felt, cutting it out, and with a volunteer would iron it onto our "Stop Repeating History" banner. Participants also picked scraps to help fill the outline of our "Justice For All" banner.

And those who came also had the option of creating their own paper banner that they could take home with them.

The way that the Protest Banner Lending Library uses their workshops as an outlet to resist and speak up is so powerful. Many of the youth that attended the workshop on Sunday were all well under the age to vote. I believe these workshops are incredible ways of providing a platform



Photos: Amy Chow



PARTICIPANTS OF THE BANNER MAKING WORKSHOP WITH THEIR FINISHED BANNERS.

for younger generations to uplift their voices who feel they don't have a say in what is happening in today's political climate. It's a platform for them to speak out against the injustice that is happening, similarly to what happened to Japanese Americans during WWII. It was great to see all of the generations coming together to create these banners, but it was more than that. It was great to see the community coming together to speak out and resist. 🇺🇸

## Carol Yoshino Joins JACL Chicago Board

Carol Yoshino will serve as a member of the board of directors of the JACL Chicago in 2018. She is returning as a Board member following a hiatus of more than thirty years, although she has served in a number of volunteer capacities during this interim.

A lifelong member of the JACL Chicago, Carol began as a youth member, then known as the Junior JACL when



Photo courtesy of Carol Yoshino

she attended her first JACL convention in San Diego in 1966. She went on to serve as a member of the Chicago chapter board during the late 1960s and early 1970s. In addition, Carol served on the Chicago JACL Convention Committee in 1970, 1986, and 2010.

During the 1990s, Carol served as president of the Chicago JACL

Federal Credit Union where she oversaw its merger with the JACL National Credit Union located in Salt Lake City. Also during the 1990s, she worked to establish Chicago JACL's eligibility to participate in

the JACL Blue Shield Health Insurance program. This effort served to increase Chicago JACL membership until the program was forced to terminate when the Affordable Care Act became law.

Carol has received the JACL Silver and Sapphire Pins in recognition of her contributions to the Chicago JACL and the JACL Midwest District Council. The Asian American Coalition of Chicago also recognized her for her service to the Japanese American community in 1997.

Carol is retired from a career in the health care industry and from the Japanese American Service Committee where she was a Special Events Coordinator for thirteen years. 🇺🇸

# Journalism Grad Student Explores Virtual Reality Storytelling & Ethics, Thanks to JACL Chicago Scholarship

By Taylor Nakagawa, 2017 JACL Chicago Scholarship Recipient

Last spring when I learned I was the recipient of a JACL Chicago scholarship, I was ecstatic. This honor allowed me to travel to South Africa last summer to complete a project for my master's degree with the Missouri School of Journalism.



While in Cape Town, I partnered with the University of Western Cape and their Mayibuye Archives to produce a virtual reality story on the life of a Cecil Esau, an anti-Apartheid activist who was jailed by the Apartheid government on Robben Island, a prison used to incarcerate those who took a stand against racial injustice. Esau was jailed on Robben

Island for four years at the tail end of the Apartheid regime, from 1987-1991. During my time at UWC, I spent two weeks scouring the Mayibuye archives for photos from the era Apartheid to complement the 360-degree video I captured around Cape Town, and on Robben Island. The goal of this story was to provide an immersive experience that could enable viewers to gain a deeper understanding of the struggle political prisoners had to endure in the pursuit of equality for all South Africans.

I sat down for an interview Cecil Esau who shared a first-hand account of his time as a student activist at UWC and his career as a political organizer with the African National Congress. After Esau was released from Robben Island, he was one of the lead organizers for South Africa's first democratic election in 1994, which brought Nelson Mandela to power. Today, Esau works for the Center for Justice and Reconciliation in Cape Town where he continues to teach students on the injustices of the Apartheid era.

After coming back from South Africa, the JACL Chicago scholarship allowed me to spend the summer and fall in New York City where I served as an emerging media fellow at the Associated Press. Here, I worked with members of the strategy team to produce an industry report on how the immersive nature of virtual reality is changing the journalistic approach to storytelling. This report included insights from members of The New York Times, The Washington Post, and The Wall Street Journal.

One of the main focuses of the report centered around building an ethical guideline to VR storytelling. Unlike flat video, which naturally involves a passive viewing experience, VR places it's users at the center of an event and has the ability to trick the viewer's mind into believing what they're experiencing is a part of their own reality. With that being said, this report also included the results of a study conducted at the NYC Media Lab that used biosensors to examine how VR affects a viewer's state of mind. Our findings showed that the more freedom a viewer has

to look and move around a scene, the more memorable the experience is, and thus the greater risk there is for a viewer to be traumatically affected by VR journalism. The full report can be found on [insights.ap.org](https://insights.ap.org).

