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# JACL

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## Healing Histories Across Generations

by Rebecca Ozaki

The 2024 Chicago Annual Day of Remembrance (DOR) took place February 17 and 18, and featured multiple intergenerational events centered on the themes of intergenerational impact and healing. The main event, “Japanese American Incarceration: Healing Histories Across Generations,” was held at the Chicago History Museum on Sunday, February 18th. The program featured a conversation between Midwest based keynote speakers Jami Nakamura Lin, author of *The Night Parade: A Speculative Memoir*, and Dr. Donna Nagata, researcher of intergenerational impact from Japanese American incarceration. Eighty years after World War II, Day of Remembrance 2024 asked attendees to be open to explore what it means to heal from traumas of the past, recognizing that there are many paths towards healing.

The event began with opening remarks from Chicago History Museum Director Greg Storms, followed by a mayoral proclamation from Mayor Brandon Johnson read by Brian Ozaki. Sofia Ozaki and Alex Nakane read the Exclusion Order. Dr. Nagata, Professor of Psychology at the University of Michigan, presented

her research on the “Legacies of Incarceration” on the Yonsei generation. Dr. Nagata highlighted impacts on the including impacts on identity, social justice views, and family dynamics. Jami Nakamura Lin, Chicago native and author of *The Night Parade: A Speculative Memoir*, then shared excerpts from her book along with moving artwork



INSTALLATION OF WISH TREES AT THE RECEPTION WHERE PARTICIPANTS COULD WRITE THEIR HOPES FOR THE NIKKEI COMMUNITY.

*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 July 31st, 2024.

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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### Healing Histories continued

by *Night Parade* illustrator and Jami's sister, Cori Nakamura Lin. Lisa Doi, Chapter Board President of JACL Chicago, moderated a conversation between Dr. Nagata and Jami Nakamura Lin that was followed by audience questions about grappling with identity, grief, remembrance, and what the future of the Nikkei community holds. Jami shared that remembrance is not passive but active; that we must choose to fight for a better future and take a stand as atrocities in Palestine continue to unfold before our eyes.



JACL CHICAGO PROGRAM DIRECTOR, REBECCA OZAKI  
FEATURING DAY OF REMEMBRANCE ART BY  
KANSHA ALUMNI BOARD MEMBER AND JACL CHICAGO  
BOARD MEMBER, BEN NISHIMURA.

Following the program, the reception featured culmination projects from JACL Chicago's Kansha Project alumni that highlighted their experiences visiting Little Tokyo, Los Angeles and Manzanar National Historic Site. Additionally, host organizations had tables



MODERATOR LISA DOI WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKERS JAMI NAKAMURA LIN AND DR. DONNA NAGATA DURING THE MAIN PROGRAM (LEFT TO RIGHT).

set up, including the Japanese Mutual Aid Society's table, hosting Judge Gogo's flag project where survivors and descendants of survivors could sign one of the 48-star flags that was flown at an incarceration site, and a beautiful kimono presented by the Japanese American Historical Society. Reflection trees from the Intergenerational

Conversations event the day before welcomed attendees to the reception area with an interactive prompt, "What legacy do you want to leave behind?" and also featured the children's event wish tree with the hopes for the Nikkei community.

Two additional events, a children's interactive workshop and the workshop "Intergenerational Conversations: Ripples of the Past," were also held that weekend as part of the 2024 DOR series. You can read more about "Intergenerational Conversations: Ripples of the Past" in Cori Nakamura Lin's article found in this issue of the JACLER.

"Japanese American Incarceration: Healing Histories Across Generations" was a labor of love organized by many generations of Chicago based Nikkei. Although planning for the event began about five months prior, this topic has been percolating through the Chicago Nikkei community for decades, waiting for the right time to resurface. This event was built upon previous community efforts towards healing, including workshops such as *Contested Histories* at the Alphawood Gallery by Anne Watanabe and JJ Ueunten, media such as *80 Years Later*, a documentary featuring Jean and Kiyo Fujii, and many more. Day of Remembrance 2024 was a weekend to foster intergenerational connection and build upon the dreams of our ancestors. I was moved by the power of this community to create something meaningful that will impact future generations. I look forward to continuing this path together through our Intergenerational Conversations: Ripples of the Past series and beyond.

