

# JACL *en*

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## **Introducing the Chicago JACL's (New) Civil Rights and Education Committee**

**By Brandon R. Mita, Chicago JACL Civil Rights and Education Chair**

**T**he Chicago Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League has a legacy of civil rights leadership. Over the decades the Chapter has championed numerous causes for Japanese Americans, Asian Americans, and others who have been the victims of bigotry and injustice. In recent years, issues directly affecting the Japanese American community have minimized. Fortunately, the days of anti-Japan bashing and post-WWII hysteria have been faded into memory. However, numerous issues and causes still call for a voice and movement.



Photo: Robert Takagi

BRANDON MITA PRESENTS THE CIVIL RIGHTS AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE'S 2013 PLAN AT THE JACL CHICAGO ANNUAL MEETING ON NOVEMBER 14TH.

This year, the Chapter's Civil Rights Committee and the Education Committee joined together in order to ensure that the rich history of civil and human rights continues. The members of the joint committee include Stephanie Cleveland, Chirayu Patel, Grayson Walker, Kevin Kumashiro, and Brandon Mita. Each individual brings a wealth of knowledge from his and her respective fields. The result means that 2013 looks to be a busy year.

To kick-off the new year, the Committee will host an event highlighting the Illinois Single Payer Health Coalition. This is an organization whose mission is to bring awareness to America's broken healthcare system. Despite the significant efforts by the Obama Administration, there are still a large number of individuals, including Asian Americans, who are without adequate healthcare. Be on the lookout for additional information!

*Continued on page 2*

**2013  
Scholarship  
Guidelines**

*see page 4*

*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 log on to [www.chicagojacl.org](http://www.chicagojacl.org)

### Stay Connected!

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](mailto:chicago@jacl.org) and let us know you'd like to be added to our electronic mailing list!

### Contact Us

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

Phone: 773.728.7171  
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Civil Rights and Education Committee continued

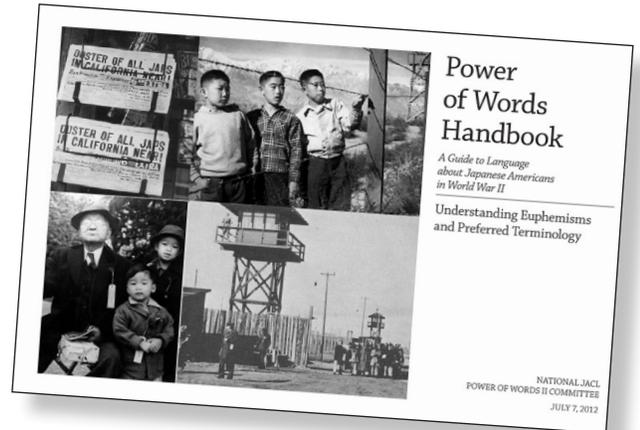
In addition, the Committee is putting together a long-term project in the hope of revitalizing the Chapter's long-standing Speakers Bureau. Currently, there are several individuals who attend classrooms to speak on the WWII incarceration experience of Japanese Americans. The Committee is looking to expand that initiative to provide classrooms, organizations, and businesses with speakers that could discuss a wide array of topics that focus on Asian American issues and community empowerment. If you feel that you have a particular expertise that students or businesses would benefit from hearing about, please send an e-mail ([chicago@jacl.org](mailto:chicago@jacl.org)) or letter to the Chicago Chapter briefly describing your expertise.

The Civil Rights/Education Committee thanks you for your commitment to the Chapter, the JACL, and to civil rights. Happy Holidays! 🍷

## The Power of Words

By Bill Yoshino, JACL Midwest Director

In 1942, the impact of the Japanese American incarceration didn't register with most of America. Media and communications then, isn't what it is today. Outrage from organizations or individuals related to civil liberties abuse was a mere whimper. A sense of fear and apprehension prevailed among the public and the Japanese American community was not viewed as a sympathetic group. Added to this was a government policy of unjust exclusion conveyed in euphemisms to soften the impact of an outright abuse of civil liberties.



The terms commonly used to describe this experience are **evacuation**, **assembly centers**, **relocation**, and others. All of these terms are misnomers that shade the truth and diminish the impact of the World War II experience of our community.

Several years ago, the JACL began discussing the need to address the use of euphemisms by changing the language to reflect the truth about the incarceration. In 1942, when the United States military put up posters in California, Washington, and Oregon declaring "All Japanese persons, both alien and **non-alien**, will be **evacuated**..." who were they referring to as a "**non-alien**?" And, did this process of "**evacuation**" constitute a rescue mission to protect our community, which is the commonly held context for the meaning of that term.