Overall, I'd like pass along my sincere gratitude to the JACL Chicago Scholarship committee for paving the way to one of the most invaluable experiences of my young career. Without JACL Chicago's support, I wouldn't have been able to travel



Photos courtesy of Taylor Nakagawa

the world and pursue my passion for emerging technology and journalism. Moving forward, I will never forget this past experience and how it was made possible by the generosity and compassion of Japanese American community. 🙏

## Help Fund the Japanese American Confinement Sites Program

The Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant program (JACS) is a National Parks Service grant program that distributes funds nationally to preserve the important history of Japanese incarceration during WWII. In just 8 years JACS has provided nearly \$3 million to universities, national organizations, and small grassroots projects.

Just a few months ago, the Kansha Project was awarded a JACS grant to help fund the program for 2018-2019. The award was intended to ensure long-term financial stability and future sustainability of the Kansha Project for years to come.

**President Trump's FY2019 budget proposal cuts funding for the JACS program. Let's make sure this history is taught, not repeated.**

To learn more and take action go to [jaclchicago.org/fund-jacs](https://jaclchicago.org/fund-jacs) or [jacl.org](https://jacl.org). 🙏

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## Senators Duckworth and Hirono Introduce the Korematsu-Takai Civil Liberties Protection Act of 2017

By Mari Yamagiwa, Programs Manager

In December 2017, on the anniversary of the Korematsu Supreme Court decision, Senator Tammy Duckworth (IL) and Senator Mazie Hirono (HI) introduced the *Korematsu-Takai Civil Liberties Protection Act of 2017* (S. 2250). Its purpose is to prevent human and civil rights violations similar to the incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII from ever happening again.

This bill seeks to ensure that no person is imprisoned or detained based on protected characteristics such as race, gender, ethnicity, religion, gender identity, or sexual orientation. This legislation is named in honor of the late Congressman Mark Takai (HI). Representative Mark Takano (CA) has also introduced companion legislation in the House of Representatives (H.R. 4680 *Korematsu-Takai Civil Liberties Protection Act of 2017*).

Senator Duckworth stated, “We, as a nation, must never forget or repeat the horrors thousands of Japanese Americans experienced as prisoners within our own borders. We must also continue to do everything we can to ensure such a national travesty never happens again. I’m proud to introduce this bill with Senator Hirono in remembrance of my dear friend and former colleague Mark Takai to reinstate our commitment to protecting civil liberties and strengthen our resolve to ensure we never again repeat such shameful acts.”

“This legislation is an important acknowledgement of the injustice suffered by my grandparents, parents, and more than 115,000 others who were relocated and imprisoned based on nothing more than their heritage,” said Representative Takano. “This stain on our history must serve as a warning of what happens when we allow fear and hate to overwhelm our basic respect for one another. I am proud to introduce this legislation in the House, and I could not think of a more appropriate way to honor the memory of Congressman Mark Takai, who was a good friend, a great public servant, and an even better person.”

The *Korematsu-Takai Civil Liberties Protection Act of 2017* is currently co-sponsored by 10 senators including Senator Durbin of Illinois.

The bill is endorsed by several organizations including the Japanese American Citizens League. 🇺🇸

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# JACL

Japanese American Citizens League

## CHICAGO CHAPTER

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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>Thursday, March 8</b> 5:30pm – 8:00pm	<b>Civic Engagement</b> – Phonebank (for more info contact <a href="mailto:info@jaclchicago.org">info@jaclchicago.org</a> or 773-728-7171) JASC, 4427 N Clark St, Chicago
<b>March 9 – March 11</b>	<b>JACL Midwest District Council Meeting</b> Milwaukee, WI
<b>Sunday, March 11</b> 2:00pm – 5:00pm	<b>Bridging the Japanese American &amp; Latino Communities</b> Casa Calle 20, 1538 W Cullerton, Chicago
<b>Tuesday, March 13</b> 5:30pm – 8:00pm	<b>Civic Engagement</b> – Phonebank (for more info contact <a href="mailto:info@jaclchicago.org">info@jaclchicago.org</a> or 773-728-7171) JASC, 4427 N Clark St, Chicago
<b>Wednesday, March 14</b> 7:00pm – 9:00pm	<b>JACL Chicago Board Meeting</b> JACL Chicago Office, 5415 N Clark St, Chicago
<b>Saturday, March 24</b> 8:00am – 12:15pm	<b>Gregg and Robyn Oshita Foundation Blood Drive</b> JASC, 4427 N Clark Ave, Chicago
<b>Wednesday, April 11</b> 7:00pm – 9:00pm	<b>JACL Chicago Board Meeting</b> JACL Chicago Office, 5415 N Clark St, Chicago
<b>Sunday, May 20</b> 12:00pm	<b>JACL Chicago Scholarship Luncheon</b> Maggiano's, 4999 Old Orchard Shopping Center, Skokie