Early 100 people gathered at the Midwest Buddhist Temple on March 19, 2016, for JACL Chicago’s annual Inaugural event. The chapter celebrated a successful year with members and friends, and inaugurated its 2016 Board of Directors.

The dress theme was casual, black/white. Although most people complied, I noticed one person who did not: my own son, Mitchell! His fiancée warned him, “Your Mom is going to get you.” I was busy and the room was dark, so I did not notice until the end of the party. I looked over at him and realized he was wearing a lavender shirt. DUH!

I am grateful to all the volunteers who helped make the event a success: decorating, shopping for supplies, and providing donations of wine, beer, and money. I am also grateful to Mari Yamagiwa for organizing the volunteer bartenders from the AmeriCorps VISTA group. That allowed the JACL members to dance and schmooze all night.

The delicious food was catered by PIKO Street Kitchen, a food truck owned and managed by cousins Eric and Danny Hattori. They prepared and served the sampler from their menu, consisting of a pork belly bao, rib eye slider, and chicken tacos — all with an Asian flavoring. For a vegetarian choice, tofu tacos were offered as well. They were very accommodating and gave options to the guests. Be sure to look them up online to see where they are going to set up next!

Continued on page 2
Music and entertainment was provided by Ms. Laura Grays from Maywood IL, and a group of 6 instructors. Ms. Laura has a big voice and big personality! She and her group were very happy and pleasantly surprised at how many people (almost everyone who was able) got up to dance. Ms. Laura also commented on how kind and welcoming the group was to them.

The night ended with dance music by DJ Nico Gibson, a friend of Eric Hattori’s from high school.

All in all, a wonderful time was had by all – eating good food, schmoozing with friends, and dancing to your own beat like no one is watching.

The JACLer is now accepting advertising!

Go to www.jaclchicago.org for details on how to place your ad today.

- Affordable Rates
- Targeted Community Audience
- Support the JACL Chicago Chapter

Follow us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/JACLChicago
Over the past couple of years, I have had the privilege of taking part in some great programs provided by JACL. I have participated in so many programs that I have my brothers both very jealous! I started with Project: Community!, where I explored my cultural identity as a Japanese American. Next was the Kansha Project, where I learned a lot about the Japanese American WWII incarceration experience. This past December, I went to Japan for the first time through the Kakehashi Program, which connected me to my Japanese background as a fourth-generation Japanese American having no ties to my place of origin.

The most recent event that I have had the privilege to go to was the JACL-OCAP Leadership Summit in Washington D.C. There was no age restriction to this program, and it really brought out great leaders in communities across the nation! The summit itself gave us the opportunity to meet and listen to key people who serve in Congress, the White House, and federal agencies. Throughout the summit, we discussed issues surrounding the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities, and how to effectively advocate for those issues.

During the summit, we also split into groups of about five people to put all the lectures and speakers’ knowledge to use by advocating to members of Congress themselves. We met with a representative from Congressman Quigley’s office and also a representative from Congresswoman Matsui’s office. We emphasized the importance of signing on to the Reuniting Families bill, which was trying to be approved by Congressman Honda’s office. The issue surrounding the bill is that the family-based immigration system has not been updated for over twenty years. The problem is that it has created an ever-growing backlog of immigrants just waiting to receive visas. Both meetings were successful and both representatives agreed to sign on to the bill!

Overall, I can say confidently that this event has made a lasting impact on my professional career and I have made very meaningful connections with people across the nation. I am very grateful to have been chosen for this opportunity, and I am definitely invested in giving back to the organization that has done so much for me. 😊

JACL/OCA Leadership Summit
By Lane Mita, JACL Chicago Youth Co-Chair

A group of summit participants met with a representative from Congresswoman Doris Matsui’s office.
When this Summit opportunity was first brought to my attention, I was very excited and honored to be qualified for this incredible journey. I have very strong feelings about equality for race, religion, education, and workplace environments in hopes that the past does not ever repeat itself. I was certain that I would learn a lot, and this would be a life-changing and eye-opening experience for me. Not only did I get to meet other JACL members from across different chapters and regions, but also numerous members from OCA (Asian Pacific American Advocates). These two organizations have worked together to fight the good fight for decades. They serve as the voice for people that may not have a voice or may not know how to get their voice heard.