## Intergenerational Circles

by Cor Nakamura Lin

This Feb, before the usual Day of Remembrance Programming, over 40 Nikkei folks between the ages of 16 and 85 gathered for a two-hour program with the intention of connecting across generations and reflecting on the legacy of Japanese incarceration in our communities. 'Intergenerational Conversations: Ripples of the Past' was hosted at the JASC in a collaboration between JACL Chicago, Nikkei Uprising, and many community members.

The program consisted of three main sections, beginning with a body grounding activity in which participants responded to questions about Japanese American experience while moving through a large circle. The majority of the day was spent in small intergenerational groups, sharing personal stories and reactions to the group activity. The activities acknowledged and made space for a diversity of Japanese American experiences: there were many at the event who don't have incarceration history in their family, who felt disconnections to Japanese American community, and who had multiple racial or ethnic identities.

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Healing Histories continued

Special thanks to the DOR planning committee, our speakers, the 40+ volunteers that made this event possible, and especially to the Intergenerational Conversations planning committee for their dedication to transformative change. This series was hosted by the Japanese American Citizens League Chicago Chapter, Japanese American Service Committee, Chicago Japanese American Historical Society, and the Japanese Mutual Aid Society of Chicago with support from the Chicago Japanese American Council, the Chicago History Museum, and Nikkei Uprising. Watch the 2024 program and learn more about our upcoming workshops at <https://jaclchicago.org/programs/intergenerational-conversations/>. 🌸



WELCOME TO ATTENDEES FROM INTERGENERATIONAL CONVERSATIONS PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBER, JON SHIMABUKURO.

Some attendees and planning team members shared their reflections:

**Connie Shirakawa:** What was wonderful was also awakening. We share the residual effect of incarceration, yet each generation experiences that trauma in myriad forms like a virus that mutates to avoid eradication.

**Jon Shimabukuro:** The DOR Intergenerational discussions groups were so good on so many levels. It got us all, across all ages, to discuss something important in Japanese American history. It scratched the surface of how we feel and what we do with it.

**Elaine Kaneshiro:** I loved meeting new people, and am so grateful for the intergenerational conversations! We all are on our own journeys but connected by our shared history.

**Sidney Mori:** As someone without carceral family history, it was a grounding experience to learn how incarceration affects us all, no matter your direct relation. To be able to have these discussions with an intergenerational group was healing in ways that I didn't know I needed.

**Mari Yamagiwa:** Being a part of this program felt incredibly meaningful. I was reminded how powerful it is to

share our own stories and to listen to each other's stories. These intergenerational conversations felt like the culmination of many years of hoping, dreaming, and cultivating, and I look forward to continuing to grow together!

**Vianny Saito:** Something I'm left reflecting on are the shifts I saw happening in low key moments leading up to DOR weekend; sanseis talking about Palestine as we set up, Elaine [Kaneshiro] warmly inviting me to sit next to her and sharing her thoughts with me after, and the ways we all brought our experiences and perspectives to the planning meetings. I am reminded that these moments are as important and meaningful as participating in workshops.

This event was one of the last events that would be held in the JASC space on Clark Street. It felt special to be surrounded by the artwork and archives of the last 78 years of Chicago Japanese American history, snack on rainbow jello and mochi, and see so many people make connections across generations. So many wanted to continue these conversations, so we are having another session on April 27th. Learn more about our upcoming workshops at <https://jaclchicago.org/programs/intergenerational-conversations/>. 🌸



## **JACL Chicago Calls for an Immediate and Permanent Ceasefire in Gaza**

JACL Chicago joins the call for a ceasefire in Gaza. The mission of the Japanese American Citizens League Chicago is to secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry. JACL Chicago strives to promote a world that honors life by respecting values of fairness, equality and social justice. As such, we feel compelled to express our outrage at the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

As of now, over 31,000 Palestinians and over 1,200 Israelis have been killed since October, according to United Nations communications. 576,000 people in the Gaza Strip are facing famine-like conditions due to blockage of aid, and 95% of the population lacks access to safe water. With attacks on hospitals and lack of essential supplies, Gaza's health care system has collapsed leaving much of the population without access to any treatment.

