2015 Day of Remembrance
By Christine Munteanu, Assistant Program Director

Over 140 people attended the 2015 Chicago Day of Remembrance event on Sunday, February 16. Held at the newly renovated auditorium at the Chicago History Museum, this year’s program highlighted the lives and accomplishments of Nisei women for their courageous contributions to the redress movement and to the Japanese American community.

Continued on page 2

Kiyo Yoshimura, Community Treasure
By Bill Yoshino, Midwest Regional Director

Kiyo Yoshimura passed away on December 22, 2014. She was an ardent volunteer for many Japanese American organizations where she assisted in whatever way she felt she could to be helpful. On many occasions, I prevailed on Kiyo to accompany me on visits to schools and elsewhere where she would tell her story about the incarceration during World War II.

Kiyo’s activism in the community dated to her years serving on the Board of the Chicago Resettler’s Committee, the forerunner of the Japanese American Service Committee.
Peggy Nagae was this year’s featured speaker. Among her many accomplishments, Ms. Nagae was part of the coram nobis team that reopened the Supreme Court case of Min Yasui, one of the three men who resisted the curfew and exclusion orders (the other two being Gordon Hirabayashi and Fred Korematsu) and successfully overturned his conviction. Ms. Nagae’s talk was about women warriors, the Japanese American women whose contributions to the Japanese American community were vital, yet often overlooked.

One of these women is Mitsuye Endo, whose successful Supreme Court case challenging the constitutionality of the incarceration contributed to the closing of the concentration camps. Ms. Endo was considered to be an ideal test case to challenge the incarceration through a habeus corpus petition, and she remained at Tule Lake and then at Topaz despite being given leave clearance in order to maintain standing for the case.

Ms. Nagae’s talk also featured many beloved Chicago-area Nisei women, including Chiye Tomihiro, Kyio Yoshimura, Sandra Otaka, and Tsune Nakagawa, celebrating their convictions and commitment as activists in a world that often discouraged women from speaking out. Ms. Nagae engaged the audience and encouraged them to reflect upon the lessons to be learned from these women warriors’ lives.

At the end of the program, attendees had the chance to honor the women warriors in their own lives by writing their names on replicas of the ID tags distributed to Japanese American families. These tags were tied to small trees with the names of each of the ten incarceration camps.

This year’s program was emceed by Lane Mita, JACL Chicago board member. The Chicago Nisei Post no. 1183 Color Guard posted the colors, and Sydney Hamamoto and Joshua Tatsui read excerpts from the removal poster.

This year’s DOR committee was chaired by JACL Chicago board member, Sharon Hidaka. The Day of Remembrance 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 Japanese Mutual Aid Society of Chicago.
Kiyo Yoshimura continued (JASC) that helped find housing and jobs for Japanese Americans in Chicago during the difficult years of resettlement in the 1940s. Kiyo’s career began in the 1950s as a social worker where she worked for over thirty years at Children’s Memorial Hospital.

Kiyo served on the National Board of the YWCA and in many volunteer capacities with the JASC. Kiyo was also active in her support for Ravenswood Fellowship United Methodist Church.

I’ll remember Kiyo’s generosity in agreeing to share her incarceration experience with a variety of groups. Whether it was at Sheridan Elementary School in Chicago, at a meeting of the American Association of University Women in Elgin, Illinois, or at a Korematsu Day commemoration at Loyola University, Kiyo understood the need to tell the story of when America mistreated its own citizens.

There was something about Kiyo, and perhaps her generation, that considered commitments as binding, that viewed certain causes as greater than themselves, and who were unfailing in their consideration for others. Last November, after Kiyo began to feel ill, she insisted on keeping a commitment by speaking to a group of Japanese students because she felt it was important for them to hear about the WWII incarceration. When Christine Munteanu and I visited Kiyo at the nursing home in December, she fretted about our comfort, making our visit more about us than her.