Thus, instead of using the terms **evacuation** or **relocation**, we prefer using **forced removal**, because Japanese Americans weren't given a choice, but instead, were ordered to leave their homes. In fact, a refusal to comply with removal orders was deemed a federal offense.

The term **assembly center** was the name given to places such as Santa Anita, Tanforan, and the Portland International Livestock Exposition Center. These were places that temporarily housed Japanese Americans who had been forced from their homes. A more accurate term is **temporary detention center** because it describes a place where prisoners are temporarily held pending further disposition.

The government used the term **Relocation Center** to identify places such as Heart Mountain, Manzanar, Minidoka and the remaining permanent camps. A more accurate term is **American concentration camp** or **incarceration camp**. In the early 1980s, when Nikkei testified about their wartime experience at federal commission hearings, many said they were confined in **concentration camps**. Who would deny them their right to define their own

experience? And who would deny that their experience doesn't fall within the dictionary definition of a concentration camp, "a facility where persons are detained or confined?"

Understandably, the use of the term raised concerns among the Jewish population when an exhibit entitled "America's Concentration Camps: Remembering the Japanese American Experience," was displayed at Ellis Island Immigration Museum in 1995. Following a series of meetings, a joint agreement was reached allowing the title to stand with a display of the following interpretation:

*"...During World War II, America's concentration camps were clearly distinguishable from Nazi Germany's. Nazi camps were places of torture, barbarous medical experiments, and summary executions; some were extermination*

*centers with gas chambers. Six million Jews and many others including Gypsies, Poles, homosexuals, and political dissidents were slaughtered in the Holocaust..."*

The use of accurate terminology may not have changed the decisions of public officials in 1942. After all, even President Roosevelt used the term concentration camp, and it didn't alter his actions. However, it does have meaning for the future. As a community that suffered an injustice, it's our obligation to be in the vanguard of those who ensure a similar injustice isn't repeated. And part of that task lies in accurately depicting the incarceration experience devoid of the euphemisms that mask the truth. 🇺🇸

To view or download *The Power of Words Handbook*, go to <http://www.jacl.org/powerofwords.htm>

## 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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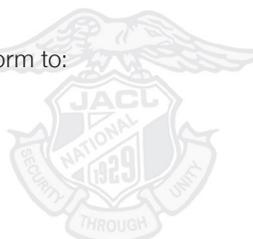
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Attn: Membership  
5415 N. Clark St.  
Chicago, IL 60640



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# Chicago Chapter Japanese American Citizens League 2013 Scholarship Program Guidelines Application Deadline: March 1, 2013



## 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) 728-7170.

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 2013. Students deferring enrollment will not qualify for the 2013 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. Past recipients of Chicago JACL 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, Letters of recommendation, Official school transcripts, 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 2012** – applications will be available for download from the Chicago JACL web site <http://www.jaclchicago.org> or by calling the Chicago JACL office at 773/728-7170.

**March 1, 2013** – applications must be received or postmarked by this date for scholarship consideration. **Applications must be complete for award consideration.**

**April 2013** – scholarship applicants will be notified of the results of the Scholarship Committee's evaluation.

**May 5, 2013** – **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:**

**Chicago Chapter JACL  
Attention: Scholarship Program  
5415 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL 60640-1294**

Note: The JACL also has a National Scholarship and Awards Program in addition to the Chicago scholarship program. The national program requires a separate application available at [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org). Students may apply for both local and national scholarships in the same year.

## Why Planned Giving?

JACL National Office

Many donors assume the only way to make a gift to JACL is through an outright gift or a transfer of an asset like cash or real estate. While JACL certainly welcomes and encourages such gifts, it is also important for JACL supporters to know that other methods are available for supporting JACL's efforts — methods that help them achieve strategic goals for their families as well.

This method of giving is called "Planned Giving". At the heart of planned giving is the Internal Revenue Code, which encourages gifts to JACL by providing for significant tax deductions and savings. This is the government's financial reward for your generous philanthropy.

JACL supporters may not realize they may continue to receive income from assets that have been transferred. But through planned giving, it is possible to make a tax-deductible gift to JACL while retaining the right to use the asset or to derive income from it.

Through planned giving you could:

- Minimize taxes from IRA or other pension plans — if retirement is subject to estate and income taxes.
- Exchange highly appreciated assets for a lifetime income stream plus a tax deduction by using a charitable trust.