Among the many new faces and friends that I made over those intense few days, I was especially honored to meet many Asian Americans who have made and/or are in the process of making a positive difference for many Asian American Pacific Islanders across the country. We had presenters, panel discussions, group discussions, team building exercises, mock presentations, and actual presentations to two separate congressmen and/or their representatives.

On the first night, we met former United States Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta. He was very inspiring and filled with many vibrant stories. A quote from him that will stick with me forever is, “We don’t have to be vigilantes, but we have to be vigilant.” In this era, this is something we need to practice, as there are many current events that are causing hate and phobias.

Another person that spoke to us was Priscilla Ouchida, the current Executive Director of JACL who shared, “You don’t have to be old to start a movement,” and her message continues to resonate for me. I am noticing a younger crowd at many advocacy events I attend, so I believe this to hold true for others as well. This gives me hope that we have young faces and young minds continuing to fight for what is right.

Among the many people we met, Karen Narasaki from the US Commission on Civil Rights was also very inspiring. We can sometimes be impatient when fighting against the inhumane treatment of people, and she so aptly stated, “Civil rights is a marathon, not a sprint.” The process takes time and we have to fight and be patient. Battles are not won overnight, and we must stay vigilant and true to what is the right thing for humankind. Every little bit helps and whatever we can offer to help, is more than not helping at all.

As a team we developed a presentation to encourage Congresswoman Doris Matsui (D-CA-6th) and Congressman Mike Quigley (D-IL-5th) to cosponsor on the Reuniting Families Act. This was an incredible experience. The preparation, the hard work, and countless hours that many people put into trying to get the bills passed and voices heard will forever stay with me. This entire program has lit a fire in me to do more civically and strive to be a better person and a voice for others. The entire experience will always hold a special place in my heart and I welcome the chance to continue to share the story with all those around. I highly recommend more individuals participate in this amazing experience.
Kansha Project Turns 5!

Come celebrate the 5-year anniversary of the Kansha Project with the Kansha Alumni Leadership Board (ALB) and the 2016 program participants! Join this year’s participants as they share reflections of their experience. Meet program alumni from the past 4 years of the Kansha Project. Hear about what the ALB has accomplished this year, and our plans for the future of the program. And help us reach our fundraising goal of $15,000!

We hope you’ll join us for this celebration of community, youth leadership, and legacy.

2016 Kansha Project Culmination
Saturday, June 18, 2016 • 1 – 4 PM
Skokie Banquet & Conference Center
5300 W Touhy Ave, Skokie, IL 60077
Cost: $30 regular/ $20 youth/students

Free parking. Refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP by 6/8/16.

For more information, contact chicago@jacl.org or (773) 728-7171.
JACL’s Civic Engagement Efforts
By Mari Yamagiwa, JACL Chicago AmeriCorps VISTA

This year, JACL Chicago launched civic engagement initiatives for both the Japanese American and larger Asian American community. Part of JACL’s mission is to secure and safeguard the civil and human rights of Asian Americans and others who are affected by injustice. We are non-partisan, but we recognize that it is essential for our communities to have a voice in the political process and ensure that issues affecting us are being addressed.

JACL Chicago is participating in a voter registration campaign along with other chapters in the Midwest District Council. Leading up to the Illinois Primary Elections, we began efforts to ensure JACL Chicago members were registered to vote. I found that the majority of our members were already registered voters in Illinois, and I worked to get in touch with our members that were listed as unregistered or unknown. After several calls, letters, and emails, we were able to confirm that 13 of our previously “unregistered” members are now registered voters! It is so great to know that there are so many people in our community that make voting a priority.

