Remembering the Civil Liberties Act

By Megan Nakano, JACL Chicago Chapter President

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (or The Redress Bill), which provided for an apology from the Congress and the President of the United States along with some reparations for the grave injustices committed against Japanese Americans during World War II.

It’s not often that the US Government apologizes for its mistakes and even more rare that it pays for them willingly and publicly, so this was a monumental achievement. The JACL played an important role in ensuring that the voice of justice prevails in the pages of history.

This chapter in our history is over, but our work is not. It seems that despite the apology, we haven’t learned the lesson of the American Concentration Camps.

Just look at Guantanamo Bay. Of the 166 detainees still there, only THREE have been found guilty of any crime!

86 of the prisoners were approved for release three years ago but cannot leave because Congress passed a statute making it too difficult to use federal money to transfer them anywhere else. The remaining prisoners are in indefinite detention, a legal limbo in which they are considered too dangerous to release and too difficult to prosecute.

Out of utter desperation, these prisoners, some of whom have been there for 11 years, have engaged in a hunger strike as their only means of protesting their hopeless situation as they have decided that they would rather be dead than continue to suffer indefinitely. But they are being deprived of even this final freedom, and now, they are being force fed through tubes shoved in their noses, down their throats, and into their stomachs, an extremely painful procedure which defies the recommendations of the

Continued on page 2
American Medical Association and the World Medical Association whose guidelines state that physicians should NOT place feeding tubes in a prisoner against his will.

And there’s the spike in hate crimes against Arab Americans, and those perceived to be Arabs, like the tragic massacre at Oak Creek or the beating of a Bangladeshi American man outside of an Applebee’s in the Bronx immediately following the Boston Marathon bombing. These incidents recall the arbitrary murder of Vincent Chin in Detroit in 1982, a Chinese American who was targeted by two white men who blamed him for the success of the Japanese auto industry and shouted, “it’s because of you we’re out of work” as they beat him to death with a baseball bat.

Or the treatment of homosexuals as second-class citizens deprived of their right to marry, reminiscent of the anti-miscegenation laws found unconstitutional in Loving v. Virginia in 1967.

And then there are the more insidious injustices like the fact that Asian American students have to score 140 points higher on the SAT than their white classmates to get into the same college. And yet, even though Asians (who make up about 5% of the population) still manage to comprise 17% of all Ivy League classes, we comprise only 0.3% of corporate officers, less than 1% of corporate board members, and around 2% of college presidents. There are only 8 Asian American CEOs in the Fortune 500. And this under-representation in key positions is typical across ALL industries.

This “Bamboo Ceiling,” as it is called, may be partially due to cultural differences in leadership style or it may be that people hire and elect those who are like themselves and Asians in America are viewed as perpetual foreigners.

What is clear throughout history, is that it is easier to victimize a group that we have dehumanized, that we see as “other.” It is also clear that it is often out of a sense of fear and hopelessness that the worst atrocities are committed. But this is no excuse. As Martin Luther King, Jr. avers, “the ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”

It took 46 years for the U.S. government to acknowledge that its actions in the wake of the attack on Pearl Harbor were based on “race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership” as opposed to genuine legitimacy. Let it not take another 46 years to realize that our current disregard for the rights of those who we view as a threat is just as illegitimate.

With its mission to secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry, the JACL needs to continue to be a strong voice of reason in these trying times.
The JACL Chicago’s 56th annual scholarship luncheon was held Sunday, May 5th at Maggiano’s Little Italy Restaurant honoring the nine 2013 scholarship winners. Over 45 family members, scholarship donors, and Chicago chapter members attended this year’s luncheon to show support for the students and for one of the chapter’s premier programs.

Brandon Mita, JACL Chicago Education/Civil Rights Chair, returned as emcee this year. Chapter President, Megan Nakano gave a JACL Report focusing on this year’s National Convention commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, while reminding everyone that JACL still has work to do regarding current injustices. (See Megan’s report on page 1)

Bill Yoshino, JACL Midwest Director, spoke about the new KANSHA Project program, encouraging the scholarship winners to consider applying for the program, while Kelly and Lauren Uchima shared their experiences and enthusiasm for the program as participants of the 2012 KANSHA Project group.

JACL Chicago thanks Judy Tanaka for her leadership as Scholarship Committee Chair, and her committee members: Marisa Fujinaka, Rosemary Lee, Brandon Mita, Joyce Morimoto, and Megan Nakano. The committee also thanks Bob Brown for taking photos during the event.

Special thanks to all scholarship donors. The JACL Chicago Scholarship program would not be possible without your support to give the future leaders of our community the chance to develop their skills and gain new experiences as they pursue their education.