Following is a sampling of some of the most popular planned giving instruments available.

### Wills/Bequests/Living Trusts

These are an effective way to provide for a loved one's financial security and to ensure that the donor's assets are distributed as desired after the donor's death. A bequest in a will or a trust beneficiary designation is especially appropriate for someone unable to make an immediate gift but would like to support the many activities and programs of JACL.

### Outright Gifts

Gifts of cash, securities, real estate, insurance and personal property provide an immediate tax deduction of up to 50%

of the donor's adjusted gross income with a five-year carryover.

### Charitable Trusts

Charitable trusts are trusts established when a donor's assets are transferred to a trustee for the benefit of JACL. The donor would receive income for as long as he/she lives or for a fixed term. Donor is eligible for substantial tax benefits. Donor eliminates capital-gains tax on any appreciation. At the donor's death the remainder of trust is transferred to JACL.

JACL, using the experience of veteran planned giving expert Steve Okamoto, would work closely with you, your family members or your financial and legal advisers, to provide helpful information to determine how various planned giving instruments or techniques would work best for each individual

For more information please call Steve Okamoto, Chairman of the National Planned Giving Committee at (650) 468-8184, or you may email him at [steveokamoto1@gmail.com](mailto:steveokamoto1@gmail.com).

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## The Way I See It . . .

By Phyllis Tamada-Brown, Chicago JACL Member

In the wake of our country's most tragic gun rampage event in Connecticut, it is time for stricter gun control laws. Automatic weapons, high capacity magazine clips, armor piercing bullets. These are not weapons used for "hunting." These are weapons used to hurt and kill people. I don't understand why anyone would need to own any of these kinds of weapons.

New York City's mayor, Michael Bloomberg, has become very vocal about gun control and is urging Congress to pass stricter laws. His argument is compelling. When interviewed by ABC Nightline's Cynthia McFaddon, Bloomberg's response to automatic weapons being used for hunting was, "For god's sake, why don't they use dynamite? Just make it easier. What's the sport?" He went on to say that

by having a gun in the house, you are 22 times more likely to shoot a loved one or friend, than someone breaking into your home, and that 34 people in America die each day to gun violence.

I agree with Mayor Bloomberg. Where's the "sport" in hunting with these kinds of weapons? My understanding of the sport of hunting is to kill the prey for food. By the time you've put 20 or 30 bullets into the animal with a powerful gun, is there anything left of the poor animal to eat? Or is the "sport" not hunting, but simply killing? Now, there's a scary thought.

It's time to stop hiding behind the Constitutional "right to bear arms" as an excuse to own these mini weapons of mass destruction. It's time to vote against these kinds of arms in favor of saving

some of the 34 lives lost to guns each day. It's time to make sure it's not easy to buy guns at gun shows.

Let's have a more peaceful New Year through some action for logical, responsible gun control. Write to your local congressman, or sign a petition at: [http://www.credoaction.com/campaign/nra\\_stand\\_down/](http://www.credoaction.com/campaign/nra_stand_down/). 🗳️

*The views expressed in "The Way I See It . . ." column do not represent a position of the JACL or its Chapters.*

### Have something you'd like to say?

Submit your comments via email to [chicago@jacl.org](mailto:chicago@jacl.org), or by mail to JACL Chicago Chapter, 5415 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois 60640

## 2013 Day of Remembrance To Reveal New Information on World War II Work Camp

The Kooskia Internment Camp – a unique, obscure, and now virtually forgotten World War II detention and road building facility located in a remote area of north central Idaho – is the subject of the 2013 Day of Remembrance, which will be held at the Chicago History Museum on Sunday, February 17.

Historian Priscilla Wegars, PhD, author of *Imprisoned in Paradise: Japanese Internee Road Workers at the World War II Kooskia Internment Camp*, will tell the fascinating and little known story of the camp and the Issei men who labored there from 1943 to 1945.

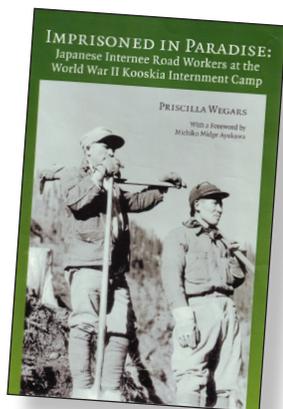
Despite having committed no crimes, but suspected of being potential saboteurs, the 265 Japanese alien internees who volunteered to transfer to Kooskia had been interned elsewhere in the US as an immediate result of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor. At Kooskia they received wages for helping construct the Lewis-Clark Highway, now Highway 12. This work, together with knowledge of their rights under the 1929 Geneva Convention, empowered the Kooskia internees to successfully challenge administrative mistreatment, thereby regaining much of the self-respect they had lost by being so unjustly interned.