On March 7th, JACL Chicago also partnered with Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Chicago to mobilize Asian American voters. Eight volunteers from JACL Chicago participated in a phone bank. Many of us had to overcome our fears as we cold-called community members to encourage them to vote. But it was a fun time and the volunteers did a fantastic job. It was a great opportunity to volunteer together and to collaborate with another community organization.

As the General Election approaches, we will continue to do this civic engagement work. If you’re interested in learning more or volunteering in the future, you can contact me at staff@jaclchicago.org or (773) 728-7171.

If you, or someone you know, are not registered to vote yet you can easily do so online at ova.elections.il.gov. You may also register to vote in person at the office of the election authority, at Driver’s license facilities, with deputy registrars in each jurisdiction, or by mail using the Illinois Voter Registration Application. If you need any assistance or further information on how to register to vote, feel free to contact me at the above email address/phone number. I would be more than happy to help you!

Roy Iwata 1923 – 2016
By Bill Yoshino, JACL Midwest Regional Director

Roy Iwata cared about JACL and Chicago’s Japanese American community. As a lifelong member of JACL Chicago, Roy was active in volunteering his services to the Chapter. Born in Salt Lake City, Utah, Roy wasn’t incarcerated during World War II, but being from Salt Lake City, he recalled knowing JACL leader Mike Masaoka, who was also born and raised in the same community.

An ardent golfer, Roy was instrumental in planning JACL’s golf tournament each year. He took it upon himself to get prizes, welcome the golfers, and do the scoring. His good-natured demeanor did much to encourage many of the golfers to attend the tournament year after year. Even after he stopped playing, he would still show up to help organize the event.

Roy and his wife, Tazuru or Tazie, were members of the Twenty and Five Nisei investors club that also included respected community leaders such as Noboru Honda and Thomas Masuda. Roy also belonged to the Lakers group of Nisei golfers.

Roy was a familiar face at JACL events through the years. He even attended a JACL Scholarship Luncheon two years ago after he had stopped driving.

Roy passed away on January 16, 2016.
The Kakehashi Project
By Megan Nakano, JACL Chicago Board Member

The Kakehashi Project is an exchange program between young leaders from Japan and North America. Conceived by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and promoted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA), the initiative aims to promote a heightened understanding of Japanese culture and political affairs while enhancing diplomatic relations globally. Participants visit important cultural and historic sites, meet with business and government leaders, and do a homestay with a local family. All expenses for the nine-day program are covered by the Japanese government.

Kakehashi translates to “bridge building” in English. Started in 2013, the program brings over 1,000 Americans to Japan and 300 Japanese to the US each year. MOFA partners with several American universities and other organizations to select candidates, prepare them for the program, and oversee logistics prior to arrival in Japan. The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) organizes delegations of Japanese American and other Asian American students for the program. I was selected by JACL to lead a delegation of 26 college and graduate students from across the country on a Kakehashi Project mission in March 2016.

Participants from across the country met in Chicago, San Francisco, and Los Angeles and were flown to Narita Airport in Tokyo, Japan. We stayed at the Prince Hotel in Shin-Yokohama for the first two evenings. Amongst its many amenities, the hotel had an indoor skating rink and an adjoining shopping mall. One thing that struck me immediately was its complete lack of security. After hours, flimsy netting was drawn across the entrance to the mall area of the hotel and a small sign that read “CLOSED” was posted. Many of the stores didn’t even have doors, so there was nothing preventing a thief from ducking under or around the netting and taking whatever they wanted. This did not seem to be a concern at all as there were no security guards in sight, leading me to believe that shoplifting must be quite uncommon in Japan. Another curiosity was the conspicuous lack of garbage cans in the country and the equally remarkable absence of litter.