The Japanese American community has experienced, first-hand, the devastating impact of bigotry, wartime hysteria, and the curtailment of civil rights in the name of security. The international community has a responsibility to ensure that International Humanitarian Law is upheld to prevent further innocent civilians from becoming collateral damage in this war.

## Kakehashi Reflection

by Ben Nishimura

My identity can be described using an integral part of bonsai care called “root pruning.” A bonsai’s roots can travel far and wide in a constant search for nourishment. However, to keep the tree miniature, its roots need to be cut regularly. Thus, the bonsai sits, restricted from growing. Its roots are forced to only taste the soil of its own pot, never the land of its ancestors. Growing in a melting pot has required sacrificing any sort of connection to Japan and becoming “a good American.”

The pot, however, has cracked over the past couple years, allowing my roots to find their way back to Japan through Kakehashi. I still remember my first

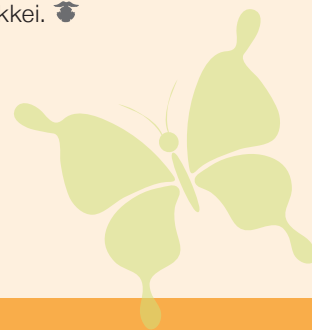
glimpse of Japan from thousands of feet in the air. Blankets of square farmland and clustered villages laid alongside its east coast. It was from here that my family embarked on their journey to cultivate the world—from the village of Itsukaichi, to the sugar plantations of Kauai, to the farmland of Hawthorne, to the sagebrush desert of Heart Mountain. It took five generations to get to where I am today, and only thirteen hours to come back.

Arriving in Japan felt like a lost memory, despite never having been there. There were hints of familiarity, but the country was otherwise a brand-new environment. During my time in Tokyo, Hiroshima, and Yamaguchi, I was never alone—I was always surrounded by other Nikkei. My Kakehashi friends had diverse backgrounds from all over the US. Many came from well-established Japanese American communities, while

for others this trip was their first sense of belonging. We felt connected through our similarities, which often included shared family origins or childhood upbringings. We also drew from our differences, supporting each other through language barriers, navigating the different cities, and finding community.

We were encouraged to prepare family history presentations prior to our stay with our Kakehashi host families. I began putting names to faces in old photo albums, as well as matching dates to locations. This archival journey of self-discovery led me to an intergenerational discussion with my grandfather before the trip; a conversation about incarceration that I’ve never had with him. Subsequently, sharing my family story with my host in Yamaguchi felt healing in a way. It was as though my story came full circle, beginning with my family emigrating from Itsukaichi, and ending with me telling the tale only miles away.

The multifariousness of our relationship to our ethnic identities illustrates how there is no right way to be Nikkei. Our connection, or disconnection, to Japan does not make us any less of who we are. Everyone on Kakehashi, including myself, was looking to discover something new about themselves. I found some answers, and even more questions. The unknown has invigorated me to find more adventures that explore my multifaceted identity. Roots never stop growing when they can’t find soil to settle in. And that’s, as I see it, one of the most beautiful parts of being Nikkei. 🌱



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CLOCKWISE ABOVE (LEFT TO RIGHT): JORDAN NAKANISHI-RODRIGUEZ, BEN NISHIMURA, GRANT YAMAMOTO;  
RIGHT (FRONT TO BACK): BEN NISHIMURA, APRIL GORE,  
MATT USUI, LIZZIE MUKAI; BELOW (LEFT TO RIGHT):  
HOST TOSHIFUMI ISHIDA WITH 2024 KAKEHASHI  
PARTICIPANTS GRANT YAMAMOTO,  
JORDAN NAKANISHI-RODRIGUEZ,  
BEN NISHIMURA



## Kansha Project Alumni Reflection

by Katie Hill

**T**he Kansha Project is a transformative program from JACL Chicago that provides young Japanese Americans, aged 18 to 25, in the Midwest with the opportunity to learn about our community's history, develop unique insights about our community's legacy, and allow participants to explore their identity with other Japanese American young adults.