Kiyo’s experience of growing up in Richmond, California, where she said she didn’t face discrimination until her family was deemed by the government as dangerous, is a story with valuable lessons. Now it’s up to us to tell that story in Kiyo’s place, to remember her and to remember the important legacy of her Nisei generation.

Racism in Italian Soccer is a Recurring Theme

As a kid growing up in Cincinnati, I never really experienced any form of racism/prejudice. Sure, you’d have the occasional idiot here or there say something trying to rile you up, but for the most part, I was just like any other kid. My friends treated me like equals and I forged my own path through life based upon my interactions with others, my dedication and hard work, and the morals taught to me by my parents. Among the greatest lessons taught were to treat others the way you would want to be treated. So when I hear about the comments made by former Italian soccer manager Arrigo Sacchi, it angers me to the core that someone could say such ignorant things.

For those of you that may not know, on February 16th at the Maestrelli awards ceremony in Tuscany, Sacchi criticized the number of “foreigners” in the Italian youth soccer system and later went on to say, “In our youth sector there are too many blacks.” He later clarified, “I just wanted to underline that fact that we’re losing our national pride and identity.”

Losing your national pride and identity? Arrigo, please tell me you are joking. For someone to say that another person is not Italian due to the color of his or her skin is just ludicrous. An Italian to me is someone who was born or raised in Italy of someone of Italian descent. No where does it talk about race. It shouldn’t be about race. What if Italy were to go out and win the 2018 World Cup in Russia, would Sacchi still be complaining then?

Racism sadly seems to be a recurring thing in Italian soccer. In October, the president of the Italian Football Federation, Carlo Tavecchio, was banned for six months by the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) after describing foreign players as “banana eaters.” Inter Milan, one of the most recognizable soccer clubs in the world, was fined 50,000 euros in February 2013 after their fans were found guilty of racially abusing forward Mario Balotelli in a game against AC Milan. And two months later, AC Milan’s Kevin-Prince Boateng walked off the field after being racially abused by the fans of Italian team Pro Patria.

Sports should be just what they are; a competition where teams compete against others on the highest of levels for national pride and glory. And at least in Italy’s case, it has been stained by the actions/views of some. I only hope that these views change in the future.
In June, 2014, I had the good fortune to accompany ten young people and several adults on the annual Kansha Project trip to Los Angeles and Manzanar. After years of researching the World War II incarceration and my own family's history, I looked forward to this trip with great anticipation. My own family members were in Tule Lake and Minidoka, and I was eager to see a camp for myself.

As a sansei, I never heard my family talk about their wartime experiences. I'm sure it was the same for many of you. We have had to go hunting to find the stories. I've read many books about the incarceration and have seen many films, but nothing could compare with the experience of actually standing on the land, being in the barracks in those small rooms, seeing the guard tower, and feeling the dust blow. How many tears were shed there? How many times were the words “Shikata ga nai” spoken? How do people come back from such a devastating and unfair experience?

It was inspiring to see the impact of this trip on our young people. From the exhibits in the Japanese American National Museum, to the tour of Little Tokyo, to hearing Yosh Kuromiya talk about his experience as a resister, to a discussion on Japanese American identity, the moments were deep with meaning. Together we cleared brush from the land at Manzanar for our service project. We viewed the exhibits in the visitor center and tried to imagine what it was like to make a home in such a desolate place, under such hostile conditions, in such an unfriendly world. I couldn’t imagine losing almost everything after so many years of hard work. I couldn’t imagine my own country turning against me.

Former Kansha Project participants have called this experience “life-changing.” For me it was a reaffirmation of the belief that the stories must be told. We must never forget our history. We must never forget where we came from.

How do people come back from such a devastating and unfair experience? With determination and perseverance and incredible strength. I am grateful to be part of such a community. I am grateful to the JACL for making such a trip possible.