Kooskia Internment Camp, which was operated by the Immigration and Naturalization Service for the US Department of Justice, was unrelated to the War Relocation Authority's Minidoka incarceration camp in southern Idaho. Several of the Kooskia internees have ties to residents of the Chicago area, and Dr. Wegars' presentation will include images of them as well as of materials recovered during the 2010 archaeological excavations at the Kooskia Internment Camp site.

Copies of *Imprisoned in Paradise* will be available for purchase at the event, and a book signing will follow the presentation.

The Day of Remembrance commemorates the 1942 signing of Executive Order 9066, which led to the incarceration of some 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry during World War II. This event 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 Day of Remembrance program starts at 2 pm on Sunday, February 17, and is free and open to the public. The Chicago History Museum is located at 1601 N. Clark Street in Chicago. Validated parking is available in the lot one block north of the Museum, on Stockton Drive and LaSalle Street. For further information, call 773.275.0097, ext. 222, or e-mail [legacy@jasc-chicago.org](mailto:legacy@jasc-chicago.org).



## 2012 Annual Meeting & potluck dinner

A full house and an abundance of great food made for a yummy and productive Annual Meeting, held at the JACL office on November 14, 2012. Signature Chapter programs such as Project: Community!, Project: Community! Summer Camp, the Kansha Project, and the Chicago Chapter Scholarship Program are scheduled for 2013, as well as some exciting, new programs (see *Civil Rights and Education* article on page 1).



Photos by: Robert Takagi and Brandon Mita

## The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) announces its National Scholarship and Awards Program for the 2013 academic year.

Detailed scholarship program information and applications can be found on the JACL website at [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org), and clicking "Education" on the menu bar

## Thank You to Our Donors!

### In Memory of Chiye Tomihiro

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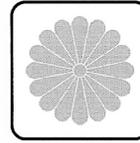
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Ishibashi and Thomas Ishibashi)*  
Dale Nomura  
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Glenn and Erlinda Yamamoto  
*(in memory of Harry Yamamoto)*  
Grace Igasaki  
Ron and Joyce Yoshino  
*(in memory of Midori Yamamoto)*  
Shu Miyazaki  
Richard and Ann Tani  
Anne Shimojima  
*(in memory of Tomiko Shimojima)*  
Ike Kawahara  
Jo Ann King  
*(in memory of Toshi Mayeda)*  
Ayako Yamada  
Alyse Azuma

### In memory of Dudley Yatabe

Sharon Harada  
Rory and Tazuru Iwata  
Perry and Carol Miyake

### Kansha Project

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Megan Nakano  
Ron and Joyce Yoshino  
*(in memory of Dudley Yatabe)*  
Ron and Joyce Yoshino  
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## Sign Up Today!

### Project Community Dates

April 20, April 27, May 4, May 11,  
May 18, May 25

Sessions include topics such as personal identity; Japanese American community history; and Asian American issues such as immigration reform and stereotypes and discrimination.

Contact Christine Munteanu at  
[jacl.fellow@gmail.com](mailto:jacl.fellow@gmail.com) for more information.

# JACL

Japanese American Citizens League

CHICAGO CHAPTER

5415 North Clark Street  
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e: [chicago@jacl.org](mailto:chicago@jacl.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.*

## Introducing “*The Way I See It . . .*” A new column to voice your opinion.

Have something you’d like to say? Submit your comments via email to [chicago@jacl.org](mailto:chicago@jacl.org), or by mail to JACL Chicago Chapter, 5415 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois 60640-1294

### Calendar of Events

<b>Wednesday, January 9, 2013</b>	Chicago JACL Board Meeting 7 PM, Chicago JACL Office
<b>Wednesday, February 13, 2013</b>	Chicago JACL Board Meeting 7 PM, Chicago JACL Office
<b>Sunday, February 17, 2013</b>	Day of Remembrance 2 PM, Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark St.
<b>Saturday, February 23, 2013</b>	30th Annual AACC Lunar New Year Celebration & Asian American Conference on Education and Economy Hyatt Regency O’Hare, 9300 Bryn Mawr, Rosemont, IL
<b>Friday, March 1, 2013</b>	Chicago JACL Scholarship Deadline