Participants engage in an in-depth examination of the WWII confinement site experience through an immersive educational trip to Los Angeles' historic Little Tokyo neighborhood and Manzanar National Historic Site. Through workshops with local experts and community activists, historical tours, and group reflections, participants work to interpret and promote the stories, lessons, and the legacy of the Japanese American confinement site experience.

Upon returning from the trip, participants share reflections on their experience and present creative and heartfelt projects summarizing their experience to the wider community. The Kansha Project provides an entry point for community engagement and a pathway for youth leadership that is vital to the future of the Japanese American community.

As we approach the 12th trip of the Kansha Project in June, we'd like to take the time to uplift our alumni and ask for your support to help fund this important initiative. Our alumni are part of what makes the Kansha Project so special to our community. The three core tenets that represent the Kansha Project are legacy, gratitude, and remembrance. We would like to share how Kansha alumni continue to uphold these values.

Katie Masano Hill served on the Kansha Alumni Leadership Board in 2023 and we are proud of the work that she continues to do for our community. It is through the donations and support of JACL members that the program flourishes and enables participants to grow and become active members of our community. Read how Kansha impacted Katie:

*Hello! My name is Katie Masano Hill, and I am currently a senior social major at Valparaiso University and an incoming graduate student at the University of Oklahoma's Masters of Museum Studies Program. As a fifth-generation descendant of family members incarcerated at Tule Lake and Heart Mountain,*



RESEARCH TRIP TO HEART MOUNTAIN, STANDING WHERE FAMILY'S BARRACK WAS LOCATED

*I am incredibly passionate about honoring the legacies of our ancestors and ensuring they are never forgotten.*

*I have been privileged to make this mission part of my life in several ways, including participating in the Kansha Project in 2022, serving on the ALB in 2023, receiving the honorable Chiye Tomihiro Memorial Scholarship from JACL Chicago,*

*taking a pilgrimage to Heart Mountain, and conducting qualitative research related to violence, suicide, and improper mental health treatment during incarceration based on my own family's experience.*

*To me, Kansha has provided the opportunity to process intergenerational trauma and bring healing to myself while reinforcing my role in the Japanese American community. In the future, I hope to continue working with this amazing community by conducting archival research and studying War Relocation Authority (WRA) records to bring healing and justice to those affected by wartime incarceration.*

--Katie Masano Hill (she/her/hers)



SERVICE PROJECT GARDENING AT THE MANZANAR MERRITT PARK ROSE GARDEN DURING THE 2023 KANSHA PROJECT

This year, the Culmination event will take place on Saturday, June 29th. This event is free and open to the greater Chicago community. Please save the date!

The Kansha Project would not be possible without the generous donations from our community. Your donation of any amount will impact the continuity of the Kansha Project. Please mail checks to JACL Chicago at 5415 N. Clark St, Chicago, IL 60640 with "Kansha Project" in the memo.

Online Donations can be made at: <https://donorbox.org/2023-kansha-project> 🐾





## Lunar New Year 2024

by Nikki Buscato

The Asian American Coalition of Chicago (AACC) celebrated the Year of the Dragon at its 41st Annual Lunar New Year celebration. The event was hosted by the Japanese American community on February 10, 2024, at Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois. The celebration honored the theme of "Together for a Brighter Tomorrow" as a reminder that together, Asians are the fastest growing ethnic group in the United States and cannot be ignored. The celebration began with an exhibition fair, silent auction, and reception before proceeding to the evening's gala dinner and local cultural entertainment. The celebration speakers included Masters of Ceremony, Joanie Lum and Eric Horng, and Jun Yanagi, the Consul-General of Japan in Chicago.