2013 Scholarship Winners

- **JACL Chicago Chapter Scholarship**
  - Kiyomi Mino, Bowdin College
  - Kristen Yang, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- **John Iwaoka Memorial Scholarship**
  - Christine Munteanu, University of Illinois at Chicago
  - Mari Yamagiwa, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- **Mas Nakagawa Memorial Scholarship**
  - Kioto Aoki, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago

- **Mary Sakai Memorial Scholarship**
  - Lauren Buscato, Northside College Preparatory High School

- **Mitzi Shio Schectman Memorial Scholarship**
  - Lauren Uchima, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- **Todd S. Tomiyama Scholarship**
  - Kelly Uchima, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- **Yoshino Family Scholarship**
  - Marc Robert Oda, Green Leaf Academy

2013 JACL Chicago Scholarship Luncheon

By Phyllis Tamada-Brown, JACL Chicago Communications Chair

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.

Please support the JACL with a Donation!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couple/Family</td>
<td>$125.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student/Youth</td>
<td>$35.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000 Club</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Century Club</td>
<td>$175.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000/Century Spouse</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millennium</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Amount: $ ____________________________

- In my name:
- Anonymous
- In memory of:

Please make check payable to JACL and mail with this form to:

JACL Chicago
Attn: Membership
5415 N. Clark St.
Chicago, IL 60640
Reflections of a Retiring Board Member — A Japanese American Story (Part 1)

By David K. Igasaki

This article is adapted from my letter to President Megan Nakano and the Chicago Chapter Board announcing my retirement from the Chapter Board after thirty years. I want to share it with our Chapter members, who have supported me, including family members who have stood by the Chicago Chapter since my brother’s and my Chapter Presidencies even after they retired to San Diego.

My family has a long history with the Japanese American Citizens League. My grandfather, Masao Igasaki, Sr., one of the early Nisei attorneys in the United States, was one of the organizers of the National JACL and was an unsuccessful candidate for National President. My brother Paul was Washington Representative for the National JACL in the crucial post-redress period.

I have had the honor of serving on the Chicago Chapter Board since Michael Ushijima was installed as President. (I was recruited to the Board by longtime family friend Jane Kaihatsu but I was installed on the Board as she left as President and as a Board member.) I think that was in 1980. I have had the honor of serving two terms as your Chapter President as well as in various other Chapter offices and committee chairpersons. I represented the Chapter at numerous JACL National Conventions.

I leave pleased at the accomplishments of Megan and the current Chapter leadership and proud of whatever role I played in it. There are now more younger Board members than at any time during my service on the Board. After a more conservative era, the Board has returned to more progressive policies as during my brother’s and my Presidencies. There is activity involving the youth of the community.

As a gay man, I am proud of the role that the Chapter and I played in pushing for gay rights. While members of my family were once opposed to my coming out in the Japanese American community, we have, hopefully, moved beyond that with our newly elected openly gay Japanese American congressman, Congressman Mark Takano, and the coming out of our community’s most famous actor, George Takei.

Oddly enough, I was out in the LGBT community in the last several months of my JACL Chapter Presidency since Windy City Times announced me as one of the six gay Delegates from Illinois to the 1992 Democratic National Convention.

In any event, the story of my work and accomplishments on the Chicago Chapter Board and in the National JACL cannot be fully told without disclosing my sexual orientation. The Chapter endorsed and campaigned for the adoption of the Chicago Human Rights Ordinance during my Presidency. When Bill Yoshino persuaded me to represent the Midwest District Council on a National Convention Rules Committee, I was thrown in the thick of efforts by others in the organization to get the Seattle Chapter to withdraw its marriage equality resolution. The negotiations over that resulted in a public statement by JACL endorsing marriage equality.

I was one of a number of speakers for a successful resolution criticizing the Boy Scouts of America for its official policy of discrimination, which was imposed, not only on adult employees and volunteers, but also against gay youth who were denied membership and the opportunity to participate. (A little known fact is that LGBT teenagers have been ruthlessly thrown out by an organization that purports to serve youth. As this article is written, there is speculation that the Boy Scouts of America may be about to lift the ban on LGBT youth but plan to continue the ban on adult volunteers, including on gay teenagers who are leaving the Scouts but want to continue as adult volunteers or LGBT parents seeking to volunteer as parents, like the lesbian mother who was thrown out as a volunteer Cub Scout Den mother for her son’s pack.)

Read Part 2 of David Igasaki’s Reflections of a Retiring Board Member — a Japanese American Story in the September/October issue of JACLer.