The JACL is sponsoring the KANSHA TOO! trip for adults aged 25 and older, September 9-12, 2015. Participants will travel from L.A. to Manzanar and back to L.A. in one day. The cost will be determined by the number of participants. A hotel group rate is available. If you are interested, please contact the JACL office now at 773.728.7171 (this is not considered a firm commitment — we are gauging interest in order to refine the details.) You, too, can experience this deeply meaningful trip into the past.

Visiting Manzanar: A Sansei Recollection
By Anne Shimojima, Kansha Committee Member

2014 Kansha Project participants visited the Manzanar concentration camp site where they learned what Japanese Americans endured while incarcerated.

“Keeping the MIS Legacy Alive” — MIS Veterans National Reunion in March

The Military Intelligence Service Veterans Club of Hawaii will hold a National Reunion of MIS veterans, held from March 27-29, 2015 in Hawaii.

The reunion will highlight the grand opening of “America’s Secret Weapon,” a colorful exhibit about the MIS at the U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii. Produced on behalf of the MIS Veterans Club of Hawaii by Mark Matsunaga, Gregg Hirata, and Harlan Yuhara, with support from the museum and the Hawaii Army Museum Society, the exhibit includes 80 photographs and dozens of artifacts from veterans as well as the Army Museum’s collection.

The exhibit features such Hawaii-born MIS heroes as Hoichi Kubo, who earned the Distinguished Service Cross on Saipan, and Dick Hamada, who saved a battalion of Allied troops while serving in Burma with Detachment 101 of the Office of Strategic Services.

Reunion participants will also have the opportunity to go on tours of the USS Arizona Memorial, Battleship Missouri Memorial, Pacific Aviation Museum, and the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl, and visit the Hawaii State Legislature for Senate and House recognition of World War II MIS veterans.

For more information, contact Barbara Tanabe at btanabe@hoakeacomm.com, or Annie Inouye, at annienoa@hawaiiantel.net, or visit www.misveteranshawaii.com.
Why I’m a JACLer . . .

My family’s JACL roots run deep. I was born a member under my father’s family membership. My father, Dudley Yatabe, was born a member under his father’s membership. My grandfather, Dr. Thomas T. Yatabe was one of the national organization’s founders, who founded the Midwest Office in 1943 and started the Chicago Chapter in 1945. Some of my earliest memories are that of being a toddler, running around the annual JACL Chicago Credit Union where I was constantly under the feet of some of our chapter’s past great leaders and members: Nobi Honda, Dixie Ishida, Shig Wakamatsu, Kumeo Yoshinari, and Jack Nakagawa to name a few.

I joined the Chapter Board several years ago and now co-chair the Communications Committee and I am also a member of the Community Outreach Committee. To me, being a JACLer is a personal endeavor. I am involved to honor my family’s long legacy of community service, to cultivate my own place in the JA community, and to pass that sense of duty and identity on to my children. My hope is that there will always be a Yatabe serving the Chicago-land JA community.

— Tom Yatabe

• To be proud of my identity as a Japanese American.
• To hang out with other amazing Japanese Americans that invest in our community.
• To honor and remember the legacy of my family.
• To ensure the injustices that happened during WWII never happen again.
• To fight for the rights of all people in the United States.
• To pass on the knowledge and history to future generations.
• And of course . . . to dance and sing karaoke at JACL events.

— Bryan Hara

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JACL Chicago’s Inaugural Event

SPRING SHAKE!

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2015
8:00p – 12:30a

WHITE EAGLE BANQUET & RESTAURANT
6939 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles, IL

Come celebrate and dance the night away with JACL Chicago’s 2015 Board of Directors!

FEATURING:
Kenny Takaoka and “Husky Love”
& DJ Ben Stover’s “Electric Blue Entertainment”
Top 40’s and music for everyone!

Tickets: $25.00
($20.00 w/ student ID)

Cash bar and snacks for purchase.

Proceeds will benefit JACL Chicago’s projects and programs.