Tetsuro Mitani received the Japanese American Exemplary Community Service Award. In 1976, Tetsuro immigrated from Japan to Hawaii through his first marriage to a Hawaii-born Japanese American Sansei woman whom he met in Japan. Through her family and



JAACL CHICAGO CHAPTER BOARD AND MEMBERS AT THE 2024 LUNAR NEW YEAR GALA

relatives, Tetsuro learned the history of Japanese Americans in Hawaii. He spent a year and a half in Hawaii before moving to Anchorage, Alaska to begin his career working in Japan Airlines. In 1981, Tetsuro was transferred to Chicago and a year later, was assigned as an account executive of Japanese passenger sales and became acquainted with the people of the Japanese American community. After he retired from Japan Airlines in 2010, Tetsuro became the executive director of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Chicago (JCCC). Through his work at JCCC and the Chicago Japanese American Council, Tetsuro has been

instrumental in bringing together the Japanese American and Japanese national communities in major events and activities such as the Chicago Japanese Picnic and Japan Festival.

Christopher Tetsuo Nakane received the Japanese American Community Youth Who Excels Award. Christopher is currently a senior at Evanston Township High School where he has completed medical-related courses such as physiology, anatomy, medical

terminology, and anatomical health science, in addition to being certified in CPR. Due to the COVID pandemic, he was unable to pursue community service during his early high school years. Since then, Christopher has volunteered for the 2023 Japanese Community Picnic at LaBagh Woods. It was his first time being among a large group where over half of the participants were Japanese and Japanese American. He enjoyed the experience and said this was the first time he felt a sense of belonging and kinship to his Japanese American identity. Christopher has also volunteered for the Chicago Japanese American Historical Society (CJAHS), helping with their storage and archival processes by sorting and confirming the accuracy of the databases and physical items.

The 2024 Pan Asian American Ping Tom Memorial Award went to Michael Chin, Senior Vice President, Commercial Banking, Byline Bank. The 2024 Grand Asian American Sandra Otaka Memorial Award was given to Illinois Supreme Court Justice Joy Cunningham in recognition of her longstanding efforts to mentor and promote Asian and minority women lawyers.

Congratulations to all who helped with this year's celebration. The Japanese American community is proud to pass the torch to next year's host, the Indonesian American community. 🐉



## On Palestine, Our Language Must Not Blur The Truth

by Kenji Kuramitsu

“It is easy to blur the truth with a simple linguistic trick,” observed the Palestinian poet Mourid Barghouti: simply start your story with “secondly.” Those interested in constructing a false narrative, he argued, need only to elide the prequel, shredding historical context: the arrows of the Native Americans alchemize into the first volleys of unnecessary warfare, the uprisings of enslaved persons become avoidably excessive, Gandhi transfigured into the cruel tormentor of the gentle Raj.

For many in the West, when a coalition of Palestinian militant forces launched Operation Al-Aqsa Flood on October 7th, these attacks sprang forth fully formed, with neither a gestational period nor a bitter litany of precipitating events. Yet in order to not “blur the truth,” we should consider these convulsions as a part of a much longer story, including the violent foundation of the Israeli state.

Israel is what scholars call a “settler colonial” nation. It is, like the United States, a colony, but not in the traditional sense of having a mother country into whose maw plundered resources are siphoned; settler colonies, rather, are nations whose identity rests on an ongoing structure of genocide and a narrative of replacement of a land’s native peoples. Such a narrative distortion is captured in the Zionist slogan “a land without a people for a people without a land,” an amnesiac maxim which blurs the truth by starting the story with that slippery “secondly.” We can appreciate Zionism’s emergence amongst Jewish communities long subjected to the viciousness of European Christian antisemitism, peoples who dreamed fervently of freedom from being stalked by constant death. Yet as the warrior-poet Audre Lorde has said, “the master’s tools will never dismantle the master’s house”—such a fevered dream, bubbled up from within the racist cauldron of European colonialism, remains fatally contaminated by these supremacist elements. Jewish Voice for Peace thus calls Zionism the “failed answer” to a desperately serious question: the futurity of Jewish personhood in a persistently hostile Europe.