Have something you’d like to say? Submit your comments via email to chicago@jacl.org, or by mail to JACL Chicago Chapter, 5415 N. Clark St., Chicago, Illinois 60640

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

2013 NIKKEI COOKOUT – Coming in August!
Keep checking jaclchicago.org for date and time.
May . . . Asian American Heritage Month

Beginning with an official “Kick Off” held at Midwest Buddhist Temple on May 1st, the Japanese American community participated in Asian American Heritage Month with a display in the Thompson Center, and the first Kodomo no Hi Children’s Festival held on May 18th.
2013 JACL Chicago
Golf Tournament

Saturday, July 20th 2013
Pinecrest Golf Course in Huntley Illinois.
$80 per person includes 18 holes plus cart.
First group tees off at 1:00 pm.

Come out for a day of fun with fellow JACL members.

We can accommodate 32 golfers on a first come basis.

For more information contact the JACL office, 773.728.7170 or email michael.t.oshita@gmail.com

2013 Golf Tournament Registration Form

Please enclose your entry fee with this registration. The total amount remitted must cover all golfers ($80/person) listed on the registration form. We will inform you of your starting time. Registration deadline is July 10th so we can notify Pinecrest Golf Course of our final number of golfers.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL ADDRESS

Please list other golfers in your group:

____________________________________

____________________________________

____________________________________

____________________________________

____________________________________

AMOUNT ENCLOSED $  

Please make checks payable to JACL CHICAGO
Mail to: JACL Golf Tournament, 5415 North Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60640-1294

Bone Marrow Drive

Connor is a very sweet and caring 8-year old boy who loves school and everything Star Wars and Harry Potter. He has a life threatening illness and needs your help. After suffering over 50 infections by 2 years of age, he was ultimately diagnosed with X-linked Hyper IGM, an extremely rare immunodeficiency where his body does not produce any IgG immunoglobin and cannot fight off infection. Most patients with this disease succumb to liver cirrhosis, lung infections and/or cancer at a very early age. The only definitive cure is a bone marrow transplant.

After more than four years of searching for a match and undergoing countless agonizing procedures, Connor recently suffered a failed bone marrow transplant. Connor is now in desperate need of another, more perfect match.

Connor is 1 of 10,000 patients annually in the US who are looking for their life saving match. 70% of all patients are not able to find a match among blood relatives, but matches are most likely found within a patient’s own race or ethnicity. Of the 10 million people currently registered, only 7% are Asian. Another person of Asian decent might very well be the only hope for Connor and his family.

25% of all donations are bone marrow, and 75% are stem cell donations. The bone marrow donation process is outpatient surgery where the donor is anesthetized. A small incision is made in the lower back above the pelvic bone. A hollow needle removes some liquid marrow from the bone. No piece of bone is removed, and since the donor is under anesthesia, they feel no pain. The donor goes home the same day and usually feels sore in the lower back for an average of 2 days before they are back to their normal routine.

The blood stem cell donation process is non-surgical. After five days of receiving daily injections to increase blood-forming cells in the bloodstream, the donor is hooked up to a machine that takes blood out of one arm, filters out some stem cells, and then receives the blood back in the other arm. The donation takes approximately 4-6 hours while the donor is awake. The donor may be asked to come back the next day if they can’t collect enough the first day. Some side effects before collection could include achy joints, headaches, and flu-like symptoms. After the donation, the donor goes home and normally feels fine.

Please help save Connor and others like him. To register as a marrow donor, please visit http://join.marrow.org/AsiansSaveAsians and complete the online registration. Once complete, Be The Match Registry will mail a swab kit to complete at home. It only takes a simple cheek swab and a short consent form to be added to the registry to potentially save a life. Please also consider making a donation to help us offset the $100 cost of adding each new member to the Registry.

For more information on Connor’s story, please visit http://connorbmt.blogspot.com.
Thank You to Our Donors and Advertisers!

General
Anonymous
Donna Kobayashi
Christine Yamashiro
(in memory of M. Yamamoto)

In Memory of
Mary Nakagawa for Kansha Project
Richard Amano
Bob Brown & Phyllis Tamada-Brown
Frances Chikahisa
Jenny Conviser
Paul & Toshiko Doi
Edward & N. Bernice Endow
Johnathan Friedman
James & Carol Fujimoto
Kiyoko Fuji
Jean Fujii
Patricia Furuta
Debra Endow Hatanaka
Jeff & Sharon Hidaka
Eugene Honda
Barbara Ikejiri
Marion K. Ishii
Mary Johnson
F.T. Kadowaki