The group’s first meeting in Tokyo was with Hide Ishibashi from the Gender Equality Bureau, Cabinet Office who spoke on Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s “Abenomics” agenda. Recently, Japan has enacted new laws to promote the active engagement of women in society. From April 2016, companies will be required to draw up and announce voluntary action plans incorporating numerical targets for promoting the hiring of women to executive positions. As of July 2015, women in Japan represented 3.5% of “director level” positions in the central government ministries and agencies. Abe aims to double this number by the end of 2020. In the private sector, women hold 16.2% of “chief level” positions in private corporations. Abe intends to bring this to 25% by 2020. His strategy includes expansion of childcare (including encouraging men to take child care leave), encouraging “teleworking,” and supporting female entrepreneurship.

We also heard from Kyoko Yokota, President of Colabolabo, Inc. Colabolabo provides networking resources and events for women entrepreneurs. Yokota organized a matching seminar during which female entrepreneurs gave five-minute presentations to representatives from major corporations. 23% of these meetings led to further discussions. According to Yokota, these meetings were mutually beneficial as the smaller companies received sales opportunities while the larger corporations gained insight into the flexibility and innovativeness of the smaller organizations.

Next, the group flew to Komatsu and met with students from Kanezawa University and the Mayor of Komatsu city, Shinji Wada. There, they were hosted to a two-night homestay with local families.

Continued on page 8
He related his story of starting out at Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Company (subsequently KPMG) after college as an accountant. Because of his language skills, he was often tasked with serving as a “glorified translator” and concierge to their Japanese clients. Through this experience, he developed lasting relationships with these companies and 20 years later, found himself moving to Japan to launch KPMG Consulting in Japan and the Asia-Pacific region. After leaving KPMG, Yonamine went on to work as the Senior Advisor to the Mayor of Honolulu and then for Hitachi Consulting Co. before joining IBM. Yonamine felt that Japan and America have much to learn from each other in terms of best business practices. He mentioned Japan’s meticulous attention to customer service and US companies’ flexibility as lessons that might be exchanged. He encouraged students to use their unique qualities as selling points in the job market and to recognize the potential value in all of the relationships they form throughout their careers.

The trip ended with an excursion to the Harajuku fashion district in Tokyo before heading back to the States. Returning students were encouraged to serve as ambassadors for travel and trade between the two countries. Many participants expressed interest in studying and working in Japan in the near future and all seem to have gained valuable insight into their heritage. Beyond the programming itself, the camaraderie developed amongst the participants is what makes trips like the Kakehashi Project and JACL Chicago’s Kansha Project so impactful. It is the first time for some to experience being part of a Japanese American community, providing insights into their own identity and a new perspective on their role in society.

More information is available at www.jacl.org/youth/kakehashi-project.
2016 JACL Chicago Golf Tournament

Thursday, July 21, 2016
Glenview Park Golf Club
800 Shermer Road, Glenview, IL
9:00 am
Cost: $85/golfer
Lunch will be served after golf.
Please RSVP to the JACL office by July 15th.

2016 Golf Tournament Registration Form
Please enclose entry fee(s) for all golfers ($85/person) listed on the registration form. We will inform you of your starting time. Registration deadline is July 15th.

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

In Memoriam
By Carol Yoshino, JACL Chicago Member

Over the past few months, JACL Chicago has lost several of its long-time members.

Dr. Roy Teshima was an optometrist and taught optometry at the Illinois College of Optometry. In his spare time, he was a loyal Board member of the JACL Chicago Federal Credit Union for many years until the Credit Union’s Board elected to merge with the National JACL Federal Credit Union in Salt Lake City. Roy was an avid golfer, and was a member of the Lakers Golf Club.

Roy Iwata, another long-time JACL Chicago member, was also a member of the Lakers Golf Club and the 20&5 Investors. Both “Roys” were founding co-chairs of the Chapter’s Annual Golf Outing, making all of the arrangements for the event for the first 20 (of 25) years.

Matsue Pat Honda was a Life Member of JACL Chicago, and along with her late husband, Noboru “Noby” Honda, was one of the true pioneers of Chicago’s JA community. Pat passed away just a few weeks before her 103rd birthday!