That question increased in urgency after the Holocaust. When Edward Said called his people “the victims of the victims, and the refugees of the refugees,” he was not only noting how survivors may internalize their oppressors’ worst habits, but lamenting how Palestinians have been asked to atone for the grievous sins of Christian European antisemitism. The atrocities of Auschwitz remain inextricably linked to Palestine—even the word *Shoah*, Hebrew for catastrophe, is echoed in the Arabic term *Nakba*, the disaster marking the mass devastation that occurred at Israel’s founding. It is a bitter irony that images of the exterminationist violence inflicted upon Palestinians so undeniably stir up historical associations with the Nazi genocide. Mosab Abu Toha, the Gazan poet who was beaten and incarcerated by

to see the Holocaust as an aberration from human history rather than the industrialized denouement of the horrors long inflicted upon Europe’s colonies. Aimé Césaire understood the Holocaust in such terms, arguing that the Shoah horrified the world principally because Hitler dared to apply “to Europe the colonialist procedures which until then had been reserved exclusively for the Arabs of Algeria, the coolies of India, and the blacks of Africa,” a barbed call emerging from inside the haunted house.

The writings of Zionism’s founder Theodor Herzl reveal plainly his desire to construct a state which would rely upon such procedures. Herzl had initially advocated for Uganda to become the site for this nation, writing of his vision with refreshing honesty: “it is something colonial.” In

Herzl’s vision for Israel to form “a rampart of Europe against Asia, an outpost of civilization as opposed to barbarism,” we can hear echoes of North American settler colonists who excused their genocidal actions under the rubric of bringing “civilization” to the barbarian.

Barbarism, from the Greek *barbaros*, “to babble like a foreigner”—this racialized term

has been frequently invoked by Zionists in the wake of October 7th. Israeli premier Benjamin Netanyahu recently declared that his genocidaires were waging “a battle of civilization against barbarism . . . progress against these barbarians.” A similar classically colonial logic operates when Israeli state social media labels Palestinians “the children of darkness” who embrace “the law of the jungle.”



PHOTOGRAPH OF KENJI AND TWO GUARDS AT THE GRAVE OF YASSER ARAFAT IN RAMALLAH

occupation forces while fleeing his home with his family this fall, ruefully reflected on these resonances in a recent essay: “The soldiers blindfold me and attach a numbered bracelet to one wrist. I wonder how Israelis would feel if they were known by a number.”

Such an association is largely forbidden by postwar discourse which prefers



Such linguistic choices matter. The JACL, more than perhaps any other institution, taught me to appreciate the force of language to shape our social reality. Our “The Power of Words” educational campaign has particularly influenced my understanding of euphemism as “strategic misrepresentation” with real-world consequences: were Japanese Americans housed in pleasant “relocation centers” or bitter “concentration camps?” Such misuse of language to blur political reality is resonant with the Israeli practice of *hasbara*—seeking to explain away actions “whether or not they are justified” by relying upon deception to exert narrative control.

I was struck by the power of *hasbara* when I read a column JACL’s Executive Director wrote in this publication more than a year ago in which he invoked the Israeli occupation in a bizarre reference to the Wakasa Monument and recounted participating in a free trip to Israel hosted by the American Jewish Committee (AJC). Mr. Inoue described the experience as one designed to “communicate the 70-year-old nation of Israel’s profoundly democratic character,” characterizing the settler colonial dynamic as a “conflict” in which “neither side is blameless.”

I was struck by these reflections in part because my own takeaways from visiting the region were so different. I first visited the West Bank in the months following 2018’s Great March of Return, when Israel murdered and maimed thousands of Palestinian children and adults engaged in a peaceful protest involving their slowly walking towards the Gazan border fence. I will never forget the glances of recognition and nods of understanding when, week after week, those I met asked to hear the stories of my tattoos (barbed wire and paper cranes, tableaux of Nikkei history). Neither can I forget the jolt when my father opened the blinds of our hotel room one morning in Bethlehem, where we had arrived under cover of the previous evening’s darkness, glimpsing the guard towers looming outside our window. “Just like camp!” he gasped. Later that day, we wandered through a Muslim



PHOTO OF GRAFFITI, “LOVE FROM OKINAWA” WITH AN ABSTRACT GRAFFITI CRANE, LEFT ON THE LAND ANNEXATION AND APARTHEID WALL IN BETHLEHEM FROM INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

cemetery filled with bottles of dark urine that, our guide explained with palpable pain, had been cast down amidst the headstones from spiteful soldiers within

the watchtowers. “Just like camp.” If James Wakasa’s story is to be invoked at all in this context, it should be to lament the ease with which “the civilized” feel empowered to enact the desecration of graves—or the unsettling confidence with which the representatives of “democracy” pull the trigger on those who dare to walk “too close to the fence.”