For tickets and more info, visit www.jaclchicago.org, call 773-728-7171, or email chicago@j acl.org.
Stan Kurokawa to Receive Community Service Award

By Ron Yoshino

The Asian American Coalition of Chicago (AACC) is holding its annual Lunar New Year Banquet at the Hyatt Regency O’Hare on Saturday, February 28, 2015. The AACC was formed 32 years ago and is comprised of members from each of the various Asian American communities, including Japanese American, Chinese American, Filipino American, Korean American, Indian American, Pakistani American, Thai American, Indonesian American, and Vietnamese American. Each year, the AACC presents an award to a member of each community for outstanding community service. This year, the Community Service Award for the Japanese American Community is being presented to Stan Kurokawa.

Stanley S. Kurokawa was born and raised in Paukaa in the Territory of Hawai‘i. His parents were immigrants from Japan who made their living laboring in the cane fields. Hawai‘i was home until Stan was discharged from the Army, when he moved to the mainland, eventually coming to Chicago to attend school. He met and married Barbara, a city girl from Honolulu, and made a home in Uptown.

Soon thereafter, Stan began his 23-year affiliation with Cub Scout Pack 3515 and Boy Scout Troop 515 of the Buddhist Temple of Chicago. For his contributions as a scout leader and scoutmaster, Stan received the Silver Beaver award, a council-level recognition for those who make an impact on the lives of youth through service. His commitment to youth programs also brought him to the Chicago Nisei Athletic Association, where he coached basketball, baseball, track, and swimming.

Stan is a 35-year member of the Chicago Nisei Post 1183 of the American Legion. He is a three-time commander, and participates in the Post color guard.

A longtime student of ikebana—Japanese flower arranging—Stan earned certificates in the Ikenobo and Ohara schools. He still teaches the art at Christ Church of Chicago.

For all of this—plus his service on the boards of the Japanese American Service Committee and Heiwa Terrace, and as vice president of the Japanese Mutual Aid Society—the Japanese American community honors Stanley Kurokawa for his continuing loyalty, diligence, and pride of culture.

Stan Kurokawa, recipient of the 2015 Community Service Award.
Ayako Hamamoto (1921–2011)

Ayako Hamamoto was born in Vacaville, CA in 1921, but returned to Wakayama, Japan with her family as a young girl. She attended Kyoto Women’s University and later taught Japanese history at Ohtani Girl’s Preparatory School in Hakodate, Hokkaido, Japan.

She emigrated to California in 1955 and later moved to Chicago in 1957 where she resided until her death. She had an esteemed career as an otology researcher at the University of Chicago Medical School where she spent 30 years conducting studies of the ear and hearing. She lived in Hyde Park and was a member of the University of Chicago community.

She was an accomplished haiku poet, wrote for Fuka, a Japanese literary journal, and was an ikebana instructor. Ms Hamamoto passed away in 2011 leaving a portion of her estate to JACL Chicago. JACL Chicago is grateful for her generosity.

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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.

### Calendar of Events

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<td>JACL Chicago Board Meeting&lt;br&gt;JACL Chicago Office, 5415 North Clark Street</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, March 14</strong></td>
<td>JACL Chicago Spring Shake and Inaugural&lt;br&gt;White Eagle Banquet &amp; Restaurant, Niles IL</td>
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<td><strong>Monday, March 30</strong></td>
<td>2015 Kansha Project Application <strong>DEADLINE</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, April 4</strong></td>
<td>Bridging Communities Culmination&lt;br&gt;Midwest Buddhist Temple, Chicago, IL</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday, April 8</strong></td>
<td>JACL Chicago Board Meeting&lt;br&gt;JACL Chicago Office, 5415 North Clark Street</td>
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<td><strong>April 18-19</strong></td>
<td>Midwest District Council Meeting&lt;br&gt;Indianapolis, IN</td>
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<td><strong>Sunday, May 17</strong></td>
<td>Scholarship Luncheon&lt;br&gt;Maggiano’s Little Italy, Skokie, IL</td>
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