Jane Kaihatsu
Neil & Karen Kanemoto
Elaine Kaneshiro
Russell Katabara
David & Carol Klabucar
Gary & Michelle Knapp
Ruth Kumata
Raymond Leake & Julie Shimada
Laura Maeda
J.S. Masamoto
Jeffrey Miller & Rebecca Wurtz
Jean Mishima
John Miyasaka
Perry & Carol Miyake
Donna Melkonian
Richard & Joyce Morimoto
Terry Nakagawa
Tsuneo Nakagawa
Yoko & Markham Nakagawa
Lynn Oda
Suzanne Ogawa
Richard & Karen Okabe
Rose Okabe
Lynne Oshita-Wong
Dorothy Rasmussen
Julie M. Ross

Thomas Rowland & Patricia Harada
Lisa Sakai
M.N. and D. Sakai-Furata
Lary Schectman
John & Kathleen Suzuki
Sachi Suzuki
Robert & Nancy Takagi
Michael & Laurie Tanimura
Albert & Elaine Tam
David & Joan Takada
Cary Wong & Judy Tanaka
Hirosi Tokubo
Keith & Betty Uchima
Yamada & Associates
Iwao & Alyce Yamanaka
Christine Yamashiro
Kyo Yoshimura
Larry Yoshino
Kenneth K. Yozai

Kansha Project
Ben & Kyo Chikaraishi
(in memory of Yoshiro Harada)
Todd & Lynne Delveaux
Roy & Alice Esaki
Richard & Joyce Morimoto
(in memory of Bill Adachi)

Scholarship/Sponsor-a-grad
Erwin & Debbie Buscato
Jim & Christine D’Ottavio,
Dale Nomura, Gerry & Henrietta Nomura
(in memory of Mary Nakagawa)
Albert & Nancy Goldman
Hana (Tani) Hogan
Matsue Honda
Donna Kobayashi
Steven Kumamoto
Victor and Sandy Miyata
Tsuneo Nakagawa
Merry Oya
Tad & Takako Tanaka
Keith & Betty Uchima
Dorothy Wakamatsu
Gary & Lynn Yamagiwa

Advertise in the JACLer Today!
Go to jaclchicago.org for details on how to place your ad.

HOME & AUTO • BUSINESS • HEALTH • LIFE

THE ROBERT T. MITA AGENCY

ROBERT T. MITA
AGENT

5432 MAIN STREET SKOKIE, IL 60077
P 847.966.0991 F 847.966.0982
C 847.899.7065
E robertmita@gmail.com

America’s Best Dental Solutions
Affordable and Trusted Dental Care for Children and Adults

Nikki Fukushima DDS

(773) 267-7645
americasbestdentalsolutions.com
2941 W Addison Street Chicago, IL 60618
Located in the Addison Mall - Free parking available
## Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, June 29</td>
<td>Kansha Culmination&lt;br&gt;1-3 PM, Midwest Buddhist Temple, 435 W. Menomonee, Chicago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, July 10</td>
<td>Chicago Board Meeting&lt;br&gt;7 PM, JACL Chicago Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, July 20</td>
<td>JACL Chicago 2013 Golf Tournament&lt;br&gt;1 PM, Pinecrest Golf Course, Huntley, Illinois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 24-27</td>
<td>2013 JACL National Convention&lt;br&gt;Renaissance Hotel Downtown, Washington, D.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 9-11</td>
<td>Ginza Holiday Festival&lt;br&gt;Midwest Buddhist Temple, 435 W. Menomonee, Chicago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 13-15, 20-22</td>
<td>Project Community Day Camp&lt;br&gt;JACL Chicago Office (See flyer/registration in this issue, or call 773.728.7171)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, August 14</td>
<td>Chicago Board Meeting&lt;br&gt;7 PM, JACL Chicago Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 17 &amp; 18</td>
<td>Malott Japanese Garden Summer Festival&lt;br&gt;Chicago Botanic Garden, for more info go to: <a href="http://www.chicagobotanic.org">www.chicagobotanic.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
JACL Project: Community!

DAY CAMP

August 13-22

JACL’s free summer camp program for 7 to 9 year olds is back for its fourth year!
Over six half-day sessions over two weeks, campers will learn about Japanese American culture and history, try different cultural activities and crafts, and learn the importance of tolerance and diversity.

DATES: August 13-15, 21-22
TIME: 10 AM to Noon
LOCATION: JACL Chicago Office
5415 N. Clark Street

CONTACT
Christine Munteanu
cmunteanu@jacl.org
773-728-7171

Send completed registration forms to: Project Community Day Camp, 5415 N. Clark St, Chicago, IL 60640