Japanese American solidarity with Palestine can help us to create a future in which all peoples live safe from persecution and violence. Anti-Zionism is a principled political position and an essential element of dreaming this future into being. To this end, JACL can join voices of conscience throughout the world by calling for a permanent ceasefire, and advocating for an end to American financial sponsorship of the Zionist entity. While armed struggle is a legitimate form of resistance to occupation, and the Gazans who take up arms should

*Continued on page 10*



be viewed as the spiritual siblings of all throughout history who refused to die confined in ghettos, plantations, and concentration camps, JACL leaders can also extend wider explicit support to all of Palestinian civil society. A primary organ of this resistance is the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) campaign, a call to employ nonviolent, economic pressure to end the Israeli occupation. JACL can follow the lead of our peers in the Association for Asian American Studies, who in 2013 led the first professional academic association to endorse BDS.

JACL members, and especially leaders, should reconsider invitations to attend *hasbara* AJC excursions to an apartheid state; aware of the propagandizing power of words, JACL should cease using words like “our friends” and “partnership” to refer to any avowedly Zionist organization. JACL can belatedly heed the call of the 2020 #DropTheADL campaign, a movement

endorsed by many organizational peers to condemn the ADL's crude conflation of support for BDS with animus towards Jewish people; the ADL's scandalous history of espionage towards activists who, alongside Herzl, understand Israel to be “something colonial” disqualifies this group as a reliable partner for coalitional civil rights work.

A letter boasting 300+ signatures and 100+ comments of public testimony from JACL and Nikkei leaders has been circulating online since late last year encouraging this organization to stand fully with the cause of Palestinian freedom. I encourage you to read these remarks at <http://tinyurl.com/JACLPalestine> and to add your signature at <http://tinyurl.com/JACLletter>. 📝

*This article is a reprint of an article by JACL Chicago member, Kenji Kuramitsu, which ran in the Pacific Citizen on January 26, 2024.*



KENJI CELEBRATING 25TH BIRTHDAY WITH FRIENDS AT HOSH YASMIN IN BEIT JALA, BETHLEHEM

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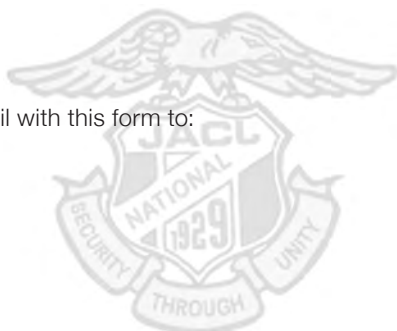
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(12.01.23–04.03.24)

Emma Almon

Shusaku Asai

Desiree Bote

Deborah Buscato

Chicago Community Trust

Chicago Japanese American  
Council

Alex & Yuko Darcy

Mary Doi

Elizabeth Doi

Hiroshi Okano  
*In honor of Hiroshi Okano*

Jaclyn Elinski

Cissy Furusho

Patti Hara

Emily Harada

Bob Hashimoto

Hannah Hogan

David Igasaki

Seji Itahara

Japanese American Mutual Aid  
Society of Chicago

Kristi Lin

Rick & Joyce Morimoto

Christine Munteanu

Jinko Naganuma

Carolyn Nakamura  
*In memory of Kay & Lillie Nakamura*

Dale Nishimura

Kenneth Oba

Gardiner OKain

Brian Ozaki

Robyn Sato

*In memory of Grace K. Tsuru*

Susan Sawada

Lawrence Schectman

Iwaoka Family Charitable Fund  
*In honor of Bob & Elizabeth Iwaoka*

Joel Selking

Jon & Tracy Shimabukuro

Anne Shimojima

Phyllis Tamada-Brown

Benjamin Tani

Anne Watanabe

Mari Yamagiwa

Tom Yatabe  
*In honor of Dudley Yatabe*

Carol & Bill Yoshino

*In memory of Mary & Jack  
Hakagawa, Chiye Tomihiro,  
Tsune Nakagawa, Rick Okabe,  
May Nakano, & Ralph Fujimoto*