Dr. Frank F. Sakamoto, another local optometrist, was an active JACLer both in Chicago as well as nationally. He was the perennial chairperson for the 1000 Club and was known for his enthusiastic approach in recruiting new members. Frank and his wife Toe moved to Denver several years ago to be closer to their grandkids, and remained active JACLers with the Mile Hi Chapter.

Hiroshi Tokubo hasn’t lived in Chicago for 30 years, yet he maintained his Chicago membership after his career as a hospital administrator took him back to California, then on to Boston, Philadelphia, New York, and back to the Bay Area. During the time he lived in Chicago, he was a Chapter President and Board member.

These are among the folks that have contributed to the rich fabric of our chapter over a long period of time. We remember them with our thanks for their loyalty and contributions to JACL Chicago. 🙏
Save the Date!
Tuesday • June 14th evening (time TBD) • Free event
At Christ Church of Chicago, 6047 N Rockwell, Chicago

Join us for the first ever community screening in the Midwest of The Manzanar Fishing Club, with a Q&A session with producer/director, Cory Shiozaki!

The Manzanar Fishing Club is a comprehensive examination of a largely unknown aspect of life at Manzanar. In today’s world of turmoil and strife, perhaps the Manzanar fishermen can help us remember the true value of freedom.

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(in memory of Barry Holcomb)
Sharon Harada  
(in memory of Pat Honda)
Susan James  
(in memory of Roy Iwata)
Belle Karger  
(in memory of Pat Honda)
JoAnn Kawanaga  
(in memory of Pat Honda)
Judy and Scott Leisher  
(in memory of Roy Iwata)
June Mori  
(in memory of Pat Honda)
Tsune Nakagawa  
(in memory of Frank Sakamoto,  
Roy Iwata, and Pat Honda)
Rose Okabe  
(in memory of Pat Honda)
Brian Ozaki  
(in memory of Pat Honda)
Toshiko Sakamoto  
(in memory of Frank Sakamoto)
Bob and Janet Skoglund  
(in memory of Pat Honda)
Mark and Josephine Sugai  
Alicia Yamada

Inaugural
Pat Harada and Tom Rowland
Lynn Maruyama and  
Gary Yamagiwa
Megan Nakano
Jeanne Toguri
Pat Yuzawa-Rubin

Kansha Project
Clay Cerny
Mary Doi
Aisha Ghori Ozaki
Michael and Josie Gschwind  
(in memory of Sam Ozaki)
George and Elinor Hanasono
Margo Malos
Shu Miyazaki
Rick and Joyce Morimoto
Christine Munteanu
Bill and Carol Yoshino  
(in memory of Hiroshi Tokubo)
Bill and Carol Yoshino  
(in memory of Frank Sakamoto)
Ron and Joyce Yoshino  
(in memory of Roy Teshima,  
Frank Sakamoto, Roy Iwata, and  
Pat Honda)

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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☐ Individual  . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $75.00
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☐ Millennium  . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $1,000.00

Please support the JACL with a Donation!
Amount: $ __________
☐ In my name:

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Please make check payable to JACL and mail with this form to:
JACL Chicago Attn: Membership
5415 N. Clark St.
Chicago, IL 60640

Kansha Project Culmination
Saturday, June 18th
Skokie Banquet and Conference Center
5300 W. Touhy, Skokie, IL
Tickets: $30 regular, $20 youth/student

Advertise in the JACLer Today!
Go to jaclchicago.org
or call 773.728.7171 for details.
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

<table>
<thead>
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<td>JACL Chicago Board Meeting</td>
<td>JACL Chicago Office, 5415 N. Clark Street, Chicago</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 22</td>
<td>2016 JACL Chicago Scholarship Luncheon</td>
<td>Maggiano’s Little Italy, 4999 Old Orchard Center, Skokie, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, June 8</td>
<td>JACL Chicago Board Meeting</td>
<td>JACL Chicago Office, 5415 N. Clark Street, Chicago</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 11 – June 12</td>
<td>Japan Festival</td>
<td>Forest View Educational Center, 2121 S Goebbert Rd, Arlington Heights, IL</td>
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