Ron Yoshino

Pat Yuzawa-Rubin  
*In honor of Carol and Bill Yoshino*

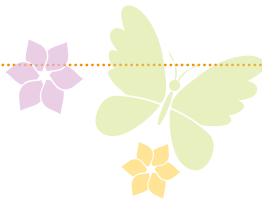
## SAVE THE DATES

July 10–14, 2024

\*\*\*  
**JACL National  
Convention**

\*\*\*

**Philadelphia, PA**



**BUILDING BRIDGES TO EQUITY**

**ASIAN AMERICAN ACTION DAY!**

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**MAY 1, 2024**  
JOIN US IN  
SPRINGFIELD  
ILLINOIS

**OUR VOICE,  
OUR  
POWER**

**REGISTER AT** [bit.ly/AAADay2024](https://bit.ly/AAADay2024)

**#ASAMACTION2024**  
**#PAVEAGENDA**

**PAVE** **ADVANCING JUSTICE**

**KANSHA**  
**NISEI LOUNGE FUNDRAISER**

**WHERE?**  
3439 N Sheffield Ave,  
Chicago, IL 60657

**Thursday**  
**MAY 2**  
6:30-9:30

All cash tips will go toward  
this year's Kansha Project!

**KANSHA PROJECT** **JACL**  
JAPANESE AMERICAN COUNCIL



# JACL

Japanese American Citizens League

## CHICAGO CHAPTER

5415 North Clark Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60640-1294

p: 773.728.7171

f: 773.728.7231

e: [info@jaclchicago.org](mailto:info@jaclchicago.org)

w: [jaclchicago.org](http://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

|                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Wednesday, May 1, 2024</b>              | <b>Asian American Action Day – Springfield, IL</b><br>Register at <a href="https://bit.ly/AAADay2024">bit.ly/AAADay2024</a>                                                                                                  |
| <b>Thursday, May 2, 2024</b><br>6-9pm      | <b>Kansha Project Fundraiser</b> Nisei Lounge 3439 N Sheffield Ave, Chicago, IL 60657<br>RSVP at <a href="https://bit.ly/kanshafundraiser2024">bit.ly/kanshafundraiser2024</a>                                               |
| <b>Sunday, May 19, 2024</b><br>12-2pm      | <b>Scholarship Luncheon</b> Maggiano's Old Orchard 4999 Old Orchard Shopping Ctr, Skokie, IL 60077<br>Purchase a ticket: <a href="https://bit.ly/JACLScholarshipLuncheon2024">https://bit.ly/JACLScholarshipLuncheon2024</a> |
| <b>Sunday, May 26, 2024</b><br>Time TBA    | <b>Memorial Day Cleaning</b> Montrose Cemetery 5400 N Pulaski Rd, Chicago, IL 60630                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Monday, May 27, 2024</b><br>Time TBA    | <b>Memorial Day Service</b> Montrose Cemetery 5400 N Pulaski Rd, Chicago, IL 60630                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Sunday, June 16, 2024</b>               | <b>Japan Festival</b> Millenium Park                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Saturday, June 29, 2024</b><br>3-5:30pm | <b>Kansha Project Culmination</b> Midwest Buddhist Temple 435 W Menomonee St, Chicago, IL 60614                                                                                                                              |
| <b>July 10-14, 2024</b>                    | <b>JACL National Convention – Philadelphia, PA</b>                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Sunday, July 28, 2024</b>               | <b>Ginza Festival</b> Midwest Buddhist Temple 435 W Menomonee St, Chicago, IL 60614                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Saturday, August 3, 2024</b>            | <b>Japanese American Picnic – LaBagh Woods Grove</b> #1West Foster Avenue, N Cicero Ave, Chicago, IL 60630                                                                                                                   |